

# Berkshire County Ladies' Golf Association



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Reading Golf Club on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Present: Mrs Sue Robson President in the Chair  
Mrs Karen Thompson Captain  
74 Members

1. **Apologies** – 29 members. Sue Robson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting. She also congratulated Sue Ford on her appointment as President of Sand Martin Golf Club.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Read and approved.

Proposed by: Anthea Winn (Royal Ascot)

Seconded by: Elspeth Cooper (Calcot Park)

3. **Matters Arising** – None

4. **Reports**

(a) **Captain – Karen Thompson**

The year began with the Winter Scratch 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. The final was kindly hosted by Temple Golf Club and played between Sheree Dove-Wilde and Laura Webb, and following a close and keenly fought match, Laura Webb came out the winner.

We ran a foursome practice session again at Sunningdale Ladies – who I cannot thank enough for their continued generosity, it gave the squad a chance of winter practise session and allowed me the opportunity to trial new foursomes partnerships, and also an opportunity to offer the top juniors the chance to play with senior members of the squad,

Continuing the aim of my predecessor to see the elite junior girls progress into and represent the County in first and second teams on a regular basis, I am pleased to report that we have had several girls playing in first and second team matches this year, unfortunately only one was able to represent Berkshire at County match week at Worcester & Herefordshire due to A level commitments by several other eligible players.

We played friendly matches against the Calcot, 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.

The results are as follows:

Match vs Newbury & Crookham Men – Halved Match

Match vs Calcot Men - Halved Match

Match vs Reading Men – Loss 1 ½ to 2 ½

We played a first team match against Surrey at Camberley Heath GC where we unfortunately lost 1 ½ matches to 2 1/2 .

Out match against Middlesex resulted in an honourable half, I would like to pass on my thanks to Caversham Heath GC who hosted this fixture for us.

Our Spring and Autumn meetings have continued to cause concern, although they are well supported in Division 1, there continues to be a low entry in Division 2 and 3 and we have been reviewing how we can make these fixtures more attractive to players, we will be trialling these in 2012, Marie Taylor and Pat Menzies will go over the changes to take place in their report. We have monitored the playing of the 2nd and 3rd divisions on the same day at the same venue, going out in handicap order and feel that it is at the present time the way to continue. All changes that are going to take place in the coming year will be monitored by The Executive.

The Tegner Trophy and the Championships were played at Sonning Golf Club, the weather was good, the course was in good condition having had recently undergone extensive redesign and was set up well for an excellent test of golf. We must thank Sonning for their hospitality and organisation – it all ran very smoothly. Laura Webb from

East Berkshire won the Tegner Trophy for a very impressive 12th time, the Championships winner was Elspeth Cooper from Calcot GC, who also won her previous County championship at the same venue, Avril Schmidt was a worthy runner up, being beaten on the 18th.

In consultation with my Training Officer and using the Ranking points system set up during 2009 the squad for CMW was chosen:

Elspeth Cooper from Calcot, Gabi Heuchel, Laura Webb and Amanda Leach from East Berkshire, Airlie Dyson and Lizzie Swallow from Newbury and Crookham, Avril Schmidt and Tracy Crew from Reading, Sheree-Dove Wilde from Chobham, Margaret Berriman from Goring & Streatley, Jo Pitkin from Mill Ride.

On Sunday 29th May the squad played 36 holes, foursomes in the morning and singles in the afternoon against a Sand Martins scratch team. I would like to thank Andrew Hall and Sand Martins for the very generous support in what has become an eagerly awaited fixture and an important part of the team's preparations for County week. I cannot thank him enough for his generosity on the day, in providing lunch. Andrew has given an enormous amount of time in supporting the County this year and we are extremely grateful. The result was unfortunately a loss.

This year's County Match Week was hosted by Worcester & Herefordshire County at the Worcester Golf Club in Malvern. The course is a parkland course and had been prepared well and was in excellent condition.

Following our practise round on Sunday the team had their official photographs taken. The six counties enjoyed a warm welcome and a delicious dinner; during this the team players were introduced.

Monday morning arrived – Our first match was against Oxfordshire. The Foursomes partnerships were as follows Laura Webb played with Lizzie Swallow, Avril Schmidt with Tracy Crew and Elspeth Cooper with Amanda Leach. The matches were all very tight and we went into lunch just 1 point down. The afternoon was rather windy and Margaret, Lizzie, Tracy, Laura, Avril, and Sheree all played. Unfortunately, we only managed to secure 1 point from the afternoon session – but once again I witnessed some excellent golf.

Tuesday we were against the host county Worcester & Herefordshire – and I had high hopes for Berkshire. The foursomes pairing were Tracy Crew & Avril Schmidt, Airlie Dyson and Elspeth Cooper and Laura Webb and Elizabeth Swallow. The morning session unfortunately did not go our way and we went into the afternoon session 3 points down. The afternoon singles were played by Avril Schmidt, Tracy Crew, Lizzie Swallow, Jo Pitkin, Laura Webb and Sheree Dove Wild, these proved better and we took 3 ½ points from a possible 6 in the singles and the other two matches although losses were taken to the 18th and could have gone either way, it meant we still had a 5 1/2 – 3 ½ defeat, but we showed great battling spirit to come back so well.

Wednesday we played against Buckinghamshire. The foursomes pairing were Laura Webb and Lizzie Swallow, Avril Schmid and Jo Pitkin, Margaret Berriman and Amanda Leach. We went into lunch with 1 point. The afternoon session played by Tracy Crew, Laura Webb, Jo Pitkin, Lizzie Swallow, Avril Schmidt and Sheree Dove-Wilde also produced 3 wins with again the other matches going very close, we ended the day with 4 – 5 loss.

Thursday saw us taking on the holders Northamptonshire. The foursomes partnerships were Tracy Crew and Avril Schmidt, Gabi Heuchel and Elspeth Cooper, and Laura Webb and Lizzie Swallow we achieved a 1/2 point in the morning. The afternoon players were Gabi, Tracy, Jo, Sheree, Avril and Laura we took 1 ½ points from the singles, match results 7 matches to 2 to the holders.

Friday weather threatened to be bad Berkshire were playing Warwickshire, the partnerships for the morning session were Gabi Heuchel and Tracy Crew, Laura Webb and Lizzie Swallow and Margaret Berriman and Airlie Dyson. We took a point from the morning session. The afternoon players Avril, Sheree, Gabi, Tracy, Laura and Lizzie managed 2 ½ points from the afternoon, with matches in most cases very close. Result 3 ½ to 5 ½ loss

The players played some stunning golf over the week with many matches coming down to the 18th, and although it did go quite as well for Berkshire as I had hoped, every player did their best which all anyone can expect. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who played for me during the week. My thanks also go to Gill Cain, Jo Russ, Sue Robson who ably assisted me over the week, also to those caddies who made the trip a big thank you.

Some significant achievements this year have come from the Juniors and I am sure that you will hear about them from Pauline – but I would like to place on record my congratulations to Lizzie Swallow for setting two new course records one at Newbury & Crookham and the other at Newbury Racecourse, at the same time going on to win both Club Championships, as well as winning the Berkshire Junior Championship for the 2nd year, a season she should be very proud of. The Easthampstead Ladies have again won the JHB National NAPGC competition.

I will leave Moya Amor to tell you about the Seniors successes this year, but suffice it to say, they have again achieved brilliant results and Berkshire is very proud.

My thanks must also go to those who have worked so hard behind the scenes keeping the website running on behalf of the County, Betty Johnson and Nicky Luff. Do check out the website regularly as it is there for your benefit.

It has been really enjoyable attending so many County fixtures getting to see many members and of course present lots of prizes, I have also had the opportunity to watch Senior, Junior and 2nd team matches, and I have seen some great golf played this year at all levels.

Now as I draw my report to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to those who have helped, supported and encouraged me this year and all Executive Committee for keeping me hopefully on the straight and narrow, and for doing their jobs so well.

I wish Tracy and the Executive every success in the future.

I have really enjoyed my time, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to hold office as your County Captain and I thank most sincerely those who gave me the opportunity. Thank you.

The President then presented Karen with a gift.

**(b) 2nd Team Captain – Gill Cain**

Following some very long and tiring match days the previous year Berkshire have temporarily withdrawn from the South Midlands 2<sup>nd</sup> team league and instead played a series of 7 friendly matches with our neighbouring counties during 2011. This has been very successful as we have played some new counties, new players and different formats across week days and weekends.

In April Berkshire played Hampshire and Hertfordshire at home narrowly losing both matches which nevertheless saw the debut of 3 players into the team; Amanda Leach; Jo Pitkin and Djura Macrae-Stoelwinder.

During May we fared better playing 2 singles only matches, drawing with Surrey and then beating Middlesex 4-2 at Temple on a lovely Sunday afternoon.

Honours were even again at Ellesborough G C against Buckinghamshire on a June Saturday that preceded County week and the drawing continued again in August in a singles match with Northamptonshire in an unusual holes won format (Berkshire would have won had we been playing straightforward matchplay on the day).

The team's final outing at West Berkshire GC resulted in a Berkshire victory against Wiltshire bringing the combined match results for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team for 2011 to:

- 2 wins
- 3 draws &
- 2 losses

Thanks are due to the clubs who hosted us so well this year Reading; Maidenhead; Temple and West Berkshire.

During October it was my pleasure to organise the Angela Uzielli Trophy at The Berkshire GC. There was a very good turnout of 26 teams who took part on a blustery day and Castle Royle were in the end victorious with 35 points, The Berkshire were 2<sup>nd</sup> and Donnington Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> on count back. Thanks to all of the teams who entered, we raised over £700 for the Angela Uzielli bursary.

**(c) County Training Officer – Jo Russ**

At the start of last season I found the prospect of taking on the job of Training Officer quite daunting. There were some players I did not know at all, some whose names I knew--but no face, some faces I knew-- but no name, and a small band whose infamy went before them. Fortunately, I had offers of help from those in the know, and a warning to beware the menacing CJO! For some reason ,she seemed to be trying to stay below the radar, even leaving the country, which meant it was like trying to find the Scarlet Pimpernel! However, we did meet and had a very useful talk--so, many thanks PC for her invaluable help.

My first task was to set up the Winter Scratch League. I ended up with 7 small leagues, some of which ran smoothly, while others made little progress. A spell of bad weather also disrupted progress, but eventually, Laura Webb of E.Berks, beat Sheree Dove-Wilde at Temple GC, on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Two sessions were booked for 4'somes practice for the County Squad at Sunningdale Ladies GC. This was after considerable effort on the part of Anthea Winn, to gain courtesy for us. Only one session was played, the second being cancelled because for so many players it clashed with a Club commitment in the Daily Mail competition. I hope this will not have made it even more difficult to book next year.

Andrew Hall was again booked to work with the 'Up and coming' Junior/Inter Group at SandMartins. He took two sessions with them, the first on Long Game and the second , where they seemed far better focussed, on Short Game. Girls who attended were Lizzie Swallow, Harriet Richards, Lauren Dodd, Anna Roberts and Emily Shaw. Four others could not make it or declined.

The Captain will report on the practice Matches undertaken by First Team members, which are invaluable for team bonding, and unity, but cost us little. Our thanks to SandMartins, N& C, and Reading Clubs for their support in this. Following the Tegner and County Championships, the selected Team travelled to Worcestershire for a practice round, with Andrew giving 'on -course' help. Our thanks must go to him personally, for his continued help and support.

'Thank you' letters have been sent to Andrew Hall at SandMartins, Simon Sheppard at Sunningdale Ladies, and Keith Adderley at Temple, for the support of their Clubs.

I visited the Worcestershire with Karen on a very wet afternoon prior to County week, in order to get an idea of where, when and how she could manage the week successfully.

Given that our 'Junior' availability was not good because of exam pressures, Karen had a difficult task, which she managed well. Though on paper our results did not look good, we had gained points, and many players put in commendable performances. Everybody knows that you can make data prove whatever you want!

Finally, I would like to thank the players and the committee for making me so welcome, and for their help this year. I look forward to greater success next year!

**(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 at Maidenhead Golf Club. Our Executive meetings have been held 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 and providing feed-back from their clubs to us is very much appreciated.

The website is becoming an ever more important instrument in providing up to date information on a wide range of topics with sections including Ladies Competitions, The County Teams, Seniors, Juniors, Vets and Berkshire Ladies Captains. As always, please encourage all your ladies to look at the website. We are also possibly looking to redesign the site to make it more 'up to date' and we would also very much appreciate feedback from you on how we can 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](http://www.englishwomensgolf.org) – click on Diaries. I believe order forms are also available from your Club Delegate or Club. You never know these may be the last ones produced!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a good golfing year in 2012.

**(e) Hon. Treasurer – Lynn Griffiths**

I will now report on the Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

This year we made a loss of £3,523.82. The loss was forecast at last year's AGM.

Total income was almost identical to last year but there are a few variations worthy of note.

1. Match income last year was £4,040 because we hosted County Match Week and Junior County Match Days. This year its zero.
2. This year we received income of £4,602 from the Bi-Annual County Dinner. Last year it was zero.
3. Sundry Income dropped due to late payment from BB&O of our share of the County Card Scheme. This sum has since been received.

The good news on the income side was that our Capitation Income remained stable. This is the first time it hasn't dropped since 2008.

Total expenditure increased by just over £5,000 compared to last year. This additional spend was in three main areas:-

1. County Week and Junior County Match Day costs increased as hotel bills and travel costs were higher due to the location of the events. There were also some new kit costs this year.
2. The Bi Annual County Dinner which had costs of £2,726.43. This successful event did however add £1,875.63 to Berkshire funds which at Anthea Winn's request was added to the junior's budget.
3. BB&O increased the contribution we make to their Coaching programme by £670.

Although we made a loss this year I would like to thank all those on the Committee who spend the Counties money. We knew we were going to overspend this year so there was more focus on budgets. The Seniors, 1<sup>st</sup> Team and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captains all came in below budget. The Competition Secretaries did a great job bringing most of their events in at breakeven which is the aim. The Secretary reduced spend in admin expenses (printing and paper) mainly in the production of the BCLGA Yearbook and BGG Handbook.

That leaves the Junior's. Although they did overspend against budget by £1,455 this sum was offset by the additional funds provided by Anthea Winn mentioned previously. Almost the entire overspend was on coaching arguably the right area to overspend. I would like to thank Pauline, the County Junior Organiser, for doing a tough, time consuming job very well. We had lots of interesting correspondence through the year and she kept my little brain cells well entertained with her "creative" accounting. The result is that we now have some great templates for budgeting, event management and coaching from which future CJO's and Treasurers will benefit.

Despite the loss our Reserve still stands at a very healthy £28,811.76.

Although, I fully expect to make an even larger loss next year, a deliberate decision has been made by the Exec to reduce the size of our Reserve in a controlled manner. Hence the Executive voted unanimously to keep the Capitation Fee at £5 per head for 2012.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Lesley Delo for Auditing the books again this year. She has done this for many years but sadly has decided that this set will be her last.

The accounts were then accepted.

Proposed by: Lynn Griffiths (Reading)  
Seconded by: Pat Menzies (East Berks)

**(f) Regional Representative – Pat Bennett**

PB apologised that she was not attending the EWGA/EGU merger meeting later that day in Birmingham, but that Margaret Berriman had been appointed proxy and would be voting in favour of the resolutions to merge, as per the votes from each club's ladies' section.

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. These meetings are the opportunities for the delegates to raise issues of concern within their ladies' section. This is the reason that EWGA recommend that the delegate is part of the ladies' committee and attends all their meetings is to ensure that she can accurately represent her club, rather than voice her own opinions or potential hearsay.

Four meetings had taken place this year, with the meetings discussing big issue of equality (at least 2 clubs had followed their issues with the EWGA Compliance Manager to resolve their particular concerns). Similarly, a one page calendar of BCLGA events had been produced and issued to the delegates for distribution to their ladies. As a result of one meeting, a PR officer had been suggested and the job specification will be issued with the minutes of last week's meeting. Concerns about the county team selection would be discussed with the new executive.

PB reported that attendance by clubs at the delegate's meetings had dropped from last year. 2 clubs never sent anyone and an average of 66% of the clubs attended. If a delegate was unable to attend, it was recommended that an alternative attend.

Each of the counties in the Midlands South region takes it in turn to organise and run 6 completions. For 2012, the competitions are:

- County Week – Mentmore, 17-22th June
- 4BBB – Frilford Heath, 5th September
- Australian Spoons - Kettering, 25<sup>th</sup> July
- Ladies' championship – The Warwickshire, 19<sup>th</sup> July
- Girls Championship, Caversham Heath, 14<sup>th</sup> August
- EWGA Regional Medal Finals – Gay Hill, 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

An excellent way of keeping in touch with the wider world of golf in England is the EWGA newsletter. PB hoped that everyone present had signed up for it.

PB thanked all the delegates for their contributions and hard work.

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

**(g) Seniors Captain – Moya Amor**

Once again it has been an extremely successful year for the County Seniors. We started in March and April with some friendly Greensomes with the County Juniors at Sunningdale ladies. 10 seniors paired up with 10 juniors for these matches and great fun was had by everyone. The day ended with a lovely tea and treats supplied by the juniors.

We then moved on in earnest to the County Championship where no less than 8 seniors qualified in the top 16 players for the match play knockout. The final result was an outstanding win for senior Elspeth Cooper. My congratulations to Elspeth .What a great way to start the season! 5 of those seniors were then selected to play in County Week.

In May we began our defence of the Inter County League against Bucks, Hampshire, Hertfordshire and Oxon. Our team consists of the 7 lowest handicapped seniors, and believe me they all want to be in the team so they are constantly fighting to keep their handicaps down!

We played Oxfordshire at Hadden Hill, and although this course is not everyone's cup of tea, the girls continued where they left off last year with an excellent win, 5 matches to 2. Then later in the month on one of the windiest days this year, we had another wonderful win at The Berkshire against Bucks, also 5 matches to 2.

In August at Reading we faced a rejuvenated 'young' looking seniors' team from Hertfordshire and this did worry me slightly. Standing by the 18<sup>th</sup> green I watched each match finish and after 5 matches we were all square. Now, I was nervous! The final 2 players Chris Green and Elspeth were nowhere to be seen! 'They have lost and walked in I

thought.' But then I saw 2 beaming smiles appear from behind the car park hedge, they had both won very convincingly, and walked in. The result was 4 1/2 to 2 1/2 another win. Could we possibly repeat last years' success? Well the answer is..... yes! In September on a beautiful sunny day on the downs at Hockley, my Superstars put up a very courageous fight to beat

Hampshire 4 1/2 - 2 1/2, and if any one of you knows Hockley, you will know how well they performed that day. What a team and what a lucky Captain.

The players for the 4 league matches were Linda Hunt, Sheree Wilde, Elaine Moffat, Pat Bennett, Margaret Berriman, Airlie Dyson, Gail Moy, Elspeth Cooper, Chris Green, Lynn Griffiths and Julie Sheppard. My thanks to all of them, they were brilliant.

In the 2 non-league matches, we were not so lucky, being only successful at East Berkshire against Surrey, winning 3 matches to 1. Unfortunately we lost to Sussex at Crowborough Beacon, a very tricky course if you had not played it before. The players for these 2 matches were Sheree Wilde, Jo Russ, Gail Moy, Penny Johnston, Airlie Dyson, Kate Simpson, Julie Sheppard, Diana Davies, Teresa Taylor, Myra Newman, Rosalie Tucker and myself.

Prior to the Junior County Match Days, we joined up once again with the Junior Squad, at Frilford, to play and advise on match play tactics. These practice sessions proved to be highly successful and this showed in their County Match Days 'best ever' results, I believe. They played as a team growing in confidence.

There is always a nice 'buzz' at senior events and the seniors' Championship at Royal Ascot was no exception. I would however like to see more of you enter this event. There are both scratch and handicap prizes on offer, for handicaps 20 and below, so make a note to consider this event next year, which will be here at Reading.

Despite the wet and windy conditions at Royal Ascot, there were some very good scores, and by a margin of 1 shot the County Champion Elspeth Cooper is now the Seniors Champion as well, with a gross score of 74. "Shame you can't win the Junior Championship" a fellow senior was heard to say, "then you would have all 3!" Once again my sincere congratulations go to Elspeth who has worked really hard on her game this year and it has paid off. A lesson to us all!

In the final event of the season the Inter-County-Team Championship, we did not fare quite so well. Even if we had putted better that day it would have been a very hard task to beat the winning Oxfordshire team who had a full complement of Frilford members.

It has been an absolute honour, privilege and pleasure working with the seniors over the last 2 years, I consider myself extremely fortunate to have captained such a brilliant group of players. They never gave me any grief and they were a pleasure to be with.

I would like to sign off by wishing Airlie Dyson my successor the very best of luck and hope that she enjoys her term as much as I have. She has a great sense of humour, she is a good golfer and I know she will be an excellent Captain.

#### **(h) County Junior Organiser – Pauline Carmeron**

2011 has been a busy and exciting one for Berkshire Junior players. The Autumn newsletter which covers the playing year from March through to early September records, with pictures, the many successes and events run during this period.

The website has been managed and updated on a regular basis by Nicky Luff and it has provided a vital link for the junior players and their parents in providing match results, team selections and the county, regional and national competition entry forms for the players.

Berkshire girls have taken part in over ten County, Regional and National events this year showing the confidence and talent developing in Berkshire. Winning players have come from a wide range of Berkshire clubs: Lizzie Swallow N&C, Imogen Wilson Blue Mountain, Laura Crew & Katie Hayes Reading, Emily Shaw, Zoe Collins and Eleanor Day Castle Royle, Emily Savage G&S, Bella Cordwell, Georgie Hall, Becky Webb and Alice Jenkins East Berkshire, Nathalie and Julia Warke Bearwood, Jodie Morris Easthampstead Ladies & BL, Rebeca Fuentes Bearwood Lakes, Emily Corten Calcot, and many more who owe a huge debt to the support they receive from the ladies section. There have been 12 other events run for BGG players ranging from fun competitions, rules on the course sessions, adult & junior greensomes and adult & junior foursomes matchplay. Thanks to Margaret Berriman, Ann Williams, Moya Amor and the Senior Squad for all their support with these events, they have been an enormous help in developing all the various skills needed for competitive golf. We have over 70 players in coaching programmes in Berkshire at beginner, improver, and intermediate level and involved in the BB&O JA programme. Of those players 32 hold Congu handicaps and between April and September this year eight girls cut their handicaps from 36 to 24 or lower. On a National level we have one player involved in the ACCE programme but are a long way off the standard needed to have a national champion home grown. It is getting younger all the time as anyone who has followed Charlie Hull's progress knows only too well. That is not the sole reason for working and supporting juniors though and Berkshire is lucky to have a National ref and England selector who have given time to our young players.

The first playing colours were awarded this year to players who achieved 12 points in nominated handicap & match play events. The players were: Zoe Collins, Bella Cordwell, Eleanor Day, Georgie Hall, Jodie Morris, Harriet Richards and Imogen Wilson. No County colours were awarded in 2011 but Zoe, Eleanor, Jodie & Harriet all gained county points at JCOMP at Frilford Heath with four wins against Oxfordshire. All girls who represent Berkshire are awarded a County Team bag tag and this year 19 players received these for service to the County.

Highlights of 2011 are the number of junior players taking part and being placed in County competitions. Berkshire came third in a nine County event in October, beating Herts., Sussex, Kent, Middlesex, Wiltshire and Hants. Junior players have become part of the county squad, they play for first and second team and as five of the junior players become ineligible to represent Berkshire at junior level in 2012 it is to be hoped that they will continue to enjoy and play golf in Berkshire for the foreseeable future.

Thanks:

To Hurst GC and Margaret Campbell for supporting us in June, to Sunningdale ladies GC who host so many events and are always delighted to see us, and Simon Sheppard the Secretary who has been so helpful. Winter Hill GC and the members who supported the fun competition held at Billingbear in July and the members who walked with the players in the Midland South Stableford event in August, held at WH and won by Georgie Hall with 42 points, such a welcoming club. To Sand Martins and their members for the help they gave us in the Junior Championships in July and to Hennerton for the Autumn meeting.

My thanks to the junior committee, Pera Marrs, WH junior coaching wizard, Francine Ford, Maidenhead match co-ordinator and a great support, Annie Pack secretary and coach at Blue Mountain. All these committee members hold level 1 PGA coaching certificates – how fantastic is that. Hilary Savage at G&S for her wisdom in all matters regarding child welfare, to Lynn Griffiths for her tolerance and eagle financial eye, Janet Wallace who manages the data base and Nicky Luff web master supremo who helps get the newsletter into some recognisable shape and keeps the website up to date with results for us.

The junior events have had excellent support from the County President Sue Robson and Karen Thompson, CC by their attendance at all the events which has elevated the profile of the junior players. Special thanks also to Pat M, Marie T, Theresa T, Pat Ben, Tracy Crew, Julie Shepherd, Laura Webb, Anthea Winn Gail Moy Diana Bentley, Airlie Dyson for their time playing with the juniors in various events throughout the year. To Gillian Cain, who has selected the girls for 2<sup>nd</sup> team matches and to The Berkshire for their continual support with a donation each year to the juniors for which we are very grateful. In 2011 it was used to help fund several events specifically targeted at improving juniors knowledge of the rules of golf. To you all, and forgive me if I have missed some, there is always room for more support.

**(i) County Handicap Adviser – Anthea Winn**

It has been a very quiet year so far for me with only a handful of queries to answer.

I attended the Handicap Seminar run by EWGA/EGU in Edgbaston in October which was extremely well organised – very informative and well worth the journey.

There are 5 basic changes commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

CSS Calculation (Clause 18)

This will now be based on percentages of players in the field who are in their own buffer zones – Example: SSS + buffer zone and not based on SSS + 2.

CSS Calculation and Small Fields (Clause 18)

At the moment small fields often end up being Reduction only meaning that a lot of golfers are actually under handicapped. If I give you an example: a field of 7 players of which only 2 are in cat 1, 2, 3, or 4 produces an estimated r/o CSS. One of these players achieved a net score just 1 outside her buffer zone. This is used to identify that the CSS will be SSS + 1. Reductions only results will be reduced both through the use of “best score over buffer zone” in the very small field situation, coupled with the increased precision achieved through using the target of SSS + buffer zone

Nine hole Scores (Clause 23)

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012- A playing member of a golf club will be able to enter 9 hole competitions at as many clubs as she is a playing member. So if you belong to three clubs you will now be allowed to play 9 Hole competitions at each and not only at your elected home club.

In addition to this Handicaps may now be allotted over 9 holes or a combination of 9 holes and 18 holes. The best submitted cards will represent a total of 54 holes as currently required by the return of three cards over 54 holes

Exceptional Scoring (Clause 23)

This has been introduced to take the pressure away from handicap committees in reaction to exceptionally low scores by using the compute to automate the process. The committee still have to sanction the reduction rather than it being completely automatic as it is a screen click to accept. The handicap committee however MUST consider the reduction

#### Annual Review (Clause 23)

The process is to be changed to align with the 3 scores required to maintain an active handicap. The annual review will also consider players for handicap increase if they have submitted 3, 4, 5, or 6 qualifying scores checking for an actual performance that is more than 6, 5, 4 or worse than expected respectively. The Manual will also contain detailed guidance on the Annual review process.

We were advised that if a member had been unable to play for a large proportion of the playing season that her handicap should not be increased as a matter of course but should be adjusted – perhaps when she had commenced playing again.

There are 9 additions to the Manual clarifying a few existing clauses and I do not intend to go into them here except to say:

CONGU Calendar Year – 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December

Clause 10: Establishing Par – taking into account par 6s

Clause 16.3d: Allotment of Handicap – A club must now allot a handicap as soon as a member has submitted cards totalling 54 holes.

Clause 17: extended to include Medford ( 9 holes medal and 9 holes stableford) competitions

Clause 21.5: Supplementary Scores

Clause 25: Lapse of Handicap

Appendix P: DQ Scores in Qualifying Competitions

Decision: 1j - Wording substantially strengthened – Example: Clubs may now not stipulate that a competition is for handicaps up to 30 but 31 – 36 can play off 30. You either have to permit all players to play or you allow up to 30 and no others may enter.

New Decision: Scratch Competition

My notes on the changes and alterations run to 4 pages which is why I am holding an evening Handicap Meeting at Royal Ascot Golf Club on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7 pm for all Handicap Secretaries and their assistants. Invitations have been sent to our 36 Berkshire Clubs and I look forward to seeing many of you there. The CONGU Manual will be sent to clubs shortly as will the computerised updates for your systems.

Just before I close may I remind you that as your County Handicap Advisor I should really be your first port of call, after your own handicap secretaries, for any questions relating to handicapping issues? I am aware that some clubs this year have decided to by-pass the County going directly to EWGA and whilst EWGA are happy to answer questions they have stressed that our Clubs really ought to follow the correct procedures.

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

Pat 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 have been so helpful. Particular thanks to Sonning Golf Club, where we descended for 3 whole days in April for our County Championship competitions.

46 players with handicaps of up to 14 entered the **Tegner Trophy**, which is the pre-qualifier for the County Championships. This was the biggest field for a number of years, and Laura Webb (East Berks GC) was the winner for the 12<sup>th</sup> time. The final of the **Championships** was a very close match between Avril Schmidt and Elspeth Cooper. The winner was Elspeth, who became County Champion again, 10 years after her first win at the same Club.

26 Clubs entered the **Inter Club Shield** held in May at Newbury & Crookham GC. The winners again were The Berkshire GC, with 71 points, with Charlotte Cornwallis of Goring & Streatley taking the individual prize with 40 points. In July, The Berkshire GC hosted the **President's Salvagers**, and the Home pairing of Georgie Gill and Fiona Patterson were the winners, with 39 points.

The **Millennium Competition** took place at Mill Ride, with the players struggling through torrential August rain. Ladies may now represent their Home *or* Away Club in this team competition and the winners were Deirdre Cuthbert from Goring & Streatley, Barbara Carr from Bradfield College, and Carol Ford from Calcot Park, with a score of 68 points. The **Tournament Cup**, for players with handicaps between 10 and 20, was held at Wokefield Park GC in September. The winner was Georgina Hall from East Berks, with 36 points. Georgina was one of 3 juniors who entered to make the numbers for this competition viable.

28 Clubs competed for the **Duncan Trophy**. In a hard-fought final, Castle Royle defeated Newbury & Crookham, at Donnington Valley Golf Club. The final of the **Ann Bryant Trophy** was played at Royal Ascot GC between Susie Black from Bradfield College and Bev Seymour from Donnington Valley, with Susie the winner. The 2010/11 **Winter Match play** final was won by Margaret Berriman of Goring & Streatley, with Christine Ross of East Berks 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.

A big change in 2011 to our competition processing has been the use of the Central Database of Handicaps. Pat and I have spent many happy hours identifying and entering every competitor's 10-digit ID number into our system, and it now means that scores from our competitions can be retrieved automatically by players' Home Clubs.

In order to keep our entry costs from rising this year we reduced the scale of catering for most events. The change seems to have been generally popular and so we propose to continue with this. We are also continually reviewing our competitions because of the disappointing entry numbers in some events – notably this year in the Tournament Cup and the Autumn Division 2 & 3 meetings. As a result, the Executive Committee has decided to make two changes for 2012. The Division 2 Autumn meeting will be played as a Stableford competition, and the Tournament Cup will be played in parallel with the Division 1 Autumn meeting. All the dates can be found on the BCLGA website.

Finally we would like to thank Sue Robson, our President, and Karen Thompson, our Captain for their support at all our competitions; also Nicky Luff for keeping the website competition pages up to date and Pat Price for her help earlier on in the year.

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

I must apologise for not being with you – but I am on my way to Birmingham for *that* Merger EGM! Thank you to whoever is reading my report!

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.

Up to this year the emphasis has been on junior golf but this is beginning to change: adults are the new 12-year olds! Already there have been 'Ladies' Nights' at a Witney Lakes and Chiltern Forest where women new to golf have had some coaching on the range as well as a keep-fit session. I am told the women hang around in the bar afterwards chatting, drinking and enjoying themselves. All the sociability that golf is all about!

Coming soon there will be funding available for something similar in a club near you. There will be £500 for each centre that successfully applies to run a course. If your club is 'GolfMarked' it can use its EGU/EWGA coaching grant, giving £1000 in total – and the participants can be charged up to £5 per session. So a club does not have to be out of pocket. In these days of falling memberships – especially within many Ladies' Sections - what could be better than getting some financial help to 'grow your own'? Take this news back to your Ladies' Section and agitate for your club to do something! For reference, it's the BB&O Adult Participation Project.

The Junior Academies have all run successfully this year. Next year there will be a slight reduction with 13 centres across the three counties servicing 250 students. Part of the academy programme includes entry to two competitions. Needless to say, the Partnership is always looking for help running these. This year I've marked cards for the 'little ones': those without 'proper' handicaps. And, do you know? I've loved it. It's only 9-holes and these kids are like little Duracell bunnies – quite delightful. If you feel you would be able to help out, do let me know and I can pass on your details.

In my report last year I said the Partnership would make a loss in the next three years. Fortunately, we've done a bit of 'turning around' and the Partnership will break even in 2012 – as it should do. However, there are lots more things it would like to do/could do and there is funding available, albeit 'matched funding'. So if you know of any company that would like to sponsor some golf activity, then do push them in the Partnership's direction; it will make good use of the money. Even items for prizes would be welcome.

Last year Sand Martins was the star club – they had worked with the Partnership and put all their Captains' charity money towards a project introducing local children with special needs to golf. They made the BBC South local news which is a pretty good ad for the club. Next year an Oxfordshire club plans to do something similar. So, if your Captain/Ladies' Captain is casting around for a charity to support why not suggest something along these lines. Money gets put back into golf development and forgotten children are given new and exciting challenges. A win-win.

You can read about the activities of the Partnership in its quarterly magazine which the club delegates are very kindly taking into your clubs – and the next issue will be focussing on adult beginners.

Thank you for listening to what has been going on at the Partnership. Remember, Juniors' and Beginners' golf can sound pretty tedious but they both have the possibility of re-energising our clubs. They are our future.

**(l) USGA Course Rating Team Leader – Teresa Taylor**

Last year I invited you to keep me busy by informing me of any changes that have been made to your courses. Two clubs have contacted me about changes to their courses. One of them has yet to send me the relevant information despite my leaving messages and being assured that a reply would be sent. The other club which contacted me was

East Berks. This time it was a lady on the phone and she was more persistent. East Berks has had extensive bunker renovation. And on my first visit I did not think that the new bunkers would affect the SSS however after more pleas from the club and the fact that at least 12 holes were involved it was decided that these 12 holes should be re-assessed. This was done and the forms completed and sent to EWGA . The reply came by phone... 'No change'. The difficulty with the SSS is that it is the standard scratch score as expected of a SCRATCH golfer. Information as regards the difficulty of certain obstacles for the handicap player is recorded and will be used if the slope system comes into effect. When this might happen is the 'million dollar' question! For more information see the Q&A page on the EWGA website which states that 'all will be revealed in the new manual in 2012.

#### 5. Presentation of Trophies

The President, Sue Robson, then presented the trophies ably assisted by Comp. Secretaries Marie Taylor and Pat Menzies.

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

#### 6. 2012 Officials

		<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
<u>Rule 7b</u> Captain	Tracy Crew	Karen Thompson	Lynn Griffiths
<u>Rule 7b</u> Seniors Captain	Airlie Dyson	Moya Amor	Karen Thompson
<u>Rule 7c</u> Re-election - Honorary Treasurer	Lynn Griffiths	Nicky Luff	Gill Cain

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

#### 7. Any Other Business

- a) Nicky Luff read out a letter from Easthampstead Park Ladies asking if consideration could be given to holding some county competitions at weekends for the benefit of ladies who work during the week. Karen Thomson explained that a trial had been carried out over the last 3 years with the Tournament Cup but that take up had not been that good. At the last County Delegates meeting, delegates were asked to go back and canvas opinion at their clubs as to the likely popularity of weekend competitions and which divisions. Bearwood Lakes have already replied that their Division 1 ladies would be in favour but there was not much response from Division 2 and 3 ladies. Carol Jamieson, Venues Organiser, explained that it was becoming increasingly difficult to book courses especially at weekends i.e Saturday afternoons and Sundays, although Temple, Reading and Newbury & Crookham have indicated that they would be willing to consider bookings. It was felt that if ladies would like to have weekend county competitions then their clubs should be willing to host them. It was agreed that the results of the delegates survey would be discussed by the Executive Committee and the results reported back.
- b) Gill Bowness (Newbury & Crookham) raised funding for training and suggested that monies should be spent on junior and intermediate coaching rather than adults. Karen Thompson said that last year no funds were spent on training for the 1st and 2nd teams other than paying for a practice round with Andrew Hall prior to County week. This situation is not expected to change.

#### 8. Vote of Thanks.

Rosalie Tucker (Winter Hill) thanked Sue Robson and the committee for their hard work over the year and wished the new committee all the best for next year.

9. The meeting closed at 12:20 pm.