INTER CLUB LEAGUE HISTORY

I have decided to every year give a little background on the ICL league. I would have found it useful when I first attended the AGM.

Sue Baker, originally of Taunton Vale, was the instigator of this league. The ICL is totally independent and does not come under the Somerset Ladies Association. Clubs are welcome from other counties as long as the distance is feasible. The aim of the league is friendly competitive play, a way of forming friendships and bringing on the standard with a match play competition.

The structure: a chair/sec, a results co-ordinator and three division reps. Please make a note of your rep. The reps are here to help and make decisions.

Prior to the WHS being bought in, we had a maximum of four silvers in our matches. The league was aimed at higher silvers and lower bronzes capable of match play. This has worked well. In 2009, it was proposed to change the balance. This was voted against. There are times when a club can struggle to select bronze players or silver players. This is rare and normally it works through.

The friendly league: This is what the ICL is about, fun and friendly. We play by the golf rules and try to keep the league simple. There are basic rules in place. Please ensure you have a copy with you for every match. The captains on the day have the authority to make a decision, as long as they agree, i.e. the weather for example. If a course becomes unplayable, you can decide to call it a half or rearrange the match. If a decision can’t be made, you can contact the Chairman, the Results Co-ordinator or your division Rep.

In 2013, it was decided to clarify that it is up to the visiting club to pay a match fee or cost of a tea depending on what the host club stipulates. Some clubs’ hands are tied, so it is not the fault of the ICL captains. We have to continue to hope the costs remain as they are, as we are very fortunate.

During 2013, a bonus point system was brought in for matches won away. The system lasted just that year and was changed to the system we have now by a vote of 14-1. Sally Dymock, the Results Co-ordinator, carried out an exercise which proved there was little difference between the two systems. The following year was spent monitoring it. At the 2014 AGM, it was agreed that the current system was far easier to manage and minimised room for error.

At the 2021 AGM, the structure of the league was discussed in depth. It was agreed by the majority to keep seven in a team playing singles match play. A maximum of 4 players with a handicap index of 0-20.4, the league being to encourage higher handicappers to gain more match play experience.

Gin Stewart

Chair/Secretary 2023