

Tuesday we played Warwickshire but we lost by the same amount 2-7. The evening was quiet but we tried to raise ourselves with good food and company.

Wednesday we played Worcester & Hereford who like Warks had not lost a match yet and the 4somes saw us get just half a point. At lunch I did not try rallying the girls, they did it themselves and in the singles we won 4 of the 6. We had a halved match 4.5 to 4.5 so after just 3 days we had as many points as the total for last year. That evening the team was nosier and full of upbeat talk.

Thursday we played Northants, who were not having a great week not having won a match. We felt buoyed up and we won the 4somes 2-1. My parents seeing Laura and I win ours on the 18th was a very proud moment. We then won the singles 5-1, poor Maureen, last year's hero against them drew Megan their young star. That evening we had a tippie and vowed to beat Bucks on Friday - quietly as they had the barn next door.

Friday dawned and having decided not to play Laura and myself in the 4somes we went down 1-2, the pm play was astonishing to say the least, I played at number 2 and Teresa was keeping me informed as much as possible as all the matches were close. Maddy was in front and going up 18. Avril was behind and was shaking hands on 16 as I walked off 17 having won her match although at the time I did not know which way it had gone, Maddy I could see had won her game but I was 1 down going up 18 and we were both on in 2. My opponent putted first for her birdie but it came up short. I had a 20 foot birdie putt, the opposite one to the day before when my parents had popped up and I rolled it in for a birdie and a halved game, I went back up the last 2 fairways. Laura was on 17th green and Linda was teeing off. I now knew that Avril had won so we had 2.5 matches from the three and Lizzie was closing out her win out on 16. Where was that buggy when I needed it! I watched Linda get a great win on 17 so we had 4.5 games and Laura was still on 18. She was 1 up going up there and I did not know where to go up 18 walking or in the buggy. I wa in a daze, Laura halved the hole and we won the afternoon 5.5 to .5 winning 6.5 to 2.5. At this point, being first out, we were leading and not knowing how crucial my halved game ended up being as W&H were level with us on matches and games. We pipped them for 2nd place 27 matches to their 26.5. We were 2nd behind Warks who did not lose all week but only had 4 more games under their belt (if only Tuesday but ifs and hindsight were great in retrospect).

My thanks must go for the week to my team of Laura, Tracy, Avril, Karen, Maddy, Lizzie, Djura, Maureen, Sheree, Linda brilliant and also to young Zoe who was asked to play however she had a commitment in the US which has now lead to her being out there at school on a scholarship.

Also thank you to Teresa, my sounding board if sometimes a little dangerous with the buggy, my back room staff of Cathy and her Caddies who play every shot, as I did when I watched, and walk miles for us, and in all weathers but this year it was generally hot and dry, Sue our chef and matriarch at the barns, Lynn our own David Bailey the camouflage jacket is on order. I hope you will support my successor next at Northampton Golf Club to see if we can go 1 step further to the Finals!!

Following County Week, Lizzie Swallow and Sheree Dove-Wilde were awarded their County Colours.

Thank you to the executive committee who 2 years ago, although it feels like 5 minutes since I stood before you to accept this job, backed me. It has been the 2 most wonderful years I have spent in my golfing career and I hope I have met most of you at some point throughout this time. Thank you all again for the last 2 years, I have met some wonderful people and seen some incredible golf by young and old, elite and beginners of all ages.

Good luck to you all in your golfing year ahead, Thank you.

(b) 2nd Team Captain – Cathy Jones

Our year has gone well overall with 7 friendly matches being played with our neighbouring counties.

We started on a very wet day in March against Hertfordshire having been lucky enough to secure a weekend day for our match at The Berkshire for 36 holes. Unfortunately, heavy persistent rain forced us to abandon the afternoon singles matches – a familiar problem during the spring of this year.

On to better weather in April and off to Cuddington Golf Club in Surrey. Average age of Surrey team – 16. Average age of Berkshire team – Let's just say it was somewhat higher! They had produced their elite squad of youngsters for a friendly 2nd team match – I'll let you guess the result.

Slightly demoralised but never down our next match against Hampshire resulted in a great win for us. Both the weather and our spirits were lifted and from here on our results were better.

Overall our results for this season from 7 matches played were 3 wins/ 3 losses and 1 half. Thank you to all the Home Clubs - The Berkshire/Newbury & Crookham/Mill Ride & Calcot Park for allowing us to host matches this year and for allowing us courtesy of their courses. Special thanks to all the players this year especially those who dropped in to the team at the last minute on occasions.

In October I was honoured to run the Angela Uzielli Trophy at Royal Ascot. A great day won by Sand Martins with 37 points. Thank you to Sue Robson, Teresa Taylor and Anthea Winn for their help on the day and many thanks to Royal Ascot for their hospitality. Most importantly thank you to all the clubs who took part and for their donations which helped to raise nearly £700 for the Angela Uzielli scholarship fund. John Uzielli came to present the prizes and was delighted with the final figure.

I have one more year to serve as 2nd team Captain and look forward to working with all the team again for a 2nd

year. We have seen some new faces this year in the squad including great performances from some of our upcoming juniors, I hope to see them and more of Pauline's Protégés in 2014.

(c) County Training Officer – Jo Russ

This time last year I said that the year had flown past. Well this time around I think it went supersonic but in more ways than one.

The Winter Scratch League started with 4 boxes in October and things went well to start with. However after Xmas some long holidays and poor weather caused a problem, but eventually we arrived at semi-finals where Tracy Crew beat Laura Webb, and Linda Hunt beat Sheree Dove.

The final was set up for 4th April at Calcot, starting at 11.30am. I was working early that morning so arrived at Calcot around 1pm to find an almost deserted car park. Sitting in the car I eventually spotted three people struggling against the driving wind and horizontal snow, making their way up the long hole towards the lake. I bravely or stupidly, went out to join them. We were soon joined by a crowd of one in the form of Djura Macrae-Stoelwinder, who having trained in the past as a distance skater felt quite at home. Despite all this, a competitive match was played, and several Birdies scored, with Linda eventually coming out the winner by 4 & 3. Personally, if I had been on a skiing holiday, I would have stayed in the bar!

Two sessions were held at Sunningdale Ladies in February. The first was well attended, but unfortunately the second date was hit by 'Mail on Sunday' matches, which meant several players could not attend.

County Week was held at Frilford Heath GC this year on the Red Course. Being as this is a course that many players know quite well the decision was made to 'Write our own' Course Planner as we had done last year. Two practice sessions were played by most of the squad, with 'Notes' being made and collated in time for the official practice before County Week.

Last year I said the 'Motley Crew' had 'Done good!' This year they were even better.

Bonding was helped considerably by staying together, and eating together at the Barn. Thanks must go to Sue Robson for her tireless work in being our 'Provider'.

Our 'Notes', thoughts on pairings, and results last year all contrived to give us greater confidence as a squad. The size of the squad, rest sessions for everyone, regular caddies for singles, knowing whether you were playing in the morning or resting, the number of you who came to support us; all helped the positive feelings in the group. Lastly, but certainly not least, some inspired decision making by the Captain, her obvious total commitment to getting the best out of everyone and her desire to win was infectious. For this, a massive thank you and well done, must go to the captain Tracy.

It was a pleasure to see young Lizzie Swallow take the whole event in her stride and record an excellent string of results. This helped take the load from Laura Webb whose consistent results have been a mainstay of the Team for a long time. Laura of course, far from resting on her laurels, has just stepped up a gear and done the same for the Irish Seniors! for which we must congratulate her.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the committee and the players for making my job so worthwhile. Well done the Motley Crew! I have a new name for next year's squad, which will be revealed at a later date--but it will be a hard act to follow!

(d) Hon. Secretary – Nicky Luff

During the year our County Delegates meetings have been held at Temple Golf Club, Goring & Streatley 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 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 as always, very much appreciated.

I would 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 2013 AGM here today.

I have to report that the website did not receive its makeover as planned last winter but the work is now planned for this winter instead. I would like to thank all those clubs who have given us permission to use photographs of their courses and for the various suggestions made. If you have any more suggestions please don't hesitate to let me know.

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

(e) Hon. Treasurer – Lynn Griffiths

This is the last of my 5 annual reports on our Financial Accounts.

For the year ended 30th September 2013 we made a loss of £3,549.33. The loss was forecast at last year's AGM.

Despite the loss our Reserve still stands at a healthy £20,901.91.

Major items worthy of note are:-

- Capitation Income is almost identical to last year, which as the collection was based on last year's numbers is not surprising. Only one club disputed the numbers hence the slight drop.
- Sundry income has returned to normal levels, which is lower than last year as last year contained two years worth of income for the County Card scheme.

- We made a loss of £1,035.62 on Competitions, of which £879.70 was on the Juniors Comps.
- The removal of the EWGA Grant which last year was £1,340 hit our income this year.
- Match Income increased due to Berkshire hosting the Seniors Inter County Team Competition this year and the income from players who played in the friendly seniors matches.
- County Week costs reduced due to the use of self-catering accommodation rather than a hotel. The junior equivalent did not happen this year.
- Junior activity was down all round this year meaning they only needed funding of £1,750 this year compared to an agreed budget of £3,069. This helped to offset the additional miscellaneous expenditure.
- Miscellaneous expenditure consists of 2 main payments – BB&O partnership costs, and Public Liability Insurance. This year we had to make 2 payments to the BB&O Partnership, one for 2012 and one for 2013. Traditionally this has always been invoiced over a year in arrears but at long last BB&O have caught up and invoiced in the correct year. This did lead to £2,053 worth of unexpected spend.

Despite our loss I would like to thank all those on the Committee who spend the County's money. Once again without exception all budget holders came in below their budget.

While our Reserve is still healthy we have decided to increase the Affiliation Fee to £5.50 for next year as indicated at last year's AGM. It is the first increase since at least 2006 and will generate approximately another £1,250pa income. This will help reduce the size of losses we have been making – albeit they have been planned. We must always remember that if/when our County Team makes the CMW Finals a lot of our Reserve could disappear overnight without doing extra fund raising.

I have enjoyed being County Treasurer. During my term I have learned a lot about County golf, met some lovely people, had many a laugh, and a few challenges and in a strange way will miss being involved.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Anthea Winn for Auditing the books again this year, also to the Committee members I have worked with over the last 5 years and would like to wish my successor Mary Harwood every success, I'm sure I leave you in very capable hands.

The accounts were then accepted.

Proposed by: Lynn Griffiths (Reading)

Seconded by: Pat Menzies (East Berks)

(f) Regional Representative – Pat Bennett

A major part of the role of Regional Representative is to keep the delegates informed of the issues and news within England Golf, such as a single course rating method and changes to championships. The most important issue this year was the Strategic plan to clarify what EG is and what it should be doing for its members, not just at the elite golfer. A series of workshops have been held and a final draft is expected to be discussed at the next EG meeting on 20th November. The final plan will present a clear vision, four or five key ambitions and eight or nine action plans which together will clearly articulate the direction of England Golf over the next three years.

PB explained that the Regional Representative represents Berkshire at the Midlands South Regional Meetings (comprising Hereford & Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Berkshire). Three meetings were held this year and this year we sought guidance from England Golf to set a minimum number of entries for the regional competitions. EG stated that regions should decide themselves if it was worthwhile holding them. The 4BBB was cancelled as there were less than 10 entries.

The delegate's meetings are the opportunities for the delegates to raise issues of concern within their ladies' section. Three meetings took place this year and issues included the CDH, and purchasing county clothing. These are documented in the minutes of the Delegate's meeting. Thanks go to the delegates from Temple, Goring and Streatley, and Caversham Heath for the arrangements to host these meetings.

PB reported that attendance by clubs at the delegate's meetings had increased overall from last year, although the numbers ranged from 19 to 24 clubs. 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 2014, the competitions are:

- County Week – hosted by Northamptonshire
- 4BBB – hosted by Warwickshire played at Copt Heath 2nd October
- Australian Spoons - hosted by Berkshire to be played at Reading Golf Club 24th July
- Ladies' Championship – organised by Worcestershire at Redditch Golf Club 24th July
- Girls Championship – hosted by Buckingham at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club 1st September

PB thanked all the delegates for their contributions and hard work. She stated that she had enjoyed working for them and hoped that their support would continue with her successor.

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

(g) Seniors Captain – Airlie Dyson

The seniors' section of the county is for players aged 50 years and over. There are an increasing number of golfers

who want to continue playing competitive golf at a high standard and seniors' golf is for them. We have scratch matches against seven counties. These are friendly competitive matches usually played on excellent courses.

We play in a **league** with Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. The first match of the year was won 4 ½ - 2 ½ against Hertfordshire on a windswept day at The Berkshire. A gale was rolling in from the north east when we played a strong Oxfordshire team at Huntercombe in late May and lost 5 - 2. In warmer weather in June we played Buckinghamshire at Temple. All the matches were close and the match was halved. Although the final league match against Hampshire at Alresford in September was won by convincing 5 - 2, the league winner in 2013 was Buckinghamshire with Berkshire second. After three consecutive years of winning the league, this may seem a disappointment but in no way reflects poorly on the Berkshire team who played excellent golf in some very testing conditions. The players for the league this year were Linda Hunt, Sheree Dove, Gail Moy, Gabi Heuchel, Margaret Berriman, Elspeth Cooper, Airlie Dyson, Pat Bennett, Julie Sheppard, Jo Russ and Penny Johnston.

For the **non league matches**, it is possible to include seniors with handicaps up to 14, ensuring that new members of the section are paired with the more experienced players in the fourball betterball matches. The match against Sussex at Copthorne on 13th June was halved. At Royal Ascot in July, Berkshire won against Surrey 3 - 1. The singles match against Middlesex, was at Calcot Park in September and Berkshire won 4 - 3. Nineteen people have played in the non league matches this year. The matches were all played in good spirit and the team have to be commended for their commitment, enthusiasm and high standard of golf. In one match, there was an impromptu discussion when one player, a rules official, played her ball into the back of a stationary truck. There is the opportunity to exchange golfing news and information both on the golf course and over refreshments in the clubhouse afterwards.

The **Seniors' Championship** was played at Newbury & Crookham on 12th September and was won by Linda Hunt (Newbury & Crookham) with a gross 74 and Tracy Crew (Reading) was second with 75. The first handicap prize was won by Pauline Lambert (Calcot Park) with a nett 68. Ten clubs were represented by 33 players.

The **Inter County Senior Team Championship** was organised this year by Berkshire and held at The Berkshire on 30th September. Four players from each of ten counties play in this 18 hole scratch strokeplay event with the three best scores from each county determining the winner. Surrey was the winner with an aggregate score of 230, Buckinghamshire second with 231 and Berkshire third with 240. The county was presented by Linda Hunt, Tracy Crew, Sheree Dove and Gail Moy.

After two years organising the seniors, it is time to step down. As captain, I can say that the seniors are a friendly and supportive group and I have enjoyed my time in office. If you know of anyone who has reduced their hours of work and now has more time to give to their golf, please encourage them to join us. We are a friendly group and enjoy playing good golf.

As I handover to Gail Moy, I wish her a successful time as captain.

(h) County Junior Organiser – Pauline Carmeron (read by Jo Russ – County Training Officer)

Recruitment, Development & Coaching

Three junior players took part in the Tegner Trophy at Reading this year. They were Julia and Nathalie Warke from Bearwood and Zoe Collins of Castle Royle. Nathalie just missed qualifying in the last 16 and Zoe you know all about from the CC report. Zoe is now on a scholarship in Florida at the IMG academy and will return in early June for her summer holidays.

This year four girls have been awarded scholarships: Julia and Nathalie to Stoke Park, Katie Hayes of Reading to Henley GC and Zoe which is excellent for the girls. We continue to have exciting young players coming through the system aged 11 and 12 with good CONGU handicaps and we awarded three new players with their county Team bag tag. Our pyramid base of players relies so heavily on the work that Pera, Annie and Sarla carry out in the Berkshire Girls coaching programme at Sand Martins and Blue Mountain. Delegates and playing members, grandparents and parents are our main source of recruiting new players and we rely and depend on your support to keep the junior section in Berkshire flourishing and producing the golfers of the future.

Berkshire hosted the BB&O Championships in April at Maidenhead GC and the help from the club was fantastic. At the presentation Tracy spotted the Berkshire Girls Championship Cup, now being used as the BB&O cup. Some 17 years ago the two cups had been muddled up and it was decided to re claim our trophy and re-engrave the 49 names. The presentation of the cup was made to Julia Warke who won the Championships this year at Sonning. We asked Airlie Dyson to present the cup as the first winner of Trophy in 1964.

Julia also won the greatest handicap reduction for the year cutting her handicap from 14 to 6 and was selected for the U16 England Regional training programme, one of 8 girls selected from Berks, Bucks, Oxon, Middlesex and Herts. The coaches are in contact with the regional CJO's and the work they are carrying out with the regional squad is informing the work we are planning for 2014 in Berkshire. Julia and Zoe both gained their junior colours this year awarded for gross wins in nominated events. Details are on the website.

The events organised in 2013 by Berkshire were: 7 fun competitions, 2 championships, 1 spring and 1 autumn meeting, four county league 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.

Copies of the newsletter are sent to county delegates by Nicky Luff and we appreciate the printing and posting on club notice boards. It does have lots of pictures but hopefully attracts more girls to play and the girls do like to see the events recorded!

Matches - The midland region handicap final against Northamptonshire @ Cherwell Edge GC in September was won by Berkshire 2/1 after beating Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire in the league matches held through May, June and July.

The Alresford Cup which 9 counties attend produced an individual score from Holly Bainbridge of 40 points helped Berkshire into 4th place.

Just a note: Holly started the season playing in a league match when her handicap was 38, winning at Harewood Downs. She now plays off 19 and is 12 years old! In October BB&O Boys v BB&O girls @ Gerrards X cancelled due to terrible weather, Berks/Bucks beat Herts/Middlesex and a win for the girls at East Berks against the boys rounded off October very nicely. Jessica Li, Calcot Park and Holly were awarded their county playing colours this year.

In 2014 the Junior Captain will be Rebecca Webb from East Berkshire supported by her Vice Captain Nathalie Warke from Stoke Park & Bearwood

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 Teresa Taylor and Tracy Crew CC by their attendance at all the events which has elevated the profile of the junior players. To Cathy Jones who has selected the girls for 2nd team matches and to The Berkshire for their continual support each year to the juniors.

(i) County Handicap Adviser – Maureen Harman

In February of this year, I replaced Anthea Winn as Berkshire Handicap Advisor and my first task was to attend a County Handicap Advisor Seminar hosted by England Golf. This involved various presentations on a wide range of topics pertinent to handicaps and was a timely introduction to my new role.

There were no significant changes to the CONGU Unified Handicapping System in 2013, however there is a facility within the CDH (Central Database of Handicaps) known as The Handicap Enquiry System which allows club Handicap Secretaries and County Handicap Advisors to post questions about all matters concerning handicaps. In the past, England Golf would reply to all enquiries but this year it became the responsibility of the County Handicap Advisor to respond to the club or individual concerned. If the Advisor is unable to answer or needs further advice, England Golf will then lend support. I have not received any enquiries through this channel as yet but I have received enquiries directly from county members and handicap secretaries and have been able to assist without referring to England Golf.

Handicap information and changes for 2014 were published by England Golf this week.

The first change is the term inactive handicap will no longer be used. There will be a "c" to denote a competition handicap (previously known as active handicap) and the "i" for inactive will no longer appear. It should be stressed that every affiliated member who has been allocated a CONGU handicap retains a valid handicap, whether denoted as a competition handicap or not.

The next change states that in order to maintain a competition handicap all players must return a minimum of 3 Qualifying Scores in a year from the 1st March, which replaces the previous requirement of 3 scores in a calendar year.

There are also changes to Supplementary Scores for Category 1 players (handicap 5.4 and below). A player in Category 1 with a Non-Competition handicap (previously known as inactive handicap) on the 1st March may return up to a maximum of three Supplementary Scores to REGAIN a Competition handicap.

A player in Category 1 with a Competition handicap on the 1st March may not return any Supplementary Scores until September 1st and then only as many required up to a maximum of three, in order to RETAIN a Competition handicap.

A player in Category 2 who has returned Supplementary Scores prior to attaining a Category 1 handicap will only be permitted to return additional Supplementary Scores in order to retain a Competition handicap.

New guidelines have been set regarding the audit of Category 1 players and Handicap Advisors are required to audit a minimum of 3 or 10% of players in their county, up to a maximum of 10 and then file a report back to England Golf. This is essential because accurate handicap records can have a bearing on entry into prestigious events and also on selection to national squads or teams. I will be undertaking this in the next couple of months.

More details of the amendments to the CONGU UHS for 2014, plus general handicap and competition information was emailed to all club handicap secretaries yesterday.

(j) Joint Competition Secretaries – Sue Robson and Ann Smillie

All our competitions this year have been well supported with 317 players taking part.

We have been delighted with the response from the Ladies Captains at the Clubs hosting our competitions. Club members have helped meeting & greeting players, on the registration desk, starting, ball spotting, collecting cards, putting scores on the board and generally helping. It has made our day much easier and we hope that more members feel involved in the County and will offer their help in the future.

We would like to thank Tracy, our Captain and Teresa, our President for all their help at meetings and staying to present the prizes at the end of competitions. It can often be a long day. Also for refereeing finals for us. Thank you to Nicky for posting photos and results on the web site.

Two players in the County have had outstanding successes. **Laura Webb** winning the Tegner Trophy for 14th time and the Championship for the 10th time and also the Battiscombe Birdies. **Djura Macrae-Stoelwinder** from Cacot Park has had a very successful year winning the Gold Medal at the Spring meeting and then the Joyce Cave Cup, Helen Brown Sauce Boat, Edna Simmons Trophy and shared the Coronation Silver Medal with Pat Bennett at the Autumn Meeting

DUNCAN TROPHY this is the club knock out competition 28 Clubs took part. All matches were very closely contested with the final at Sonning GC where Mill Ride beat Blue Mountain on the 21st extra hole. We should like to thank Sonning for hosting this final.

ANN BRYANT K/O FINAL this is a knock out competition for the 16 Bronze qualifiers from the Spring Meeting. In the final held at Bradfield College Jane Weller from Caversham Heath beat Penny Miles from Maidenhead on the 19th hole.

INTER CLUB SHIELD this is a team competition with 28 Clubs entering. The winners were Bearwood Lakes. Individual Winner Ann Pennell Mill Ride GC

PRESIDENTS SALVERS won by Pat Bennett & Gillian Godson Reading GC

TOURNAMENT CUP won by Pat Humphrey Donnington Valley GC

MILLENIUM COMPETITION won by Sarla Read (CH), Sue Masters (?), Annie Pack (BM)

HANDICAP CUP won by Sue Hunt

QUESTIONNAIRE - thank you to the clubs who responded. We have put in an extra stableford competition next year on Thursday 25th September. It is a team competition (One 0-20 player, one 21-29 player and one 30-36) . Players can come from any club and it is hoped to encourage the higher handicap players to join in our competitions.

We have enjoyed working together this year and look forward to seeing many of you next year at our competitions.

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

The last year has been one of transition and change for the CGP. Most of the autumn and early spring seemed to be taken up by the application for funding for money from the new Whole Sport Plan. Frankly, this was a dire process and our homework was returned on more than one occasion with that unhelpful comment of 'please re-do' with no indication of where it was lacking. Eventually, the BB&O settlement was as good as it could be, with the Partnership awarded £191K over 4 years albeit with some tough targets to meet. That is more than we got four years ago but doesn't keep pace with inflation.

The change continued with changing personnel. Sam Round, whom many of you will know from the Oxfordshire CMW team, moved on to another job and Rajiv was promoted to County Development Officer. Stefanie Duffy was appointed as the new assistant, however, she has recently resigned.

Far more worrying is the imminent departure (in April) of John Low, who has chaired the Partnership since its inception, and Mervyn Foulds the Treasurer. So far no replacement has been found for either. John's shoes will be particularly hard to fill – and not just because they must be size 15. John puts in hours of work, returning twice a year the detailed Review that is necessary as we are in receipt of public money, monitoring the work of the CDOs and reviewing all the work and focus of the CGP. Much of his input is behind the scenes and probably goes unrecognised by most county members. Mervyn, too, has been with the Partnership from the beginning and although the day-to-day work of Treasurer is far less onerous he has volunteered at many of the county academy coaching sessions and the academy competitions.

If you know a golfer whom you think may have the right experiences – as well as the time and the inclination – to be chairman, do please put him or her in touch with me. Similarly, if you know an accountant who has two or three days to spare each month and who would like to look after the CGP's money, do put them in touch.

To add to the churn, we have also changed our regional development officer – our new one being Ashley Rump.

But back to what the CGP has done or is doing – remember we are only halfway through the CGP year! We have just less than £43K from the English Golf Partnership for the year. Previously the Men's Union had given £30K and the three women's associations £9K. The Men have reduced their contribution and this year, with the new Plan about to be put into place, it seemed like the ideal time for us to match rather than exceed their 'per head' contribution: BCLGA will be spending about a third less on the CGP (good news for our treasurer). Some of the county money will go towards running the academy for U14s. Sport England may think it unimportant to introduce

U14s to golf – but they are in a minority of one. (We also hope to get some additional funding from England Golf for these youngsters.)

The main county academy, into the future, is likely to be focussing more on elite players rather than beginners. One of the strands of the Sport England funding is ‘the talent pathway’ and the Performance Director at England Golf sees great academies as a way of developing this strand.

There are four Get into Golf centres in the county (The Downshire, Blue Mountain, Hennerton and Newbury and Crookham). Rather than one-off taster sessions they are now all concentrating on a structured approach aimed at turning beginners into members of golf clubs.

The Golf Foundation helps to facilitate club/school partnerships. They are interested in developing more so if your club would like a link with a school, suggest it gets in touch with the Golf Foundation. Probably the relationship between the Golf Foundation and our County Associations is not working as well as it should – and that is not for want of the women trying.

The Feel Inspired academies (for people with disabilities) continue. I’d like to thank the BCLGA members who got in touch last year offering contacts. Both a Berkshire and Buckinghamshire academy were started but they have merged into one because of low numbers. The academy at Waterstock has gone from strength to strength: its first intake of students has been offered special membership at the club and now a second tranche of students is receiving coaching.

Currently the Partnership is missing its targets for the year. In part this is due to it being the first of a 4-year cycle and structures have to be put in place for delivery. We have also had the changes in staffing. Our hope must be that our funding is not cut next May which will make it even more difficult to deliver the targets for 2014 onwards. If the last year has been difficult, the next year is going to be very tough.

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

The USGA system of course rating was adopted by England Golf in November last year and a training programme was drawn up in February this year.

Margaret Berriman and I attended a two day seminar at Woodhall Spa.

The training was geared to update current raters (women) and to start training beginners (men). The aim was to prepare ‘mixed’ teams able to rate all the tees for men and red and yellow tees for women starting in 2014.

Scott Hovde(USA), Kevin Weir(Scotland) led the experienced raters whilst Joy hunter and Nickie Clarke took the new raters, both men and women.

The EGU system was very similar to the USGA one but did not rate for the ‘bogey’ golfer nor was the recording of information as detailed. Hence the men had difficulty in completing the paperwork correctly. The problem was solved by each team of men being given a woman to guide them!!

Every County was issued with kit which included a laser range finder as well as yellow fluorescent vests, a stimpmeter, a tape measure, the inevitable wheel and ‘bob the builder’ hard hats!

We were then expected to go back to our Counties and practise rating, men and women together.

The follow up training session was due in October and as we had heard nothing from the BB&O re practice, Margaret and I decided to ask their President if he would like us to help him rate a couple of holes at his course. This we duly did!

The October session was held at Kings Norton GC. And I was assigned to a group comprising two of the BB&O raters and a gentleman from Northants.

Much to my surprise the day was successful. The men would appear to have accepted the system. Unfortunately “our man” was not there.

Once again we have been sent away to practice!!

We now await the schedule that we are supposed to follow next year.

5. Presentation of Trophies

The majority of trophies this year were presented at the events where they were being played for. The President, Teresa Taylor, then presented the remaining trophies ably assisted by Comp. Secretary Ann Smillie.

6. 2014 Officials

		<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
<u>Rule 7b</u>			
County Captain	Sheree Dove-Wilde	Tracy Crew	Teresa Taylor
<u>Rule 7b</u>			
Seniors Captain	Gail Moy	Airlie Dyson	Nicky Luff
<u>Rule 7c</u>			
Honorary Treasurer	Mary Harwood	Lynn Griffiths	Tracy Crew

Rule 5e

Regional Representative

Nicky Luff

Pauline Cameron

Cathy Jones

Rule 7g

Handicap Advisor

Maureen Harman

Anthea Winn

Nicky Luff

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

7. Any Other Business

a) Scratch Leagues

Maureen Harman reported that a number of independent scratch leagues have been set up within the county over time but that they are not affording players the best way of getting good competitive golf as the standards within each league often vary greatly. With the handicap restrictions it also means that some players who would like to play are not getting the opportunity to. It was suggested therefore that the structure could be looked at with a possible view to making it into a league structure with divisions allowing for promotion and demotion. This would mean that clubs could find their own level, have good competition at that level and with the incentive of winning promotion or of winning the overall league. The leagues in question are the 4Ball League, the Berkshire Challenge Cup, the Silver Salvors, the High Silver League who all play Four Ball Better Ball. It could possibly also include the Bronze League although Pat Menzies (East Berks) pointed out that the structure here was different. The matches were singles played in boxes with the top teams in each box going to the semi final and final.

Pay Bayle (Easthampstead) asked if the County could/would take over the running of the league. TT stated that this is not the proposal but the County is happy to facilitate discussions and get the ball rolling.

Elspeth Cooper suggested that action should be taken soon as the 4Ball League AGM and Lunch is due to take place shortly.

A number of 'finer detail' issues were raised that would need to be considered in due course but it was agreed that the County would start the ball rolling and send out a consultation document/questionnaire as soon as possible in order to get discussions underway and that time will be put aside at the next Delegates meeting on February 21st at Temple Golf Club for clubs to discuss the matter in greater depth.

Following the meeting – work has started on the questionnaire and if anyone has anything they would like to raise at this stage please contact Maureen Harman or Jo Russ (contact details on the website)

8. Vote of Thanks.

Sue Ford (Sand Martins) thanked Teresa Taylor 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 12:00 pm.