

# Berkshire County Ladies' Golf Association



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Temple Golf Club on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Present:** Mrs Elspeth Cooper                      President in the Chair  
              Mrs Cathy Jones                        County Captain  
              Mrs Mary Harwood                      Treasurer  
              Miss Irene Gregory                     Hon Secretary

Plus 53 Members

### Welcome from the President

*“Good Evening and thank you for coming. Welcome to you all and especially if you are attending our AGM for the first time. I will now ask our Honorary Secretary, Irene Gregory, to convene the meeting.”*

- 1. Apologies** – Apologies were received from 27 members. Please refer to the attached list.
- 2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016**  
The Minutes were approved, and were proposed by Anthea Winn, Royal Ascot Golf Club, and seconded by Jill Dean, Temple Golf Club.
- 3. Matters Arising**  
No matters were arising.
- 4. To receive reports from:**

#### a) Captain – Cathy Jones

I come to the end of a very enjoyable two years as Berkshire County Captain and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to have served as Captain of Berkshire.

April saw a very exciting County Championship at Caversham Heath. A tough course and the Final was a real cliff hanger with Laura Webb and Julia Warke going to extra holes. It was a birdie putt on the 3<sup>rd</sup> extra hole from Julia that secured the win and she becomes both Junior and Ladies Champion in the same year. Julia has now started a new venture on a golf scholarship in USA. I have no doubt that she will be successful and, speaking to her mum in the last couple of weeks, she looks to be on track to doing that. Oh, to be so young and so talented.

The highlight of our year, as always, is County Match Week. Sadly, we did not fare as well this

year after our successful performance at Temple last year. Our team was somewhat depleted this year without Lizzie Swallow and Linda Hunt, and our new County Champion Julia Warke was only available for one day, with the week clashing with her final A level exam. Hopefully next year will see the return of our stars. Thank you to all who came up to Kings Norton during the week to support the team; it's always very much appreciated.

Next year CMW moves to Denham from 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June. A much closer venue hosted by Bucks, but we all have some concern over how a 3-day format will work! I would encourage you all to visit at some stage to spectate or caddy and watch some first-class golf.

The County Dinner was held at my home club, Reading, on 27<sup>th</sup> October with over 100 attending. A really enjoyable evening and I think everyone found our guest speaker Tamara Taylor very interesting.

Thank you delegates for your work in securing many raffle prizes, one question that was frequently asked was "where do the proceeds go?" As in previous years, money raised at this event goes into the County Funds to help support our Juniors and County teams, and to cover expenses for our Competition Secretaries and Junior Organisers. They travel all over the County during the year and I think you would all agree it only fair that we reimburse their travel costs. But this year we have decided to donate 50% of the raffle income to the Angela Uzielli bursary fund. This was set up following the death of Angela in 1999 and is awarded to promising girl golfers who have a financial need to provide assistance for educational expenses for the duration of their academic course. A worthwhile cause and thanks to your generosity we are able to donate an additional £800 this year. This is in addition to the £830 already raised at the recent competition held at East Berks earlier this month, so thank you all very much

As Captain, I have been privileged to attend several of the Junior events. It has been a joy to see the next generation of golfers coming through and I'm sure some will be representing their County in the next few years. Thanks, must go to Pauline, Pera, Sarla and Annie for all the work they have done with the juniors.

One of the things that has always given me so much pleasure captaining the team, has been the camaraderie and spirit of the Berkshire team. Much envied by other counties, they play their hearts out for Berkshire but always do it with a smile. I could not have asked for a more supportive team to work with; it's been great fun. Thank you each and every one.

I pass on the Captaincy to Ann Williams who has supported me this year as 2<sup>nd</sup> team Captain and I hope she will get as much pleasure from the role as I have. I wish Ann and all of the Executive Committee a happy and successful 2018.

*EC: "Thank you, Cathy. You have done a great job as Captain. All the squad members have appreciated your leadership and quiet encouragement. I have enjoyed working with you and personally thank you for the support you have given to me. Thank You".*

**b) 2nd Team Captain – Ann Williams (read by CMJ, County Captain)**

Please accept my apologies for not being with you this evening.

I was honoured to be asked to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captain last year and have found the role to be very interesting, but somewhat frustrating. The main task of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captain is to select teams to play matches against other County 2<sup>nd</sup> teams. In doing this I have tried to encourage players who are improving with the hope that they will progress towards the 1<sup>st</sup> team. It is rather frustrating that as a County, we do not have a vast pool of single figure players from which to select. This was brought home to me emphatically at my first match in charge – a friendly against Hampshire. I had a team of players on the fringes of the 1<sup>st</sup> team, as did Hampshire. It transpired that their highest handicap was about 7 – the same as our lowest! Meaning of course that a handicap of 4 does not guarantee 1<sup>st</sup> team play in Hampshire - a luxury not available to us! My team were unphased by the quality of the opposition, despite losing the morning foursomes 3 – 0, we rallied to a 6 ½ - 2 ½ loss, including an excellent win by debutant Paula Morris of Royal Ascot.

We then played our League matches, away against Oxfordshire and home against Buckinghamshire. Both the matches were very closely fought resulting in a win against Oxfordshire 5-4 and a loss to Buckinghamshire 4-5. These results meant that we did not go on to the Divisional final, which was contested between Northamptonshire and Bucks, resulting in a win for Bucks.

During these matches four players made their debuts for the county – Paula Morris and Angela Kokaram of Royal Ascot, Sharon McAsey of Winter Hill and Ann Williams of Goring and Streatley.

Another task for which the 2<sup>nd</sup> team captain is responsible, is organising the Angela Uzielli Memorial Trophy, which was held this year at East Berkshire Golf Club. I would like to thank them for giving us courtesy of the course, and for the help on the day by staff and members. Also, I wish to thank John Uzielli for presenting the prizes and also for reminding us about Angela's golfing achievements and her love for County Golf. The winners were Grace Reid and Lesley Roberts of Sonning, and £849 was raised for the Angela Uzielli Bursary which supports promising lady golfers in University education.

Perhaps the most interesting and rewarding thing that I did as 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captain was supporting Cathy and the 1<sup>st</sup> team at County Week. In the past I have been involved in County Week as an organiser and as a referee. Seeing it from the playing side was a revelation. The team spirit, camaraderie and fun that the team had whilst playing up to 36 holes a day of tough golf was inspiring. Despite the fact that results did not go our way, they were all keen to play the next day and were incredibly supportive. Cathy and Elspeth did a fantastic job which meant that I had an easy ride. Sorting out the caddies was made much easier by the presence of Pauline Cameron and Fran Campbell all week and the visits of several County members who made wonderful caddies. Thank you one and all. I would encourage anyone who can make it to Denham next year to volunteer as a caddy – it is the best way to appreciate the golf on show. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has played and supported the team this year and who have helped me. I am absolutely certain that Charlie Keenan will do a far better job next year than I did this year.

*EC: "We Thank Ann for leading the second team this year. We are pleased that Ann has agreed to step up to Captain for the next year only, 2018. We feel that Ann's experience of County Week will help her next year."*

*As you have heard, we have invited Charlie Keenan to take over as Second Team Captain for 2018 & 2019. This break in the usual cycle of a 2-year term as Captain does mean that we will be seeking to elect a new County Captain in November 2018 for two years 2019 & 2020.”*

**c) County Training Officer – Tracy Crew (read by CMJ, County Captain)**

Firstly, my apologies for not being in attendance tonight.

After 2016 we decided to have two get togethers early in 2017; these were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

We had four matches listed to play against the men from Newbury & Crookham, Calcot Park and Reading, and 36 holes vs Mill Ride. Unfortunately, we lost Newbury owing to the early date in the year we were given due to weather, and another later date not being able to be found. The match vs Calcot Park men did not happen owing to no communication from them. We did play Reading men and narrowly lost the match; the 36-hole match was enjoyed by both sides with the men winning out.

We had a 2-hour session at Reading for short game on course and long game in the simulator for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team and up and coming youngsters. This was well received by all who attended.

I believe the roll of training officer has served its time and with this in mind, I spoke to Elspeth and Cathy earlier in the year to state I would not be available to the new incoming captain for this roll, and the decision was made that a development roll should be encompassed with the roll of 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captain, which I believe is better suited to our needs. I wish Charlotte Keenan every success and if necessary she can always ask me any questions.

I wish all those taking up rolls on the executive committee success in their respective jobs and a big thank you to all those I have served with.

*EC: “We thank Tracy for all that she has done and particularly having to juggle this role with a heavy work commitment.”*

*EC presented Cathy Jones with a thank you gift on behalf of BCLGA. Also, in the absence of Tracy Crew, EC presented Cathy Jones with Tracy’s thank you gift on behalf of BCLGA.*

**d) Hon. Secretary – Irene Gregory**

President, County Captain, Ladies - Good evening

This year has been an extremely busy year with many things happening behind the scenes and hopefully you are all seeing information coming through keeping you all informed?

Firstly, I would like to thank the County Delegates for their support and contribution throughout the year as it is their role that is key to ensuring information from England Golf and the County is passed on.

This year again we’ve had some changes to the County Delegates so hopefully they are settling in and familiarising themselves with the role? Remember: I am here to help you if you do have any queries, and that message is also for any member out there who has a query.

We've held three meetings this year and they were at Newbury & Crookham, Caversham Heath and Temple Golf Club. I would like to express my thanks to those Golf Clubs for their hospitality, generosity and support for allowing us to host these meetings. The Delegates and staff at these Clubs have been very welcoming and accommodating. It is very much appreciated as I'm sure they understand it can be difficult to find venues. The BCLGA really does appreciate everything you have done and do for us, so thank you on behalf of them.

I would also like to thank East Berks and Mill Ride who also offered to host meetings for us but we had to cancel. We do try to plan the meetings so that they follow the England Golf General Meetings and the BCLGA Exec meetings, but we had to alter the timing of the last quarter. By following the England Golf and Exec meetings, this allows us to prepare and pass on any information received.

The Executive meetings this year were held at Sonning, Royal Ascot and Goring & Streatley. Again, our thanks go out to these Clubs for their support and hospitality.

We do try to spread the meetings out across the county, so we are not reliant on the same Clubs all the time, and this also allows us to try and manage the travelling time for members as much as possible, which isn't easy as we are all spread out!

I personally would like to add that without the support of the Golf Clubs in Berkshire, I would struggle to find a suitable location for all our meetings, so a personal thank you from me.

Last but not least, just to let you know, the County Yearbook will be updated in the next month or so as I receive the information. This will be sent to the County Delegates and I would ask them to update the Year Book in your locker rooms.

One document which is very important is the Club Officials contact sheet. I send out the forms in October and like to receive them either at our AGM or very shortly afterwards by either e-mail or post.

This year I tried to send you updates as and when AGM's were held for each Club, but I'm afraid it didn't work as well as I had hoped. I am going to have to revert back to the old system whereby I only send out this sheet maybe twice a year. I would ask you to let me have the relevant information of your incoming officers, regardless of your AGM date, in the coming weeks?

Thank you for your time.

*EC: "The Honorary Secretary's role is an increasingly important role as the main contact for disseminating information from England Golf, as well as many other tasks. Despite having to deal with very frustrating and time-consuming IT problems that have beset her system this year, Irene has coped brilliantly. Irene, you have been such a great support to me in my role. Thank you."*

## e) Voting Member / Regional Representative – Nicky Jones

This year England Golf's partnership ended when the PGA and England Golf became the lead body for amateur golf in England. EG will, however, continue to work closely with the PGA and the Golf Foundation in the best interest of Golf in England.

Funding for England Golf is made up of two parts, the grant from Sport England. This is £8.48 million to cover the next four years and is effectively government funding. The second and equally important source of funding is the affiliation fees paid by each golf club member, (£8.50 pa from each of the approx. 650,000 members). This covers the following:

- Running championships and competitions for all levels and abilities
- Talent development including juniors
- Support the playing of the game (handicapping, course rating, rules and refereeing)
- Increasing participation
- Child Protection, Equity Compliance and Disciplinary Policy

Working with clubs in these areas and, via your County Delegates and the County, ensuring that you the members of EG (i.e. those paying their affiliation fees) can have their say.

To qualify for the Sport England grant, all sports bodies have to meet criteria on governance set by Sport England, including such aspects as child protection and equality. The Board structure must also be compliant and EG will be implementing this requirement at their next AGM in April 2018.

One of the main objectives of the 2014 – 2017 round of funding was to increase participation and reverse the trend of golf clubs losing members. This has been successful with the number of participants on the up and golf club member numbers turning the corner and beginning to increase again.

There have been a number of initiatives such as "Get Into Golf" which gives clubs the facility to advertise their initiatives for beginners on a dedicated website ([www.getintogolf.org](http://www.getintogolf.org)) and there is also a link to it on the County website ([www.bclga.co.uk](http://www.bclga.co.uk)). Other initiatives include getting more women and girls into golf as well as "Golf Express", promoting locations where 9-hole rounds can be played. The increasing acceptance of 'Ready Golf' is also helping in this area. There are still many challenges, however, and the Strategic Plan for 2017/21 will focus on growing the game with emphasis being put on being more customer focused. One way this is being done is by the former County Development Officers employed by County Golf Partnerships now being employed directly by England Golf. In addition, they are now Club Services Officers; it is their job to communicate with clubs and to assist them to 'survive and thrive'. EG now offers a great deal of support for Clubs through the CSOs and there are also a number of tools available to help. The section 'For Golf Clubs' on the EG website ([www.Englandgolf.org](http://www.Englandgolf.org)) gives further details of what is on offer.

These are exciting times for golf and importantly, we must not close our minds to change if we want our sport to continue to grow and attract new generations of players.

*EC: "Thanks to Nicky for representing our County at England Golf meetings and regional meetings. In addition to this role we also thank her for the great job she has done as our*

*Website Manager. The new website has been well received and Nicky is always very quick to post updates as and when they are provided. We welcome you all to send news about your Club or players to Nicky to post on our site.*

*Also, Issy Wiggins is our Publicity Manager and she is always looking for items to post on our Facebook page. We hope that more and more people will use these mediums as their primary source of information regarding all golf in and around the County."*

#### **f) Seniors' Captain – Linda Hunt**

As I come to the end of my two years of being the Seniors' Captain, it gives me great pride to report on the success of the Seniors' section.

Our first friendly match was played against Surrey at Newbury & Crookham and unfortunately the strong Surrey side, clinched the win 2.5 to 1.5. The second match against Middlesex, also played at Newbury & Crookham, was a much better result, with Berkshire winning four out of the five matches. The final friendly was played at Chartham Park in Sussex and this was virgin territory for the Berkshire team, so I am extremely pleased to report a great win of 1.5 to 2.5.

My thanks go to all the players who made themselves available to play in the friendly matches.

Our first league match was against Oxfordshire at Burford. The Berkshire team battled very hard to scrape a 4-3 win. Hosting Bucks at the Berkshire for our second match gave us home advantage, which definitely helped us to a 5-2 win. Playing our third match at Mill Ride against Hertfordshire turned out to be one of our tightest matches, but again the determination of the players clinched the win 4-3. In this match we had some top-quality golf from Jackie Foster, the English Seniors' Stroke Play Champion, and our own Laura Webb, the British Seniors' Champion, both going head to head but unfortunately Jackie squeaked a win. The final match against Hampshire was played at Royal Winchester. This was a deciding match, as a win for Hampshire would have given them the league title. With one of our strongest sides, which thankfully again involved Laura, we were able to win the league title with a 5-2 win. This is the fourth year in a row Berkshire have won the League Title. Hopefully we will keep the pressure on and continue to dominate this league. Our squad for the matches were Laura Webb, Tracy Crew, Linda Hunt, Sheree Dove-wilde, Jane Sly, Katherine Irving, Airlie Dyson, Pat Bennett, Gabi Heuchel and Margaret Berriman.

The Seniors Championship was held at Newbury & Crookham in July. The Championship trophy was won by Tracy Crew with a 79 gross, on count back from Jane Sly. The nett prize was won by Fay Unsworth with a nett 70. Our thanks go to Newbury & Crookham, Mill Ride, and the Berkshire who hosted our home competitions this year. We are very grateful for their help and support throughout the year.

The final event of the year was the Inter County Team Championship. This was hosted by Hertfordshire at Knebworth Golf Club. Nine counties competed for the title. The team of four consisted of Tracy Crew, Sheree Dove-wilde, Katherine Irving and myself. With three out of the four scores to count, the Berkshire team accumulated a score of 232. After a long wait for the final cards to be returned, it was a triumphant day for Berkshire, winning by one shot from Surrey, Hertfordshire and last year's winners Kent, but there was a frantic moment on my part to quickly write a winner's speech, as it was a little unexpected for a small county like Berkshire

to win such a prestigious event. In hindsight I should have read the Seniors' Captain's notes the night before as it did state, "Have a speech prepared, just in case."

Elsbeth Cooper, our Lady President travelled all the way up to Knebworth to give her support on the day. It was a very special and proud moment for the team to be able to share the celebrations with Elspeth. This was the "icing on the cake" for a fantastic year as Seniors Captain.

One Senior who deserves a special mention is Laura Webb. Laura has once again represented Ireland in the European Team Championships, this year held in Slovakia. The Irish team beat Germany to win the Bronze medal. She was also selected to represent Ireland in the Home internationals, at Newport in Wales. The Irish team were very successful and beat England in the final 4.5 to 3.5 to be the Home International Champions. Defending her British Seniors' title in Belfast, Laura played in some difficult conditions to finish in third place. "Well done Laura, another great year."

Finally, a big thank you to all the players and reserves who have supported the matches and me over the last two years. You have all been a pleasure to work with. I now hand over the Captaincy to Pat Bennett from Reading and wish her continued success for the next two years.

*EC: "Thank you to Linda for the excellent job she has done leading the Seniors Team for the last two years. Not only have you lead the team to success but have also maintained your own excellent standard of play. We hope that Pat will have an equally successful time as Seniors Captain." EC presented Linda Hunt with a thank you gift on behalf of BCLGA.*

#### **g) County Junior Organiser – Pauline Cameron**

We started the season again in fine style by winning two out of the three 2017 team events the junior girls entered; the BB&O Team Shield at Sunningdale Heath and the BB&O Championships Team Shield at Badgemore in April. The BB&O Championships Stableford was won by Vicky Prietzel with a score of 44points.

Our league handicap matches continue to provide junior players with a range of matches and provide players with a chance to earn their playing colours in handicap events and junior colours in the scratch matches. This year, Felicity Deaney achieved her junior colours, the first to be awarded for two years.

The 2018 Junior Captain will be Freya Burns (Mill Ride), with Vice-Captain Felicity Deaney also of Mill Ride.

#### **2017 Trophy winners this year are:**

- Junior County Champion - Julia Warke
- Handicap Plate - Vicky Prietzel, Bradfield College
- The Alison Baldwick Trophy and the Sheila Fitzgerald Handicap Reduction Cup - Kate Jesseman, Maidenhead & Hennerton
- Autumn Cup - Bella Kent - Castle Royle, who also received her County Playing Colours.

Coaching credits were awarded to Julia Warke, Jessica Li. Calcot Park, Felicity Deaney, Mill Ride, Freya Burns, Mill Ride and Vicky Prietzel and Mia Hynes of Hennerton.

Berkshire continue to encourage players through the coaching programme and enjoy nine competitions, run throughout the year by Sarla Read, which support the skills learnt in coaching.

There are five levels to the coaching programme which make up the Berkshire Pathway. Levels 1, 2 & 3 coaching run for 10 weeks throughout the year at three centres: Sand Martins, Mill Ride and Wokingham Family Centre. Level 4 players typically have six sessions spread over the year and level 5 players are supported with coaching vouchers to work with the county coach Terry Wild at Mill Ride. The pathway coaching structure was used as part of a joint grant submission by the BB&O and Ladies Associations to England Golf, which will continue but with a reduced amount for 2018.

Pera Mars, of Winter Hill, is retiring from organising the coaching programme after nearly eleven years on the junior committee. Annie Pack, Hon Secretary, and Sarla Read are also stepping down from their committee roles but will continue to assist with the coaching groups alongside the Pros at the nominated clubs in Berkshire.

Thanks to the following clubs who have helped with Junior Golf in 2017:

- Billingbear, Lambrook School, Wokingham Family Golf Par 3, Oratory School, Sand Martins, and Lavender Park for their support at the six Fun Competitions run by Sarla Read during May to August.
- Mill Ride GC for hosting the Junior Championships in July.
- Reading for running a Foursomes/Greensomes afternoon.
- Temple, Newbury & Crookham and East Berkshire for hosting three county matches.
- Mill Ride for hosting a league match against Oxon.
- Temple GC for hosting the Autumn Cup.
- Hennerton GC for the end of year Texas Scramble in October, with adults and junior taking part. Also, a monthly roll up for our girls to get together and play socially

Thank you to all the parents who transport their daughters so they can play for Berkshire against other counties. In 2017 we travelled away to Harewood Downs, Bicester and Alresford to name a few.

The support that the juniors and the junior committee have from the Berkshire Executive is fantastic. Elspeth Cooper and Cathy Jones have attended our committee meetings, started competitions that have required a starter and been most encouraging about our junior talent.

Nicky Jones continues to produce the Newsletter and update the webpage brilliantly. Last but not least the fabulous three, Pera, Sarla and Annie whose combined skills and enthusiasm make it all work.

The 2017 Review will be sent to Delegates in November where you can read more about the events outlined in this report and enjoy the pictures of your junior players wearing their county kit. Please display in a prominent position and remember to look out for the yellow coaching and playing bag tags to spot your clubs talented junior players.

Finally, we would all like to wish the incoming County Junior Organiser and her team our very warmest wishes for the coming years as they take charge of the Junior section.

*PC informed the meeting that she has commissioned a sculpture and mementos to be presented. She wished the new junior committee team coming in the best of luck in their roles.*

**EC:** *“Thank you Pauline.*

*Please can I ask Pera, Sarla & Annie to come up here and join you. We are immensely grateful to all these ladies who have worked together as a fantastic team over the last 10 years. Their enthusiasm and dedication to see our young girls get started in golf and then to achieve their potential has been truly exceptional. We really thank you all.*

*I felt it was appropriate that any THANKYOU presentation involved the girls and their parents and so on behalf of BCLGA a presentation was made at the girls end of season event which took place at Hennerton at on 29th October. Pera could not stay to that presentation so I would like to present her thankyou gift now.*

*It has not been easy to find replacements for these ladies but we are delighted that Sharron Hargreaves from Castle Royle has agreed to take on the role of Junior Organiser from Pauline. Sarah Pallot from Temple will become the Fun Competition organiser following on from Sarla. Marion Walker from Sand Martins has accepted Annie’s role as Junior Secretary. Ann Smillie from Goring & Streatley will continue to run the girls’ handicap competitions.*

*Thank you to all these ladies for volunteering their time, energy and expertise. This does leave a vacancy as the Coaching coordinator. Coaching is an important part of the girls’ development programme as Pauline has explained. If you would be interested to know what the role involves or if you know of someone who may be willing to help then please come forward after the meeting.”*

#### **h) County Handicap Advisor – Marion Hitchcock**

**EC:** *“Terri Wright our Handicap Advisor moved abroad in June. We therefore needed to make an immediate appointment to replace her in that role. We were delighted that Marion Hitchcock from Royal Ascot agreed to step in. I will now ask Marion to give her report.”*

My name is Marion Hitchcock and I have recently taken on the role of County Handicap Advisor; my home club is Royal Ascot where I have been Ladies Handicap Secretary for four years, and in the last two years have also looked after the Men’s handicaps.

Following a meeting with Christine Bishop, who is Regional Handicap Advisor, she suggested, as a way of introducing myself to the Berkshire Clubs and for me to become familiar with them, I conduct a Unified Handicapping System (UHS) Compliance Audit. This is done periodically for a number of reasons but mainly because the officers responsible for running competitions and managing handicaps end their term of office and new people take over. CONGU® affiliation places certain requirements on clubs and players and to quote the manual ‘A high level of uniformity can be achieved if all parties honour their obligations by observing the spirit and intent of the system.’ The UHS checklist is a good way for new officers to ensure that their club are doing all that is required of them and that any changes they may wish to make are within the spirit of the UHS.

You are probably aware that England Golf have released CONGU Changes effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018? The main change is an increase both for Ladies and Men for a maximum handicap of 54, creating a Category 5 for Men and a Category 6 for Ladies and Men. There are concerns about the 54 handicaps and I have already given feedback to England Golf who have confirmed that Clubs can place any entry limit in their Conditions of Competition they see fit; that is to say for Ladies we can limit entries to 36 handicaps if they would like to. Ultimately as handicaps naturally increase past the current limits, clubs may have to revisit this if they are finding members are excluded from many competitions. I would be interested to have your feedback or any comments regarding the changes.

There is also a relaxation of the rules in Supplementary Cards to allow an unlimited number of score submissions per year from the current restriction of one per week. The restriction on Category 1 players remains the same.

We have received comment from one Handicap Secretary that the system of recording non-qualifying away scores is not working; members are not bringing back all their relevant results. This will be a topic to be discussed in the coming months and feedback will be sought from other Clubs and raised with England Golf.

As Berkshire County Ladies Handicap Advisor my role is to support members on handicapping issues and I am available to assist Berkshire Clubs when required. In the first instance you would need to approach your Club Handicap Secretary, who can contact me for support and guidance.

My contact details can be found on the BCLGA website or in your County Yearbook, which I believe are kept in the Ladies Locker rooms.

#### **i) Joint Competition Secretaries – Gillian Myers and Sue Kingham**

President, Captain and Ladies - Good Evening

Our first year as Competitions Secretaries has been a steep learning curve for us both but we have got through our first year mainly unscathed

Most of our competitions this year have been well supported but have noticed that the competitions held in the West of the County have been well down. This resulted in an overall decrease of 19 individual entries. Twenty-Four clubs entered the Duncan Trophy and 23 Clubs entered the Inter Club Shield.

We would like to thank Cathy, our Captain, and Elspeth, our President, for staying to present the prizes at the end of competitions. It can often be a long day. Also, for refereeing the finals for us. Thank you to Nicky for posting all the entry forms, start sheets, photos and results on the web site, and to Irene for keeping the Club Folders information updated. Also, a thank you to Mary, Treasurer, for keeping us on our toes with regard the accounting of each competition.

We are grateful to Ann Pennell for organising the venues for 2018, which we will now contact and finalise for the 2018 competitions.

Finally, a very big thank you to the Delegates who have kept their Clubs informed about the Competitions, encouraged participation and given valuable feedback.

We have again been delighted with the response from the Ladies Captains and members of the Clubs hosting our competitions this year. We are grateful to all the Clubs who were venues for this year's competitions and made us so very welcome.

Caversham Heath were excellent hosts of the Tegner and County Championships. The 36-hole **Tegner Trophy** was won Laura Webb (EB) and **County Champion** was Julie Warke (MR) and the Runner-Up was Laura Webb (EB).

The **Seniors' Championship** was won by Tracy Crew (R).

Linda Hunt (N&C) won the **Gold Medal** (best Gross Score at the Division 1 Spring Meeting).

Joint Winners of The **Coronation Silver Medal** (lowest nett score at the Autumn Meeting) were Djura Macrae-Stoelwinder (CP) and Fay Unsworth (DG).

The **Edna Simmons Trophy** (lowest gross score at the Autumn Meeting) was won by Djura Macrae-Stoelwinder (CP).

The **Joyce Cave Cup** (lowest aggregate gross score at the Spring and Autumn Meetings) was won by Linda Hunt (N&C).

The **Helen Brown Sauce Boat** (lowest aggregate nett scores at the Spring and Autumn Meetings) was won by Gabi Heuchel (EB).

**The Tournament Cup** was won by Fay Unsworth (DG).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Autumn meeting, **the Bronze Coronation Medal** (lowest nett score at the Autumn Meeting) was won by Jane Weller (CH).

**The Poulton Cup** (Highest aggregate Stableford Score at Division 2 Spring and Autumn Meetings) was won by Jane Weller (CH).

**The Aspect Trophy** (Best Scratch Stableford Score at Division 2 Autumn Meeting) was won by Jane Weller (CH).

This year for the first time for a while we held a Division 3 Spring Meeting stableford Competition which was won by Gill Mortimer (EB).

**The Duncan Trophy** - this is the club knock out competition, with neutral venues for the Semi-Finals as well as the Final. Matches were very closely contested with the final at the Downshire where Bearwood Lakes GC beat Castle Royle GC. We should like to thank the Downshire for hosting this Final, and Castle Royle and Reading for being the neutral venues for the semi-finals.

**The Inter Club Shield** Winners are Easthampstead Ladies. Best Individual Score Ishbel Thompson (EHL).

**The Ann Bryant Tournament** is a knock out competition for the 16 Bronze qualifiers from the Division 2 Spring Meeting. Jane Weller (CH) won **The Ann Bryant Cup** and Lucie Robson (BL) won the **Runner-Up Cup**. The Final was played at Mill Ride GC.

**Winter Match Play Final** was won by Gillian Godson (R) retaining the trophy for the third time, Runner up was Pauline Cox (CR). Played at Sonning

**The President's Salvagers** won by Katherine Hartwell (DG) and Laura Hawkins (N&C).

**Millennium Competition** was won by Fay Unsworth (DG), Pat Bennett (R) and Claire Randall (S).

**The Team Competition Salver** was won by Fiona Hobbs, Jo Lawton-Davies and Alison Tinsley (all EHL).

**The Battiscombe Birdies** was won by Emily Savage (G&S).

**Handicap Reduction Cup** - We had some impressive reductions this year with the winner being Melanie Millin of Donnington Grove.

The Winter Match Play Knock-Out 2017-18 has a good entry of 29 players and the first round has already been completed.

There are competitions for all levels of handicap with a variety of formats and the dates for 2018 can be found on the diary on the website.

We have two weekend competitions in 2018 – the Team Competition and the Millennium. We hope that this will encourage more ladies to take part.

We are also looking to hold a 9-hole fun competition. This again is to encourage more players – perhaps with higher handicaps to come along and join in the County competitions. We would like your feedback please by the end of November

We are grateful to Mill Ride for agreeing to host the Tegner and Championship in 2019. The Tegner will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and the Championship on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

*EC: "Thank you to Gill and Sue for all their work in this their first year in this role. We hope that their second year will prove easier for them now that they have more experience. Only someone who has been involved in Competition organisation can truly appreciate the amount of time and effort that these ladies have put in. "*

**j) BB&O Golf Partnership Representative – Margaret Berriman (read by NJ, Voting Member)**

I apologise for not being with you today – so thank you to whoever gets to read this report.

The Partnership (of the BB&O Men's Union and the three Women's Associations) was formed back in the early Noughties as a conduit for Lottery funding – all done with the aim of meeting Sport England's aim of getting more people taking more exercise. Our Partnership was one of the first which has advantages. Looking back to the first report I delivered back in 2010(!) I ended by asking you all not to think of the Partnership as rather dull and over there - but as

something we are all part of and which has the potential to re-energise our golf clubs. There are disadvantages of being an early player – mainly that the Partnership became rather entrenched in its approach and failed to learn.

In those early years, BCLGA was putting in £3K pa, as were the other Associations, and the men were contributing £30K. The focus was on introducing newbies to golf. In 2012, 1,525 golf virgins were introduced to the game in one-off sessions and 265 youngsters attended an academy. At ground level, I'm not sure any of us were convinced this was the way forward. With a new 4-year plan the focus became Get into Golf – a much more structured way of introducing people to the game. And we even persuaded the men that the Associations should give a similar per capita amount as them – which reduced our contribution by about £1K.

In 2014 Alistair Booth was recruited as the new Chairman who brought with him a breath of fresh air. He listened to the Group and enabled us to reorganise ourselves.

Through 2015 the academy programme which soaked up nearly all the money was ditched! The boys rarely turned up and the Association CJOs felt they could do a better job. The magazine – which you probably can't remember – was ditched. Our two development officers, who had been 'self-employed' became employees of England Golf which removed a great worry from our shoulders. The group also aligned its efforts to the England Golf strategy of 'stronger clubs' and 'more people playing more golf'. We began to run down the reserves which reduced our payments yet further.

In April this year, a new 4-year plan began where the focus is strengthening clubs. The county development officers will visit clubs and signpost the help and support they might need. Introducing beginners to golf is not necessarily part of this (although it might be for a particular club). At our May meeting we looked closely at what was being required of the officers and how the Union/Associations could support this work ... and decided this was not for our group!

We went back to base and all four partners decided there was no longer a role for the development group. At our July meeting the County Development Group was officially wound up. We had very effectively spent down the reserves so there will be no money to come back to us ... but then BCLGA put nothing in for the last year!

We can look back on the 1000's of people who have been introduced to golf and a similar number of Juniors who have gone through an academy programme and hope we have generated some interest. To be brutal, Sport England might have spent their money better – or spent less money – and have had better results.

The one positive of the group was that it gave a forum for the Associations and Union to meet together – to look each other in the whites of the eyes. We decided that meetings should continue but in a different form. So, like a phoenix, a new meeting group will emerge (first meeting end November) where our County President/Captain/Secretary (perm any one out of three) will meet with others from the Union and Associations to discuss the problems faced by each. And perhaps finding solutions!

**k) USGA Course Rating Team Leader – Margaret Berriman (read by EC, President)**

*EC: “Thank you to Margret Berriman for writing her comprehensive report. I will now read Margaret’s report.”*

There is only one way to begin this report ... and that is to thank Teresa Taylor for the sterling work she has done over the years.

When Teresa became the Scratch Score Assessor in the Year Dot, working out a SSS was not much more than looking up its length on a table, assigning a number and then having ‘bit of a think’ .... Was it quite difficult? Was it hilly with horrid slopes? Were there some long carries with no bail-outs? Were there actually no carries and little rough? Depending on the answer to these questions 1 might be added or subtracted to the table number ... and that was it!

Then along came the USGA system where anything that was stationary on a course got measured! Calculating the SSS required a team of 4, spending at least half a day on the course ... and then Teresa spending another day looking up tables and filling out sheet after sheet of tables. Teresa has kept us amused over the years with her descriptions of ‘tweeners’ ... and then ‘trees’ (trees were just so much more complicated than we ever thought). Teresa worked hard to bring the BB&O on board including wee Duncan (that will go down as her only failure). She trained me up as her co-rater.

In February this year Teresa decided she’d done her bit – there were additional calls on her time, a new cycle of rating had begun and this seemed to be the right time for her to step down. AGMs will be much duller now that Teresa is not here to deliver her annual report. Thank you, Teresa.

I don’t actually have much to report. In fact, I have not rated a Berkshire course this year (although I have done Waterstock! And a rating at Theale was aborted two days before we were due to do it.)

I attended a very interesting ‘calibration workshop’ in September – with the aim of ensuring that all raters were assigning similar difficulties to similar obstacles. Interestingly, we were all working in a comparable way, we even rated trees similarly. But the consensus from the trainers was that none of us gave enough difficulty to trees! I have been the lucky recipient of 32 pages of pictures of trees!

I will be starting next year with a bout of enthusiasm and the aim of rating 6 courses in Berkshire in 2018. (Having stated this in public, I hope I will now hold to this pledge!) I will be meeting with the BB&O men early in December to plan next year – so that is an improvement on the past!

I expect that six of you will experience the result of my efforts in the next year and I expect to give you an upbeat report next year ... and in person, I might even bring along my pictures of trees!

*EC: “Margaret in her report has basically said everything that I would have wished to say. Thank you, Teresa for all the work you have put in over the years. (year dot was actually about 14 years go).” EC presented Teresa Taylor with a thank you gift on behalf of the BCLGA.*

## 5. Hon. Treasurer – Mary Harwood

The account sheet you have has been agreed by the Independent Examiner and the signed copy is now with the Secretary. Most of it is self-explanatory, and you will note that we have managed to bring our Bank account down by a little over £2000. This is intentional as the Executive have agreed that we should aim to only hold about £12,000 in the Bank on top of the Trophy Reserve.

Match income is down in the accounts, but what has happened with Seniors and Juniors is that where people have paid cash, that has been used to pay the bills and I have only needed to reimburse the difference and the amount of cash has not been recorded in the accounts.

Affiliation fees are up, this is mainly because of the new system and also because Easthampstead Ladies managed to get BB&O to accept their fees for last year. The new system is working well and at the end of the year I should be able to produce a complete list of clubs and membership numbers. I hope that the system is working as well for all the clubs. Through no fault of ours, there is still an outstanding bill of a little over £400 to pay for County Week – it came in late and we needed to challenge it. Committee expenses are down, but I know that is because some committee members have not put in their claims yet – and I know I forgot to do mine before the close of the accounts.

It is always tricky comparing year on year accounts as there will be different expenditure each year. Miscellaneous included the purchase of a new lap top for the Competitions Team and the upgrade to Club v1. All the income and Expenditure for the County Dinner will fall into the coming year, which also makes a difference to the accounts. Competition Income and Expenditure tends to vary, dependent upon the Competitions that are played just before the accounting period ends and the money not getting into the accounts for year end. For example, last year the money for the Angela Uzielli Competition had been paid out before the cheques went into the Bank.

Junior Coaching costs have gone up. This is intentional as we have raised the amount paid to the coaches to £40 for a 1-hour session and will raise it again to £45 for this coming year. Otherwise everything is as I would expect it to be.

I have one further year as Treasurer so we are looking for someone to take over at the 2018 AGM. Ideally it would be good to identify someone early so that there is a good handover.

Are there any questions? *No questions were forthcoming.*

*The accounts were then proposed by Teresa Taylor, Mapledurham, and seconded by Anne Butcher, Easthampstead Ladies.*

**EC:** *“Thank you, Mary. You have done an excellent job throughout the year. Ladies please take heed of the notice that we need a new Treasurer to take over in November 2018.”*

## 6. Resolution 1 – Amendment to the BCLGA Rules – IG

On 20<sup>th</sup> October, I sent out a second revision of our Constitution and this should have been displayed on your notice boards for your review. We asked for anyone to send through any questions they may have had regarding this. I didn't receive anything other than some positive comments, which is good.

Just to give you some background regarding the changes, a sub-committee was formed to review the Constitution and as a result we made the following changes:

- We wanted to move away from the tri-fold version to A4 to make it easier to read, display and format.
- We provided clarification on the Associate membership status following a couple of queries earlier in the year.
- We standardised on the terminology used and ensured consistency.
- We provided clarity on the Terms of Office for the Executive Committee in a more simplified table format.
- We provided clarity on the Executive roles to be ratified at the AGM.
- And lastly, in line with other Counties, we added sections 12 and 14 to take into account any future plans and possible liabilities.

These changes were proposed by the sub-committee, and have subsequently been reviewed by the Executive Committee also.

However, we do now require your approval as members of BCLGA, so unless anyone has any queries, can we please take a vote on accepting the revised Constitution?

*A majority show of hands agreed to the revised changes to the BCLGA Constitution.*

## 7. Presentation of Trophies

Cathy Jones presented the Battiscombe Birdies to Emily Savage of Goring & Streatley. The winner of the Handicap Reduction Cup was announced as Melanie Millin of Donnington Grove, but unfortunately was not able to attend the AGM.

## 8. 2018 Officials

IG ran through the formal election process in accordance with each rule for the following members. All were duly elected following a vote by the members.

Rule			Proposer	Seconder
7b	Election of County Captain	Ann Williams	Cathy Jones	Elsbeth Cooper
7b	Election of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Team Captain	Charlie Keenan	Elsbeth Cooper	Ann Williams
7b	Election of Seniors' Captain	Pat Bennett	Linda Hunt	Cathy Jones
7c	Re-election of the Treasurer	Mary Harwood	Irene Gregory	Nicky Jones
7d	Election of County Junior Organiser	Sharron Hargreaves	Pauline Cameron	Elsbeth Cooper
7g	Election of County Handicap Advisor	Marion Hitchcock	Irene Gregory	Elsbeth Cooper

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

## 9. Any Other Business

No matters were raised during A.O.B.

**10. Vote of Thanks**

**11. Close of Meeting** - the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.