

Berkshire County Ladies' Golf Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Reading Golf Club on Wednesday 14th November 2012

Present: Mrs Sue Robson President in the Chair
Mrs Tracy Crew Captain
83 Members

- 1. Apologies** – 19 members. Sue Robson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th November 2011**
Read and approved. Proposed by: Anthea Winn (Royal Ascot)
Seconded by: Sue Ford (Sand Martins)
- 3. Matters Arising** – None

4. Reports

(a) Captain – Tracy Crew

Well what can I say about 2012 apart from Wet Wet Wet although our President, Sue probably had the warmest day of the year in July for her day, congratulations on this to the winners Lynne Rumbold Caversham Heath and Melanie Cousins Blue Mountain. We have had success across the age spectrum; however I am leaving the other Captains and Organisers to do their reports, having said that I have watched some spectacular golf in some very trying weather.

My report for 2012 starts in the depths of winter, with the low handicap ladies meeting in January at Sunningdale Ladies for practice sessions; this is all I have to say on this I will leave the rest of our practice sessions and matches to our County Training Officer to report on. I am going to concentrate on April with the Tegner Trophy and Championship held at Temple GC, thank you to everyone there for a great 3 days, the weather may have been dry but it was cold and windy, Laura Webb won the Tegner with her usual steady play of 75 + 76 = 151.

The Championship saw no change in the conditions and saw allot of closely contended matches, many matches going extra holes more than I can remember, for the 1st 2 rounds. The semi finals put Laura versus Linda and Sheeree versus Maddy, I watched Laura put in a sparkling display of golf, after giving herself a talking to after a missed putt, Linda played good golf however Laura moved gears throwing eagles and birdies at Linda it was phenomenal, Laura eventually winning 5/4. Sheeree started slow to Maddy's fast out of the blocks birdies being 2 down after 5, Sheeree gritted back to all square after 10, Maddy managed to get 1 up after 16 but Sheeree birdies 17 all square a gain, 18 both players on in 2, however both players are long with their 1st putts I thought 19th at this point however Sheeree 1st leaves her putt on the side of the hole, Maddy holes the 2.5ft putt.

My 1st county final as referee is played in an excellent spirit leaving me the easy job of just announcing the scores at each hole, the 1st hole is halved with both players playing good shots to the green, I am not going to give a blow by blow account, Laura birdies 3 and 4 but Maddy comes back on the 5th, then unfortunately loses the next 2, on the 9th Laura finds the trees even with everyone finding balls except hers she concedes the hole to be 2 up at the turn, before winning the 10th hitting the green for the 1st time over the 3 days, the 11th a scrappy half, Maddy wins the 12th with a good birdie, 13th halved, Laura hits 2 magnificent shots to 14th, Maddy misses the green with her 2nd, her 3rd is good but runs through her 4th hitting the flag leaving her to concede the hole, 15th is halved, the 16th saw Laura on in 2, Maddy left her approach short her 3rd being closer than Laura 2nd but Laura putts up not dead, however Maddy misses her putt for 4, conceding the match to Laura, Laura is champion.

We now move to County Week in June the team is Laura Webb, Maddy Pearce, Linda Hunt, Sheeree Dove-Wilde, Tracy Crew, Karen Thompson, Avril Schmidt, Jo Pitkin Djura Macree-Stoelwinder, Emily Shaw and Maureen Harman the last 2 sharing the week a mixture of young and old.

Wow what a week, we arrived on the Sunday to practice with warm dull conditions and the course looked great considering the weather we had leading up to it, closed on some days in the previous week.

The Monday we all went out full of hope against W&H all even after the 4somes, but the afternoon did not go as well gain only 2 halved matches leaving us with a loss 2.5 to 5.5.

Tuesday we go down 1-2 in the 4'somes against Oxfordshire and never recovered in the afternoon Jo pulls Laura Watkins and loses on 18 a wonderful performance against 1 of their stars, Linda also loses on 18 leaving Laura with our only singles win disappointing.

Wednesday against Warwickshire I decide to play 4'somes with Laura we have been on the team for 20yrs+ together but never been put together, apart from the fact I shock for the 1st 3 holes I pull myself together, I had to introduce Laura to her putter on the 10th, she had not had to use it since the 4th, we win our match, I put Avril and Maureen together for the 1st time as well but they come up against a duo who cannot miss with their putters, Maddy and Sheeree a pairing we tried in practice just jelled and win giving us a 2-1 lead at lunchtime, I play around with the line up Jo stays out front but loses early, Avril plays her heart out and gains a half, I come up against Claire who I played in the morning, she turns the tables with the putter a loss, Maddy plays a Warwickshire regular and wins 4&2 Laura gets a youngster and wins 3&2, 1 match left out there Karen has had a tough match all afternoon coming up 18 1 up, the pin is at the back her opponent is on in 2, Karen chips close for 3, her opponent putts but not holed Karen holes her for a 4 a halved hole we win the game 1up giving us 5.5.-3.5 win our 1st point in 2 years.

Thursday v Bucks we are still on a high knowing we had a chance against the home side also on high from some wins earlier in the week however we are 1-2 down from the 4somes, the singles are going to be tight Djura loses 2&1 to Clara a young star Sheeree loses 4&3, Laura wins 3&2 I win 6&5 Linda is 2 up on 14 when she hears a ping when driving the 14th from her left forearm her caddy is full of sympathy win quick and get on with it so we can get ice on it Linda is in agony but wins 2&1 leaving Karen out there again, having been well down fights back but her opponent comes back again to get the match 3&2 we go down 4-5.

Friday v Northants I have lost Linda her arm is still giving her a lot of pain and rather than let the team down has withdrawn herself from my line-up a heart wrenching noble decision to make, Northants are the holders and still in with a shout of qualifying, with Linda out I put Karen out with Laura and they come up trumps, Avril and Maddy have a tough match the 2nd a par 3 only 180yds and they are using drivers, they play brilliant shots but the putts will not drop, they lose, Djura and Maureen start well but their opponents fight back, they go down 15 1 up and win it but the par 3 16th sees stunning shot from their opponents win the hole, I have not read my papers properly and think I must get the team sheet in and leave the girls on 17 with them on the par 5 in 2 their opponents just short, I put the team in and am greeted driving back up 18 to beaming Avril stating Maureen had holed for an eagle we are 2-1 up, the singles Karen goes 1st but is up against Megan Maclaren, and the putting gods leave Karen and she goes down early as do I, Avril is behind me and is playing stunning golf and holing putts, her opponent comes back Avril is not allowing that and wins 4&2, Laura finishes her match in her efficient style 5&3 with a new caddy on the bag! Maddy is up early but opponent comes back and she loses, leaving match 4 still out the quiet Maureen or so I thought until the night before when I discovered Maureen the ring leader of the pack along with my 2nd team captain and a couple of team members can mimic the rest of the team to side aching effect, I digress, Maureen I know is a fighter the match is close all the way round and I am cutting to 17 Maureen is 1 down having won 16 a straight drive, her opponent is in the rough along way down, they play up Maureen short the opponent on but a long way from the hole, they get down in 3 more a halved hole, 18 2 good drives, the pin is in a slight bowl at the front of the green, I have made my way to greenside opponent 1st a stunner to 10ft but a swing putt left, Maureen shot is online but short, KT is beside me in the buggy and say all she needs to do is hole it no problem, Maureen strolls to her shot no emotions showing at all, a delicate chip we all go roll, roll Yes she has holed it her opponents putt is never high enough, Maureen has halved the game and the match 4.5-4.5 a half point.

We are not bottom as Bucks beat Warks and go as champions the 1st time we have not been bottom of the division, we made it an interesting week taking points when some did not expect us to.

I would like to thank my team and all the caddies and supporters for their boost they gave us, I think we have a great team for the future with some rejoining us after not being available this year, and new youngsters coming through our junior ranks, I hope we can go on to greater things next year, dreams can come true, I hope this has given Berks a boost for the future, the spirit shown by this team has been wonderful, and this was brought to my attention by an outsider who had not seen us play or be together before, they could not believe how we are tighter, they had seen and heard some of the other teams, not a patch on us.

We will try again at Frilford Red in June 2013, come and see the team play; your support is always enjoyed. I have had the pleasure of a great back room team, they made life easy, thank you again for the opportunity to do this job.

(b) 2nd Team Captain – Gill Cain

The 2nd team have played 5 friendly matches with our neighbouring counties this year. Unfortunately we had 2 matches cancelled by our opposition who were unable to field teams due to other Commitments in their County on those days (1 of which they had arranged!).

Our year started early with a March match followed by 2 in early April. Our first 2 matches were away in Hertfordshire and Hampshire and resulted in rather resounding losses by 8 – 1 and 6 – 3 respectively. Back in Berkshire though, we managed an excellent victory over Bucks at Calcot Park on Easter Monday (5-4).

During May we spent a lovely Saturday afternoon at Pinner GC and registered another win against Middlesex by 5 ½ to 2 ½ in an 8 a side singles match. This match included 2 players making their 2nd team debut, Jane Sly and Zoe Collins and we were very happy to welcome them to the team. Zoe deserves a special mention for securing a hard fought draw in her match.

Honours were even at Malborough GC in what turned out to be our 5th and final match of the year in mid August. Despite streaking to a 2 point lead after the morning foursomes Wiltshire fought back well in the afternoon and the final score was 4 ½ each.

Our results for the year were perfectly balanced, 2 wins, 2 losses and a draw. Interestingly the results across my 2 years of Captaincy are similarly balanced (Won 4, Lost 4, Drawn 4). Honours have definitely been shared both years!

Thank you to Calcot Park for hosting us so well and to Donnington Grove although we didn't in the end get to play there.

During October it was again my pleasure to organise the Angela Uzielli Trophy, this year at Newbury and Crookham GC where 25 teams took part on a chilly but sunny day. Congratulations to Donnington Valley who were the eventual winners, on countback from Calcot Park, both scoring 37 points. Well Done also to 3rd place Bradfield College for their hole in one on the 17th hole. Thank you to Newbury and Crookham for being excellent hosts and serving up some scrummy food for the players. We are grateful to all of the teams who entered as you helped us raise over £670 for the Angela Uzielli bursary.

As my 2nd team Captaincy draws to a close I would like to thank all of the Committee and players for making me feel so welcome and supported during the past 2 years. It has been a privilege and honour to serve Berkshire and I wish Cathy the best of luck for her Captaincy.

The President then presented Gill with gift.

(c) County Training Officer – Jo Russ

The past year seems to have flown past, and I cannot believe we are about to start again.

The Winter Scratch League ran with 4 groups of either 5 or 6 players, and some were hotly contested. Eventual semi-finalists were Laura, Airlie, Tracy and Sheree. This then came down to a final between Laura and Tracy held at Newbury and Crookham, which Tracy won on the 19th! Commiserations to Laura, but a great start to the season for the new Captain.

Two sessions were booked and played at Sunningdale Ladies early in the season. They were used as a warm up for players, with several extra people involved, and the juniors following us round.

It was decided to put greater emphasis on the playing of 4'somes at County week, and consequently some extra sessions were booked in order to work out pairings. One of these took place at Calcot, and the other was at Mentmore. This was funded by us instead of taking a professional with us to Mentmore for on course advice. Thanks have been sent to all courses who have offered us courtesy.

I collected comments from all the groups after our first practice session at the course, and with some help from Laura, put together what was hopefully a useful guide on how to navigate round Mentmore and score well. A helpful Crib sheet was also obtained from Nick Mitchell from Newbury Racecourse.

Further help was given to some of the younger players, by playing with them on a course they didn't know, and talking through Course Management ideas.

Prior to County Week, much thought was given to pairings, order of players, singles and rest needed, as well as encouraging the bonding of the team. Thanks must go to Gill Cain for her help, and especially to Tracy, who ultimately masterminded the playing order for the week.

I felt that the week was a successful one, with many games won, and even some points! 'The Motleys' (from Motley Crew) as the team became known, 'Done good'. and we coined a new phrase which I think will continue to give us hope this year. It was 'Up in the morning---a Motley Warning!' I would like to thank all of those at Mentmore for making the week such an enjoyable one, and hope that next year will prove just as good, if not better!

In August I organized a friendly game for all Motleys and a few juniors, to say goodbye to Lizzie Swallow, who is now half way through her first term in the States. I am hopeful that she will return to play for us next summer, and will be an inspiration to the stream of youngsters that PC is supplying us with!

Finally, I thank players and committee for help and effort given this year, and look forward to further success. 'Go Motleys--Go!'

(d) Hon. Secretary – Nicky Luff

During the year our County Delegates meetings have been held at Sand Martins Golf Club, Maidenhead Golf Club and at Caversham Heath Golf Club and I would like to thank all these clubs for very kindly letting us use their facilities for our meetings. I have been unable to attend them all this year and would like to give a big thank you to Annie Pack who, as well as being a delegate, is also the Secretary for our Juniors Committee and she has very kindly stepped in and taken the minutes for me. I would like to thank all the County Delegates too 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.

I would also like to thank Reading Golf Club where we have held our Executive Committee meetings this year and also, of course, for their courtesy and allowing us to hold our 2012 AGM here today.

As has been mentioned previously, the website www.bclga.co.uk is going to have a makeover so if any of you have any suggestions or photographs that we could use we would be delighted to hear from you. You can email me, my email address is on the website.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a good golfing year in 2013.

(e) Hon. Treasurer – Lynn Griffiths

I will now report on the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2012.

This year we made a loss of £4,360.52. The loss was forecast at last year's AGM.

Despite the loss our Reserve still stands at a very healthy £24,451.24 which includes a new Trophy Reserve of £2,500.62 which I will cover in more detail later.

Major items worthy of note are:-

- Our Capitation Income increased for the second year running with an increase of £440 over last year which equates to 88 more ladies and juniors playing golf in the County
- We made a loss of £853 on Competitions which was split roughly 50/50 between adults and juniors. We accept there will be a loss as entry fees are not set to cover all costs for example engraving, the vouchers presented at the AGM and some adult and junior championship costs.
- Sundry Income appears to have increased this year but in reality it includes County Card Income for both 2011 and 2012. The 2011 payment arriving later than normal.
- County Week costs, our major expenditure, remained almost unchanged this year whereas the Junior equivalent came in considerably cheaper this year due to the change in format.
- Investment in Junior Coaching has increased this year in line with the agreed budget and this is already beginning to show dividends as you will hear from the County Junior Organiser.
- Miscellaneous expenditure consists of 3 main payments – BB&O Partnership costs, Public Liability Insurance which we must have by law and Trophy Insurance. A detailed analysis of our trophies and values was conducted this year and the Executive took the decision not to renew our trophy insurance when it falls due but instead set aside a Trophy Reserve to be used should we need to. This should save us money in the long run and is in line with what most Golf Clubs now do. We are also challenging the BB&O Partnership costs and hope to drive these down for 2013.

Although we made a loss this year I would like to thank all those on the Committee who spend the County's money. As last year we knew we were going to overspend this year so there was more focus on budgets and I am delighted to say that without exception all budget holders, the Captain, 2nd Team Captain, Seniors Captain, County Junior Organiser and Training Officer came in below their budget.

Although I fully expect to make another loss next year, the Exec are sticking by their deliberate decision 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 2013. However, due to the change in the collection process i.e. from 2013 it will be collected by BB&O instead of EWGA, which I hope you are all aware of, the Exec have already had to discuss the 2014 rate. Currently based on certain assumptions it is likely that the rate will need to increase to at least £5.50, which is the first increase since at least 2006. I am trying to find out from BB&O what the absolute deadline is for notification of the 2014 rate.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Anthea Winn for Auditing the books this year.

The accounts were then accepted.

Proposed by: Lynn Griffiths (Reading)

Seconded by: Elspeth Cooper (Calcot Park)

(f) Regional Representative – Pat Bennett

Last year's AGM coincided with the merger vote – should we join up with the England Golf Union or not. Berkshire voted in favour and enough of the remaining counties did the same that the new organisation was formed – England Golf. PB reported that she had kept the delegates informed of the issues and news, the latest issue being

whether all course within England Golf should rate courses using the USGA standard. This will be discussed next week at Woodhall Spa.

PB explained that she represented Berkshire at the Midlands South Regional Meetings (comprising Hereford & Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Berkshire). Two meetings have been planned for this year. A major concern is the level of entries in the competitions – we are seeking guidance from England Golf to set a minimum. For example, the Regional Girls Championship was held at Caversham Heath with only 27 entries.

The delegate's meetings are the opportunities for the delegates to raise issues of concern within their ladies' section. Three meetings had taken place this year, with a major discussion on how to involve new and higher handicap ladies. These are documented in the minutes of the Delegate's meeting. Thanks go to the delegates from Maidenhead, Caversham Heath and Sand Martins for the arrangements to host our meetings.

PB reported that attendance by clubs at the delegate's meetings had dropped from last year. 7 clubs never sent anyone and with only 13 clubs attending all the meetings. The meetings are driven by the delegates. 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 competitions. For 2013, the competitions are:

- County Week – Frilford Heath
- 4BBB – Staverton Park, 2 October
- Australian Spoons - Edgbaston, 25 July
- Ladies' Championship – Calcot Park, 15 July
- Girls Championship – The Worcestershire, 15 August
- EWGA Regional Medal Finals – Hazlemere, 3 May
- County finals – Wimslow, 16-20 September

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

The minutes for the Delegates' meetings are on the BCLGA website, as well as being provided to the delegates.

(g) Seniors Captain – Airlie Dyson

In 2012, the seniors won all four inter county league matches thus winning the league for the third successive year. Berkshire started the season well in May by winning 4 ½ - 2 ½ at The Berkshire against Oxfordshire. A week later, the first away match at Magnolia Park against Buckinghamshire was won in fine style 6 matches to 1. Both these matches were played in very unpleasant wet, windy and cold conditions but then nothing deters the seniors from their purpose.

In June the team travelled to Hadley Wood to play Hertfordshire and won 6 ½ - ½. It seemed a long time until September and the deciding match against Hampshire. Maintaining their form, the team won 6 matches to 1 at West Berkshire.

The players for the league this year were Linda Hunt, Elaine Moffat, Sheree Dove-Wilde, Elspeth Cooper, Margaret Berriman, Airlie Dyson, Pat Bennett, Chris Green, Gail Moy and Lynn Griffiths. The matches were all played in good spirit and the team have to be commended for their commitment, enthusiasm and high standard of golf.

With so many good golfers amongst the seniors, I was able to select a variety of players for the three friendly matches. In unbroken sunshine at Camberley Heath in late May, we lost to Surrey, but two weeks later won against Sussex at Mill Ride. The September sun shone on the last match of the season at Northwood and we won against Middlesex. Fifteen players were selected for these matches, some of them playing for the county for the first time. I hope they will put their names forward again next year.

The Seniors Championship was held in September at Reading and there were 23 players from 10 clubs. The Championship Trophy was won by Tracy Crew with a gross 77 on count back from Linda Hunt. Sue McEntee won the handicap prize with a nett 69.

The final event of the year, the Inter County Team Championship, a contest between 10 counties, was at the end of September in Worthing. The practice round was a washout and although the competition was delayed to allow the greens to drain, the inevitable cancellation was announced. This was a disappointing end to a year which was both successful and enjoyable.

The seniors were well represented in the Senior Women's Strokeplay Championship at Shifnal, and the Senior Women's Matchplay Championship at Tidworth in which Linda Hunt qualified for the championship flight and lost in the semi-finals. Linda Hunt was selected as non travelling reserve for the Home Internationals in September.

It is good to see so many seniors enjoying competitive golf and I wish them well in their golfing ventures in 2013.

(h) County Junior Organiser – Pauline Carmeron Recruitment, Development & Coaching

2 junior players took part in the Tegner Trophy/Championship event in 2012

5 junior players have represented Berkshire in 2nd team matches

7 players gained 12 or more playing points in 2012 in nett nominated events.

27 players with handicaps in the County

16 players hold h'cps between 2 and 25

14 players played county matches in 2012 for Berkshire

Coaching numbers have increased and we have doubled sessions in two centres

35 players taking part in BB&O JA coaching at two venues CR & MR

75 players taking part in BGG coaching at three venues SM, BM and CP

Training & Grants: The women into golf initiative was repeated in 2012 and maximising the publicity generated by the GET INTO GOLF initiative targeting the south in April by encouraging GC to focus on creating coaching opportunities via their club websites via the county delegates.

The events organised in 2012 were: 7 fun competitions, 1 championship, 1 Spring and Autumn meeting, two county league matches and 1 four counties competition. In addition players will take part in 1st, 2nd and 3rd division county meetings, and were available for selection for 2nd and 1st team inter- county matches.

Two newsletters are produced, one for September which covers the main playing season and a New Year edition which cover the autumn events and awards.

Copy of the newsletter sent to county delegates by Nicky Luff

2013 Junior Captain Laura Crew Reading GC, Vice Captain Zoe Collins Castle Royle GC

Championship Results and awards:

Junior County Champion 2012 was Elizabeth Swallow, with a Gross 76, Zoe Collins 81, Sam Collier 94 & Julia Warke 97

Alison Baldwick Cup Faye Langford

Autumn Meeting Cup Jessica Li 42 points

Sheila Fitzgerald Cup Chelsea Tinniswood (greatest h'cp reduction over a year from 46 to 25)

Playing Colours were awarded this year to: Laura Crew & Katie Hayes, Reading, Rebecca Webb, East Berkshire, Emily Corten, Calcot, Nathalie & Julia Warke Bearwood & Mill Ride and Rebeca Fuentes, Bearwood Lakes.

County Team bag tag were awarded to 5 players. They were: Jessica Li, Alice Jenkins, Faye Langford, Zoe Jones, Chelsea Tinniswood

Matches

Midland Region Final against Herford & Worcester @ Kirklington GC on 23 September won by Berkshire 2/1. Laura Crew, Katie Hayes and Rebeca Fuentes

20th August JCMPSD @ Mentmore won by Bucks who were beaten at the above final by Warwickshire

30th September Alresford Cup @ Alresford Hants won by Essex beating Kent by 1 point. Individual score from Essex of 51 points clinched the deal

6th/7th October BB&O Boys v BB&O girls @ Gerrards X cancelled as Bucks could not send any players

13th October Berks/Bucks v Herts/Middlesex @ Temple GC won by Herts/M'sex on the last putt of the last match

30th October Berks Junior Girls v East Berks Junior Boys @ EB won by the girls 2/1

BB&O Junior Inter-County Match Day 2013: a revised format is being discussed by Berks, Bucks & Oxon County Captains and CJO's

Thanks:

To the following Clubs who sponsored help at the six fun competitions that ran this year: Winter Hill GC Ladies at Billingbear in April, East Berkshire Ladies at Lavender Park in June, Calcot Ladies at the Junior Championships @ Calcot in July, Bradfield College Ladies in July @ Bradfield College and Temple Ladies also at Bradfield College in August. Thanks also to the members at Hennerton GC for their support and interest in the players during the Autumn meeting held there in October and to Sunningdale Ladies and Simon Sheppard who has been so helpful in making space for us to practice foursomes matchplay and singles matchplay skills together this year.

My thanks to the junior committee, Pera Marrs, @ WH the junior coaching wizard, Francine Ford @ M'head, the match co-ordinator, Annie Pack @ Blue Mountain our secretary and an assistant coach and Sarla Read @ Cavisham Heath the 2013 Fun Competitions organiser. All the committee members hold level 1 PGA coaching certificates. 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 Tracy Crew CC by their attendance at all the events which has elevated** the profile of the junior players. Special thanks also to Pat Menzies & Marie Taylor for their help with the juniors in various events throughout the year. To Gillian Cain, who has selected the girls for 2nd team matches and to The Berkshire for their continual support with a donation each year to the juniors for which we are very grateful. To you all, and forgive me if I have missed some, thank you.

(i) County Handicap Adviser – Anthea Winn

It has been a very quiet year with few queries. Those I have received I have been able to answer without referring back to England Golf.

I held a very successful Handicap Seminar at Royal Ascot Golf Club early in the year with over 60 attendees. I took them through the new Handicap System for 2012 – 2015 with the aid of a Power-point presentation supplied by England Golf. I must thank Royal Ascot for permitting me the use of their club facilities.

During the year, the Handicap Committee of England Golf conducted a questionnaire with regard to the new handicap system.

Nicky Luff, kindly emailed all the Handicap Secretaries in the County and I am sorry to report that not many of our 36 Clubs replied within the time frame. I did however chase up the clubs where I knew they had category 1 players.

I am pleased to report that none of our clubs reported that their category 1 players had returned any supplementary scores. The question was prompted because some category 1 players – in other counties – had been using the system to enable them to enter certain competitions and it posed the question as to whether the system was being used inappropriately.

Of the Clubs who did reply to the questionnaire it was evident that the new system was working well. Reduction only competitions had been greatly reduced. Those competitions which were reduction only, appeared to be mainly due to the adverse weather conditions earlier in the year, which again endorsed the fact that the system was more realistic.

I understand from England Golf that there are no planned changes or alterations to CONGU for the forthcoming year.

There will however be a set of guidance notes for Clubs and Counties regarding the England Golf card sent out in the next week or so. England Golf is advising that these cards should be accepted as a handicap certificate.

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

This year has been quite a challenge on the Competitions front – after a complete washout of one event in late April, players seemed reluctant to commit themselves to competitions. We have had to do a fair amount of chasing, and did wonder for every occasion what the weather would bring!

But we started well, with 40 players with handicaps of up to 14 entering the **Tegner Trophy** in April. This is the pre-qualifier for the County Championships and it was Laura Webb's 13th win. As Tracy said, she also went on, once again, to be County Champion.

Teams from 25 Clubs entered the **Inter Club Shield** held in May at The West Berkshire GC. The winners were Sonning GC, who had 66 points, with Sefia Rahim of Calcot Park taking the individual prize on 35 points. In July, Goring & Streatley GC hosted the **President's Salvagers**, and the winners (Lynne Rumbold and Melanie Cousins) had a superb 41 points.

The **Millennium Competition** took place at Winter Hill Golf Club, the winners being Susan McEntee (Maidenhead), Gillian Heap (East Berks) and Christine Hibbert (Bearwood Lakes) with a score of 75 points. The **Tournament Cup**, for players with handicaps between 10 and 20, was held this year for the first time in parallel with the 1st Division Autumn meeting, at Caversham Heath. The winner was Linda Alexander from West Berks, with 33 points.

The winners from the **Spring Division 1** meeting held at Royal Ascot were Laura Webb (East Berks – gross prize) and Denise Cutler (Royal Ascot – nett prize). At the **Autumn Division 1** meeting Linda Hunt (Newbury & Crookham – gross prize) and Jo Pitkin (East Berks – nett prize) were victorious. The **Spring Divisions 2 & 3** meeting was the victim of the shocking weather, so, sadly, we could not run the Ann Bryant Cup for which players would have qualified. **Autumn Division 2** was won by Roz Cousins of East Berks, playing at Home, but Division 3 was cancelled as there was just one entry!

28 Clubs competed through the Summer for the **Duncan Trophy**. In a hard-fought final held at Castle Royle Golf Club, Sonning defeated Goring & Streatley, thus achieving a notable 'double' with their Inter Club Shield win. The 2011/12

Winter Match play final was won by Nikki Ochtman of Castle Royle, with Ishbel Thomson of Easthampstead Ladies the runner-up. Unfortunately there is no event this Winter through lack of support.

Congratulations to all of the prize winners and thanks to all the ladies who took part and contributed to the success of the competitions that took place.

We are continually reviewing the competitions we run because of the disappointing entry numbers in some events. As a result, the Executive Committee has decided to make further changes for 2013. There will be no Division 2 & 3 Autumn meeting and there will be a minimum entry number for all competitions to proceed. The Tournament Cup will again be played in parallel with the Division 1 Autumn meeting. All the dates can be found on the BCLGA website.

Pat and I would 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 Temple Golf Club, who hosted the 3-day County Championship competitions.

We would also like to thank Sue Robson, our President, and Tracy Crew, our Captain for their support at our competitions; also Nicky Luff for keeping the website competition pages up to date - with the results and with all those photos!

Finally, Pat and I are now stepping down after 3 years as Competition Secretaries (although I will be continuing as an Assistant). We would both like to wish our successors the very best, and trust that you will all give them your support.

The President then presented Pat and Marie with gifts.

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

Why should you be interested in this? Quite simply because we are contributing £3K this year towards the Partnership! So what has the Partnership been doing for our money?

What we probably know most about is the Junior Academy. This year 265 youngsters received coaching across a number of centres. As well as swing coaching, they received general strength and coordination training and advice on nutrition. New this year was on-course coaching including rules sessions. There were a number of competitions held during the school holidays culminating in the Champion of Champions tournament at Studley Wood last half-term. (I turned up just as the youngsters were finishing – on a rather dull grey day with drizzle by 3.00 pm. I couldn't believe the number of girls in skorts and shorts ... they are evidently bred much tougher than me these days.)

The annual Junior Organisers event was also held at the conclusion of this competition – and it was a very depressing turnout to what was an excellent and informative evening. It would have been helpful for any organiser – or even club manager. You might just agitate at your club and persuade them that turning up next year would be a 'good thing'.

One of the main focuses this year has the 'Get into Golf' campaign initiated by England Golf. (If you were in London over the summer you may have seen the bill-board campaign.) Two Berkshire clubs, Hennerton and Blue Mountain, applied for and became Get into Golf centres. For this they had to run regular beginners groups at less than £5 per person per session. In return, the clubs received funding from the Partnership.

The Partnership bought an inflatable net which has been taken to a variety of venues from the Reading Half Marathon, to the Oxford Torch Relay, the Milton Keynes shopping centre and many more besides. Pros came along to give 15-minute lessons to raw beginners and handed out details of where Get into Golf sessions were being run.

So far this year 1525 golf virgins have been introduced to the game, 412 have been coached at Get into Golf centres and of these 179 have taken the game further – which at a hit rate of greater than 10 per cent, seems pretty good. And recently, at the invitation of employers, the team has started to take the net into workplaces. So, if you think this might be something your boss might be interested in ... let him or her know.

Another focus of funding from EGP is disability groups. The Partnership has been working successfully with the Berkshire County Blind Association. What has also gone extraordinarily well is the Feel Inspired academy - for children with special needs. This has been trialled in Oxfordshire at Waterstock this year. It was so popular that double the number of children originally planned for attended. Their parents were delighted at the improvement in their children's communication and confidence – so much so the *Oxford Mail* was invited along and it ran a double page article on the academy.

It is hoped the Feel Inspired Academy will be rolled out to Berkshire next year. Two of our younger County players have already volunteered to help – something to give them additional experiences and build their CVs.

In my last report I mentioned the Ladies' Nights that were being run at Witney Lakes and Chiltern Forest. These have been run again in Oxfordshire and 18 women have attended a 6-week course. By all accounts it has again

been successful but I don't yet know the take-up of club membership. If you think your club would be interested in running something like this in Berkshire do let me know and we'll see what might be organised next year. And, talking of next year, this will be the start of a new funding cycle and we already know that the emphasis will change. There will be no national money for U14s but additional emphasis on 14+ and 25+ (think Ladies' Nights) ... so watch this space!

(I) USGA Course Rating Team Leader – Teresa Taylor

As reported by our Regional Representative, the delegates and therefore all of you, have been kept informed of issues and news from England Golf. One of those issues was the proposed adoption of one system of course rating, the USGA system. This is to be voted on next week at the General Meeting.

In the meantime all course rating has been suspended so other than answering minor queries I have done nothing!

The President then presented Carol Jamieson, retiring Venue Organiser with a gift.

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. 2013 Officials

		<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
<u>Rule 7a</u> County President	Teresa Taylor	Sue Robson	Tracy Crew
<u>Rule 7b</u> 2 nd Team Captain	Cathy Jones	Gillian Cain	Lynn Griffiths
<u>Rule 7d</u> Joint Competition Secretary	Ann Smillie	Pat Menzies	Nicky Luff
<u>Rule 7d</u> Joint Competition Secretary	Sue Robson	Marie Taylor	Tracy Crew
<u>Rule 7c</u> Re-election - Honorary Treasurer	Lynn Griffiths	Nicky Luff	Teresa Taylor

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

Marie Taylor has agreed to act as Assistant Competition Secretary to assist the Joint Competition Secretaries as they settle in to their roles. Issy Wiggins has agreed to be County Publicity Officer.

Incoming President Teresa Taylor then presented retiring President Sue Robson with a gift.

7. Any Other Business

- a) Saturday Competitions - the committee looked into the possibility of booking courses for Saturday competitions and found that clubs are very busy on Saturday mornings making start times earlier than around 3:00 pm not really possible thus making finish times unacceptably late. The committee also contacted all clubs to enquire about whether weekend competitions would be supported but received only 6 replies. The committee therefore felt that a lack of enthusiasm was shown and decided not to pursue the issue.
- b) Neutral Courses for Winter Knock Out and Duncan Trophy Competitions – sadly due to lack of support, the Winter Knockout is not being held in 2012-2013. It is hoped that there will be increased interest next year and it will be held again. With regard to the Duncan Trophy, it is becoming increasingly difficult to book courses particularly where courtesies are required. A suggestion was made, however, that semi-finals could be played on one of the 'other' semi-final courses. This will be looked into by the committee.
- c) A discussion took place about the level of competition entry in general. It was suggested that the 'Blue Book' could be resurrected. However, it was pointed out that current level of affiliation fee would not be sufficient to pay for a booklet for every member (currently in excess of 2300). Details of competitions and entry forms can be found on both the

website and in the Yearbook which should be available in each Ladies Locker Room. Delegates are also asked to remind their members about competitions and their closing dates. The level of competition promotion within clubs does seem to vary significantly from one club to another. It was also suggested that individual members should be able to 'opt in' to a mailing list so that when information is sent out to the delegates, they are included also. This will be looked into by the committee.

8. Vote of Thanks.

Sue Ford (Sand Martins) 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 12:10 pm.