

# Berkshire County Ladies' Golf Association



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Reading Golf Club on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Present: Mrs Teresa Taylor President in the Chair  
Mrs Sheree Dove-Wilde County Captain  
68 Members

1. **Apologies** – 16 members. Teresa Taylor opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Read and approved.

Proposed by: Linda Pitt (Mapledurham)

Seconded by: Lorraine Burt (Goring & Streatley)

3. **Matters Arising**

**3.1 Scratch Leagues Report Back** (Maureen Harman)

A survey regarding the current structure of the Leagues and possible ways to improve them was sent to all clubs last December.

An open discussion took place at the Delegates meeting in February.

Another meeting was held in March by the County which involved one representative or team captain from each club that participated in the five different leagues - The Fourball League, The Berkshire Challenge Cup, Silver Salver, High Silver and Bronze League. Discussion centred on the best format for all leagues. A consensus was reached that three different leagues - Scratch, Silver and Bronze - with divisions was the best way forward. It was also agreed that the High Silver League would remain separate.

A steering committee was formed for the Bronze League headed by Mary Harwood from West Berks. The Bronze League will change to four ball better ball and will have three divisions of 7 teams with promotion and relegation at the end of each season. The new structure will start in autumn 2015.

Another committee was formed to concentrate on the Scratch (now called Gold) and Silver Leagues chaired by Maureen Harman of Sand Martins. Two meetings took place and recommendations were put forward to the participating clubs at the Delegates meeting in June, which were voted on and approved.

The outcome is that beginning in spring 2015 there will be a Gold League with two divisions and a Silver League with two divisions. Each division will have seven teams. At the end of 2015 there will be promotion and relegation of one team in each division in each league. I would like to stress that the main purpose of the Leagues is to give all players an opportunity to compete in Matchplay that best suits their competitive level. For that reason, I am reinforcing that clubs which are competing in both Gold and Silver should not be using the same players for both teams.

Jean Corbett from Winter Hill was appointed League Liaison Officer (LLO) heading a committee made up of each of the Division Organisers of the Gold and Silver League plus a representative from the Bronze League and they will meet at least once a year. The LLO will be responsible for overseeing all of the Leagues, co-ordinating rules and publishing information and results on the BCLGA website. She will oversee the fixture list to avoid a clash of dates wherever possible and will endeavour to meet the needs of all the players and teams.

4. **Reports**

**(a) Captain – Sheree Dove-Wilde**

The beginning of this year was the worst on record for being wet! Needless to say getting our practise matches under way did not finally happen until March and unfortunately we could not play our usual fixture against the men at Newbury & Crookham because of the weather. However we did manage to play the matches against the men at Reading & Calcot. Due to unforeseen circumstances our match against Sand Martins was also cancelled. Let us hope the start of 2015 is a little more weather friendly.

This year the Tegner Trophy followed by the County Championships were played at Goring and Streatley. The green staff presented us with a magnificent course and the weather was also finally kind to us. The Tegner saw a change

at the top, with Djura Macrae-Stoelwinder (Calcot Park) winning by one shot. Djura also equalled the Goring & Streatley GC Ladies Course record (gross 70). There were also lots of birdies an eagle & even a hole in one by Jane Brackenbury from West Berks GC, which made for an exciting day for all. In the 2nd round, one of the juniors improved by 19 shots, which just goes to show, you should never give up.

The Championship was hard fought and the final turned out to be an exciting match between Tracy Crew (Reading) and Linda Hunt (Newbury & Crookham). Linda finally came out on top winning on the 17th and we now have a new first time County Champion. Well done to Linda. Linda has had a really good year by winning the Spring Meeting, County Championship and Autumn Meeting!

This year's County week was at Northampton GC and turned out to be an excellent week. Weather-wise we had thunder and lightning on the Monday and Friday but other than that, a fine sunny week. This year's County Team consisted of: Linda Hunt, Laura Webb (East Berks), Tracy Crew Reading), Djura Macrae-Stoelwinder, Lizzie Swallow (Newbury & Crookham), Maureen Harmon (Sand Martins), Maddy Pearce (Sand Martins), Emily Shaw (Castle Royle) and Juniors: Becky Webb (East Berks), Sam Collier (Sand Martins), Julia Warke (Bearwood Lakes) and Zoe Collins (Castle Royle). All the games were hard fought and extremely close. The final result did not really reflect how close the games were. In all we Won 1, Halved 1, Lost 2. (It is worth noting the two loses were both 5 to 4 but with most games going to the 18th in a nail biting finish). We had 4 rookies this year, Zoe Collins, Becky Webb, Julia Warke and Sam Collier. All four were a joy to watch and fitted into the team perfectly. Whilst this year must be considered "work in progress", I feel Berkshire ladies county golf is in safe hands with these youngsters going forward and playing in future years. The most rewarding aspect of their contribution was that they all played very well from day one and ALL were able to cope with the competitive atmosphere and pressure which bodes well for the future. At the end of the week County Colours were awarded to Maureen Harmon & Maddy Pearce, both worthy recipients.

Next Year County week is at Harborne GC, just outside Birmingham on 22/26 June 2015. Spectators are always welcome and appreciated, although I realise it is a long way to travel for most.

At this point I would like to say a special well done to Laura Webb one of our long standing first team stars. Laura travelled from this year's County week to Ireland to play in the Irish Senior closed Championship and at the first time of trying, Won the event and is now the "Irish Seniors Ladies Champion". She has also been selected for the Irish international team and has now played for Ireland at every level. A great achievement as I am sure you'll all agree.

In finishing I would just like to say a big thank you to Cathy Jones, for all her help and support throughout the year. Good luck in her new post!

**(b) 2nd Team Captain – Cathy Jones**

We have played 4 friendly matches this year with mixed results. Wins against Hampshire and Middlesex and losses against Surrey and Wiltshire, but our highlight of the year was a resounding win for Berkshire in the Midland South sub division league match.

This year we made the decision to re-join the Midland South 2<sup>nd</sup> team league now that it has been split into 2 sub divisions North & South with the winners of those sub divisions playing each other in a final. We played our sub division match against Bucks & Oxon at Frilford on a very wet day in May under the new format which has been set up to allow all 3 counties to play each other on the same day over 8 matches. We couldn't have asked for a better result with Berkshire winning 7 out of their 8 matches making us clear winners. The final was played in August at Nuneaton Golf Club where we played Warwickshire. Unfortunately we did not have such success in the final losing to Warwickshire 7 games to 2. I would like to congratulate all those who played and I would like to thank Gill Cain, Zoe Collins, Katherine Irving, Djura McRae, Emily Shaw, Jane Sly, Julia Warke, Becky Webb and a special thank you to Nicky Ewart who dropped in to the team final at the very last minute.

Whilst we have used our juniors as far as possible it has sometimes been difficult to find times that they are free from other commitments and we have had to resort to using some of our more senior members to play in matches. We could really do with some more players under 50 to take part in matches and I would urge you all to go back to your clubs and try to encourage those younger players whose handicaps are reducing to represent their County in matches if asked. I am encouraged that there are several good juniors emerging from under Pauline Cameron's wing and I'm sure we will continue to get them involved in 2<sup>nd</sup> team matches as a good training ground for future 1<sup>st</sup> team involvement.

My two years as 2<sup>nd</sup> team captain now comes to an end and it has been a privilege and honour to work with both the players and the Executive Committee. Thank you all for your friendship and help over the last 2 years. I now leave you in the safe hands of Nikki Ochtman, I hope she enjoys the role as much as I have.

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

Requests for players in the Winter Scratch League brought 16 positive replies, who were formed into 4 round-robin groups. Winners played runners-up and vice-versa, and resulted in semi-finals where Gabi Heuchel lost to Tracy Crew, and Sheree Dove-Wilde lost to Djura Stoelwinder. The final played at Newbury and Crookham, was won by Tracy Crew 3 and 2.

Two preliminary sessions were booked at Sunningdale Ladies on 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of February for any prospective squad members. Appalling weather meant that both sessions were cancelled, as was the first practice match at Newbury & Crookham. Things were not going well for the new Captain and squad!

Practices eventually got under way at the match against Reading Men, but availability for this was not good. The following week we fielded a much stronger team including several new juniors to play Calcot Men, and this was both enjoyable and beneficial. Further problems hit the group when Sand Martins were forced to cancel the match with them as they were unable to field a team.

Efforts to re-arrange the N & C match proved fruitless, but fortunately some players were squeezed into the 2nds fixtures.

Following the County Championships, the new squad was announced for County Week, and the 'Wilde Things' were born! Preparations at Northampton were much better. The club were very welcoming, and only charged £10 a head for practice rounds. Four of us went on an initial visit and with the help of Laura Webb and Sheree, a booklet of playing tips for the course was produced for each player. Two sessions were offered to all Squad players, as well as the final practice session on the Sunday prior to County week. Unfortunately, the younger juniors were unable to attend all of these, through prior commitments.

Altogether, we struggled to find foursomes pairings in advance of the week, and this did not help our start in the morning sessions. However, we did finish the week with some very creditable results, and several of our new players look set to become regular stars of the future. I just hope they continue to progress and to support us.

I must thank all of the players for their efforts, Pauline Cameron for her invaluable help with the 'youngsters' and the inevitable paper work necessary to include them, Cathy Jones for helping out while I was abroad, and Sheree Dove-Wilde for all of her preparations for County Week, and her leadership of the 'Wilde Things' in their campaign.

We already have a few new plans to improve our performance next season, and I am pleased to report that 4 clubs have offered us the chance of late afternoon tee times for foursomes practice in the weeks prior to County Week. If any of you are from clubs central in the county, who you think might help with this, please let me know.

**(d) Hon. Secretary – Nicky Luff**

I would like to start by thanking Reading Golf Club where we have held our Executive Committee meetings this year and also, of course, for allowing us to hold our 2014 AGM here today.

During the year our County Delegates meetings have been held at Temple Golf Club, and Hennerton Golf Club and I would like to thank both these clubs for very kindly letting us use their facilities for our meetings.

My five year term as County Secretary is now coming to an end. I have really enjoyed my time in the role and I would like to thank all the Executive Committee members, the County Delegates and the County members I have worked with for their help and support throughout that time. I know that in handing over to Irene Gregory, the county will be in safe hands and I wish her well.

Our County Publicity Officer Issy Wiggins is unable to attend the meeting today so she has asked me to let you know that the facility of PR on the county Facebook and Twitter pages is available for all the clubs to use and if you have coffee mornings, get into golf, any woman's activities going on in their club to email her with the details. Details of holes in one, large handicap cuts, achievements of any kind, can then be distributed for you. For example, she did a post on the BCLGA Facebook page this weekend for Caversham Heath regarding a junior academy starting resulting in 8 mothers contacting her for more information. It does work and it's all free advertising. You can email her by clicking on [publicity@bclga.co.uk](mailto:publicity@bclga.co.uk) on the BCLGA website homepage [www.bclga.co.uk](http://www.bclga.co.uk).

**(e) Hon. Treasurer – Mary Harwood**

First I would like to thank Lynne Griffiths for providing such a straightforward handover of the accounts, and for running them for the first quarter of the financial year while we waited for the bank to accept me as a signatory. I would also like to thank the Committee members for bearing with me as I got to grips with budgets and payments.

The accounts have been Independently Examined by Mrs Cheryl Kimber, who is the School Business Manager of Chaddleworth and Shefford Schools and found to be in good order.

As you can see, we made a surplus of nearly £1500 this year as opposed to a loss of a little over £3500 last year. However, you should be aware that at the end of the financial year, we had not received affiliations fees from BB&O for 3 clubs and we had not received our bill from the CGP, which would have reduced our surplus to about £500. These have now been received.

If you look at the accounts you will see that the difference between our surplus of this year and the deficit of last year is almost the same as the amount that was raised at the County Dinner, mainly through the success of the Raffle.

Raising the Affiliation fee to £5.50 has effectively meant that we have received the same amount of money as in 2013. This is due to there being fewer members in some of our clubs and, as you already know, at least one club closing. We will be keeping to the same fee for the coming year.

The competitions expenditure includes the purchase of a new, portable printer for the Competitions team, and you will note that the Trophy account has been used to purchase a new Tournament Trophy to replace the trophy that

was stolen from the West Berks Golf Club and, although eventually returned, was too badly damaged to be repaired. We are trying to work out how we can ensure that the names of previous winners of the trophy can be incorporated into the new cup and its stand.

County Week costs are greater this year, but this is due to the team having to stay in a Hotel, rather than have self-catering accommodation, and Northampton being further away than Frilford Heath in Oxfordshire. That said I would congratulate Sheree, Cathy and Jo for coming well within the budget that was set for County Week. This year we had the added expenditure of buying new shirts for the team and also needed to purchase new County Colours badges. We now hold a stock of badges that will last us for some time.

Junior activity has cost us much the same as last year, but you need to be aware that we may need to expend more for Junior Coaching as the County Junior Committee are taking on coaching that was formerly carried out by BB&O. We are still working out exactly what this will mean for our budgets.

Altogether our accounts are in a healthy state with a good balance in reserve. Much of this is due to everyone not only keeping to their budgets, but coming in below budget, for which many thanks. However, when our County team makes the County Finals we would expect to spend a lot of the reserves on that.

There being no questions, the accounts were then accepted.

Proposed by: Mary Harwood (West Berks)

Seconded by: Sue Robson (Individual Member)

**(f) Regional Representative – Nicky Luff**

One of the jobs of Regional Representative is to be the voting member for Berkshire Ladies at the England Golf General Meetings. The items that were dealt with at England Golf this year included the approval of an Increase of £1 pa in affiliation fee from 2016, approval of £40K per year to the Golf Federation for 3 years to help with their work in promoting Junior Golf and approval of £150K for two years for a County Pilot Scheme for three counties to pilot new schemes to promote participation in golf. The largest item on the agendas of the past year has been the Strategic Plan entitled Raising our Game to which hundreds of individuals and organisations have contributed to the development of this strategy over the past year and it was accepted by the voting members in July then launched with the following ambitions:

- To increase the number of people who play golf at least once a week from the baseline of 750,000 in 2014 to 910,000\* by March 2017
- To reverse the decline in club membership which has been occurring annually since 2005 and stabilise club membership at the July 2014 level of 675,000 members
- To strengthen the talent development pathway from club to national level, leading to even more international success for English players
- To improve communications, governance and partnerships at all levels within England Golf

The strategy is built around the seven key themes or priorities that emerged strongly through the consultation process and which require coordinated action at club, county and national levels:

- **MORE PLAYERS:** Increasing the number of players who play golf regularly
- **MORE MEMBERS:** Increasing the number of players in club membership
- **STRONGER CLUBS:** Supporting clubs to attract and retain members and to achieve a sustainable business model
- **WINNING GOLFERS:** Identifying and developing talented golfers at every level, leading to international amateur success
- **OUTSTANDING CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Providing excellent championships and competitions for golfers of all levels
- **IMPROVED IMAGE:** Changing the perception of golf and improving communications within the sport
- **EXCELLENT GOVERNANCE:** Improving the governance, building the infrastructure and strengthening the partnerships to develop golf in England

You will no doubt be hearing much more over the next months and years and the support of all golfers is needed if golf is to grow and flourish for this and future generations.

Another part of the role is to represent Berkshire at the Midlands South Regional Meetings (MS comprises Hereford & Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Berkshire). These tend to take place when we are all together for the EG General Meetings. Discussions at these meetings cover such things as the regional competitions that are held. This year Berkshire hosted a successful Australian Spoons competition here at Reading GC. Other regional competitions in 2014 were:

County Week – hosted by Northamptonshire

4BBB – hosted by Warwickshire played at Copt Heath

Ladies' Championship – organised by Worcestershire at Redditch Golf Club (CANCELLED)

Girls Championship – hosted by Buckingham at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club

Oxfordshire had the year off as they hosted County Week in 2013.

2015

County Week – Harborne GC Warwicks

4BBB – Berkshire date & venue to be fixed shortly and circulated  
Australian Spoons – Worcester & Hereford  
Ladies Champs to be combined with Girls and hosted by Oxfordshire

2016

County Week – Berkshire at Temple

The third part of the role is to liaise with the County Delegates in the clubs. The delegate's meetings are the opportunities for the delegates to raise issues of concern within their ladies' section. Three meetings have taken place this year with the minutes on the website. Thanks go to Temple and Hennerton for hosting these meetings. I would also like to thank all the delegates for their hard work in disseminating information from England Golf and the County and their contributions in also sending information the other way. It is much appreciated.

**(g) Seniors Captain – Gail Moy**

The Berkshire Seniors team has had a successful year in the round robin matches played annually against four of our neighbouring counties. Having won 3 of our matches and lost only one, we were the overall winners of the league. In addition to the league matches, three friendly matches were played. Two were halved and one was lost. Our cause was helped by the newly qualified senior faces we were able to welcome to the team, who blended in well with the "same old faces" who have served us well in recent years. All those taking part are mentioned individually in my match reports on the county web site.

From all the players who took part in the Senior's League matches, we were able to select a Berkshire Team to play in the Inter-county Stroke Play event played in September, at Littlestone in Kent. This event clashed with the Seniors Home Internationals mentioned later. Ten south east counties entered teams, and we were bested only by the host county, who may have had a little home advantage on a links course which proved challenging to say the least, with a marked change in both the wind direction and the temperature from the practice round played on the previous day. Well done to Tracy Crew, Linda Hunt, Sheree Dove-Wilde and Airlie Dyson. Tracy deserves particular mention for managing to cut her handicap to 2.5 on the day, despite the difficult conditions.

Our Seniors Champion for 2014 is Tracy Crew, who got her revenge on Linda, the 2013 champion. Katherine Irving is the Nett champion.

Laura Webb has had a successful year. She played in the Irish Seniors Closed Stroke Play event, and qualified in the top 16 who then played knock out matches to find the champion. Laura won all four of her knock out matches to become the Irish Seniors Closed Champion. She is the first Irish golfer ever to have become champion at all three categories of junior girls (1980), ladies (1989 and 1994) and senior events, which is quite remarkable. As Champion, Laura led Ireland out in the Senior's Home Internationals and won all 3 singles matches and 1 out of the 2 foursomes matches she played. For the record, England won the event and Ireland came a close second. She also represented Ireland in a team of six at the European Senior Ladies Team Championship at Salzburg, Austria, where Ireland finished third in the Final Order of Merit out of 17 competing countries, behind only England and France. Well done, Laura.

Linda also has had a good year. She is our County Champion, and won numerous other county awards. Subsequently, she posted her best round ever whilst playing at Newbury and Crookham in the new "Team of 3" event introduced by our county committee this year. She shot a gross 67. She entered the England Seniors Golf Championships at Sandy Lodge, and qualified 8<sup>th</sup>. She was beaten in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the match play event by Julie Brown, the eventual winner of the event.

Dates for all the 2015 Senior's Inter-county League and friendly matches have been organised and are on the web site. Roll on 2015, and more great golf from the Berkshire Senior ladies.

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

Thanks to the following clubs who have helped with Junior Golf in 2014:

- Winter Hill @ The Oratory School & Lambrook School, Cavisham Heath @ Billingbear, Reading, Mappedurham and Blue Mountain @ Lavander Park for their support at the six Fun Competitions run by Sarla Read during May to August
- Anthea Winn and Royal Ascot GC for hosting the Junior Championships in July, won by Zoe Collins who set a new course record with a score of 71.
- Blue Mountain and Annie Pack for the coaching programme that has been running so successfully for three years
- Winter Hill and Pera Marrs for their meeting room and Pera's energy in putting together the very successful Berkshire Girls Golf coaching programme year after year. At the end of November it was significant the number of girls who had acquired their CONGU handicaps and who will be representing Berkshire in 2015 in the league matches. Thanks to the BGG coaching programme. One thing we do know is playing matches and learning match play skills are vital for young players to progress. 2015 will focus on matches partnering junior and experienced adults to play against each other, rules acquisition and speed of play. Foursomes or greensomes competitions or knockouts at club level can be great fun if a junior partner you can find!

- East Berkshire members for their regular coaching support at Sand Martins GC from March through to September, we hear it has been fun
- Hennerton GC for hosting the Autumn Cup for the fourth year and the end of year Texas Scramble for the first time in November which was a massive event 40 players took part. Junior Captain Nathalie Warke was announced and Katie Hayes the new Vice Captain wasn't because I forgot but she has forgiven me.
- Junior Colours were presented to Nathalie, Becky Webb and Sam Collier for points accumulated in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> team matches and playing at County week in Northamptonshire alongside Julia Warke and Zoe Collins who both have their colours for winning the Junior Championships in 2013/4 respectively.
- Parents who transport the players all over the South so their daughters can play for Berkshire. We travelled to Warwickshire to play in the handicap final of the Midland South Region which Berkshire won for the third year in a row. Holly and Freya Burns from Mill Ride were awarded their playing colours, winning their matches at this event clinched their points total at the end of a great competitive year for the sisters.
- Teresa Taylor, Sheree Dove-Wilde, Jo Russ and Cathy Jones for all the support they have shown to the junior players by attending Junior committee meetings, competitions, persisting in selecting juniors for matches
- Nicky Luff for all her efforts with the Newsletter and updating the webpage.

#### **Competition & Matches**

The Alresford Cup held in October, Berkshire finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> position. Annie Grillo (East Berkshire) was a top score player in this 9 County annual event the second year running this has been won by a Berkshire player, we will win the event one day. Sussex were the winners, with 60 clubs to choose junior players from it makes them nearly twice as large as Berkshire.

Matches against the BB&O boys at GX are fun, challenging and very enjoyable if we win or even halve which happened this year. Hendon GC hosted the Bucks/Berks fixture against Herts and Middlesex we lost this year by a whisker.

#### **Players**

Becky Webb who has captained the teams brilliantly this year and she is now playing off single figures after winning the G&S open in June.

Isabella Holmes (Stoke Park & Sunningdale Ladies) won the Sheila Fitzgerald Handicap Reduction Cup for a reduction from 17 to 6 this year. Izzy is 13 and is in the U16 Thames Valley England Regional Training programme with Julia Warke. (Stoke Park & Bearwood Lakes) Julia was runner up in the National Abraham Trophy in July. Nathalie Warke (SP & BL) is in the U18 ASSE Regional England Programme. Zoe Collins continues with her scholarship at the IMG academy in Florida, returning in June to participate in as many events for Berkshire and all the National competitions she can fit in!

Junior players who hold single figure handicaps total 6 with four "almosts.". Juniors are taking part in Div 1 competition, playing matches for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> teams and are part of the scratch league.

Berkshire has another generation of players emerging who enjoy and have fun playing the game. Who knows whether they will reach County and National level golfing status, your junior committee thoroughly enjoy the time spent with the girls, there are spaces to join us. We need club members to help with matchplay practice (adult + junior v adult + junior) speak to us if you think you could ruffle up four competitive friends to have a go. Thank you all.

#### **(i) County Handicap Adviser – Maureen Harman**

There were a few minor changes to the Handicapping System in 2014. Handicaps are now referred to as competition and non-competition and the letter "c" follows the handicap number to indicate that the handicap is competition. The handicap year now runs from the 1st of March to the end of February and three Qualifying Scores must be returned in that period in order to maintain a competition handicap. Supplementary Scores for Category 1 Players are not allowed except in very specific circumstances.

Bearwood Golf Club closed in March of this year and for the past year, Hurst Golf Club have been playing their Qualifying Competitions at Billingbear but unfortunately they too closed last week. I would like to clarify the procedure for handicaps when a player changes club or has a gap in affiliation to a club. One of the stipulations of holding a CONGU handicap is that a player must be a member of an Affiliated Club, so once membership ceases the handicap is lost immediately. Before leaving a club, players should retain a copy of their playing record and handicap certificate with CDH number. If the handicap of a player is to be restored within six months of the date on which her handicap was lost, it must be reinstated at the same handicap the player last held. If it is to be restored within 6 to 12 months, then three cards must be submitted. You must make a full disclosure of your previous handicap and playing record to the Handicap Committee and this should be taken into consideration before issuing a new handicap.

I have received enquiries from handicap secretaries and individuals through the year and I hope I have been able to give you some guidance. In the summer, Christine Bishop from Buckinghamshire, was appointed as Regional Handicap Advisor for six counties and her role is to lend support to County Handicap Advisors. The process for handicap enquiries is Club/County/Region/National in that order.

England Golf are developing an on line enquiry system for individual golfers, in addition to the facility for clubs and counties through the CDH. England Golf will hold a Handicap Advisors meeting early in the New Year and there will also be some regional sessions in the autumn in preparation for the new CONGU book due out in 2016.

An England Golf survey on handicapping and participation in competition has recently been sent to all affiliated clubs and club handicap secretaries in order to help shape the direction of the handicapping system. They would like as much feedback as possible and the survey is also open to individual golfers, so if there are areas that you have concerns about, or would like to be reviewed or changed please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Please remind your fellow golfers to do the same. If you have not personally received it, please download it from the England Golf website. The deadline for this is November 21st.

**(j) Joint Competition Secretaries and Presentation of Trophies – Sue Robson and Ann Smillie**

All our competitions this year have been well supported with 325 players and 25 clubs taking part in the Duncan Trophy and the Interclub Shield.

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 Sheree Dove-Wilde, our Captain and Teresa Taylor, 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 too Nicky Luff for posting photos and results on the web site.

Two players in the County have had outstanding successes. Linda Hunt became County Champion for the first time and won the EDNA SIMMONS TROPHY for the lowest gross score at the Autumn Meeting; the JOYCE CAVE CUP for the lowest aggregate score at the Spring and Autumn Meetings and shared the HELEN BROWN SAUCE BOAT with Jules Tarr of Castle Royle GC for the lowest aggregate net scores at the Spring and Autumn Meetings.

Djura Macrae Stoelwinder from Calcot Park has had another successful year winning the Gold Medal at the Spring Meeting and the 36 hole Tegner Trophy prior to the County Championships at Goring & Streatley.

DUNCAN TROPHY this is the club knock out competition. All matches were very closely contested with the final at Mill Ride GC where East Beks GC beat Temple GC. We should like to thank Mill Ride for hosting this final.

ANN BRYANT K/O FINAL this is a knock out competition for the 16 Bronze qualifiers from the Spring Meeting and was won by Jane Weller (Caversham Heath) who was presented with the trophy by Teresa Taylor. Mary Platt of Bradfield College was the runner up.

INTER CLUB SHIELD winners were Hurst Ladies with Chris Smith of Hurst getting the highest individual score.

PRESIDENTS SALVERS won by Moira Dixon & Emily Shaw (Castle Royle)

TOURNAMENT CUP and CORONATION SILVER MEDAL for the lowest net score at the Autumn Meeting won by Pauline Valsler (Sonning).

MILLENIUM COMPETITION won by Deidra Cuthbert (Bradfield College), Carole Ford (Calcot Park) and Val Watson (Newbury & Crookham).

HANDICAP REDUCTION CUP Marion Armson (Hennerton) with a 7.6 handicap reduction.

BATTISCOMBE BIRDIES won by Djura Macrae Stoelwinder who was presented with the trophy by Teresa Taylor.

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

WINTER MATCH PLAY FINAL won by Margaret Berriman (Goring & Streatley) runner up Gillian Godson (Reading).

THE TEAM COMPETITION is a new competition for teams of three players, one player with H'cap up to 20, one player H'cap 21-28 and one player H'cap 29-36. The winners were Lynne Rumbold, Kathy North and Sue Matheson all from Caversham Heath GC.

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

For those who have not been to an AGM before, let me just give you a brief explanation of the County Golf Partnership. It concerns all of us because it uses quite a lot of *our* money.

Each year the government (through the National Lottery Fund) gives sports varying amounts of money. When grants were first made the 'government' of golf fell to EWGA, the EGU and the PGA. For most other sports such as Football, Tennis, Cricket etc., there was just one governing body covering men, women, professional and amateur. The govt couldn't really get its head around golf's complex nature so a Partnership was set up combining our three august bodies in order to receive the government cash. In turn, each county wishing for a share of the Sport England funding had to set up its own County Golf Partnership – involving Men, Women and the local PGA. Our picture here is slightly complicated in Berkshire because we have our three women's associations, whilst the men just have BB&O. The Golf Foundation also sends along a representative. Like other CGPs we (that's our Association using our money) and the other Women and the BB&O also put in as much money as we receive from outside.

So what happens to the money? A little of the govt share goes towards elite sport - but not a lot - the rest is for delivering certain government aims and those are to get us doing 30 mins activity a week. (Research has shown that we live longer, healthier lives if we do just 30 mins activity a week.) The govt also targets certain groups: 14+, 26+ and people with special needs. Golf gets just over £3m a year to deliver this aspiration.

Unfortunately, golf doesn't lend itself easily to 30 mins of activity a week. The trouble is a 3-hour round once a fortnight just doesn't cut it! Every quarter a polling organisation undertakes a telephone survey asking householders what activities they've undertaken. These are probably the telephone pollsters you put the receiver down on ... thinking it's someone trying to sell you PPI recovery or a new kitchen. In future wait to find out before you hang up! And remember, you have done 30 mins of golf activity in the week!

As you can tell by the plaintive way I describe this, Golf has not been cutting the mustard. We have been down on our targets every quarter so much so that England Golf has just been docked £250,000.

As a positive, something that England Golf has taken on board is that people who are members of golf clubs are far more likely to undertake *regular* golf activity than those who are not. So much future work of the CGP will be focused on getting people into membership.

Now, what of our very own CGP? This year we have had a revolving cast of personnel. A new assistant county development officer joined at the beginning of the year after a 3 month hiatus. And now our development officer has left – once again leaving the Partnership short-staffed. On the volunteer front, too, things are changing. After 7 years as Chairman, John Low stepped down in March, as did Mervyn Foulds, the treasurer. Ashley Rump, an England Golf employee and our Regional Development Officer, chaired the CGP temporarily and this has given us the opportunity to structure the CGP more effectively and to focus on the outcomes we are supposed to be delivering. At last we have a new permanent chairman, Alistair Booth, who is a thoroughly good bloke endowed with a good business brain. I believe he will be able to knock the CGP into shape.

Peter York – the Union's employed secretary, will take over as treasurer. Again, this is a 'good thing' as he will have the BB&O office to assist him. To add to the feel-good feeling, we have a new Golf Foundation officer and PGA representative - both of whom turn up and contribute to the meetings. So it looks as though we are moving forward positively - but we do have some baggage. Because we missed our targets last year we have lost £4k of funding from EG. I can't say this was helpful when it looked as though we were beginning to make progress. We have also lost £5k of sponsorship from Invesco and to date have not found a replacement sponsor. The County Academy Programme continues to be a drain but is a positive experience for our Juniors. To expand on the positive note, Phillippa Cook (Bucks) is investigating how we can improve on the Academy Programme finances without diluting the offering whilst at the same time meeting the requirements of Talent Development. Jane Carter (Oxon) is heading up a subcommittee exploring marketing and sponsorship opportunities.

I have a meeting towards the end of November with Alistair and Peter to look again at the budget and our finances for the current financial year. I know there is no magic wand to be waved but a decent set of management accounts could be a good starting point.

Our 26+ offering is being beefed up. No longer will you see someone from the CGP hanging around a shopping centre with a blow-up net hoping to attract people to the game. Rather, Get into Golf centres are being required to offer structured programmes with follow-on opportunities if they are to receive funding. Currently within the 3 counties there are 21 centres.

The CGP is enthusiastic to work with clubs that want to explore new ways of getting more people to play golf more often. So if you look at your dwindling numbers of club members at least consider how the work of the CGP ... and your money ... could be working to improve this picture. If your club would like to work with the CGP, we'd love to hear from you.

In summary, tomorrow should be better than today which is better than yesterday!

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

Most of my time this year has been spent answering queries and sorting out Hurst Golf Club. It has been a long battle to keep a SSS for the ladies so that they could maintain their CONGU handicaps, every time the Council shortened the course we had to apply to England Golf for a new SS. Then there were problems with the rule of 'irons only' from the tee on a short hole. More meetings, emails, negotiations! The Course Superintendent did a marvellous job digging up the two greens that had been closed and redesigning the holes and re-laying the greens. Yet again a new SS had to be applied for and it has now after all that effort and hard work sadly, the Course is closed and the ladies have to find a new club.

England Golf are pushing ahead with the USGA rating of multiple tees for men and women. Clubs will be asked which tees they would like to have rated- white, yellow and possibly red for the men and red and possibly yellow for the women. I believe Surrey has rated 10 courses but have only done the conventional tees except where the club wanted some blue tees to be done for the senior men. Bucks have done 4 courses and included red for the men and yellow for the women. EG are making every effort to get this new rating done. They have held further seminars for new raters and for those who had previously done the EGU system (men). Regional Team Leaders have been appointed and a priority list of all courses drawn up. I have even had an email from our Regional Team

leader asking about our progress. Sadly I have had to reply that Berkshire's progress is somewhere between slow and no go! I have downloaded all the paper work and looked at the priority list of clubs in Berkshire but we have not actually been on a course to do any rating. The problem has been getting a team together. "our man" has had health problems and then was not available until October this year hence we have missed the target of completing 10% of our courses.

Next year should see an improvement.

**5. Presentation of Trophies**

See 4(j),

**6. 2015 Officials**

		<u>Proposed By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
<u>Rule 7b</u>			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Team Captain	Nikki Ochtman	Cathy Jones	Teresa Taylor
<u>Rule 7d</u>			
Joint Competition Secretary	Carol Taylor	Ann Smillie	Sue Robson
<u>Rule 7d</u>			
Honorary Secretary	Irene Gregory	Nicky Luff	Mary Harwood
<u>Rule 7e</u>			
Regional Representative	Jill Dean	Nicky Luff	Sheree Dove-Wilde
<u>Rule 7c</u>			
Honorary Treasurer (re-election)	Mary Harwood	Nicky Luff	Teresa Taylor

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

**7. Any Other Business**

None

**8. Vote of Thanks.**

Anthea Winn (Royal Ascot) 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 11:50 pm.**