



A HISTORY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION 1897 – 2017

The original “A History of the Isle of Wight Ladies’ Golf Association”, to mark its centenary in 1997, was compiled by Diana Nobbs and June Weeks, with acknowledgements of their help to Tony Gazzard, Mrs V Foster, Pam Watson-Lee, Mrs J Joyce, F Whetter, and J Roberts. The 1997-2007 update was also compiled by Diana Nobbs and June Weeks. The 2007-2017 section was compiled by Margaret Butler, Margaret Clark and Judy Richardson. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to reproduce the photos from the original 1997-2007 edition but every Island club has a copy of it for its members to view and the full story is recorded below.

The IWLGA continues to run a full and well supported fixture list for all lady golfers on the Island. It is hoped that in ten more years we will again be chronicling the activities of our important Island Association which enhances golf and its friendships across all the clubs on the Isle of Wight.

1897 - 1997

INTRODUCTION

As long ago as 1513, Catherine of Aragon, in a letter to her Master Almoner, wrote of her interest in “GOLFE”, which helped her while her husband Henry VIII was away on his second campaign in France, although it is unlikely that she actually played.

The next lady known to be connected with the game was Mary Queen of Scots, who was castigated for playing golf two days after the murder of her husband Darnley in 1567. She is also reputed to have stayed at St Andrews in 1563 and played there. The Scots pronunciation of the word “caddie” sounds like the French word “cadet”. Mary brought with her many “cadets” in her retinue which accompanied her from France after the death of her first husband, the Dauphin, and the word later came to mean “bearer”, so is the probable derivation of our present day term for the carrier of golf clubs.

Women do not appear to have actually played after this until the end of the 18th century, when in 1774 the fish wives of Musselburgh formed their society, and in 1810 held a competition, the prize for which was a creel and two Barcelona handkerchiefs. A few years later, in the 1830s, North Berwick ladies were attending golf meetings on a regular basis. Women were also responsible in 1842 for a change to Rule IV of the original 13 rules laid down in 1744. Provision was made that a ball lying in washing or tubs by the side of a stream may be made playable by moving these objects. Sixteen years later this was stopped, and lifting and dropping the ball substituted – thus arose the first ‘movable obstructions’.

The first Ladies’ Club was formed at St Andrews in 1867, followed by Westward Ho in 1868. By 1878, five golf clubs had been formed and during the 1880s 14 ladies’ clubs were instituted.

In 1893, the year of the formation of the Ladies’ Golf Union, there were more than 50 ladies’ golf clubs, and by 1898 there were 220.

EARLY DAYS OF GOLF ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

At the beginning of the 20th century there were 12 Golf Clubs in existence on the Isle of Wight. The earliest of these was the Isle of Wight Golf Club, which was founded in 1882 by Captain Jack Eaton RN. The links were sited on the Duver at St Helens and the first Club Captain was Dudley A Hambrough, whose wife drove the very first ball on the course. The Royal Spithead Hotel was used as a Clubhouse.

In 1883 Queen Victoria graciously bestowed the title of *Royal* to the Isle of Wight Golf Club. Prince Henry of Battenburg became Captain during 1894/5, and his sons Leopold and Maurice were members.

It was considered that these links were rather difficult for ladies, and in 1893 a member of the Royal Isle of Wight Golf Club, M Tabateau, with the help of J B Dennison and others, developed a course of 9 holes, later extended to 18 holes, varying from 90 yards to 300 yards on the reclaimed land of the Harbour Links at Bembridge. The Isle of Wight Ladies' Golf Club opened on 2nd October 1895, with 95 members under the Captaincy of Mrs MacDonald Moreton, with Mrs J L White as Secretary, and C V Scott the Professional.

Princess Beatrice, wife of Prince Henry of Battenburg, was invited to be an Honorary Member, and in the second year to preside as Captain of the Club. A silver cup was presented by Princess Beatrice, to be played for in competition. However, it should be noted that the word *Royal* was never included in the title of the Ladies' Club.

In 1888 the Needles Golf Club was initiated, primarily for the benefit of officers of the Royal Household Artillery stationed in the locality, but the Ladies' Section was allowed to play on the course. Another club, the Freshwater Golf Club, played over Afton Down. This was inaugurated in 1894, and also incorporated a Ladies' Section which played over a shortened course. Ventnor Golf Club came into being a year earlier, in 1893.

By 1895 two further clubs had been formed – Ryde Golf Club at Westridge and Bonchurch Golf Club at Lucombe. Newport Golf Club came into being in 1896, and Shanklin & Sandown originated in 1900.

Osborne House Golf Club (a private club) came into being circa 1904 with the advent of the Osborne Naval College, and Cowes Golf Club started in 1908.

Of these 12 original clubs, on 7 are still in existence. The Royal Isle of Wight Golf Club closed in 1961, Chale in 1937, the Needles in 1947, Lucombe during the First World War, and the Isle of Wight Ladies' Golf Club lasted only until 1957.

In 1921 Ryde Golf Club transferred its site to Binstead, and in 1937 an improved course was opened by E & R Whitcombe at Osborne where outside members were now allowed. Newport transferred its 9-hole course of the opposite side of the approach lane on St George's Down in 1984.

It is hoped that the foregoing will give some idea of the extend to which golf was played on the Island when the Isle of Wight Ladies' Golf Association was formed in 1897.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION

(Originally known as The Isle of Wight Ladies' Golf Championship)

As part of its Centenary celebrations, it was felt that the history of the Association should now be recorded. This would not only be of interest to present members, but also ensure that those golfers who will participate in its activities in the next century may appreciate the way it has evolved and may care enough to keep it alive and to maintain those aspirations and standards set by their very early predecessors. It would also provide a background of knowledge for any writings at the time of the second centenary.

On Saturday, 29th March 1897, a meeting was held at No 2 Vernon Square, Ryde. It was attended by 26 ladies, 24 of whom were members of the IWLGC (Bembridge) and the remaining 11 from the Ladies' Branch of the Needles and Freshwater Golf Clubs. They gathered with one idea in mind, namely to create an Isle of Wight Ladies' Championship and to draw up a Trust Deed to cover the detailed required to run such an event (see copy of Trust Deed).

Each lady present had already made a donation to pay for the proposed trophy, ranging from one guinea to 2/6d, raising a total of £18.17.00.

It was resolved that the selection and form of the trophy should be entrusted to three members as named in the Deed, and it was further resolved that the trophy be vested in the Joint Committee of the Clubs represented at the meeting. However, it was in the 3rd Resolution that they really stated their aim, thus - "That these Committees shall offer the Trophy every year for competition among the duly qualified Lady Golfers in the Isle of Wight and that the winner shall be considered and recognised as the Lady Golf Champion of the Island.

These ladies decided that the Trophy should be a copy of the Fairfax Cup, and this was duly purchased from Lamberts in Coventry Street, London, from whom miniature replicas could be obtained. For many years the winner of the Trophy received one of these silver replicas. Unfortunately, it has so far proved impossible to discover the original of the Fairfax Cup.

This first event was held at the IWLGC (Bembridge), the choice of which venue may well have been due to the fact that these ladies made up the majority of donations towards the Trophy. Also, the connection with the Royal Isle of Wight Golf Club (RIWGC) may have had considerable bearing on the choice, added to the novelty of playing on a course specifically designed for ladies.

One hundred years ago the process of getting to a golf match was not, as now, a question of getting in the car with one's equipment. There were four choices – walking, using a horse-drawn vehicle, a bicycle, or travelling by train. At that time the Island was served by three railway companies, with no specific connections between them. In order to get from Freshwater to Bembridge they would have used the Freshwater, Yarmouth and Newport Railway to Newport, where they would have to change trains, alighting at the Freshwater Yard Station and walking circa 100 yards to the longer Isle of Wight Central Railway Station (carrying their bag of clubs etc) and travel to Ryde St Johns, where yet another change of platform was involved, and on to Brading or to Bembridge; or from Newport on the IW Central Railway to Sandown via Blackwater and Merstone. At Sandown there would be a wait for an IW Railway train towards Ryde, with a change again at Brading.

When their travelling problems are considered, one can only admire the determination and tenacity of these ladies in playing in the Championship. They must have set out very early in the day as the train stopped at every village station en route.

There is little recorded in the Minutes Book of the details of the first three Championship Meetings. However, these events were reported in the IW County Press, and at the Inaugural Championship Meeting on Monday, 26th April 1897 there were 22 entries. A Miss Henry defeated Mrs Wingfield Stratford in the final. The winner was presented with a handsome silver cup, a copy of the Fairfax Cup, and also received a pearl and gold bangle. The runner-up received a gold golf brooch. A silver bowl, given by Mr H W Porteous of the RIWGC, was presented to the winner of the Handicap Competition.

In 1898 the Championship was held at Freshwater links on Monday, and the following day, arrangements having been made by the Joint Committee of the ladies of the Needles and Freshwater Golf Club and the IWLGC. There were only 10 entries and it was hoped that in future more Island Clubs might be represented and so increase the number.

In 1899 Championship was played on the RIWGC links at the Duver, St Helens, on Saturday, 29th April, and Monday, 1st May. As well as the matchplay championship, a medal handicap round was held on the Monday for those competitors who did not reach the final. Of the ladies entering, one played off an 8 handicap and another off a 12 handicap – no mean feat in those days when one considers the equipment and the restriction of movement imposed by the mode of dress.

Until 1914, when the First World War interrupted the holding of the Championship, the meeting was held at the IWLGC, the RIWGC, the Needles or Freshwater courses. Normally it was played in April but in 1906, due to a mistake in the minutes, it was scheduled for 19th February, and was indeed held on that date.

A suggestion was made that either Ventnor or Newport might be used in 1901 but this did not meet with approval. The Shanklin & Sandown course was proposed for 1903 but it was decided that the venue was not yet ready for such a competition that year (that year a Committee Meeting was to be held in the refreshment room at Sandown Railway Station, but only two ladies turned up so it was abandoned).

Also in 1903, although only ladies resident on the Island or those Island born could enter for the Championship, other members of Island Clubs were allowed into the Handicap Event on the payment of an entry fee of 5/- (*five shillings*).

Later, in 1907, the donors of the Trophy were approached by Shanklin & Sandown asking if they might be represented on the Committee of Management in 1908, and indeed the first Shanklin & Shanklin members joined the Committee in 1909.

1905 heralded the presentation of a miniature of the Fairfax Cup to the winner of the Championship. The cost of this varied over the years from one guinea to three guineas. It is interesting to note that the entry fee for the Championship in those days was 5/-, and it remained so until 1913 when it was reduced to 4/- or 2/6 per event. During this period the number of entries varied from 10 to 21, until an all-time low of eight in 1914. That year it was decided to use the Shanklin & Sandown course for the Championship in 1915, the first time at that venue – but the Kaiser deemed otherwise.

There is no record of any further activity of the IWLGA until 15th January 1923, when a meeting took place at the Drill Hall, Newport, attended by the Ladies' Captain of Freshwater, the Needles and Shanklin & Sandown Golf Clubs. Fortunately, two of these ladies had been on the Committee when it last met on 31st March 1914 so were able to help with the continuity of proceedings.

It was recorded that in 1923 Shanklin & Sandown had won the Hull Shield, a Hampshire Ladies' Golf Association competition.

As the holder of the Championship from 1914 was a member of the Needles Club it was agreed that the first post-war Championship should be held there. That year the entry was opened to all Ladies of Island Clubs who had been a member for at least one year, and the entry fee reverted to 5/-.

At long last, in 1924, the Championship was held at Sandown, and the following year the IWLGC were invited to re-join the Committee.

In 1927 the Championship was again held at the RIWGC and on the first day, in addition to the Championship round, a Bogey Competition was held. On the second day the Championship and a Medal round took place.

It was felt that, as the number of entries was increasing, a permanent Secretary was required, and in 1928 Mrs M Tabuteau was appointed and two meetings each year were to be held. Also that year, Mrs Aspinall-Oglander was invited to become the first President of the IWLGA. She held that office from 1929-30, when Mrs Levison Gower took over the Presidency until 1939. There seemed to be a lack of finance at that time as it was agreed to invite 12 ladies to become Vice Presidents of the Association, each to contribute 10/6 per year. This prevailed for many years.

With numbers of entries still growing, it was agreed in 1931 that, in order to do away with an entry that went into three days' play (due to the fact that it was entirely matchplay) there should be a handicap limit of 20 imposed for the Championship and that the Bogey and Medal events were to be played in two divisions – Silver up to and including handicaps up to 18 and Bronze from 19 upwards.

1934 saw the introduction of vouchers on Harrods as prizes for the Championship, but in 1937, on a recommendation by the LGU, prizes were again purchased (from Messrs Bird of Newport), and the handicap limit for the Championship was reduced to 18.

The last Championship before World War II in 1939 was played at the RIWGC and was won by Miss Storr for the seventh time. The venue for 1940 was to have been the Needles Golf Club, but once again war with Germany put a stop to proceedings.

No further meetings of the IWLGA took place until 1952, when representatives from Ryde, Newport, Cowes and Shanklin & Sandown met at Sandown to re-form the Association. Mrs Bunbury, the previous Secretary to the Championship for 1935, was present and so provided the important link with pre-war activities. She had received a letter from the last surviving Trustee of the Championship Trophy, enclosing the Trust Deed and authorising her to take what steps she thought best for the future of the Championship.

Mrs Sibyl Bennett was elected President, and Mrs Sibyl Browne was also present at the meeting. One problem arose – they could not find the cup! The last winner, Miss

Storr, had moved to Ireland and taken it with her. However, it was eventually retrieved.

At the meeting it was decided that the Committee should consist of one representative from each club and that each club be asked to donate £1.1.0 as funds were low.

On 1st May 1953 the first Championship since the war took place at Osborne. The qualifications for entry to this had been amended. Competitors had to be Island born or members of an Island club for at least 12 months prior to the Championship, with a handicap of 22 or under. The Handicap events were played in two divisions – scratch to 22 and 23-36. Entry fees were 3/6 for individual events, or 10/- for all. Mrs Goldsmith of Ryde was invited to become Honorary Secretary and took over this post in 1954. The following year the Championship was restricted to Silver Division players; the subsidiary Bogey competition was played on the first day, and the Medal on the second day. These two latter events were open to any lady with an LGU handicap, and handicap cards were to be produced by competitors in all events.

The President, Mrs Sibyl Bennett, won the Championship that year and again in 1955, when Mrs Elsie Young began a very long association with the IWLGA in taking over as Secretary. Again that year Vice Presidents were invited to give donations to the Association, and it was decided that if the representative of a club was unable to attend a meeting a substitute should be sent in her place.

In 1955 a qualifying scratch round of 18 holes was introduced and the four best cards went into the matchplay rounds. Again, handicap cards were required for entry into the events. Mrs Sibyl Bennett offered a cup for the Bronze Division Scratch competition. The Honorary Secretary was asked to write to the Golfers Handbook, submitting a list of names of the Championship winners, as had been the custom prior to 1939.

The Goldsmith Bowl, for the winner of the Bronze Division of Championship (handicaps 19-36) was donated by Mrs Goldsmith of Ryde in 1956, and the first winner was Mrs E Young. Again that year the Championship was limited to Silver Division players, with the same qualifying round as in 1955. Petrol rationing that year made attendance at meetings more difficult.

A milestone was reached in 1957, Diamond Jubilee Year, and for the first time the Championship Meetings were held at two venues. The Silver Championship was held at Shanklin & Sandown on Friday and Saturday, 16th and 17th May, and the Bronze Division Championship at Osborne on Friday and Saturday, 10th and 11th May. The

subsidiary Bogey and Medal competitions were also held at Osborne. A trophy donated by the RIWGC was presented to the runner-up in the Silver Championship.

Sadly, the IWLGC, one of the original founders of the Association, had ceased to function. In 1954 the RIWGC had been bought by Mr Peto in an effort to save it, but he died and left the land to the National Trust. The Club finally closed in 1961, and the National Trust has since rebuilt the old Clubhouse. It is thought that the trophy the RIWGC donated is now over 100 years old.

This Jubilee Year also saw the birth of the Foursomes League, a competition, suggested by Mrs Eaton, to be held entirely separately from the Championships. Her offer of a trophy for this was declined with thanks, and it was agreed a wooden shield would be provided from funds.

A proposal by Mrs Elsie Young and seconded by Mrs Helen Day resulted in the change of name from the Isle of Wight Golf Championship to the Isle of Wight Ladies' Golf Association, to embrace organised golf throughout the Island.

In 1958 Mrs Daphne Boyd of Cowes was elected as the first Captain of the IWLGA, and it was agreed that Captains should be elected from each club in alphabetical order. The Foursomes League commenced on 23rd February, with fortnightly intervals between matches, and it was won by Ventnor. It was decided that the final was always to be played on the Captain's home course, and a 9-hole event for Association members was to be run in the afternoon of that day, followed by tea and the presentation of the Shield.

Another event was initiated that year, in the form of a Foursomes Flag Competition. This was held at Shanklin & Sandown in the autumn, on Sunday, 9th November.

The Championship was again held at Shanklin & Sandown in 1958, and the Bronze Championship at Osborne. Annual fixtures were now in place: Championship, League, Autumn Meeting and Foursomes League. The first match against a mainland club, Stoneham, was played at Shanklin & Shanklin, with the possibility of a return fixture.

Until now a considerable help to financing the Association had been given by donations from Vice Presidents, but it was decided at the AGM in 1959 to ask for a subscription of 2/- from all members of the Association. Clubs were asked to submit lists of those ladies willing to pay this amount, as they would be entitled to take part in any events organised by the Association and have a voice at the AGM. A balance sheet for May 1959 recorded a membership of 51 ladies.

The AGM held on Sunday, 25th October 1959, was the first to involve all members from all clubs. Prior to this meeting, a sub-committee consisting of the President, (Mrs S Bennett), Captain (Mrs J Flanders) and Hon Secretary (Mrs E Young) was asked to form the Rules of the Association. Mrs P Dennis of Osborne was elected Captain, with a Vice-Captain, also from Osborne, to be named at a later date. Mrs E Young was elected as Hon Secretary, and Miss H Day as Hon Treasurer. A Flag Foursome competition preceded the meeting, and 34 ladies attended.

It was decided that the Silver and Bronze Championships for 1960 would both be played on the same days at Shanklin & Sandown, the divisions to be plus to 18 for the Silver Championship, and 19-25 for the Bronze (Goldsmith Bowl) or 26-36 for the Sibyl Bennett Cup.

The Foursomes League in 1960 changed its format, matches being played morning and afternoon on one day at each of five clubs during April, May, June and July. The final fixture was still held on the home course of the Captain, and included the presentation of the Shield. An entrance fee of 2/6 per club was stipulated.

A match against Brokenhurst Manor was played at Shanklin & Sandown this year.

At a committee meeting in 1961, Mrs Bundy was welcomed as representative of the new Ladies' Golf Club at Freshwater. At the finals of the Foursomes League a new wall plaque was presented by Mrs Jacobs on Ryde, with the names of the winning clubs engraved on it. This replaced the original, which had been competed for since 1957. A new event, a Four-Ball Better-Ball competition, was played at Osborne Golf Club on 14th September. By 1962 membership of the IWLGA totalled 9. The Captain this year, Miss Helen Day, had played for the Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association in 1961, the first Island lady to do so since 1930 when Miss Storr played for the 2nd Team. Playing off a handicap of 3, she won her match!

Another new event was proposed that year, a 'Veterans versus The Rest' match. The Veterans included any lady over 50, and the event took place at Ryde on 1st April 1963.

An attempt was made in 1963 to hold a Junior Championship at Newport.

Mrs K Webb donated a Cup for this, with the promise that if there was not sufficient interest from the Juniors, the Cup was to be used to the best advantage elsewhere.

Mrs Elsie Young resigned as Secretary only to take on the Captaincy, and Mrs Alice Tong took over as Hon Secretary. The annual subscription for the 114 members was

raised to 5/-, and it was agreed that members leaving the Island could become Association Members on payment of 5/-. However, they were not allowed to enter the Championship Meeting.

At the AGM in 1964, Mrs Sibyl Browne was elected the 5th President of the IWLGA, after Mrs Sibyl Bennett had served in that office for 12 years. Mrs Browne proposed to give a Silver Vase to be played for on the second morning of the Championship Meeting to include all those not in the semi-finals and others wishing to compete. A Spring Meeting was held at Ryde in the form of a Captain versus Secretary Foursomes match. This became an annual event, although the matchplay format was later dropped and it became the Summer Meeting. Miss Helen Day again showed her golfing ability, becoming runner-up in the Hampshire Championship. Newport and Freshwater were unable to field teams for the Foursomes League that year, but returned the following year.

Mrs Sibyl Bennett became, in 1965, the first Life Member of the IWLGA. This year it was decided that the competition for the Sibyl Browne Vase would only be open to players who had taken part in any of the three Championship events. An Association flag was ordered; this measured 6x3ft, was maroon with diagonally positioned sky-blue lettering, and cost £5.16.6. Membership at this time was 95 ladies.

Mrs Elsie Young was elected President in 1966, and a rule was laid down whereby each President would serve two years in office, with a proviso that she would be eligible for re-election. Also at the AGM it was decided that in future, a handicap limit of 30 would apply to players in the Foursomes League.

At the AGM in 1967 a gentleman joined the ranks. It was agreed that Mr Cliff Dinham should be made an Honorary Vice-President in recognition of all his help, especially during Championship Meetings. It was also proposed that all past Captains of the Association should automatically become Vice-Presidents, thus keeping a balance between the clubs. They were also asked to pay higher donations for the honour.

The Spring Meeting in 1968 changed format to become a Greensome Stableford. A new trophy event came into being in the shape of a Veterans' Cup for ladies of 55 years and over. This was played for the first time on 4th October at Osborne, and the Junior Cup, unused due to lack of interest, was awarded to the winner. Miss Helen Day won the Championship for the sixth time that year.

Mrs A Pemberton became President in 1969, by which time there were 126 members. The Pemberton Trophies, played for prior to the AGM, were donated by her. Early in 1969 it was agreed that in future the Captain should chair the Committee Meetings

and present the prizes at competitive events. The President would preside at the AGM and present the Championship trophies and prizes at the Championship Meetings. At the AGM in October, some alterations were made to the Championship Rules. The number of qualifiers in the Bronze Championship at the Sibyl Bennett Cup was to be left to the discretion of the Committee, depending on the number of entries. The handicaps for the Bronze Championship was to be from 19-27 inclusive, and the Sibyl Bennett from 28-36.

1970 saw an increase in the yearly subscription from 5/- to 10/-, competition fees rose from 3/6 to 4/-, and the affiliation fee was increased from 2/6 to 4/-. The Championships were played at Freshwater this year as the HLCGA held their County Championships at Shanklin & Sandown. A large marque was erected to house all the competitors etc, and conditions were horrendous. A thick sea fog descended to add to all the problems. Due to lack of finance it was decided that, instead of purchasing six silver prizes for the Championships, one would only be presented to the winner of the Championship, the remaining prizes to be left to the discretion of the President.

It was made clear early in 1971 that the subscription of a Vice-President did not give right of entry into any IWLGA competition – the player must be a paid up member of the Association. At the AGM that year it was agreed that the Committee should be responsible for choosing a new President. Freshwater stated they would be unable to participate in the League in 1972 but later asked to be included. The Championships were held at Shanklin & Sandown again this year, but in September.

In January 1972 a revision of the Rules of the IWLGA was printed:

MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION (Revised January 1972)

1. *The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Captain, Vice-Captain, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer.*
2. *The Management of the Association shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the Officers (excluding Vice-Presidents) and one member from each Affiliated Club.*
3. *The Annual General Meeting shall be held at the October Meeting. All names of officers for election shall be proposed and seconded by affiliated clubs or individual members, excepting the names of Captain and Vice-Captain which shall be provided and announced by each club in rotation. All nominations and items to be included on the Agents to be received at least two weeks before the meeting.*

4. *A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Hon Secretary when directed by the Committee, or on receipt of a requisition signed by at least 12 members, stating the reason for which such a meeting is to be convened. Three weeks' notice must be given by the Hon Secretary.*
5. *The Association shall form county teams. The Committee shall determine which expenses incurred by the team shall be borne by the Association.*
6. *The Hon Secretary shall keep full and correct minutes of all proceedings of the Association, which shall be produced at all meetings. The Hon Treasurer shall keep full account of all monies disbursed and received, and present a yearly balance sheet.*
7. *The Committee shall have powers to make bye-laws, which shall have effect until the next Annual General Meeting.*
8. *All complaints shall be made in writing to the Hon Secretary who, should she be unable to deal with them herself, shall submit them to the Committee, whose decision shall be final.*
9. *The Subscription shall be 50p, payable on 1st January each year. No member in arrears can compete in any match or competition, or vote at any meeting.*
10. *Each candidate for election must have:*
 - a. *Birth qualification, or*
 - b. *Membership of an Isle of Wight Club*
11. *Alteration of Rules. Any alteration to a Rule of the Association must be by a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting.*

The Spring Meeting in 1972 was continued as a Greensome Foursome. At the AGM the entrance to the Championships was raised to £1, subsidiary competitions to be 30p, and it was agreed that seeding in the Silver Division should take place at the quarter-final stage. It was also decided that Foursomes League matches should finish at the 18th hole, having one point each for halved matches. In future, Club Delegates should change at the AGM, not at their Club AGM.

In 1973 Vice-Presidents were allowed to play in all events if they paid their playing subscriptions at the meeting, and this included those who had left the Island. The Greensome format was changed to Stableford Foursomes for the Spring Meeting due to an increase in the number of entries, and the age limit for the Veterans' Trophy was raised to 60 years. There were now 200 members of the IWLGA, and it was decided to incorporate a choice on the Championships entry forms. On the Tuesday, players could enter any of the three Championship events, or a non-qualifying medal round. On the Wednesday, after matchplay, the Sibyl Browne Vase was to be competed for

by those who had entered one of the three Championship events. This was a Stableford competition and was run in conjunction with an Open Stableford for prizes. The Championship Meeting was again held in September this year.

A request was made for the Championship Meeting to revert to May in 1974 but Shanklin & Sandown could not accommodate it then; 10-11th September were the dates allocated. The Spring Meeting allowed choices of partners but opponents were drawn, and in the Summer Meeting players made up their own fours. A 9-hole Stableford was played prior to the presentation of the League Shield.

Mrs Eades, the outgoing Captain, offered to present a new Foursomes League Shield, and the Committee agreed that small silver shields would be engraved and added annually. A suggestion was made at the AGM that the Pemberton Trophies should be played over 16 holes prior to the meeting, but this was not supported. A 9-hole Stableford competition would be added to the list of events for the Tuesday afternoon of the Championship Meeting for those who had failed to qualify in the morning. Miss Gillian Wright was invited to play for the Hampshire 2nd Team that year.

In 1975 the Championship Meeting was once more held in April at Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club. The Sibyl Bennett Cup became an 18-hole medal round in an attempt to attract more entries, and there was an entry fee of 25p. The Spring meeting was a Flag Foursome and the Summer Meeting a Stableford Foursome competition. An entry fee of 50p was introduced for non-Championship players entering the Sibyl Browne Vase event.

The clubhouse at Osborne was destroyed by fire in October of this year. However, due to intensive effort, a new clubhouse was in use by April 1976. Newport also acquired a new clubhouse in 1976, and Freshwater became a Members' Club.

As Newport was unable to provide a Captain for 1977, the honour passed to Osborne and Mrs Alice Tong was elected. The President, Mrs Eileen Down was also a member of Osborne Golf Club. The Championship Meeting was changed from April to May. At the AGM in October it was agreed that the Veterans' Trophy should become a Stableford competition off full handicap and that all members should pay an entrance fee of 50p for the Sibyl Browne Vase in 1978.

A new silver band was added to the Sibyl Bennett Cup in 1979 and the Championship once again took place in April. The Sibyl Bennett Cup was held on a 9-hole course that year, prior to the main Championship Meeting. The entry fee was £1, and the entries increased to 44 after many years in the doldrums.

In the Silver and Bronze Divisions of the Championships players could choose whether or not to qualify for the matchplay. Those electing to play the medal round only followed the others for the first day of play.

At the Hampshire Championships that year, Miss Gillian Wright reached the semi-finals but lost to the eventual winner of the event. She was one of the youngest members of the Association, which now involved 211 ladies.

At the AGM in 1979 it was agreed that only cards would be sent to members who were ill and that only the Captain and President would receive flowers.

The subscription for 1980 was to be raised to £1 for everyone except non-playing Vice-Presidents, who would contribute 50p. All Vice-Presidents would now be Honorary. Mrs E Young was voted back in office, this time as Minute Secretary. The Association lost a staunch supporter with the death of Mrs Sibyl Browne this year.

In 1980 a reciprocal green fee voucher system was established. The Association now had 179 members, and finances had improved. Henceforth no new Vice-Presidents were created, although there was no denying the value of their generosity in earlier years. Unfortunately, Cowes clubhouse burned down this year and they were unable to host any events for a while.

There was an alteration to the rules of entry for the Sibyl Brown Vase in 1981. At the AGM it was decided that only those who had played in the Sibyl Bennett Cup or the 18-hole medal round on the first day of the Championship Meeting would be eligible in future.

The entry fee for the Championship was raised to £2 for 1982, or £1 for the non-qualifying medal round. Mrs Pam Oliveira of Shanklin & Sandown was elected as Hampshire Ladies' Captain for two years – a great honour for an Island lady, and Miss Maggie Ankers and Miss Gillian Wright reached the last round of the Dunhill Stableford Four-Ball Better-Ball competition played at Woburn Golf Club (where they finished eighth).

In 1983 the Flat Foursomes competition, held in the autumn, was changed to a Medal Foursome . Also, a new competition, suggested by Mrs M Wilson and Mrs P Wright, was set up and run by them. This was a drawn Matchplay Knockout Championship to run throughout the season, and it proved very popular. A request was made that lists of players representing the Island in friendly matches should be published in all clubs.

Miss Gillian Wright won the Championship for the sixth time this year, equalling the record of Miss Helen Day. Mrs Oliveira, in her second year as Hampshire County Captain, brought over a team, who played at Shanklin & Sandown and at Osborne.

Mr Cliff Dinham offered to present two trophies – the Cliff Dinham Salvers – to perpetuate his name and his Honorary Vice-Presidency as the sole male member of the Association.

On the occasion of the Silver Anniversary of the IWLGA (since its reformation in 1958), Mrs Pam Watson-Lee presented a silver Captain's Brooch to be worn by each Captain during her year in office.

Membership in 1983 was 182, and Miss Maggie Ankers of Cowes had been selected to play for the Hampshire 2nd Team in that season.

Miss V Foster, Honorary Secretary of the Association, formulated league tables for 1984 to prevent playing a host club more than once, and these tables would last as long as six clubs were in the Foursomes' League so avoiding any inequalities found before. Also, a 'Manual of Procedures' for each event had been drawn up by Miss Foster, and this proved invaluable for the future. A talk on the history of the IWLGA was given by Miss Foster, and much of her research has helped in this history.

Ryde had by this time renewed their clubhouse, and Newport had a new course under construction and might not be able to host any events. At the AGM in October it was confirmed that IWLGA Captains could have the courtesy of a round at any Island club during her year in office. The Captain would, in future, be chosen by each club in alphabetical rotation, and the Rules for the Isle of Wight Championship stated that every competitor must be a member of a recognised Island golf club or have been born on the Island, thus rescinding the 12-month rule. A decision was made that the Dinham Salvers event should rotate on both nine and 18-hole courses. Sadly, Mr Cliff Dinham died later in the year. Membership was now 195, and subscriptions were raised to £1.50 for the coming year.

Mrs Isa Ballard, who had been elected as President in October 1984, died at the end of January 1985, and the Captain, Mrs Diana Nobbs, carried out the duties of both offices until Mrs P Dennis was elected to the Presidency at the AGM in 1985. Rosebowls were purchased with donations from all clubs in memory of Mrs Ballard and used for the Summer Foursomes; also Mrs Pam Watson-lee and Mrs Diana Nobbs donated a trophy for the runner-up in the Bronze Championship.

The IWLGA Rules were updated as follows at a Committee Meeting in May 1985, and reprinted in January 1986 as follows:

Rule 1 – “and Minutes Secretary” to be added.

Rule 5 – “The Association shall form teams to play mainland clubs. The Committee shall determine which expenses should be incurred by the team and which by the Association.”

Rule 6 – “The Minutes Secretary shall keep full and correct minutes of all proceedings of the Association, which shall be produced at all Meetings. The Hon Treasurer shall keep full account of all monies disbursed and received, and present a yearly balance sheet.”

Rule 9 – “Subscriptions shall be determined annually by the Committee, payable on 1st January each year. No members in arrears can compete in any match or competition or vote at any meetings.”

Rule 10 – “Each candidate must have membership of an Isle of Wight Club.”

Rules 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 11 to remain as printed.

It was requested that the Isle of Wight Four-Ball should be on the fixture list and organisation should rotate round the clubs. Mr Graham Feben, the retiring Secretary of Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club, was made a Vice-President in appreciation of all his help and cooperation at all times.

Miss Gillian Wright won the Championship for the 7th time in 1985, equalling the record set by Miss L Storr in 1939.

In 1986 it was stipulated that membership of the IWLGA should be limited to those ladies who were eligible to play in LGU competitions. Because of the lower number of entries for the Championship Meeting, clubs were asked not to hold any important competitions on those two days. It was also decided that handicap cards must be submitted at all competitions in future.

The Championship Trophy, which is of Britannia Silver, was valued at £1375.00 for insurance purposes.

Mrs Pam Watson-Lee was elected a Vice-President and member of the Executive Committee of the HLCGA this year. Cowes won the Hayling Island Centenary Salver, Shanklin & Sandown reached the semi-finals of the Stoneham Cup, and Miss Maggie Ankers won the Scratch prize at the Hampshire Championships – a good year all round for Island members.

Under the Captaincy of Mrs S McPherson, a “teach-in” by Vivienne Saunders was organised at Cowes Golf Club, and proved most helpful to the many who attended. At the Championship Meeting a buffet type refreshment was tried but proved to be less than successful. It was also decided that any drinks provided on the course were to be at the expense of the host club. At the AGM it was agreed that both semi-finals and finals of the Island Four-Ball Better-Ball Knockout Championship should be played on neutral courses.

A change was made in 1988 whereby it was decided to present the Four-Ball Shield on the day of the final and not at the AGM. Nowadays it is presented on the day of the final and re-presented, suitably engraved, at the AGM. Also, in future on finals day, the League matches were to be played in the morning and the competition run by the Captain would commence at approximately 12.00 noon.

It was confirmed that a Vice-President was any Past President or Captain of the Association who was now a non-playing member and contributed an annual subscription of 50p. The name of Mrs P Smith was added to the list.

In 1989 it was suggested that an honorarium should be given to the Captain as in the past only sundry expenses had been claimed from the Treasurer. Clubs were again requested not to organise competition on the days of the Championship Meeting, and complimentary green fee vouchers were issued, mainly to men, who were asked to telephone the club concerned for a suitable tee-off time.

Miss Maggie Ankers set a new course record at Shanklin & Sandown with a round of 73 gross during Championships. She also won the Scratch and Handicap competitions, and the Spring and Autumn Aggregate Cup at the Hampshire Autumn Meeting at Brokenhurst Manor that year. Mrs Margaret Butler won the Coronation Medal at the Spring Meeting. Mrs B Moorman was added to the list of Vice-Presidents, and Mrs Muriel Newnham was elected at Honorary Vice-President in recognition of her eight years' service as Treasurer. The Association lost a long-standing member with the death of Mrs Joan Goldsmith, the donor of the Goldsmith Bowl.

A rise in subscription to £2 took effect in 1990. The Hampshire County Championships were held at Shanklin & Sandown at the end of April that year, and a county match, Hampshire v Buckinghamshire, took place at the end of May.

Mrs J Griffiths became a Vice-President, and the Association purchased a silver President's Brooch. Also a silver IWLGA brooch, based on a design by Miss Maggie Ankers, was produced at a cost of £15 each.

Miss L Storr, who had won the Championship seven times and was one of the earliest members of the Association, died this year, as did Mrs M Newnham who had been Treasurer for eight years.

At the AGM in 1990 it was agreed that the Veterans' Championship should be held at one of the four 9-hole courses in future. Mrs Pam Watson-Lee finished her term of office on the Hampshire Executive Committee, and Mrs Diana Nobbs was elected in her place.

An Island Past & Present Captains' Meeting was proposed by Mrs Diana Nobbs, and a competition was played for the first time at Ryde in 1991. This took for form of an aggregate Stableford competition, with a nominated partner by playing partners drawn. The event was to take place at the course of the last Captain, who would be responsible for organisation of the Meeting.

Ventnor Golf Club ladies were welcomed back to the IWLGA, where membership stood at 193 at the AGM in October. It was agreed that new members with 36 handicaps must have two cards averaging 45.

In 1992 it was agreed (not unanimously) that the club nominating the Captain should contribute £25 towards her expenses and should also be responsible for providing flowers for the AGM table. Delegates were to serve no more than five years on the Committee, and a suggestion that some League matches be played in the evening was turned down. At the AGM in October it was agreed that Freshwater should host the Championship Meeting either in 1994 or 1995. Mrs Gillian Fahy (nee Wright) won the Championship for the 8th time in 1992, thus creating a new record.

The annual subscription was raised to £3 in 1993, and it was agreed that a sum of £5 be made available to enable the Association to make a donation in the event of the death of a member. Clarification was sought regarding Vice-Presidents and Honorary Members. It was thought that there were no surviving Honorary Members. Non-

playing members should have a fixture card on payment of 50p to cover postage etc. All Past Captains and Presidents automatically became Vice-Presidents.

A Dartington glass bowl given to the IWLGA by Mrs M Williams was donated to Ventnor ladies to be used as a trophy.

The Island received visits from the LGU Handicap Adviser, Mrs Di Stock, and the Standard Scratch Assessor, Mrs Heather Evans. Honoraria were increased this year, and insurance renewal trebled.

It was confirmed that only members of an Isle of Wight Golf Club could play in the Championships, the place of birth qualification having been rescinded in 1985. Miss Maggie Ankers became Island Champion for the sixth time this year.

In the case of an event being cancelled, it was decided that only Delegates would be notified and a notice placed at the club in question. Delegates were therefore advised to retain a duplicate list of entrants to events. A suggestion was made that the Sibyl Browne Vase be limited to players with handicaps of 30 and under, but was turned down. Past Captains' Brooches were purchases and sold to members at £3 each.

1994 saw the end of an era with the death of Mrs Sibyl Bennett, who had such an influence on the Association during her years in office. Since she was confined indoors, all Presidents and Captains had visited her each year after the Championships. She remained alert and interested in the Association to the end.

The Championships were held at Freshwater for the first time since 1970, and entry fees increased: Championship Meeting £5, Sibyl Bennett Cup £4, and Sibyl Browne Vase £2.

The IWLGA flag required repairs, having been damaged due to high winds at Freshwater when the flag staff came down. Trophies were valued at a total of £2560.

Shanklin & Sandown won the Knight Cup (a Hampshire K/O Trophy), the first Island winners of a Hampshire cup in 40 years. It was agreed that the Island Championships would alternate between Freshwater and Shanklin & Sandown. It was also confirmed that League players must be members of the IWLGA and that in future they would have to pay for any refreshment.

1995 represented an important milestone for Ryde Golf Club as it was their centenary year, and various celebratory events were held.

The lettering on the IWLGA flag was renewed and the flag repaired as this would cost a good deal less than a new flag. A start was made this year to raise funds towards IWLGA Centenary Celebrations in 1997.

It was ruled that only members of the IWLGA may caddy for players in IWLGA competitions, and also that Delegates should be members of their Club Committee. Captain's Day teas would, in future, be paid for by each member, and the 9-hole competition on the first day of the Championships would be discarded.

The Secretary had compiled a new set of League Tables to include Ventnor, to be held in abeyance until such time a Ventnor ladies wished to be incorporated.

At the AGM in October it was agreed that the Veterans' Trophy would in future be played in two divisions – ages 60-69, and 70 plus – the overall winner to receive the Trophy.

Mrs Di Nobbs finished her term on the Hampshire Committee, and Miss Maggie Ankers was appointed as a Vice-President.

1996 heralded a busy year for all on the IWLGA Committee. For the first time Committee Minutes were circulated to Delegates, a most helpful innovation. A venue for a celebratory Centenary Lunch had to be finalised, a special competition had to be organised, and memorabilia purchased. Clubs continued to raise money for the Centenary Fund in order to purchase trophies for the competition and to possibly subsidise the luncheon.

The IWLGA Championship, held at Freshwater in very windy conditions, was won by Miss Maggie Ankers for the 7th time.

Newport Golf Club celebrated their centenary in 1996, one event being a Greensome Stableford held on 23rd June. The first IWLGA Foursomes Shield was returned to Ryde Golf Club to hand in their ladies' locker room as they were the last club to win this particular one in 1960.

A luncheon to celebrate the Centenary of the IWLGA is to be held on 25th April 1997 at the Royal Hotel in Ventnor. Later in the year, possibly in August, it is proposed that a Centenary Eclectic competition be held at Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club, and four commemorative trophies will be awarded to the winning team. It is hoped that henceforth this event will become an annual fixture.

We have come a long way since 1897 when those 35 ladies got together at that initial meeting in Vernon Square, Ryde, and we have a lot for which to thank them. It is notable that no one club has majored in the work of the Association. Trophies have been given generously by members in all parts of the Island and the workload well shared by all clubs. Not only were these ladies dedicated in their approach to the Association, they were also very good golfers.

Finally, the next time you are setting out to play in an Association event and find yourself delayed by slow-moving traffic such as a milk float or a coach full of tourists admiring the view, give a thought to those stalwart ladies of 100 years ago who made that very awkward rail journey from Freshwater to Bembridge and started off all that is reviewed in this history.

1897 – 1997

In the Centenary Year of **1997** a Centenary Lunch was held at the Royal Hotel, Ventnor – attended by 110 members of the Association and also by the President and Captain of the Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association.

The Centenary Vases were played for at Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club for the first time, an eclectic competition with teams consisting of four players (drawn). This will be an annual event.

An IWLGA team entered the Island Games held in Jersey – the team, consisting of Maggie Ankers, Gillian Fahy, Margaret Butler and Jackie Cotton, were awarded a Silver Medal.

It was decided by the Committee that entry fees for competitions would in future be paid to the club delegate.

The first “Hospice Day” was organised by Mrs Kathryn Harding at Newport Golf Club. This has now become an annual event, although not organised by the Association. Considerable amounts of money have been raised for the Island Hospice from this event.

The death of Mrs Sheena Steen (a recent President) was recorded with regret.

In **1998** it was agreed that in future a points system would be used to obtain an outright winner should two or more clubs tie for the Foursomes League Shield.

Mrs M Williams donated a trophy for the older members (the Committee to decide venue and date). This trophy is now used for the 70+ group in the Veterans' competition.

It was emphasised that, in future, handicap cards must be produced in each competition.

1999 – This year the Island Games were held in Gotland, Sweden, but unfortunately our team did not return with a medal. It was agreed that the Association should provide £200 towards the team's expenses (this team comprised Maggie Ankers, Gillian Fahy, Mira Brochocki and Margaret Butler).

The President organised a 9-hole frolic in the winter months (after Christmas), and this has now become a permanent fixture by each President.

It was agreed the President should in future be granted an honorarium to cover her out-of-pocket expenses for get-well-cards and postage.

The courtesy of Island courses normally granted during the year to the President, Captain and Champion will in future be granted the year after their tenure of office.

We recorded, with deep regret, the death of Nerissa Groombridge aged 34 – one of our members who had qualified to represent us at the Island Games.

2000 – The millennium was marked with a Portuguese competition consisting of four players with just one club and putter each. This was held at Newport Golf Club.

It was also the Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association's Centenary and the County Championships were held at Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club. This was appropriate as it was also Shanklin's Centenary Year.

Jenny Domoney (Shanklin & Sandown) won the Coronation Medal and Gillian Fahy (Cowes) reached the final of her division. Subsidiary competitions were held at Cowes, Freshwater and Osborne.

In October 2000 about 20 members of the Association attended the Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association's Centenary Lunch held at Winchester Guildhall where the speakers were John Stirling and Maureen Madill.

The course at Westridge (Ryde) was now a registered LGU course.

This year we reported, with regret, the deaths of the following long-standing members of the Association: Mrs Betty Moorman, Mrs Daisy Smitch, Miss Gwen Loader, Mrs June Hyett, and our Honorary Vice-President Mr Graham Feben (formerly Secretary of Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club).

2001 – It was the turn of Osborne to win a Hampshire Trophy – the Knight Cup (players were Mrs Margaret Butler and Mrs Frances Tredwell).

Miss Win George (Freshwater) won the Aggregate Cup in her division at the Hampshire Autumn Meeting.

Mrs Ann White was celebrating having reached her centenary.

A team was sent to the Island Games held this year on the Isle of Man – unfortunately no medals this time. Members of the team were Maggie Ankers, Gillian Fahy, Margaret Butler and Mira Brochocki.

Sadly the deaths of more long-standing members are recorded: Mrs Phyl Dennis, Miss Helen Day and Mrs Bridget Medley.

2002 – The deaths of Mrs Bunty Eddowes, Mrs Dorothy Williams and Mrs Ann White – all loyal members of the IWLGA – were recorded with regret.

2003 – Guernsey, in the Channel Islands, was this year's venue for the Island Games. This time the team comprised Maggie Ankers, Gillian Fahy and Caroline & Sophie Beardsall. Sophie won the Individual Silver Medal and the team won the Bronze Medal. The uniform of white polo shirts and white sweatshirts was adopted for this event.

The Officers of the Association were changed, and now include a Competitions Secretary in lieu of a Minutes Secretary. The Honorary Secretary will become the minutes secretary.

It was decided that, in future, the AGM would be held at the outgoing Captain's club, preceded by the Pemberton Trophies competition.

In the Stoneham Cup (a Hampshire trophy), Shanklin & Sandown reached the semi-finals, and Freshwater reached the quarter-finals.

Georgina Little won the Hampshire Girls' Competition.

In **2004** Liz Morris and Ann Smith (Freshwater) won the County Foursomes in their division at Hockley.

A match was played at Ryde between a team of Hampshire ladies (Veterans) and Island ladies (Veterans)

2005 – The Island Games this year took place in Shetland, where the team won the Bronze Medal. The IW was represented by Maggie Ankers, Margaret Butler, Joanne Wright and Sophie Beardsall.

Miss Win George and Mrs Margaret Newman won their division at the Hampshire Captains' Meeting.

Mrs Margaret Butler (Osborne) was selected to play for the Hampshire Seniors Team.

Grace Hill (Shanklin & Sandown) and Emma Powell (Osborne) were selected to play for the Hampshire Junior Girls' Team.

Also recorded, with great regret, was the death of Mrs Eileen Train (a former Secretary and President) and a very loyal member.

2006 saw the Association purchase a computer for the use of the Competitions Secretary.

A salver was presented by Margaret Clark (Shanklin & Sandown) for the winner of the Bronze scratch qualifying score in the Championships.

The honoraria were increased for the President, Captain and Secretary.

The death of Mrs Amy Gustar, a long-standing member, was recorded with regret.

In **2007** Emma Powell (Osborne) received the Kerry Smith award for overall commitment and achievement in the Hampshire Junior Girls, and was invited to attend training with the Hampshire 1st Team squad.

The Island Games – this time the venue was Rhodes, and our representative team was Emma Powell, Grace Hill, Joanne Wright and Sophie Beardsall. The team were fourth overall, but the heat was intense and unfortunately no medals this time.

A “Ten Year Anniversary” luncheon will be held at the end of the year.

2007 – 2017

The IWLGA did indeed enjoy a 110 year anniversary lunch in 2007 which was again attended by the Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association's President and Captain (Chris Stirling and Ruth Donnelly). Since it became clear in 2010 that there was an appetite among members to get together more frequently than once a decade, from 2010 an Association Lunch has been enjoyed by up to 100 members every March.

Sadly, the following members died during this period, all of whom had been strong supporters of their clubs and the IWLGA throughout their memberships:

2007: Betty Bernard and Diane Stinson (Osborne)

2008: Betty Winter (Cowes)
Pat Mills (Newport)
Muriel "Totty" Cross (Ryde),

2009: Marion Graham (Cowes) Nan
Bundy (Freshwater)
Mary Palthorpe and Ann Dent (Newport)
Liz Lamb, Helen Tarry and Lily Bunday (Osborne) Molly
Eades (Shanklin)

2010: Jean Fallick (Cowes) Cynthia
Simms (Newport)
Norah Cooper and Elizabeth Ruck (Osborne)
Freda Jones, Joan Tetlow, Jean Gardner, Pat Duck (Shanklin)

2011: June Burden (Cowes) (IWLGA Captain 91-92 & President 97-99) Joy Wray
and Alice Tong (IWLGA Captain 76-77 & Comp Sec) (Osborne)
Nina Forster (Ryde)
Pat Tainsh (Shanklin)

2012: Peggy Wright (IWLGA Captain 74-75 & President 89-91), Sylvia Payne,
Jill Norton (Cowes)
Joan Searle (Osborne)

2013: Letty Terry (Osborne) Mira
Brochocki (Shanklin)

2014: Joan Green and Sibyl Skinner (Shanklin)

2015: Joanna Pryce (Cowes) Mary
Brown (Freshwater)

2016: Jean Sleigh (Osborne) Barbara
Frame (Ryde)
Pat Attrill and Sheilah Griffin (Shanklin)

In **2008** the North Hants Trophy Finals Day was held at Shanklin & Sandown GC. This is the Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association's singles knockout scratch matchplay event (teams of three) for clubs. In the morning semi-finals Osborne (Margaret Butler, Emma Powell and Joanne Wright) beat Wellow and Meon Valley beat Rowlands Castle. After a hugely enjoyable final, Meon Valley just pipped Osborne with a win on the 18th green of the last match out. It had been a treat day of very fine scratch matchplay.

In **2009** the **NatWest Island Games** were held in Åland and we were well represented by Maggie Ankers, Sophie Beardsall, Grace Hill and Emma Powell who gained great

experience in the different Åland conditions but were just pipped to a team medal by three shots.

In **2010** **Westridge Golf Club** became a fully active member of the Association - as a venue for IWLGA events, fielding a team taking part in the Foursomes League, and of course taking its place in the rota of IWLGA captains. Westridge GC has been a very welcome and successful addition to the Association.

The **Island Championship Meeting**, comprising scratch singles stroke and match play and which is the IWLGA's premier event, continued to attract large entries and in **2010** it was decided to introduce a new Silver Division 2 Trophy for higher handicap players in the silver division.

Entries to the Centenary Eclectic had started to decline in the previous two or three years so in **2010** the format was changed to an Am-Am. That has remained the format of our Centenary event to this day and the fields have enjoyed a real bounce in popularity.

In **2011** Cowes GC won through to Finals Day at Army GC of the Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association's Knight Cup, a foursomes handicap matchplay event for clubs to enter. After a good win against Hartley Wintney in the morning semi-final, Cowes played Botley Park in the final after Botley had prevailed against Liphook in their semi. Although neither Cowes player had been to Army GC before, the foursomes partnership of Ali Wren and Wendy Young won the day after an exciting and close match against Botley.

In **2011** a match was hosted by Freshwater Bay GC between the Hampshire Past Captains' Societies. The Hampshire Men's and Ladies' Past Captains' Societies are open to any past Hampshire club captains who wish to join and several IOW past capatains are members.

The **2011 NatWest Island Games** were hosted by the Isle of Wight and filled the island with a magnificent week of sport. The golf was played at Freshwater Bay and Shanklin & Sandown Golf Clubs. Our Ladies' Team players were Sophie Beardsall, Sammi Keen, Emma Powell and Joanne Wright, and the Team Manager was Margaret Butler. In a strong field of other golfing islands and with outstanding golf from all our team, Emma Powell won the Individual Silver Medal and Sophie Beardsall took Bronze. The Team won Gold!

In view of declining entries in the **Isa Ballard Rosebowls** (a Foursome Stableford competition) it was decided that from **2012** this event should become a Greensome Stableford. Entries to the event have grown since the change.

In **2013** the HLCGA's Knight Cup Finals Day was held at Shanklin & Sandown GC. In the morning semi-finals Weybrook Park beat Sandford Springs and Cowes just pipped Highcliffe Castle. Having won the Knight Cup in 2011 at Army GC, Ali Wren and Wendy Young were keen to keep the trophy on the IOW after play this year and following a strong final they did indeed take the cup back to their side of the island that evening.

2013 took our team for the **NatWest Island Games** - Sophie Beardsall, Sammi Keen, Emma Powell and Joanne Wright - to Bermuda. Unfortunately, Emma was just pipped by two shots to the Individual Bronze Medal but the team brought home an excellent Silver medal. As always, the standard at the Games was very high.

The **Rules of the IWLGA** dated October 2003 were updated in October **2014**. The IWLGA Representative to the Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association (HLCGA) was added to the list of IWLGA Officers, and amendments were made to the Association's complaints procedure.

The Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association honoured the Isle of Wight by inviting Margaret Clark to become County Captain 2013-15, following her term as Vice-Captain 2011-13. Margaret had served on the HLCGA Executive Committee as its Press/Website Officer since the County Association first commissioned a website in about 2003. Hampshire had not reached County Finals since England changed its ladies' Divisional structure (SE Div 1 contained Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire) to its current Regions (South Region contains Hampshire, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex). With our county captain from the Island it was great to support the county team as they won South Region County Match Week in Middlesex in June **2014** to make it through to the national County Finals in Lincolnshire in September (against Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire) where the Hampshire team made another clean sweep to become national champions unbeaten and unmatched throughout the season.

The **2015 NatWest Island Games** were held in Jersey at La Moye and Royal Jersey Golf Clubs, two of our fellow Hampshire-affiliated clubs. Representing the IOW were Sophie Beardsall, Carole Bingham, Lucy Burke and Sammi Keen. Unfortunately we again just missed out on the medals this year.

Sadly, in **2016** both Cowes and Newport GCs advised that they would be unable to take up the IWLGA Captaincy in the years they were due to have that honour.

Also in **2016**, it was decided to upgrade the IWLGA blog, which had been set up by Mandy Gould and Stephanie Hart, to a more suitable website to be commissioned and run by Mandy Gould, the Competition Secretary. Its first year in use in 2017 confirmed the improvements and underlined the necessity for an online presence these days.

In **2017** the IOW team travelled to Gotland in June for the **NatWest Island Games**. We were strongly represented by our team: Sophie Beardsall, Lucy Burke, Dawn Hodge and Sammi Keen, and they brought home the Team Silver Medal.

The Hampshire Ladies' County Golf Association chose an island venue to host one of its major events when in July **2017** it brought the County Seniors' Championship to Shanklin & Sandown GC. This is one of Hampshire's major scratch events and always attracts very large fields and fine golf. It was no exception this year, and it was also a treat for our island players not to be the ones boarding ferries at the end of a very good day!

The Hampshire team won the South Region County Match Week in Kent in **2017** and reached County Finals in Suffolk in September. Island Champion for the last three years, Sammi Keen, was called up to the Hampshire squad for Finals, the first time she had been selected for the county first team squad. During the week she became a successful regular in both the foursomes and singles matches.

At the end of **2017** the Committee decided that the Past Captains' Meeting would be run as a non-qualifying competition from 2018 – format yet to be decided – in the expectation that such a change will raise the popularity of the event.

The **2017** AGM marked the end of Margaret Butler's IWLGA Presidency and the long years of service she and her family have given to the Committee and ladies' golf on the island. Before becoming President in 2015, Margaret was Captain in 1988, following which she was Treasurer until 2015, not to mention being a fine golfer who has been IOW Champion six times! She and members of her wider family have been members of the Association for more than half its life and have given generous service to both their club (Osborne) and the IWLGA. For example, Margaret's mother Phyl Dennis, was Island Captain in 1959 and President in 1985 and her Aunt Isa Ballard gave us the Isa Ballard Trophies. The next Dennis generation continues to be active in the Association.

All our members personify the enjoyment of golf and its friendships. Here's to the IWLGA's next decade, which it is already known will introduce major changes both to the Rules of Golf and to Handicapping Regulations and might well require us to make further adjustments to the events in our fixture lists.