

Berkshire County Ladies' Golf Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at Reading Golf Club on Wednesday 17th November 2010

Present: Mrs Sue Robson President in the Chair
Mrs Anthea Winn Captain
66 Members

1. **Apologies** - 13 members.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th November 2009**

Read and approved.

Proposed by: Julie Sheppard (East Berks)

Seconded by: Gill Bowness (Newbury & Crookham)

3. **Matters Arising** – None

4. **Reports**

(a) **Captain – Anthea Winn**

My term of office draws to a close today and in many ways I shall be quite sad.

We began this year again with the Winter match play knock outs and I would like to thank those who participated and all those golf clubs who gave us courtesy of their courses – without their support the County would really struggle.

We ran foursome practice sessions again at Sunningdale Ladies – who I cannot thank enough for their continued generosity – these sessions prove vitally important for testing out pairings that might be used at CMW. It also provided us with an opportunity to offer the top juniors the chance to play with senior members of the squad, to get to know them and to feel totally relaxed and comfortable in their company.

When I took office two years ago, I had a vision – to see the elite junior girls progress into and represent the County first and second teams on a regular basis, I felt we needed some new fresh young blood participating at the highest level and I am pleased to report that we have had several girls playing in first and second team matches and three represented Berkshire at County match week at Goring & Streatley – on which I will report a little later.

We played friendly matches against the Reading and Newbury & Crookham men - again we are grateful to those clubs for fielding teams – they are fun to play but also provide much needed match play experience. Unfortunately, we were unable to play the Calcot men as a suitable date could not be found but I understand that the fixture is in the calendar for next year

We played a first team match against Surrey at Mill Ride where we unfortunately lost but our outing to Highgate Golf Club to play against Middlesex resulted in a resounding clean sweep to Berkshire, so enduring our long journey there and back and 20 mile an hour winds on a bank holiday Sunday were suitably rewarded.

Our Spring and Autumn meetings have seen a drop in numbers and we (your executive) have taken the decision to alter the handicaps slightly. The 1st division will now be from scratch or plus to 20. The 2nd division will run from 21 to 28 and 3rd division from 29 to 36. The 2nd and 3rd divisions next year will play on the same day at the same venue but will go out in handicap order. The Executive will be monitoring these meetings very carefully.

The Tegner Trophy and the Championships were played at Royal Ascot Golf Club, the weather was good, the course was in great condition and set up well for an excellent test of golf. We must thank Royal Ascot for their hospitality and organisation – it all ran very smoothly. Tracy Crew successfully defended the Tegner Trophy but the Championships eventually saw a new winner in Gabi Heuchel, from East Berkshire – who was over the moon having competed for so many years and not having won previously. Karen Thompson was a worthy runner up and secured her place in the County Squad.

In consultation with my Training Officer and using the Ranking points system set up last year the squad for CMW was chosen:

Gabi Heuchel, Laura Webb and Karen Thompson from East Berkshire, Linda Hunt, Airlie Dyson and Lizzie Swallow

from Newbury and Crookham, Avril Schmidt and Tracy Crew from Reading, Emily Savage from Goring & Streatley, Emily Shaw from Castle Royal, Maureen Harman and Maddy Pearce from Sand Martins. Unfortunately, due to University commitments Maddy was unable to play in June.

On Sunday 9th May the entire squad played 36 holes, foursomes in the morning and singles in the afternoon against a Sand Martins scratch team. Andrew Hall insisted on playing against Laura and for the ribbing that he has taken since for losing might make him choose a different opponent next year. He has promised Berkshire that this will now be an Annual event to help with our preparations for County week. I cannot thank him enough for his generosity on the day, he provided everyone with breakfast on arrival and soup and sandwiches for lunch. Andrew has given an enormous amount of time in supporting the County this year in particular and we are extremely grateful.

I turn now to CMW at Goring and Streatley.

The course had been prepared well and was in excellent condition. Our Chief Referee for the week, Margaret Berriman, had intimate knowledge of the greens as it is her home club and set some very interesting and challenging pin placements especially with the windy conditions on one particular day!

I made up my mind some months ago that providing our preparations went well I would select three juniors to take this year and made a promise to them all that if they came they would play one foursomes match to break them in gently for future years.

We all arrived at 6.00pm on Sunday evening for our team photographs – it was cold and windy and did not bode very well for the forthcoming week. The six counties enjoyed a brief Welcome, introduction to those playing followed by a delicious meal.

Monday morning arrived – it was again cold, overcast and rather windy. Our first match was against Bucks. Laura played with Gabi, Avril with Emily Savage and Tracy with Maureen. The matches were all very tight and we went into lunch all square.

The afternoon was still rather windy and Gabi, Avril, Karen, Airlie, Tracy and Laura all played. I had been determined this year to put out all our players in the first two days so that they felt part of the team early on. Unfortunately, we only managed to secure 2 points from the afternoon session – but once again we witnessed some excellent golf.

Tuesday we were again out first - playing Northamptonshire who were an extremely strong team this year. They were lucky enough to have some US college girls in their side.

I decided that I would play all the juniors along side three senior players to give them a taste of golf at the highest level, and thus fulfil my promise to them. They certainly did not disappoint me.

The morning session ended all square so I was very happy that our practice sessions had paid off.

The afternoon however proved a harder task and we unfortunately lost 4 matches but it left the day with a 6 – 3 defeat, which I thought, was a good result considering the opposition.

Wednesday dawned and unfortunately Gabi had suffered a problem with her eye on Tuesday afternoon and ended up in Royal Berks having an emergency operation and reluctantly had to sit out the rest of the week. With the practice sessions we had had prior to CMW I had pairings that I could use and swap around. It was a lovely warm day and we played Worcester and Hereford. We went into lunch 2 and a half to a half so all matches achieved a good result.

The afternoon session also produced a win and we ended the day with our first point the result being 6 – 3 to Berkshire.

Thursday saw us taking on the holders Warwickshire. We managed to win one match in the morning. The afternoon result saw each side winning 3 matches we therefore only lost the day 5 –4 which was an extremely creditable performance and if only.....

Friday saw a repeat of last years' final day with us playing Oxfordshire. Again I decided to give our three youngsters an outing with senior players in the morning and although we only managed to win one game, I was very impressed with the girls ball striking. They conducted themselves brilliantly, played some stunning golf, and all three decided to tee off the first hole which in itself is daunting for the best of us but they had grown in confidence all week and I felt totally justified for picking them.

The afternoon saw Tracy, and Laura win with Emily Savage halving her match. The shot of the week this year goes to Emily Savage who at one stage in the afternoon was four down. Having fought back to bring the match down the 18th hole she played her second shot from the right hand rough and not a particularly good lie straight onto the green in front of a large number of spectators. She was able to lag her first putt and hole the next to even the match.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who played for me during the week – we won more matches than two other counties and that is a great achievement. We have played some new talent this year and I believe it bodes very well for the future of Berkshire.

Thanks must also go to Ann Williams and her team for organising and running the Match week office so well. At a recent meeting of the Midlands South Captain's they could not praise Berkshire highly enough and it was lovely to

be on the receiving end of so many wonderful comments.

Most of the significant achievements this year I believe have come from the Juniors and I am sure that you will hear about some of them from Pauline – but I would like to place on record my congratulations to Lizzie Swallow for attaining a handicap of 3.4 – just two years after she started playing golf – this year alone she has won two Club Championships the Berkshire Junior Championships and played to scratch 3 times – a player definitely to watch for the future. The Easthampstead girls have again won the JHB National NAPGC they came 3rd in the National White webs competition. Barbara Hudson Reid and Jodie Morris from Easthampstead came equal 2nd but 4th overall on count back, in the Ping National foursomes to highlight just a few successes. I will leave Moya Amor to tell you about the seniors' successes this year, but suffice it to say, I am very proud of them all.

Last Friday we held what I consider to have been a very successful County Dinner. We managed to raise some £1800 towards extra training for the Juniors A & B teams and I thank your Clubs and members who supported us by purchasing raffle tickets and donating prizes. Newbury & Crookham once more sold the most tickets. The list of prize-winners has been published on the website and every Club representative has been emailed a copy.

My thanks must also go to those who have worked so hard behind the scenes on behalf of the County, Liz Gunn who master minded the inception of the website and has now handed over to Nicky Luff. To Betty Johnson, Charlie Keenan, Ann Williams and Nicky Luff who have kept their respective sections up to date and hopefully will continue to do so. Do look at the website – it has a host of information on it and the reports which appear do make interesting reading.

I place on record my sincere thanks to those who have helped me tirelessly through the highs and the lows of the last two years, namely my entire Executive without whose support, encouragement and enthusiasm I could not have achieved my dream.

If I have omitted anyone – my apologies it is certainly not deliberate - but you all have my thanks.

I wish Karen and the Executive success in the future.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to hold office as your County Captain and I thank those most sincerely who gave me the opportunity - this is a truly prestigious County.

Thank you

The President then presented Anthea with a gift.

(b) 2nd Team Captain – Karen Thompson

The function of the 2nd team has always been to bring on promising players, young and not so young and to let them participate in golf of a high standard.

The year started by a review of the training given in 2009, it was felt that rather than have structured coaching sessions with various professionals, as nearly all squad members have their own professional coaches they would achieve greater benefit in having additional practise in foursomes match play, so foursomes sessions were arranged at various venues, this was undertaken in conjunction with the established 1st team players it was very constructive and helped to establish a happy squad and ease transition from junior to 2nd team and 2nd team to 1st team. A few professional coaching sessions were arranged for junior and intermediate players with Andrew Hall.

The past two years the 2nd team has been playing competitive fixtures in the Midland South Region against Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire (2010), Warwickshire and Worcester & Herefordshire, all matches are played in the same format as County week 18 holes foursomes followed by 18 holes of singles match play. Berkshire also has a further friendly against old rival Hampshire. We have had some mixed results in the league this year finishing 5th overall, we had to concede the match to Warwickshire, which was unfortunate and didn't help our position in the league and obviously benefited them.

The results of matches were as follows;

MSR League

19th April @ Frilford Heath GC vs Oxfordshire match lost 6 – 3

8th July @ Ladbroke Park GC vs Warwickshire – match conceded

16th August @ Bromsgrove GC vs Worcester & Herefordshire – match halved

18th August @ Mill Ride GC vs Northamptonshire won 5 – 4

23rd August @ Newbury & Crookham GC vs Buckinghamshire match lost 6 ½ - 1 ½

Friendly

30th April @ Test Valley GC vs Hampshire match lost 5 – 4

This year has seen 10 new players to 2nd team golf and participation of six junior and intermediate players. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all players who have played in matches in 2009 and 2010. I would also like thank Newbury & Crookham and Mill Ride who kindly hosted home matches in 2010.

In 2011 an additional match with Middlesex will be added to the fixture list. All dates for fixtures in 2011 will be posted on the County website and your support is always welcome.

I have enjoyed my time as Berkshire 2nd Team Captain and would like to take this time to thank the Executive for all their support and to wish Gillian Cain every success for the coming year.

The President then presented Karen with a gift.

(c) County Training Officer – Pauline Cameron

Much of the early training in 2010 was on-course foursome's match play at Sunningdale Ladies GC, during the Jan/Feb/March period. The snow played havoc with matches and training dates but the turnout was always strong. Thanks have been sent to the Secretaries of GC who gave players courtesy of the courses to complete the second year of the Scratch Match Play League. This was won by Laura Webb of East Berkshire @ Bearwood Lakes against Linda Hunt from Newbury and Crookham. It has proved to be popular competition for players who hold a handicap of 10 or under, played from October 2009 to April 2010. It is a valuable part of the pre season warm up and carries ranking points for semi and final wins. These points are added to individual players point totals.

After the Tegner Trophy and County Championships are completed, more specific training sessions were held with the selected squad at G&S. These sessions spanned three weekends, one session with Andrew Hall walking the course watching and coaching the County Squad.

A new event in 2010 was Andrew Hall's challenge to the County Ladies Squad against the 1st Team men at Sand Martins. The format was foursomes in the morning followed by singles match play in the afternoon. This replicates the county week format. It was a great event and given the hospitality..... The team let the men win. This event is being repeated in 2011, spectators are welcome. Andrew continues to be a terrific supporter of BCLGA and many thanks must go to him for all his work with us over 2010.

During March/April Andrew also worked with the junior girls with handicaps of 15 or below and three players from this pool of talent played in county week for Berkshire. It is fair to say that this group of seven players have continued to cut their handicaps, play in a wide range of national and international events and make us smile and wish we were all young again.

The junior squad played at Temple GC in August against Oxon, Bucks and Hertfordshire, and the eight players were given on the course coaching at Temple during July, by Rob Watts of Castle Royal. Thanks go to Temple GC and their membership for their generous support and help during August, where the county match days were held this year.

I believe we managed to present a prudent budget to the county for the years training. Players meeting and playing together helps to identify foursomes partnerships and promote team unity, but none of this cost effective work would be possible without the support of the following clubs: Sand Martins, Sunningdale Ladies, Goring & Streatley and Temple. Also three clubs offer 1st team workouts against their men's teams in early March and April at Newbury & Crookham, Calcot and Reading. For this we thank them most sincerely. Jo Russ will be taking over the Training Organisers role and I offer her support and good wishes.

Finally, I would like to thank Anthea Winn and Sue Robson who have been unstinting in their support over the last year. I have enjoyed getting to know so many people and working together with the squad over the last two years. I am looking forward to the challenge of working with the junior section of BCLGA.

The President then presented Pauline with a gift.

(d) Hon. Secretary – Nicky Luff

During the year our County Delegates meetings have been held at Sand Martins Golf Club and Goring and Streatley Golf Club and our Executive meetings at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club and at Reading Golf Club and I would like to thank the management of all these clubs for so generously allowing us to have use of their facilities for these meetings. I would also like to thank Reading Golf Club for their courtesy today.

I would like to thank all the County Delegates for their help and support during the year. Their continued hard work in disseminating information to their club members is very much appreciated.

The website will become an ever more important instrument in providing up to date information on a wide range of topics including ladies' county, regional and national competition details and entry forms, information on the achievements of our juniors, national issues such as the proposed merger between the EGU and EWGA to name just a few. Please encourage all your ladies to look at the website and we would also very much appreciate feedback from you on how we can continue to make improvements and make it as relevant as possible to all our members.

Every year, Clubs are asked to donate a raffle prize for use at the Spring Meetings and I would like to thank all those who so generously donated a prize. It is greatly appreciated.

Many of you have signed up for the EWGA Newsletter will already know that next year's EWGA diaries are on sale. But for those who don't, you can order them from the EWGA website www.englishwomensgolf.org – click on shop. I believe order forms are also available from your Club Delegate or Club.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a good golfing year in 2011.

(e) Hon. Treasurer – Lynn Griffiths

I intend to give a short report on the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2010.

Firstly I would like to point out that this year the Junior funds were combined with BCLGA funds and hence you have a combined set of accounts in front of you.

As you will see from the accounts this year we made a profit of £1,722.95 which was considerably better than the overspend that was forecast. In overall terms the income decreased yet again this year as forecast but most importantly we managed to keep our expenditure well below forecast levels in a few areas.

Briefly on the income side once again the number of Lady Members in Berkshire dropped reducing our Capitation income to £12,222, £455 less than last year.

On the expenditure side there were two major variations to forecast :-

1. County Week – where the forecast cost was £10,000

Actual cost was only £4,665.44. In addition we received a £1,200 contribution from EWGA towards the cost of hosting the event and EWGA also paid the Goring and Streatley facility fee, neither of which were expected prior to the event. All in all we spent around £6,500 less than we thought.

2. Juniors – where the forecast overspend against income was £3,967

The juniors over spent against income by £1,587.67 which was £2,379.33 better than forecast. Major variations were in the Cost of the Junior County Match Days which cost us £1,219.74 which was approx £1,000 less than expected. This was predominantly due to one less night's accommodation. Admin and Committee Expenses were £500 below forecast and donations were £510 higher than forecast.

The above two areas alone account for around an £8,500 improvement in our out-turn i.e. it could have been nearer a £7,000 loss.

Other smaller areas worthy of note are that the 2nd Team and seniors teams together came in on budget, the removal of honorariums and introduction of a new expenses policy resulted in reduced spend and finally our competitions came much closer to break-even this year.

Total of funds carried forward are therefore a healthy £32,335.58.

However it is absolutely not our intention to continue building up these funds, neither do we expect to be profligate but we do expect to overspend next year.

We fully expect the trend in the number of Berkshire Ladies to continue downwards due to the current economic climate, also the Executive have decided not to increase the Capitation fee from the current £5 per head which will therefore result in reduced income. We have also decided to change the way the Junior subscriptions work to make it slightly fairer which is likely to reduce income. We also already know that County Week will cost us considerably more next year as the cost of the hotel alone, which we have already had to book, will be £4,875 which is more than double what was paid this year.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lesley Delo for Auditing our books.

The accounts were then accepted.

Proposed by: Lynn Griffiths (Reading)

Seconded by: Carol Jamieson (Reading)

(f) Regional Representative – Pat Bennett

PB explained that she represented Berkshire at the Midlands South Regional Meetings (comprising Hereford & Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Berkshire). Issues raised at the EWGA Operational Board were discussed and these were then passed down to the delegates at the delegates meetings. Four meetings had taken place this year, with the delegates offering a large number of suggestions on fund-raising and how to attract and retain new members. Talks by members of the Executive committee had been requested by the delegates on handicapping, county week and competitions. PB thanked all the delegates for their contributions and hard work particularly in getting volunteers to help at county week, and obtaining raffle prizes for the county dinner.

There have been two particular issues –

- 1) Distance Measuring Devices (DMD). These are now allowed in EWGA medals if the home club allows them. This is also true for pedometers on golf trolleys. It is only in the EWGA run competitions, county championship and county week where they are currently forbidden, although EWGA had agreed that DMD's can be used in Order of Merit competitions, e.g. Astor Salver, but that no points would be awarded to those players who use them
- 2) EGU/EWGA merger. Seven Working Groups have been established to consider all aspects of a merger. Next year's AGM has been moved from January to Wednesday 23 March. This will allow the clubs to consider all the issues and vote on them prior to the AGM.

The minutes for the Delegates' meetings are on the BCLGA website.

(g) Seniors Captain – Moya Amor

2010 has been a particularly special year for me as Captain of the Berkshire Seniors'!

The Inter County League is always very competitive and this year we won it outright! Our first match back in May against Oxfordshire @ Calcot Park was a really tight start to the season, but we won 4 matches to 3 after some fiery golf. Later in May the girls beat Bucks at Ellesborough. This is always a hard one but after a few cliff-hangers we had another brilliant result 4 ½ matches to 2 ½.

We had to wait until July before we could tackle Hampshire always extremely strong opponents. But Berkshire not phased at all by this, were up in 3 matches and down in 3 matches until Julie Sheppard came storming home to win on the 18th 1up. Some players will do anything to get attention! Elspeth Cooper had a "Hole in One" that day and went round Temple in a gross 75 and still only won her match 2 and 1!! We beat Hampshire 4 and 3 a brilliant result.

I had everything crossed for our final match against Hertfordshire at Moor Park. It was a beautiful day and dare I say, I had a feeling in my bones. I need not have worried. The final result was a resounding win for Berkshire 6 matches to 1 and we could not stop smiling that day!

The players for the league were Sheree Wilde, Elaine Moffat, Margaret Berriman, Elspeth Cooper, Airlie Dyson, Chris Green, Lynn Griffiths, Pat Bennett, Alison Blackmore Julie Sheppard and Diana Davies. My Congratulations go to all of them, they were brilliant.

I did not field the regular team for the 2 non-league matches. We have so many good senior players that it was always my intention to give some of them a game and maybe get a game myself. We played Sussex at The Berkshire on the most beautiful day in May, had a gorgeous tea, but were unsuccessful with our result. Then we played Surrey at Sutton Green a little gem of a course, again we had a wonderful tea, but could not clinch victory on the golf course. You cannot win them all!

September brought the Seniors Championship to Castle Royle. We had the most awful weather conditions imaginable, but there are those who seem to be able to play well in all conditions. Sheree Wilde emerged as the 2010 Champion carding a gross 78 and Gail Moy after a lengthy time off for a knee operation, finished 1st handicap with a nett 73. My thanks to Castle Royle GC for that day, they looked after us extremely well, and my congratulations to everyone who played and completed the course. It would have been very easy not to!

Finally at the end of September we played in the Senior Inter-County Team Championships. Theydon Bois GC is close to Epping Forest and I don't think I have ever seen such a tight and undulating course. The girls did extremely well and finished 4th only 2 shots adrift from the winners, Sussex.

My sincere thanks to everyone who turned out as a senior in 2010, you all made my year most enjoyable and hassle free! I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

(h) Acting County Junior Organiser – Pauline Carmeron

The aims of BCLGA junior section are: to provide pathways from beginners to junior/county/national squad for talented girls: to offer girls the opportunity to play and enjoy golf: to meet other girls who are also interested and play at a similar level.

As you see from the county Captain's Report, this first aim has been achieved with three junior players taking part in county week this year. Alongside this several girls took part in British U18 national events and one took part in a Junior Open in Portugal, which shows great initiative and ambition by them all. One player is now part of a national coaching scheme running at a regional centre and several juniors have achieved national success in adult competitions this summer. We can also count two junior players as club champions. This pathway has been achieved by integrating the girls who hold handicaps of 15 or under into the main county training programme, giving them opportunities to mix and play foursomes with the more established members of BCLGA.

The opportunity to play and enjoy golf has two elements to it. The first one is for players who have a handicap of 16 - 36 who take part in the BB&O JA programme running in five centres in Berkshire at Castle Royal, Mill Ride, Bearwood Lakes, Donnington Valley and The Downshire. BB&O also run 6 competitions with a final champion of champion's event at Castle Royal, in which over 60 winners took part. Six girls from Berkshire were there in October, and are featured in the Partnership BB&O magazine. The girls are also selected for inter-county matches, matches against county boy's teams and events like the Alresford Cup which is played against 7 other counties as well as a range of EWGA Midland South competitions. These players also take part in the County Junior Championships, along with the top handicap juniors and this event was won by Lizzie Swallow with a par round of 73 at Winter Hill in June.

The second element is for players who have handicaps of 54 – 37 and these handicaps are managed by Berkshire Girls Golf (BGG) affiliated to BCLGA Juniors, primarily to support the aim of meeting girls who are interested and play at a similar level. BGG has run 7 competitions this year and players can chose to play a 9 whole par three competition or a 9 whole stableford counting for handicap purposes. Courses that have hosted these events are Billingbear, Hurst, Haileybury, Greys Green and Winter Hill.

These girls are also offered BGG coaching at three centres Blue Mountain, Calcot and Sand Martins, efficiently organised and managed by Pera Marrs. It is from this pool of emerging talent that players are selected and recommended for the BB&O JA programmes.

The juniors also take part in county scratch match play days, this year hosted by Berkshire at Temple GC. Bucks, Oxon and Herts. join up and spent one night at a Holiday Inn in Maidenhead while teams of 8 players battle it out over two days. Thanks go to Nicky Luff and Maxine Sadler from Temple Golf Club and to the membership there for being so supportive and welcoming to us prior to the two days and for all their help during the event. In 2011 this event will be hosted by Oxfordshire at Frilford GC.

Development grants and other funding come from EWGA and other bodies which we pursue where appropriate. BCLGA also supports us through the club contributions to EWGA, fund raising by you the membership in raffles and specified competitions which make it possible for us to enter and subsidise some BGG fun events. There is a small yearly subscription for any girl who is not a member of a golf club for administering and managing handicaps along with a newsletter which is produced three times a year which records the names, photographs of the event and winners as well as success stories too numerous to record in this report.

If you have missed anything and want to catch up the **junior website** is a good place to start. It has all the forthcoming events with the relevant entry forms, details of competition and match results, and plenty of other stories of interest. This is managed by Nicky Luff, so any young junior players in your club, point them in our direction please, they are the future.

Finally, very big thanks go to Nicky Luff for 10 years as the Junior Secretary, web master, news letter co-ordinator, county competition organiser and general supremo. A presentation of an engraved bowl was made to Nicky after the county match days at Temple in August.

(i) County Handicap Adviser – Ann Williams

Well another year has passed and here I am again. This has not been a very busy year for handicaps as there were no major changes at the beginning of the year, apart from Inactive handicaps, which I covered at last year's AGM. Hopefully you will all have put in 3 cards during the year, so that you won't have to worry about this next year.

I attempted to run a Handicap Seminar in January, but it had to be cancelled as the G&S car park was under 2 inches of snow! Instead I gave a talk to the combined ranks of Club Delegates and Handicap secretaries at one of Pat's Delegates meeting. I think this went well and hope that the delegates were not too upset at the takeover of part of their meeting.

I have not heard whether EWGA will be running another Handicap Seminar in the New year, but I am sure that they will, even though, as far as I am aware, there will be no major changes to the Handicapping System until a new CONGU book is published in 2012. The only change that I have heard of is to do with Supplementary Scores – it seems that from next year anyone will be able to put in SSs and that there won't be a limit to how many. I haven't heard this officially but it did come from a normally reliable source!

The other topic which I mentioned at last year's AGM was the introduction of the Central Database of Handicaps. Most Berkshire clubs have now registered with this system which is good as it means that results from competitions played 'away' from your home course should be automatically sent to your home club. It also allows the County to have access to your handicap record, which is helpful for Anthea as she picks her squad for the first team.

It also allows me to be able to report that the County has 16 Category 1 ladies (+ - 5), 100 in Cat 2 (6-12), 436 in Cat 3 (13-20), 635 in Category 4 (21-29) and 720 in Category 5 (29-36). Which makes me wonder why we have so few entries to the 3rd Division meetings!

Thank you for being understanding for the last 7 years.

The President then presented Ann with a gift.

(j) Joint Competition Secretaries – Pat Menzies and Marie Taylor

Marie and I would first like to thank all the Clubs which have hosted our competitions and our knock-out finals this year, and also their Ladies' Captains and County delegates who were so helpful to us in our first year in office. Particular thanks to Royal Ascot Golf Club, where our County Championship competitions were held over 3 days, and a special mention for Bradfield College Golf Club who very ably hosted a competition for the first time.

34 players with handicaps of up to 14 entered the **Tegner Trophy and County Championships** and Tracy Crew (Reading GC) emerged as the winner of the Tegner Trophy for the second year running. The final of the County Championship was a close match between two East Berkshire GC players - Karen Thompson and Gabi Heuchel. The winner was Gabi, who became our County Champion for the first time.

28 Clubs entered the **Inter Club Shield** held at Blue Mountain GC. The winners were The Berkshire GC, with 73 points;

their team member, Virginia Pendock, took the individual prize with 43 points.

Winter Hill GC hosted the **President's Salvagers**, and Pauline Sleet and Elaine Benton from Sand Martins GC were the winners, with 44 points.

The **Millennium Competition** took place at Reading GC in very wet conditions. This team competition involves 3 players representing different Clubs and the winners were Rosalie Tucker from Winter Hill, Liz Freeman from Sand Martins and Jill Salter from East Berks, with a score of 77 points.

The **Tournament Cup**, for players with handicaps between 10 and 20, was held at Caversham Heath GC. The winner was Lynne Rumbold from Caversham Heath, with 38 points.

28 Clubs entered the **Duncan Trophy**. In a repeat of the 2009 final, Donnington Valley GC narrowly beat The Berkshire GC, at Temple Golf Club, with several matches finishing on the 19th.

The final of the **Ann Bryant Trophy** was played at Sand Martins GC between Penny Bennett from Royal Ascot and Kathy North from Caversham Heath, with Penny coming out on top.

The 2009/10 **Winter Match play** final was won by Jules Tarr of Castle Royle with Gill O'Donnell of Easthampstead Ladies the runner-up.

Congratulations to all of these prize winners, and to those who were successful in the Spring and Autumn meetings. Thanks also to all the ladies who took part and contributed to the success of the competitions.

There were several changes to conditions for our competitions this year: firstly, entry for all BCLGA competitions is now restricted to those with Active handicaps; secondly, we now allow the use of distance measuring devices in all competitions other than the Championships; and finally, in the Millenium Competition, we allowed players to represent either their Home or Away Club.

The only disappointing aspect of our year was the numbers of entries for some events – notably in Division 3. As a result of the declining numbers, the Executive Committee has taken the decision to re-structure our Spring and Autumn meetings for 2011. Division 1 will revert to handicaps up to 20, while Division 2 will be for handicaps 21-28. Division 3 will remain for handicaps 29-36, but will be played at the same venue, on the same day, as the Division 2 competitions. All the dates can be found on the BCLGA website.

Finally we would like to thank our predecessors, Pat Price and Judy Crawley, for all their help and advice; also Sue Robson, our President, and Anthea Winn, our Captain for their support at all our competitions; and Charlotte Keenan for keeping the website competition pages up to date.

(k) BB&O Golf Partnership Representative – Margaret Berriman

For those who don't know – or who, like me, have slept through this session previously – the Golf Partnership is a partnership between the PGA, the men's county golf union and the women's county associations. The partnerships were set up to distribute lottery funding to golf – particularly beginners' golf. Partnerships now exist across all but two counties. The BB&O one was one of the first to be set up which has its advantages and disadvantages: we have a head-start on the others but have not been able to learn from their mistakes.

You are probably wondering why you should be interested in beginners' golf or junior golf – here's why. Look at most Ladies' Sections now and they have fewer members than they did 10 years ago; most Ladies' Sections have an average age I can't even begin to calculate; and most golf clubs need members. So, purely out of self-interest, to make sure your section doesn't die on its feet or your subs rise astronomically, you need more adult beginners and more juniors.

The Partnership can both help you attract adult beginners and help coach youngsters.

The Partnership now has 9 coaching centres across the region, up from 5, and the 2011 programme is already planned. Interestingly, but not surprisingly, during 2010 the boys' attendance could be sporadic and they tended to drop out. The girls' attendance was much better – not just because they were 'girlie swots' but because they were reminded about coaching by their CJO and the county associations – that's Pauline and her team - took far more interest in them and organised competitions and fun get-togethers.

As well as running its own initiatives, the Partnership will also work with individual clubs. For example, they will work with clubs to help them achieve GolfMark which means clubs can then access funding for academies and other initiatives.

The Partnership has actively helped clubs with special events. I must mention Sand Martins, here, who are the 'gold star' club. Their Captain's charity this year has helped local children with special needs and in May, with the help of the Partnership, it ran a very successful Charity Festival Day when many of these children were introduced to golf. This event even made the TV news.

The Partnership has helped other clubs run 'taster' and family golf days. Two of particular note have been at

Deanwood and Billingbear. Billingbear had 23 people booked and 84 turned up to its 'family day'!
 The Partnership has applied for funding to set up two women's beginner groups in Berkshire. As most of their coaching energies have been focussed on 9-16 year-olds, it will be interesting to see how they succeed with older groups.

All of this work requires volunteers – so if you would like to help out, or know someone at your club who would like to help (all good stuff for a younger person's CV), do let me have contact details.

And, of course, all of this effort costs. There is lottery funding but this will decrease in the coming years; the men's union and the 3 ladies' associations make payments. Nevertheless, the Partnership is forecast to make a loss during the next 3 years. It is seeking sponsorship which is not easy to find in the current financial climate. If you do know of anyone at you club who runs a company that might be interested – this could be anything from actual money to prizes for competitions, do let me know.

You can read about the activities of the Partnership in its quarterly magazine which the club delegates are very kindly taking into your clubs.

Don't think like I used to – that the Partnership is something rather dull and over there - rather, you are part of it and it has the potential to reenergise your club.

(I) USGA Course Rating Team Leader

All the ladies' courses in Berkshire have been re rated using the USGA system. However, after 10 years they have to be done again!!

The first course to be rated in Berkshire was in 2003 so I have a couple of years rest till I have to start again.

That is not to say that I have nothing to do !

Margaret Berriman and I are responsible for any queries that your club has re changes to your course.

You should report

Any significant change in the length of your course. That is plus or minus over 100yards.

Any significant change to the layout.

- 1) Such as water hazards either added or removed.
- 2) Bunkers, made much deeper or moved so that they have to be carried to reach a landing area or the green.
- 3) Deep rough being cut back, undergrowth or bushes such as Rhododendrons being removed.
- 4) Large trees being felled or staked trees having their stakes removed.

If you give us the information, we can then decide whether or not your course needs any re assessment. You should contact whichever one of us was the team leader for the rating of your course.

In the past year I have answered queries re stroke index, and changing the par of certain holes. Both of these measures a club is entitled to do for itself. Good advice can be found in the CONGU handbook.

I have also had meetings and made suggestions on how a course could be made more difficult and how another course could be made easier!! After a lot of discussion the ladies sections have always voted not to make changes!! So I look forward to you keeping me busy for another year.

The President then presented Anne Tokley the retiring Venue Organiser with a gift.

5. Approval of Amendments to the BCLGA Rules

Teresa Taylor presented the amendments to the BCLGA Rules. There were no questions and the changes were accepted.

Proposed: Executive Committee
 Seconded: Carol Broadhead

6. Presentation of Trophies

The President, Sue Robson, then presented the trophies ably assisted by Comp. Secretary Pat Menzies assisted by Pat Price.

A full list of prize winners will be posted on the website.

7. 2010 Officials

		<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
<u>Rule 7b</u>			
Captain	Karen Thompson	Anthea Winn	Lynn Griffiths
<u>Rule 7b</u>			
2 nd Team Captain	Gillian Cain	Karen Thompson	Margaret Berriman

Rule 7c

Re-election - Honorary Treasurer	Lynn Griffiths	Pat Menzies	Moya Amor
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Rule 7d

County Junior Organiser	Pauline Cameron	Anthea Winn	Pat Menzies
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Rule 7g

Handicap Advisor	Anthea Winn	Ann Williams	Moya Amor
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The Officers were elected unopposed.

Rule 7f

County Training Officer	Jo Russ
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Carol Jamieson was appointed as Venue Organiser.

All Other officers remain for the duration of their fixed term.

8. **Any Other Business** – Marjorie Tierney (Reading) asked if handicap certificates would continue to be required with the advent of the national handicap database. Anthea Winn confirmed that until advised to the contrary, the County will continue to adhere to the EWGA entry rules for competitions and handicap certificates will be required.
9. **Vote of Thanks.** Carol Broadhead thanked Sue Robson and the committee for their hard work over the year and wished the new committee all the best for next year.
10. The meeting closed at 12:00 pm.