

# Berkshire County Ladies' Golf Association



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Temple Golf Club on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Present:	Mrs Teresa Taylor	President in the Chair
	Mrs Sheree Dove-Wilde	County Captain
	Mrs Jill Dean	Voting Member
	Mrs Mary Harwood	Treasurer
	Miss Irene Gregory	Hon Secretary
	Plus 74 Members	

Teresa Taylor opened the meeting with a minute's silence in memory of the fallen.

**1. Apologies** – 66 plus members. See attached list.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Read and approved.

Proposed by: Anthea Winn (Royal Ascot)

Seconded by: Ann Smillie (Goring & Streatley)

**3. Matters Arising**

No matters were arising.

**4. To receive reports from:**

**a) Captain – Sheree Dove-Wilde (Farewell speech)**

Good evening all

Obviously, it was a great honour to be asked to stand as Berkshire County Captain for the last two years. I was born in Windsor and learnt my golf at Windsor Castle GC. I therefore considered it a great honour to have a hand in Berkshire County Golf.

During my two years, I saw two superb County Champions in Linda Hunt in 2014 and Laura Webb this year.

I also have overseen two County weeks, one at Northampton, which I reported on last year and my second at Harborne Golf Club, Birmingham. The whole of the team played well and we were only one match away, here and there, from a win on the day. Everyone performed well and they all did a great job.

I also achieved a personal objective with the help of Jo and Nikki to include more juniors and new ladies into County golf for both 1st and 2nd teams. I felt this was a great success, introducing the younger ones to mix into the extremely competitive golf of county week. They are Rebecca Webb from East Berks, Julia & Natalie Warke from Stoke Park, Izzy Holmes from

Sunningdale Ladies, Zoe Collins from Castle Royle, Lizzie Swallow from Newbury & Crookham and Sam Collier from Sandmartins, who played last year.

However, I cannot forget the backbone of the team and what we always refer to, as the old regulars. They are: Laura Webb from East Berks, Tracy Crew from Reading, Linda Hunt from Newbury & Crookham, Djura Macrae Stoelwinder from Calcot Park and Maureen Harman from Sand Martins (when she's able to).

Also, we had two new ladies in the team this year that performed really well and really built on our team spirit, which is one of the envy points of our Berkshire Team? They were: Catherine Irvine from Castle Royle and Jane Sly from Mill Ride. Well done to all.

And finally, the County Dinner, for those of you who weren't there, we had a golfing personality which was Mickey Walker. She appeared to go down well with everyone with her very funny golf stories?

We used the opportunity to raise a little bit of money for the juniors, which Pauline Cameron and her team do an admiral job, and of course a little bit goes towards those less fortunate than us who are looked after by the MacMillan nurses.

The County Week is a home fixture next year at Temple Golf Club, which hopefully we can all enjoy and support.

Thank you for listening and I wish the next Captain, Cathy Jones, the very best of luck.

Lastly, a big thank you to Goring & Streatley golf club for all their support over the last 2 years. *TT thanked SDW for her support and contribution during her Term of Office. Sheree has been instrumental in bringing on the juniors and integrating them into the County. Also, the County Dinner was a success and well supported. TT then presented a parting gift to SDW on behalf of the Exec Committee and lady members.*

**b) 2nd Team Captain – Nikki Ochtman**

This is my first year as 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captain and it's been a great pleasure getting to know the players – both the regulars and the newcomers. I also got to attend County Match Week for the first time which was a real privilege, and I'd like to congratulate our County first team on their performance as well as Captain Sheree Dove-Wilde, Training Officer, Jo Russ, and Junior Organiser, Pauline Cameron for all their hard work.

This year the 2<sup>nd</sup> team started the season by hosting a friendly match against Hampshire at Calcot Park in March – my first opportunity to watch some of the ladies in action. Half of our players were making their 2<sup>nd</sup> team debut: Donna Hunt from East Berks, Jane Brackenbury from West Berks and Katherine Jarvie from Sonning – who, unfortunately for us, has since relocated to Houston. Anyway, we were delighted to come away with a narrow victory on our first outing. Next came a match against Surrey at beautiful Bramley, a singles-only joint fixture with the 1st team, which saw another County debut from Tracey Dawe of Calcot Park. The Berkshire ladies did their best but, as usual, Surrey were tough opposition. Luckily Djura Macrae Stoelwinder from Calcot Park saved us from a whitewash.

Sadly, both Middlesex and Wiltshire ended up pulling out of our friendly matches at late notice as they couldn't get a team together. I hope these fixtures will be restored for next year.

Losing the Middlesex fixture in May actually presented a new opportunity: Berkshire were due to host this at Temple, and since Sheree and I were both ready for this match with 8 players each, we decided to still give everyone a game and play 1<sup>st</sup> team v 2<sup>nd</sup> team Betterball with

shots. This was a rare opportunity for a significant number of players from both teams to play with each other and it was a very enjoyable day – especially as the 2<sup>nd</sup> team won! Admittedly, when we repeated the exercise last month, the 1<sup>st</sup> team duly got their revenge.

These practice matches against the 1<sup>st</sup> team gave us a chance to play another rookie, Danielle McGeoghegan from Mapledurham, who shows great promise, so I hope she'll be able to play some matches for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team next year.

Now for the highlight of 2015: the Midlands South 2<sup>nd</sup> Team League. This comprised a highly competitive subdivision match day against our nearest neighbours Bucks and Oxfordshire, which was held at the Lambourne Golf Club at the end of May. I was very happy that we had a junior available to join us: Izzy Holmes from Sunningdale Ladies, who was able to get some Matchplay practice in with us in preparation for County Match Week.

Berkshire were in the lead by lunchtime, and I was very proud to see how strongly this motivated our players to really step on the gas in the afternoon. We emerged clear winners of our subdivision for the second year running.

Last year the 2<sup>nd</sup> team sadly lost to Warwickshire in the final. This year our opponents were Northamptonshire, whom we played at Newbury & Crookham in July. Despite scheduling this during the school holidays we had player availability problems, and I am very grateful to the seniors who came to our rescue. I'm delighted to report that Berkshire won the Midlands South 2<sup>nd</sup> Team League this year: let me show off the plate presented to me at our league AGM a few weeks ago.

Well done to all those who played in the league. Those who played in the final were Becky Webb and Gabi Heuchel from East Berks, Anne Smith from Caversham Heath, Jane Sly from Mill Ride, Katherine Irving from Castle Royle, Airlie Dyson from Newbury & Crookham and Pat Bennett from Reading.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Team league has been running under the current format for two years now. If a County gets no further than their subdivision match, they only have one day of competitive Matchplay to offer their ladies other than friendly fixtures, and at our recent AGM several counties expressed dissatisfaction about this. Under the previous format each county had played separate matches against each other, but the new system was created to reduce travel and the number of fixtures to arrange. Following discussion at the league AGM, it has been agreed that from next year we will maintain the current split between the three northern and three southern counties within Midlands South but play separate matches against each of our two opponents to determine who goes through to the final.

We had a late invitation from Bucks to fit in an extra friendly match back at the Lambourne in September. After losing the league they made sure of beating us this time! It was great to see another very talented junior in action for this fixture: Sam Collier, who duly won her match as did fellow Sand Martins member, Liz Freeman.

The last event for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team this year was a short game coaching session arranged last month by County Training Officer, Jo Russ, for selected promising players with Gareth Johnston at Calcot Park. It's great that the County has extended training once again to the 2<sup>nd</sup> team, and I look forward to working on this with the new County Training Officer for next year.

I'll end with an appeal: if we don't know about potential new talent within Berkshire clubs, they could miss the opportunity to get involved in playing for the county, so please could you all

think about any new names to put forward from your clubs for next year. I'd be happy to add to my email list any keen players with handicaps in the low teens and below – especially those under 50, as ladies aged 50 and over have the opportunity to play for the seniors.

I'd like to thank other members of the BCLGA Executive for making this rookie so welcome; it's been a pleasure working with you all. I wish those completing their terms of office all the best for the future and look forward to another great year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team in 2016.

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

This year we had 14 players take up the challenge of the Winter Scratch League. They played in two groups, and this gave some of our newer recruits invaluable match practice against low single handicap players. Jane Sly ruffled a few feathers, as did our new junior Izzy Holmes. Djura Stoelwinder and Linda Hunt vied for top spot in Box 1, with Linda finishing 1<sup>st</sup> on holes up, and Tracy Crew finished 1<sup>st</sup> in Box 2, with Pat Bennett 2<sup>nd</sup>. Linda won her semi, but Djura beat Tracy, to set up a re-match with Linda for the final. This time, in a final played by courtesy of Goring & Streetley, Linda won 3 & 2.

Our early season 'Get Together' was held courtesy of Sunningdale Ladies, at the end of February, and was this year played in acceptable weather. Twenty Three players attended from a variety of clubs, with several new participants. A couple of these went on to do well at the Championships, with two subsequently playing in the County Match Week squad, and several playing for the second team. Canvassing and recruitment has been positive this year.

Squad training games enjoyed better weather this year also. The first match was held with Newbury & Crookham men on 15<sup>th</sup> February. Players played a 9 hole singles match, followed by 9 holes of Foursomes. Eight players took part, winning 4 singles and halving 1, and halving all the Foursomes games.

Eight players took on Reading men on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and again we had 5 singles wins and 1 ½ in the Foursomes.

Our third match was against Calcot Park with 10 players. This time the squad recorded 2 ½ singles wins to 7 ½ and only 1 Foursomes win.

Our last practice match was with Sand Martins men on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Here we played Foursomes over 18 holes in the morning and a full 18 hole singles in the afternoon. We fielded 10 players, winning 2 singles games to 3, and 2 ½ games to 7 ½ in the Foursomes.

Our thanks go to all of the above clubs for their courtesy and to their men for providing 'opposition', as part of our preparation.

Following the Championships, the squad was selected, and this included 4 juniors and 2 other 'new' players to the squad.

In an effort to spread the use of 'coaches' in the County, this year we have used Gareth Johnston at Calcot Park for our squad training. This has proved popular and successful with many of the players.

Eight players earmarked for CMW attended the first session on 26<sup>th</sup> April concentrating on the long game, and most of these did the follow-up session on Short Game, Bunkers and Putting on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Harborne offered us practice rounds, but it proved very difficult to get players together there for joint practice, prior to County week. Also, it was an impossibility to find dates when juniors

could attend a practice, as they have so many commitments already to other training groups, and sponsors, as well as school work.

Despite this, our 12 man squad of 'Wilde Things' performed well. Laura Webb, Tracy Crew and Djura Stoelwinder recorded 3 singles wins, and juniors Julia Warke, Izzy Holmes, and Becky Webb all recorded wins in the Foursomes.

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Team successes, it was decided to book training with Gareth for some of the newer 2<sup>nd</sup> team and possible squad players for next season. This took place in October, and the vibes from both coach and players were very promising.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their help and assistance over the past 5 years. My congratulations go to Sheree for the time and effort she has put in over the past two years, and the way she has nurtured our juniors, and brought new players into the fold. Eight clubs were represented in the squad at CMW, and 6 more clubs have players involved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> team or training. This year, this has truly been a 'County Team'.

I have enjoyed my time in post and it has been a pleasure to work with a group of such enthusiastic players, bent on improving and giving their best!

*TT thanks JR for her contribution and hard work during her Term of Office. JR has supported three Captains very ably. She has done an excellent job in bringing on other players, organising the winter leagues, the practice matches and also providing support during County Match week helping to find suitable accommodation and eating establishments. TT presented parting gift to JR on behalf of the Exec Committee and lady members.*

**d) Hon. Secretary – Irene Gregory**

I can't believe that the first year of my term of office is upon. It has been a very interesting year, and one that has kept me extremely busy. I will add that I am enjoying it.

There are various meetings to organise and during 2015 we've held our County Delegates meetings at Temple Golf Club in February, Donnington Grove in May and Hennerton in July. Unfortunately, the meeting we had scheduled for October at Royal Ascot had to be postponed due to a clash with another event. We did try to reschedule but it was very difficult to get the key personnel together due to other commitments.

I would like to express my thanks to all the County Delegates for their help and support during the year. Their continued hard work in disseminating information to their Club members and providing feed-back from their clubs to us is very much appreciated. I would particularly like to thank Temple Golf Club, Donnington Grove and Hennerton for allowing us to host our meetings and for their support throughout 2015.

Our Executive meetings are held once a quarter and this year have been held at Reading Golf Club and Royal Ascot Golf Club. Again I would like to express thanks, on behalf of the BCLGA Committee, to Reading and Royal Ascot their support and generosity in allowing us to use their facilities.

Many of you will have heard me mention over the previous months that the BCLGA website is currently being redesigned. A sub-committee has been created to consist of Nicky Luff, Nikki Ochtman, Issy Wiggins and myself. We're trying to create a more user-friendly design, provide the right kind of information for any newcomers to golf, by introducing them to the BCLGA, and ensure we also meet the requirements of the more experienced and advanced golfers.

The calendar is one area we are particularly focussing on. We are trying to incorporate as much information as possible in one place on the various events that are scheduled throughout the year, such as competitions, meetings etc. etc. We are working to having this go “live” in mid January. We will still be open to receive any feedback or suggestions.

Lastly but not least, I would like to extend a big Thank you to Temple Golf Club for allowing us to host the AGM, and to their staff for their support this evening.

**e) Regional Representative – Jill Dean**

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, and 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 Golf Club. Other regional competitions were:

2014

- 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 Golf Club, 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 delegates' 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.

**f) Seniors Captain – Gail Moy**

Berkshire has won the Seniors' Inter County Match Play League. The players selected for the 4 matches were

- Linda Hunt and Airlie Dyson from Newbury & Crookham
- Tracy Crew and Pat Bennett (Reading)
- Gabi Heuchel (East Berkshire)
- Sheree Dove-Wilde and Margaret Berriman (Goring & Streatley)
- Chris Green (Calcot Park)
- Jane Sly (Mill Ride)
- Katherine Irving and myself (Castle Royle)

My thanks are due to these ladies and those who made themselves available as reserves.

This league has been running since 1999, and Berkshire were winners on two occasions in the first 10 years, which could be regarded as our "fair share" of success I suppose. However, since then, we have won the league 5 times out of the last 6 years. This success is due to the influx of county first team players to the senior ranks in the last few years. The standard of golf has improved enormously of late in all the competing Counties, which makes this year's win even more special.

Our thanks go to Calcot Park, Castle Royle and The Berkshire who hosted our home matches this year. We are always grateful to the Clubs that continue to support our county events. The Berkshire has been especially generous to us over the past years.

We played two friendly matches. For these, our teams are selected mostly from those who weren't chosen for the League matches. Sussex beat us 3-1, and we beat Surrey 3-1. In September, we entered a team of four into the South East Seniors' Inter County event at Brokenhurst. Our team came 7<sup>th</sup> out of the 10. The winners were Sussex. Our County Senior Champion is Fiona Horrocks from Royal Ascot, and Nicola Clarke from Castle Royle won the Net.

Senior golfers love to travel and this year was no exception. Berkshire players entered competitions in England, Ireland, Wales, Germany, Denmark, and Holland. Sheree came eighth in the Welsh Open, and Gabi came eighth in the Dutch Open.

At home, seven of our ladies were amongst the 86 entrants for the English Championship at Woodhall Spa, where Linda, Airlie and Gabi qualified for the 2<sup>nd</sup> flight knock out phase of the competition, none of whom made the final.

Linda and Gabi made the cut in the English Senior Stroke Play Championship at Broadstone, but were not placed. Linda came second in the Midlands South Regional Medal Final at Wellingborough.

Linda and Jo Russ won the Midlands South 4 ball better ball competition, held at N&C with a gross 71, and with a net 66, they also won the net prize.

At her home club, Linda's gross 67 in the Club Championship equalled the course record. This year she cut her handicap to her all time low of 1.6.

However, the cream of the crop was Laura Webb (EB), who has been too busy this year to play senior golf for Berkshire.

In the British Ladies' Senior Open Championship at Prestatyn, Laura came 5<sup>th</sup> overall and won the 50 to 54 age group prize. This group are fondly known as the babies.

Representing Ireland in the European Ladies' Team Championships, played in Lithuania, she shot the lowest aggregate score in the stroke play phase. This is a fine result as 15 countries competed.

She also played in the Seniors' Home Internationals, and emerged as the 'Most Valuable Player' in the Tournament, with 6 out of 6 wins in singles matches and 3 out of 3 in the foursomes. 4/3 was her "Worst" winning margin. "Well done, Laura."

Finally, a big thank you goes to all the players who have supported the County and me over the past two years. It has been fun. I now tender my resignation and hand over to Linda Hunt from Newbury & Crookham to continue the great success of the Berkshire Old Bats Team.

*TT congratulated GM for a very successful year and thanked her for efforts and hard work during her Term of Office. TT presented a parting gift to GM from the Exec Committee and lady members.*

**g) County Junior Organiser – Pauline Carmeron (read by Jo Russ)**

We started and ended the season in fine style by winning two out of the three 2015 team events the junior girls entered.

The BB&O Shield at Sunningdale Ladies in March and the Hertfordshire/Middlesex tri match in October at Porters Park, Herts.

Two Berkshire players, Catherine Sturrock from (Temple) and Margaux Gathy of (Sunningdale Ladies) contributed the highest individual points scored 44 and 40 points respectively which produced 24 points lead from our nearest rival Bucks.

At Porters Park, four of the original six SL team were in action again, same format six players four scores to count. - Catherine's scores counted on both occasions. However the Alresford Cup still eludes us, we came 3<sup>rd</sup> for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in six years!

Nathalie Warke finished her year as the Junior County Captain by driving herself to the Autumn Cup at Hennerton in October! A far cry from the first time I met her at her first competition in 2010 at a small pay and play course north of Reading. She has led from the front, playing in all the matches from March through to November, including County Week in June. My thanks go to her for all her hard work and dedication to Berkshire Juniors over the last five years. The incoming Captain will be Katie Hayes (Henley) with Vice Captain Julia Warke of (Bearwood Lakes/Stoke Park)

**2015 Trophy winners this year are:**

- Junior County Champion Julia Warke
- Handicap Plate Freya Burns (Mill Ride) Anastasia Grillo (East Berkshire)
- The Sheila Fitzgerald Handicap Reduction Cup (33 to 23)
- Autumn Cup Felicity Deaney (Hennerton)
- Felicity Deaney and Catherine Sturrock were awarded their County Playing Colours
- (County matches won with Handicap allowance) Coaching credits were awarded to Nathalie & Julia Warke, Izzy Holmes, Sam Collier (Sand Martins) and Jessica Li (Calcot Park).

Junior players who hold single figure handicaps currently total 4 with 2 at 10.

Juniors taking part in Div 1, 2 and 3 competitions when school holidays allow. Izzy Holmes (SL & SP) Julia, Nathalie & Sam who have also played 2nd 1<sup>st</sup> teams matches when possible.

Balancing academic work with their England golf commitments requires quite a bit of juggling. Berkshire has another generation of players emerging who enjoy and have fun playing the game. This is in no small part due to the coaching programme organised and managed by Pera Marrs (Winter Hill), with support from Annie Pack (Bearwood Lakes) and Sarla Read (Caversham Heath)

There are three levels to the coaching programme which make up the Berkshire Pathway. Coaching runs for 12 weeks throughout the year at four centres, Sand Martins, Calcot, Mill Ride and Bird Hills. The coaching structure was used as part of a joint grant submission by the BB&O and Ladies Associations, to England Golf, which I am pleased to tell you, was granted for 2016.

Berkshire Girls Golf also hold seven fun competitions organised and managed by Sarla where players with no handicaps can put into practice all they are taught as well as win prizes!

Thanks go to all the Clubs who supported players by walking and marking scores during these events. This is where it all starts.

Who knows whether they will reach County and National level golfing status but your junior committee thoroughly enjoy the time spent with the girls and we welcome all newcomers with open arms.

Thanks to the following Clubs who have helped with Junior Golf in 2015:

Their support at the seven Fun Competitions run by Sarla Read during May to August

- Mapledurham Golf Club for hosting the Junior Championships in July.
- Temple and Mapledurham for running a Foursomes/Greensomes afternoon for high handicap junior players, more of this in 2016. Any volunteers, please?

- East Berkshire for hosting two County matches.
- Hennerton Golf Club for hosting the Autumn Cup for the fourth year and the end of year Texas Scramble in November, which saw 52 adults and juniors taking part. Also, a monthly roll up for our girls to get together and play socially
- Winter Hill for hosting a BB&O girls Stableford Competition in August.

Parents transport the players all over the south so their daughters can play for Berkshire against other counties. In 2015 we travelled to Bicester, Birmingham, Potters Bar, Alresford and Buckingham to name a few.

The support that the juniors and the junior committee have from the Berkshire Executive is fantastic. Teresa Taylor has attended all our committee meetings, started most of the competitions that have required a starter and Sheree and Jo have always kept us informed and been most encouraging about our junior talent, ensuring ex junior players remain playing competitive golf with Berkshire. Examples of this growing group are Avril Schmit, Emily Shaw, Maddy Pearce, Lizzie Swallow, Zoe Collins and Becky Webb. Ann Smille and Maureen Harman have given help and advice often at quite short notice and with unfailing good humour. Nicky Luff continues to produce the Newsletter and update the webpage. Last but not least, the fabulous three, Pera, Sarla and Annie whose combined skills and enthusiasm make it all work. Next year we will be joined by Ishbel Thompson (Easthampstead Ladies) who will be taking over some new match fixtures in Hampshire and Middlesex.

#### **h) County Handicap Advisor – Maureen Harman**

The handicapping year began with great anticipation when England Golf held workshops around the country to inform clubs of the 2016 CONGU Handicapping changes. However, subsequent to the handicapping presentation to the Delegates in May, not everything that was discussed or proposed will be implemented. There was an intention to introduce a Simplified Handicapping System but this has been abandoned due to a subsequent agreement in principle for a world-wide handicapping system. There are still some significant changes, outlined below, all of which will be effective from 1st January 2016:

##### **Calendar year:**

The Handicap year will now be 1st January - 31st December.

##### **Initial Handicaps:**

There will still be a minimum of 3 cards required to award a handicap for the first time but now the computer will work out the initial handicap. There will be the option to adjust if the Handicap Secretary disagrees with the calculation (similar to the Annual Review).

##### **Handicap Boundaries:**

There will be no change to the handicap category boundaries. Clubs are encouraged to introduce 'Club Handicaps' which range from 28/36 to 54 so that more players can participate in club run events.

##### **Preferred Lies:**

England will remain at the period between 1st October and 30th April. Preferred lies outside this period must be authorised by the County Association.

##### **CSS Calculation:**

The ladies will remain the same to include categories 1-4. From next year the men will also include Category 4.

### **Qualifying 9 Hole Scores:**

For clubs who have a 9 hole Standard Scratch (SSS), a score returned better than or within the player's buffer zone will have 18 points added, to create an 18 hole score. A score returned outside the buffer zone will be doubled. These 9 hole scores will be included in the Exceptional Score Reduction (ESR) process, whereas previously they were ignored. Category 1 golfers may now return 9 hole qualifying scores.

Clubs that do not have a 9 hole SS certificate, are encouraged to apply to England Golf to get one. The 9 hole qualifying competitions are a fantastic way for injured or older players who cannot physically complete 18 holes or those who have severe time constraints to continue to play and be part of the Club. It is very easy to run these alongside normal 18 hole competitions.

### **Continuous Handicap Review:**

This is something completely new. Players with 7 consecutive 0.1 handicap increases will be indicated to the Handicap Committee by way of a report within the handicap software to allow them to review and apply an immediate increase.

### **4BBB Allowance:**

This will be increased from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 90%. This is a mandatory requirement. However, competitions beginning in 2015 with a completion date before 1st April 2016 should be played off  $\frac{3}{4}$  because the Conditions of Competition cannot be changed after the event has begun.

### **Competition Status:**

The 'c' notation will be used in all CONGU countries. If a player with a competition handicap leaves a club membership but re-joins within a period of 12 months then her handicap will be reinstated.

### **Supplementary Scores**

These may be returned at all GB&I Clubs where the player is a member. They are acceptable over 9 holes but only for Categories 2 and above. There is no limit to the number of Supplementary Scores a player with a club handicap may submit.

### **Exceptional Scoring Reduction**

ESRs will be automatic and the Handicap Committee will have the opportunity to amend or remove with a handicap correction. A new table has been compiled to reduce the severity of reductions and they will only be applied on a pair of exceptional scores.

### **CDH Numbers**

The CDH number will definitely be a lifetime number now. It seems that Club Systems had a problem with the CDH initially and couldn't use existing numbers for new members. This problem has been resolved so EG have reverted to lifetime numbers as originally intended.

### **New Handicap Manual**

The new handicap manual was originally intended to be a short supplement but it is now likely to be a lengthy document

### **Annual Review**

It is looking unlikely that the deadline to complete the Annual Review will be by the end of December this year. It is more likely to be by the end of February and then a 10 month review at the end of December 2016. ***This however is still to be confirmed.***

EG has yet to release information about the regional seminars planned for October and November to help clubs with these changes? EG still plan to hold these around the country

where there is interest, so please register on the England Golf website and they will be announced in due course.

**i) Joint Competition Secretaries and Presentation of Trophies – Ann Smillie and Carol Taylor**

President, Captain & Ladies Good Evening

All our competitions this year have been well supported with an increased total of 402 individual entries. Twenty three Clubs took part in the Duncan Trophy and 22 Clubs in the Inter Club Shield.

We would like to thank Sheree, 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. And also for refereeing finals for us.

We are also grateful to Margaret Berriman and Ann Williams for their help with refereeing and to Sue Robson for being Sue Robson!

Thank you to Nicky for posting all the entry forms, start sheet, photos and results on the web site. Last but not least a big thank you to the Delegates who have kept their Clubs informed about the Competitions and encouraged participation.

We have been delighted with the response from the Ladies Captains and Members of the Clubs hosting our competitions this year. They have helped on the day meeting & greeting players, on the registration desk, starting, ball spotting, collecting cards, and generally helping. It has made our day much easier, enabled all competitions to run smoothly and we hope that more members feel involved in the County and will offer their help in the future. We are very grateful to all the Clubs who were venues for this year's competitions and made us so welcome.

West Berkshire were excellent hosts of the Tegner and County Championships. The 36 hole **Tegner Trophy** was won by Tracy Crew (R). Laura Webb (EB) became **County Champion...** for the 11<sup>th</sup> time! Runner-Up was Djura Macrae-Stoelwinder (CP).

Charlotte Keenan(R) and Tracy Crew (R) shared the **Gold Medal** (best Gross Score at the Division 1 Spring Meeting). Tracy Crew (R) also won the **Edna Simmons Trophy** (lowest gross score at the Autumn Meeting); the **Coronation Silver Medal** (lowest nett score at the Autumn Meeting); the **Joyce Cave Cup** (lowest aggregate gross score at the Spring and Autumn Meetings); and the **Helen Brown Sauce Boat** (lowest aggregate nett scores at the Spring and Autumn Meetings).

**Duncan Trophy:** this is the club knock out competition. Matches were very closely contested with the final at East Berkshire GC where Mill Ride GC beat Donnington Grove GC. Donnington Grove are the first team to receive the new Runners-up small shield similar to the small shield kept by the Winners. We should like to thank East Berkshire for hosting this final. This coming year we plan to have neutral venues for the Semi's as well as the Final. At the semi final stage we will draw for which Clubs will host the semi-final in the other half of the draw.

**The Inter Club Shield:** Winners are Donnington Grove Golf Club. Best Individual Score: Caroline Janas (DG).

**Ann Bryant Tournament:** this is a knock out competition for the 16 Bronze qualifiers from the Division 2 Spring Meeting. Kjersti Cannon (CH) won **The Ann Bryant Cup** and Judy Whittle (DV) the **Runner-Up Cup**. The Final was played at Goring & Streatley.

**Winter Match Play Final** won by Gillian Godson (R), Runner up was Nicola Clarke (CR).

**President's Salvagers** won by Fiona Horrocks and Angela Kokaram (both RA).

**Tournament Cup** won by Susan Fagan (CR).

**Millennium Competition** won by Christine Leeson (DV), Sonia Selwood (CP), and Susan Kingham (DG).

**The Team Competition Salver** (kindly donated by Teresa) was won by Rachel Downey, Debbie Harris, and Angela Adamson (all CH).

**Handicap Reduction Cup** Some impressive reductions this year including 5 clubs having a player with a reduction of 7+. The Winner, with a reduction of 13.1, is Mandy Smith (SM). *Teresa Taylor (President) presented the trophy to Mandy Smith.*

**Battiscombe Birdies**, with 9 Birdies and 1 Eagle, was won by Tracy Crew (R). *Teresa Taylor (President) presented the trophy and voucher to Tracy Crew.*

In addition to these Competitions, next year we will be running an Autumn Meeting for Division 2 Players (Stableford, Handicaps 21 to 28). We plan to have the entry forms for the Spring Meetings and Tegner/Championship, which are early in the New Year, available on the website very soon and all other entry forms available by January. There are Competitions for all levels of handicap with a variety of formats and we look forward to being inundated with entries in 2016!

**j) 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 has used quite a lot of our money. Each year the government (through the National Lottery Fund) gives sports varying amounts of money. This isn't because the government gets a warm, fuzzy feeling about sport – but because it believes that if we all do 30 minutes of exercise a week we will be fitter and healthier. Every 4 years 'Golf' bids for money by aiming to deliver so many happy, active punters. On the ground, it's the County Golf Partnership that attempts to deliver the plan bolstering the scant Sport England resources with our own money.

The County Golf Partnership is run by the BB&O Men and the Women of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, as well as the PGA ... and a representative from the Golf Foundation – a charity getting golf into schools and to young people.

The BB&O CGP was one of the first and probably suffered for this. Too much praise early on meant the Partnership rather sat on its laurels and didn't develop. But the last 12 months have seen a huge amount of very positive change. Last year I told you Philippa Cook (Bucks) would be looking at the Academy Programme; Jane Carter (Oxon) would be looking at marketing opportunities) and that I would be on the finance committee. I believe we have delivered. Our new chairman, Alistair Booth, has been with us 15 months. I found him on an England Golf Committee and couldn't believe he was from Oxfordshire! We schmoozed him into the post of chairman and he has been brilliant. The name changed in the spring from County Golf Partnership to County Development Group. And the focus of the development officers changed a tad: to helping and supporting golf clubs (not quite doing it themselves but signposting where clubs can find help at England Golf) rather than introducing random people to golf. They still run Get into Golf but this is structured programmes with follow-on rather than one-off sessions. We have two new county development officers: Jake joined in July after a lengthy spell when we had only one CDO and Dean in September. And the employment status of the CDOs has changed: rather than being self-employed, they are now employees of England Golf. At least we don't have to worry that HMRC will come after us for unpaid NI.

Until this year we had run a County Academy Programme that was very much about getting lots of youngsters into golf. The programme swallowed up shed loads of money ... and, if we are going to be brutal, probably didn't deliver any golfers we wouldn't already have had playing. Following Philippa's review, this year there has been nothing for the boys and each of the Women's Associations has arranged training for its own girls. There has been some money from EG's 'Talent Pathway' to support this.

John Low and Merv Foulds, who did such sterling work with the Partnership in the early years, ran a series of competitions last summer – mainly for boys but the girls could join in. They did this under the aegis of the Development Group but it cost us nothing ... and it did mean that boys who hadn't yet reached county standard had something they could compete in. (The Women's Associations have always been much better at looking after girls – probably because they are such a scarce commodity!)

We had a hard look at the finances last autumn and this spring. In part this was because of England Golf looking rather hawkishly at our bank balance but we also knew we had to manage the money better. We had lost £4K of funding because of missing targets last year as well as £5K of sponsorship. We ditched the magazine – but I'm not sure any of you have missed it. We didn't hold the Awards evening. Again, it was a 'nice to have' but I'm not sure anyone missed it. And we ended the County Academy Programme in its past guise. We also decided to run down the reserves – because of those envious glances!

This has meant, in effect, a 'holiday' from paying for the Development Group ... although Group may yet come back before our year-end (which is March) to ask for money.

We will have missed our targets again – the number of 14-19 year old playing golf and the number of people aged 26+ being introduced to golf. But this can be put down to running with only one CDO for half of the year. Since the autumn Jake and Dean have been achieving their targets.

The County Development Group 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 CDG ... and your money ... could be working to improve this picture. If your club would like to work with the CDG, we'd love to hear from you.

In summary we are in a much better place than we have been for some time. And we expect tomorrow will be better than today which is better than yesterday!

**k) USGA Course Rating Team Leader – Teresa Taylor**

This year the Team leaders - Margaret Berriman and myself - have started the task of rating all the tees on all the EG affiliated courses in Berkshire.

A questionnaire is sent to each club asking which tees they would like to have rated for men and for women. So far only one club has asked for the yellow tees for women and no club has asked for the red tees for men!!

Nationally, 30 clubs have had at least one set of tees rated for both genders and two very 'forward looking' clubs now have 'gender free' tees. Men and women can play from the green, yellow, black or blue tees. Each tee has a SSS for both genders.

In Berkshire the Downshire/ Easthampstead ladies have been rerated and England Golf has notified the Clubs of their USGA rating.

Maidenhead Golf Club. All the paperwork has been completed and sent to EG. I now await any queries from EG and the club awaits its official rating.

Sunningdale Ladies. All the necessary information has been collected by the rating team.

Margaret is completing the paperwork. Hopefully this club will soon have USGA ratings for both genders from the same set of tees!

Mapledurham Golf Club. The rating team collected all the necessary information for the white and yellow tees but then found that the club could not find any yardage certificates.

According to the advice given by EG, County Unions can offer a course measurement service. However, when the club contacted the BB&O they were told that this was not possible. The Club is now contacting Eagle measuring services. If certificates arrive before the end of the year we should have enough information already to complete the paperwork for all the tees including yellow for women.

Theale Golf Club was also on our list of courses but as they had no yardage certificates and it was doubtful that there were any permanent markers on the course the rating did not go ahead.

I would like to thank the Clubs involved this year. All of them made us welcome and were most helpful in providing all the information that was asked for.

Rating Teams:

Unfortunately our other team leader Duncan Forbes (Sonning) has been unable to assist with rating this year but we have had great support from our assistant raters, Ishbel Thomson (Easthampstead), Steve Newby (G&S) and Nicky Clarke (Castle Royle). All of them in good humour at 7.30 in the morning!! Thank you also to all the other volunteers

Mary Harwood (West Berks), Jill Tyrell (Bradfield College), Louise Wilson (N&C), Jo Thompsom (Mapledurham), Carol Broadhead, Penny Watson and Carol Jamieson (Reading)

I look forward to being able to "call on you" next year!

#### 5. Hon. Treasurer – Mary Harwood

Please see attachment which was presented at the AGM.

Proposed by: Elspeth Cooper (Sonning) Seconded by: Margaret Berriman (Goring & Streatley)

#### 6. 2015 Officials

		<b>Proposed By</b>	<b>Seconded By</b>
<u>Rule 7a</u>			
President	Elspeth Cooper	Teresa Taylor	Jill Dean
<u>Rule 7b</u>			
County Captain	Cathy Jones	Sheree Dove-Wilde	Nikki Ochtman
<u>Rule 7b</u>			
Seniors' Captain	Linda Hunt	Gail Moy	Sheree Dove-Wilde
<u>Rule 7c</u>			
Re-election of Treasurer	Mary Harwood	Teresa Taylor	Irene Gregory
<u>Rule 7f</u>			
Appointment of County Training Organiser	Tracy Crew	Not required	Not required

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

**7. Any Other Business**

None

**8. Vote of Thanks.**

Elsbeth Cooper thanked Teresa Taylor for ably chairing the meeting, and also for her Term of Office during which she has supported all aspects of the County Association with enthusiasm encompassing Juniors, ladies & Seniors. All of this whilst also working on the Course Assessment project.

EC concluded by thanking all of the Exec committee members for their hard work during the year and said that she looked forward to working with the new committee next year.

EC presented Teresa with a parting gift on behalf of the Exec Committee and lady members.

**9. Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at approximately 9.30 p.m.