

Berkshire County Ladies' Golf Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at Sand Martins Golf Club on Wednesday, 21st November 2018 at 10.30 am.

Present: Mrs Elspeth Cooper President in the Chair
Mrs Nicky Jones BCLGA Voting Member
Mrs Mary Harwood Treasurer
Miss Irene Gregory Hon Secretary
Plus 59 Members

Welcome from the President

Good Morning Ladies 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 7 members. Please refer to the attached list.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th November 2017**
The Minutes were approved, and were proposed by Martina Zwiefelhofer, Bearwood Lakes Golf Club and seconded by Charlie Keenan, Reading Golf Club.
3. **Matters Arising**
No matters were arising.
4. **To receive reports from:**
 - a. **Captain – Ann Williams**
President, Past Presidents, Past captains, Ladies.

First of all, I would like to thank you all very much for allowing me the privilege of being your County Captain for 2018. I was very surprised to be asked and was delighted to be able to accept the responsibility and the honour.

The first major event of the year was the County Championships. There was no Tegner Trophy this year because of the very wet condition of the course at East Berkshire. It was decided to enter the lowest 16 handicaps who had entered the Tegner into knockout. This was a shame because I was not able to judge form of 'fringe' players.

For the Championship the course was just about playable but conditions were tough. The weather was good for Saturday but not so warm on Sunday. Some very close matches resulted in the final of Laura Webb – on her home course - against Sheree Dove Wilde. I was able to watch this from close up as referee and saw a very tight match played in excellent spirit. Sheree eventually prevailed on the 18th to become County Champion for the very first time. I could tell how much it meant to her as I saw her hands shaking as she took her last putt and the tears in her eyes as she shook hands.

Next up was County Week:

After some training and practice matches, I had to choose the squad for County Week at Denham. It was very unfortunate for me that several of our ladies made themselves unavailable for selection. The team chosen was: Avril Schmidt, Becky Webb, Djura McRae Stoelwinder, Emily Savage, Emily Shaw, Julia Warke, Laura Webb, Sharon McAsey and Sheree Dove-Wilde.

I went to Denham full of hope and apprehension in equal measure. It was a new format for the competition with each match taking place in half a day. The format - was challenging and intense, giving us no time to regroup at lunch, or to swap players who might be having a bad day. Having 2 Foursomes and 3 singles games was also a challenge - the Foursomes became a significant proportion of the points on offer, meaning that good partnerships were more important than low handicaps.

Day 1: Beat Nothants 3-2, drew with Oxfordshire

Day 2: Lost to Hereford +Worcs 1 ½ - 3 ½, beat Bucks 4-1

So going in to the last morning we needed to win and hope that Oxon beat Bucks

Day 3: Draw with Warwickshire

We came 2nd

County Week would not have been as enjoyable, or as easy for me, without the help of the non-playing members of the team. Claire Randell, Cathy Jones and Charlie Keenan were all listed on the Squad sheet - just in case we were hit with injuries. Elspeth Cooper was her usual wonderful self.

To sum up: good team spirit: hard work: success.

The new format was tough - brutal some might say - on the players. Much harder than playing all the games under the previous format. Each point counts for so much and there is no time for reflection. As soon as the morning match is over it's on with the afternoon match. For us it was a good thing that you can manage with a smaller squad, however, this has the downside of making it difficult to bring in new, inexperienced players. Buckinghamshire organised the event very well, we shall have to wait and see how it works next year when Oxfordshire host at Frilford.

Many of you may not know that Berkshire Ladies Golf Association is not like other Ladies Golf Associations. Certainly, all the various associations have the aim of promoting women's and girls' golf in their counties, but the way they organise this can be very different. This came to my attention early this year when I was asked by Elspeth to go with her to a meeting with the ladies of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and the men of the BB&O. The aim of this meeting was to discuss whether or not the merger of the men's Union and the women's Associations was either desired or possible. EG feel that merged Counties are the way forward, and several Counties have already merged. It soon became clear that it would not be feasible to merge with the Men's BB&O Union as three separate County Associations – we would have to join with Oxfordshire and Bucks first. This does not seem to be likely in the next few years and in fact we do not think that it is particularly desirable. As a County we organise more handicap competitions – the Millennium and the Team Comp for example, than the other Counties, which I think is a very good thing and should continue.

I also noticed another way in which our County is different. In both Bucks and Oxon, the President is more of a figurehead and the County Captain does most of the work. I am very lucky that here, the President does a lot of the work. My job would have been very difficult without Elspeth's efforts. She has been unstinting in her enthusiasm, organisation and efficiency and I would personally like to thank her very much for her help.

I am passing on the Captaincy to a very good golfer and a very nice person. I am sure that Laura Webb will do a much better job of it than I have and that you will all support her in any way that you can.

EC thanked Ann for leading the County Team and for her support. EC presented Ann with a gift on behalf of the Exec and the members as a token of appreciation and thanks.

b. 2nd Team Captain – Charlie Keenan

I was honoured to be voted in as 2nd team Captain for 2 years and to support the County team as the Training officer. My report covers these 2 roles.

Let's start with the 2nd Team and the matches the team played in 2018. My aim was to try to find as many lower handicaps from the county to try them in the team. This involved looking up names, asking around at Gold League and looking on CDH for ladies who could be an addition to the pool of players.

Another goal was also to introduce Junior elite team players into the squad.

The 2nd team has three matches – one friendly with Hampshire and two Mid-South league matches between Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

The friendly match was hosted by Hampshire at Arlesford Golf Club on 3rd May, which was a weekday and term time. We did struggle to get a team. I'd like to thank Ann for captaining the team who were facing a strong team from Hants and though the match was a white wash, we saw some debutants for the team, namely Claire Randall and Alex Cram. Goal 1!

The first 2nd team league match was against Oxfordshire at Temple Golf club on 12th May. As a weekend we looked to see if we could introduce any of the juniors to the team. However, it's exam season so I was really pleased we could bring in one of the juniors - Freya Burns. We also had Jane Brackenbury play for the first time.

In 2017 we managed a win over Oxon 5-4 and this time they reversed the win. However, the weather wasn't very pleasant for the team and the singles was played in wet conditions. Which was contrary to the lovely warm weather in the away match against Bucks. One point was the Oxon team consisted of many 1st team players so we did really well on the day.

The 2nd league match was against Bucks. This is always a hard match, as the depth of Bucks means we usually face a strong team. The match was played at Harleyford Golf club on a very busy Sunday (20th May). I was delighted we could have Freya play for us again.

The team played their hearts out to try to match the length and power of some the Bucks team. Though many were disappointed, we did take many to the last two holes! It was closer than the overall score shows. (2-7)

2019 will see a slight change in the format: all the teams will now play in a Final's day. That means we will have a 4th match to use to blood new players and help to build potential players for the first team.

Dates for 2019:

- Friendly against Hampshire at Temple Golf Club – 29th May 2019
- Oxon 21st July 2019 at Badgemore Park G.C
- Bucks 30th June 2019 at Reading GC
- 2nd Team Finals Day – tbc

I have a request to all of those in the County. We are looking for players to become part of the squad as we know people come and go. Having a pool of players who can push for places in the teams is very important. Thus, please look and ask around for those you think would like to be asked to play. Send me the names and we can talk to them to see how they feel. We can get them into training games, if they are keen, to try it out. That brings me onto training.

This year I introduced the start of the season squad get together. We invited players from the 1st, 2nd, Juniors and senior squads to join the captains for an evening to open the season and have some fun.

Ann opened the evening with a short talk on what was happening, including the new county format. We had a talk from Katherine Irvine on what thoughts you should have about playing. Then we had some fun with the players split into three teams to score points in a putting competition, a chipping and driving competition. We will repeat this for 2019!

The weather played a big part in trying to get the squad together to practice matches. We were able to have matches against the Reading and Mill Ride men. There were a couple of other practice matches to get players together.

2019 – there will be the usual playing matches and practice games. In addition, we plan a short game training but with the emphasis on what choices to make.

In addition, an end of season “get together” of the squads to play and review the year will take place.

EC thanked Charlie and wished her well for a successful year next year.

c. Hon. Secretary – Irene Gregory

President, Captain, Ladies

Another busy year has flown by and here we are again. I just don't know where time is going.

I think the first thing I must do is say some “Thank You's”. My thanks, on behalf of BCLGA, must go to the clubs who have supported us throughout the year by allowing us to hold our Executive and County Delegates meetings. For the Exec meeting, they are:
Sonning Golf club for our March meeting.
Hennerton Golf Club for our June meeting.
And Calcot Park for our September meeting.

For our County Delegates meetings, they are:

East Berk for our March meeting.

Mill Ride for our July meeting.

Maidenhead for our October meeting, and apologies I wasn't able to make that one.

Without the support, generosity and hospitality of the clubs, it would be difficult for BCLGA to function as efficiently as we do, so thank you very much on behalf of BCLGA. I would also like to say a personal thank you to all the staff at each and every one of these clubs as they do help make my life a lot easier by assisting with the organisation of the meetings. I must also say a big Thank You to Sand Martins Golf Club, and their staff, for their hospitality and allowing us to host our AGM here this year.

Last but not least, I must thank the County Delegates for their help and support in ensuring that information is passed on to their respective clubs.

Just to update you with one change from last year, I did state that I was taking on the Welfare Officer's role. This mantle has now been passed on to Gabi Heuchel of East Berks Golf Club, so thank you to Gabi for providing the necessary support for this role. All relevant contact details have been updated in the Safeguarding Policy.

Following the introduction of GDPR on 25th May this year, I have updated the Club Officials form which provides all the information regarding contact details for your club officials. Where permission has been granted, I will be passing on the relevant details only to either the Vets' Association and the Berkshire Captains. This is in order to assist them with ensuring they are able to communicate with those interested members and to encourage participation into their own Associations.

That concludes my report for this year.

EC thanked Irene for the many tasks she had performed, and also the great support she had provided.

d. Voting Member / Regional Representative – Nicky Jones

My role covers two areas, the England Golf Voting member for Berkshire Ladies and the Berkshire representative for the Ladies Midland South region comprising Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Worcester & Hereford (one golfing county).

Voting Member Role

Very briefly, England Golf (EG) was formed in 2012 by the merger of the men's England Golf Union and the women's England Women's Golf Association. It is located in Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, and is made up of a Board of Directors (voted for by the Counties and two independent directors appointed for their particular expertise). In addition, there are employees located both at Woodhall Spa and a network of regional managers and club support officers around the country. Ashley Rump is our regional manager and Steve Savage is our club support officer.

The main EG departments are:

- **Championships**
- **Compliance** - including safeguarding, equality, disciplinary, anti-doping, subject access requests and complaints.
- **Participation and Club Support** - supporting all aspects of golf club facility management from legislation e.g. environmental compliance, through to business support and golf course management.
- **Performance** – talent development.
- **Development** – providing opportunities for juniors and adults, male and female, to get into golf, into regular participation and into golf club membership.
- **Marketing** - establishment of policies, and monitoring of their proper implementation.

Each year EG hold three General Meetings (including the AGM) where the Board present the County voting members for unions (men), associations (women) and counties where the unions and association have merged, with proposals needing their approval. In addition, this gives EG and the Counties the opportunity to have two-way communication on subjects of interest. This in turn is continued at County level by holding Delegates meetings where each club sends representatives and information is passed on from England Golf and the County Executive to clubs and it can also be passed in the other direction.

Funding for England Golf is made up of two parts, the grant from Sport England and second, and equally important, the affiliation fees paid by each golf club member (£8.50 pa this year). After much debate (and votes) it was finally agreed that it would be raised to £9.00 per annum in 2019 which will be reviewed again for 2020. With increasing participation in many different sports, it is felt that golf's 'share' of the Sport England pot will reduce and so in addition to increasing affiliation fees, work is also being done on including other sources of funding such as sponsorship and so called 'no-mad' golfers who play regularly but who are not golf club members. It is estimated that there are well over 1,000,000 people playing golf regularly in England but only 650,000 are golf club members.

Another important area of work for England Golf is Safeguarding. SafeGolf is a partnership of UK golf bodies committed to promoting a safe and positive environment for all those participating, working and volunteering in the sport of golf. It has been formed to help golf respond to the issue of child protection in sport. Its mission is to safeguard the welfare of children and young people, as well as adults at risk, in the sport of golf. This will be achieved through a unique partnership which has the ability to influence and act as advocate for safeguarding across the golfing landscape, developing a consistent approach towards ensuring that all people have a fun, safe and positive experience when playing golf.

SafeGolf is firstly, a website – www.safegolf.org – through which anyone with a concern about the welfare of a player, or the behaviour or practice of a coach, volunteer, organiser, parent or a player, can contact the lead safeguarding officer at their national governing body.

Secondly, it is the safeguarding standard England Golf will promote to all their affiliated clubs to ensure all clubs provide a safe and positive experience to children and young people whilst playing golf. If your club is currently Golfmark accredited, then your club has met the SafeGolf standard by completing this process. If your club hasn't completed Golfmark then you it needs to do two things:

- Be affiliated to England Golf
- [Apply for Golfmark](#) and complete the Safeguarding section, in full.

You do not need to complete all of GolfMark but once the Safeguarding section is complete your Club Support Officer will review and sign the standard off and your club will be awarded SafeGolf accreditation.

The safeguarding section includes:

- Adopting the England Golf safeguarding policy and communicating this to members, visitors, staff and volunteers.
- Ensuring safeguarding procedures are in place.
- Ensuring procedures are in place to recruit and use staff and volunteers who work with children.
- Appointing a club welfare officer, with a clear role description and training.
- Providing regular training in safeguarding and child protection for professionals, staff and volunteers who work with children.

Special mention should be made of appointing a club welfare officer. ALL CLUBS SHOULD HAVE ONE.

Just one or two of the other ways in which EG is working to meet its goals, including to increase participation and improve opportunities for all levels and abilities, are the promotion of a number of initiatives including Get into Golf, Golf Express and Girls Golf Rocks.

Get into Golf and Golf Express both have websites that clubs can use to advertise events for new golfers and for 'quick' golf e.g. 9-hole competitions, and links to both can be found on the home page of the BCLGA website www.bclga.co.uk. Girls Golf Rocks will be covered by our County Junior Organiser.

EG also offer a great deal of support for Clubs through their Club Support Officers and tools available to help so please go to the section 'For Golf Clubs' on the EG for further details of what is on offer and then make sure that your clubs are aware of what is available to them.

Finally, you, as county members, who pay those affiliation fees can contact us at the County at any time with queries, suggestions etc. and we welcome it but you can also contact the people at EG directly and they will be pleased to help.

Regional Representative

Each region must hold three meetings per year and the region representative on this Regional Committee are also the Voting members for their County so the majority of the meetings take place at Woodhall Spa when all are present for the General Meetings.

The main activity undertaken at regional level, in our case Midland South (MS), is the organisation and running of regional competitions. In 2019 will be:

- County Week (Frilford Heath, Oxon)
- Girls Championship (Worcester & Hereford)
- 4BBB (open to all members of BCLGA)
- Australian Spoons (which all Berkshire clubs can enter)
- Seniors' Championship (new for 2019 - Temple GC on July 8th)

Finalised dates and venues will be added to the calendar on the BCLGA website when they become available.

In 2018, Berkshire organised the MS Girls Championship. It was held on Sunday, 26th August, Bank Holiday weekend and the rain never stopped. What should have been a 36-hole competition had to be reduced to 18 as the greens were almost submerged by the time the last players had finished their morning round. Undaunted though, and congratulations to the winner who was a 13-year-old from Northamptonshire whose handicap was 3. The SS was 73 and she managed a gross 78 in spite of everything the elements could throw at her!

Website

The most recent version of the BCLGA website is now four years old. It has received positive feedback from members and is continually evolving. However, it is run, along with the Facebook and Twitter accounts, by volunteers in their spare time, for county members and for clubs in the County. In addition to the BCLGA pages (including Berkshire Girls), we provide the facility for clubs to advertise their Opens and we also incorporate additional sections for the County Vets, the Berkshire Captains Golf Society and the Scratch Leagues as they are of interest to many BCLGA members without being a part of BCLGA.

We are not reporters and often not present at events so rely on input from County Exec members, from the organisers of the additional sections, from Clubs and even from other counties for 'away' County Week results. We are also happy too to include items of interest from you, the members, such as the two holes in one at East Berks around this time last year. We are also very pleased to be told if you spot a mistake or if you have any suggestions as to where the website could be improved and links to the webmasters are on almost all pages for just this purpose.

EC thanked Nicky for representing the County at the England Golf meetings and Regional meetings. Also, for chairing the Delegates meetings and keeping everyone informed.

e. Seniors' Captain – Pat Bennett

My thanks to my predecessor, Linda Hunt, for all her help in explaining the Senior's Captain's duties.

I have often wondered why reports of the matches include weather reports. I now know why. In May we had brilliant sunshine at Newbury and Crookham, battled with almost gale force winds at the Berkshire and in May played in a thunderstorm at Aldenham. But all the players rose to the various challenges.

You may recall that we had won the Intercounty Matchplay League for the last few years. Unfortunately, we were piped at the post (on countback on holes up) by Hampshire whom we had halved, whilst winning all the remaining matches against Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The players were:

- Jane Sly – Mill Ride
- Katherine Irving – Castle Royle
- Linda Hunt and Airlie Dyson - Newbury and Crookham
- Margaret Berriman – Goring and Streatley
- Sheree Dove-Wilde – Camberley Heath
- Tracy Crew, Pat Bennett and Cathy Jones – Reading

As to the result of the Friendly matches, I can confirm that they were very friendly. We halved with Surrey, losing to Sussex and Middlesex. The players were:

- Anthea Winn – Royal Ascot
- Barbara Hudson-Reed, Ish Thomson – Easthampstead Ladies
- Cathy Jones, Gillian Godson, Pat Bennett, Mary Crawford, Lynn Griffiths-Reading
- Claire Randell, Nicola Ewart, Elspeth Cooper - Sonning
- Jo Russ, Airlie Dyson – Newbury and Crookham
- Julie Sheppard – East Berks

- Margaret Berriman, Teresa Taylor – Goring and Streatley
- Penny Johnston – Temple
- Yvonne Craven – Castle Royle.

The friendly matches are 4BBB format, thus allowing more players to be selected. I try and ensure everyone who signs up gets a game.

My thanks go to the clubs who hosted our home matches - Newbury and Crookham, the Berkshire and Royal Ascot.

The Seniors' Championship was held in July at Royal Ascot. There was a 30 minutes rain delay waiting for the final players to complete their round. I'm pleased to report that Sheree Dove-Wilde, who is the County Champion, completed the double in winning the Seniors' Championship as well.

The 10 Counties' Seniors Team Championship was held at the burnt-out course of Highgate, with the selected players of Linda Hunt, Jane Sly, Sheree Dove –Wilde and Katherine Irving. We came a valiant 5th place with Linda just missing the top score by one shot, scoring a great 78 - with the CSS 75.

My thanks to Betty Johnston for putting the results (and team photos) on the county website.

In February, Linda Hunt and Pat Bennett played in the Portuguese Seniors Open Championship. They were third in the 4BBB on the Pinhal Course at Villamoura. Linda was third in her category and Pat 2nd in her category on the Old Course.

Five players from Berkshire competed in the English Seniors' Open Championship at Belton Park - Tracy Crew, Linda Hunt, Katherine Irving, Jane Sly and Pat Bennett. Tracy and Linda tied 25th place, with Jane just 2 shots behind them.

In September, Jane Sly tied in 7th place in the Welsh Seniors Open at the Rolls of Monmouth.

Linda Hunt and Laura Webb played in the British Seniors' Open Championship at Crail in Scotland in September. Laura was again triumphant, winning by 9 shots and setting a new course record of 67. A fantastic result.

Next Year's Fixtures are almost complete and will be on the website shortly. Whilst I have a large number of players eligible to play in the League and Friendly matches, not everyone seems to think they are good enough to play for the County. I'd like more players to consider playing. – the Friendly matches are handicaps 8 to 12. Please let me know if you'd like to be added to my list.

The Seniors' Championship will be held at Reading on Tuesday 23rd July – the handicap limit is 20 so I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible (minimum age of 50 on the day).

EC thanked Pat for doing a great job leading the Seniors' team this year, and appreciated the time and effort put into and arranging and managing the matches.

f. County Junior Organiser – Sharron Hargreaves

Good morning Lady President, Lady Captain, Ladies

I can't believe that this time last year I was to take on the role of County Junior Organiser, how the year has flown by.

Over this last year I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with some amazing young girls who play fantastic golf and, of course, seeing all the girls that are in the county coaching programme and the young girls attending fun competition; these are the future of the Junior Team and ladies' sections of golf clubs across the county.

I also started my first year with some new committee members; both Marion and Sarah have taken on their roles with such enthusiasm, thank you. It has made my role so much easier knowing I have you there to take the lead on fun competitions and county coaching. Ann Smillie has also been a great support to myself and the committee pointing us all in the right direction. Last year Annie, Pera and Sarla all stood down from the Junior Committee but continued this year as coaching assistants. They have all decided to finish with the County Coaching Assistants roles so I would like to wish them good luck for the future and thank them all for their help this year.

My first year also saw the County taking on the Girls Golf Rocks programme. This was an exciting opportunity for four clubs, Mill Ride, Sand Martins, Goring & Streatley and Reading to offer young girls who had never played golf before the chance to try the sport and offer following on coaching and bring them into the clubs own coaching programme and to give them a platform to continue playing golf. We also gave 12 of our junior team the chance to become Ambassadors for Girls Golf Rocks to assist the Pros at the four clubs. Over 100 young girls attended the taster sessions between the clubs and 50 girls had five weeks of coaching. We now have 24 girls continuing with their golf.

The programme will continue next year at the same four clubs. Each club will be responsible for running the programme and will be looking at their own lady members to assist them in running the coaching for the girls which we feel would work better as these young girls will be the future of the ladies' section.

Now it brings me on to the successes the Berkshire Girls have achieved in 2018. Unfortunately, due to the unpredictable weather, quite a few events were cancelled or moved which meant the girls could not play in all the events in the junior calendar.

Firstly, the fun 9-hole competitions where we have 6 fixtures during the year. Our first fixture at Billingbear was cancelled due to the weather. We then went to Lambrook School - This was split into two groups – beginners and improvers. Chloe Walkington came first in the improvers group and Amy Nemeth-Yuile in the beginners' group. Chloe has now progressed to playing for the junior team. Eton College was our next venue. First in the improvers group was Kizzy McCulloch and Nellie Pope won in the beginners' group; runners up were Amy Nemeth-Yuile and Emily Broomfield. At Sonning the event was run alongside the Junior Championships. 1st was Evie Napier with 27 points 2nd Amy Nemeth-Yuile with 23 points, 3rd Clio Laverick with 20 points – Evie has now progressed to playing for the junior team. Oratory School saw Beth Austin winning with 36 points and 2nd Clio Laverick with 29 points. Lavender Park was the last event and again Beth Austin won with 25 points – one to watch out for in 2019.

The County Coaching programme sees so many of the girls in coaching and progressing through the levels. We have agreed that we will reduce the coaching centres to 2 for 2019 which will be Sand Martins for Level 1 and Mill Ride for Level 2 and 3. We are really encouraging the clubs to coach their junior girls and to promote our fun competitions to give the girls an opportunity of putting their skills to the test and meet other likeminded girls. I mentioned before both Chloe Walkington from Hennerton and Evie Napier from Temple, who are in coaching have been selected to play for the Junior Team. I also have Orla Downing from Maidenhead who is in level 3 coaching and will be playing for the Junior Team.

The Junior Team this year have been amazing. We have had some great achievements in the team events, Freya Burns, Fliss Deaney and Kate Jesseman all came in with prizes in the BB&O Championships and the team won the 'Team Shield' for the 3rd year running. Berkshire won the team event against Middlesex and Hertfordshire. Many matches have been played throughout the year against Bucks and Oxon and we've had some great wins. The Junior Championships saw Freya being crowned the Junior Champion and going on to represent the county in the England Champions of Champions.

Ann Williams introduced a new county team polo shirt for the 1st, 2nd and Senior Teams and it was agreed that we would also have the Junior Team wearing the same polo shirt and black jumpers so they can be

recognised around the counties as being part of the Berkshire Team. If you do see a Junior wearing the jade green polo shirt you will know that they are representing the county and flying the flag for Berkshire.

The junior section of the County also has a handicap reduction trophy and I was delighted to announce and present the trophy at the Junior AGM to Chloe Walkington who has reduced her handicap by 23 shots, from 54 to 31.

Now it brings me great pleasure in announcing the 2019 Junior Captain and Vice-Captain; unfortunately, though neither of them can be here today as they are both at school. The Junior Captain for 2019 will be Felicity Deaney from Mill Ride and the 2019 Vice-Captain will be Vicky Prietzel from Calcot Park. I'd also like to say a big thank you to Freya Burns for all her hard work as the 2018 Junior Captain; Freya has done fantastic this year.

Now for some thank you's – firstly to Elspeth, who over the year has been an enormous help to me on guiding me through the role of County Junior Organiser, for attending so many junior events as either the starter, the prize presenter or just supporting the girls at competitions around the country. You will be missed. Thank you also to Ann our Captain who helped in so many ways with the Girls Golf Rocks programme, she was a stand-in Ambassador and attended the taster sessions and a couple of coaching sessions with the young girls.

The County Executive team have also been a great support to me and the Junior Committee and we all look forward to working with you all again in 2019. A big shout out also goes to all the clubs the juniors have had the opportunity of playing at and we look forward to another successful year playing at your clubs.

EC thanked Sharron and the Junior Committee for everything they had done this year.

g. County Handicap Advisor – Marion Hitchcock

Good Morning Ladies,

My name is Marion Hitchcock and I have been Berkshire Ladies Handicap Advisor for about 16 months already. How time flies!

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 generally kept in the Ladies Locker rooms.

I am sure you will be aware of the forthcoming changes to the WHS which will affect us all? I know I am certainly looking forward to the challenges ahead. To prepare me for this, I have attended three England Golf Worldwide Handicapping Seminars this year.

During 2019 we will start the transition towards the World-Wide Handicapping System which will actually be introduced during 2020. The changes will be considerable but I believe for the better and thankfully technology will assist us greatly. Any information we receive on the WWH changes will be posted onto the BCLGA website, so please look out for this. Also, I'm sure Irene will forward on to the Handicap Secretaries any updates as they come in.

Just to summarise in January 2019, a WW Handicap website will be launched, which is **WHS.com**. This will be regularly updated by England Golf with all you need to know about the Handicap changes and will be the main hub for information. There will be no Handicap categories as we know today. It is proposed Men with scratch handicaps and Ladies with 2 or below handicap will be known as Elite Golfers, then there is the rest of us!

The Competition status will no longer be applicable and it will be up to each Club to decide how many acceptable (qualifying cards) will be required to enter competitions. Clubs and Committees will need to address these sorts of changes. New golfers will still need to submit the necessary cards to obtain a handicap.

For Clubs that have not attended this Autumn or Spring Seminars, England Golf will be holding Web Seminars during December and January. Please check that your handicap representatives will be able to attend one of the webinars and encourage them to do so.

EC thanked Marion for what has been a busy year with attending the England Golf seminars and passing on the information to the members.

h. Joint Competition Secretaries – Gillian Myers

Good morning Lady President, Lady Captain, Ladies,

Going from an exceptionally long and wet winter to an exceptionally hot summer, 2018 has proved to be different and sometimes difficult! This year saw the County competitions open up the handicap range to 54. We also saw a total of 544 ladies taking part in 16 County competitions; some qualifiers, some 'for fun' competitions, some for low handicaps, some for higher handicaps and some for team competitions. I hope you have enjoyed whichever competitions you have played in and will continue to take part. Please also encourage your ladies to take part.

2019 will see the Division 3 Autumn meeting reinstated but we must have a minimum number of 15 for this to go ahead.

And now for this year's results:

- Winter Match Play KO – Fay Unsworth (DG)
- Spring meeting Division 1 - Karen Thompson (EB)
- Inter Club Shield – Mill Ride
- Individual Winner – Lynda Atherton (EHL)
- Duncan Trophy – East Berkshire
- (Runner up) – Royal Ascot
- Tegner Trophy – Not held

After two course inspections, the Tegner Trophy at East Berkshire GC was cancelled, proving that the course was just too wet. However, the top 16 handicaps went ahead to play in the Championship, with Sheree Dove-Wilde of Camberley Heath GC winning the title, and Laura Webb of East Berks as the runner up. After several attempts to re-schedule the Tegner Trophy it was decided that this would not go ahead for 2018.

- The Championship Trophy – Sheree Dove-Wilde (Cam Heath)
- The Seniors' Championship Trophy – Sheree Dove-Wilde
- The Tournament Cup – Sarah Jolly (DG)
- Ann Bryant Cup – Jane Weller (CH)
- Ann Bryant Runner up – Kjersti Cannon (CH)
- The Presidents' Salvagers – Ann Francis & Pat Sprake (CP)
- The Gold Medal – Karen Thompson (EB)
- Joyce Cave Cup – Kathrine Irving (CR)
- Helen Brown Sauce Boat – Katherine Irving (CR)
- Edna Simmons Trophy – Katherine Irving (CR)
- Coronation Medal Silver – Sarah Jolly (DG)
- Aspect Trophy – Lisa Smith (EB)

- Poulton Cup – Sandra Bruce (DV)
- Coronation Medal Bronze - Lisa Smith (EB)
- Millennium Competition – Chrissie Eccleston (CR), Joyce Collins (CH), Anne Fairweather (WH)
- Team Competition – Easthampstead Ladies -
 - Norma Moran (EHL)
 - Sue Lucas (EHL)
 - Margit Demiriz (EHL)
- Battiscombe Birdies – Katherine Irving (CR)
 - Pam Stapeley (CH)
- Handicap Cup – Elizabeth Oliver-Keen (EB) with a reduction of 19.7.

Now for the thank you's. Thank you to Elspeth, our President, and to Ann our Captain for presenting prizes throughout the year's competitions, and also for refereeing the finals. I would like to personally thank Elspeth and Ann for their support and help throughout the year. Thank you to Nicky for posting all of the entry forms, start sheets, results, photographs and reports on the website. Thank you also to Irene for keeping the club folders up to date. Also thank you to Mary, our Treasurer. This year has seen the introduction of Bacs payments for competitions which I hope has made Mary's life easier. I would also like to thank Sue Kingham-Paxton for her help at the beginning of the year in running the County competitions and Deirdre for your help towards the end of the year in supporting and running competitions, and who has now joined me as Competitions Secretary. I would also like to introduce you to Ann Pennell who will be running the knock out competitions for 2019; the Ann Bryant, the Duncan Trophy and the Winter Match Play. Thank you to the Club delegates who have kept their Clubs informed of competitions, encouraged participation and given valuable feedback.

Finally, a big thank you has to go to the venue golf clubs throughout the year, to their staff and to their members who have supported the Competition throughout. Often a long day with an early start, we have been met with smiley faces, coffee on arrival, supported and guided at their golf club, fed with a good variety of food, some providing home-made cakes at the half way point, and finally lovely flowers on the presentation table, all of which helps to give the day a buzz – a day to be enjoyed.

EC thanked Gill for her time and dedication to the role.

i. USGA Course Rating Team Leader – Margaret Berriman

In my report to last year's AGM I said I planned to rate six Berkshire courses in 2018. I can happily say that six courses have been rated.

I have another happy item to report too; the BB&O Union have found a man in Berkshire. (There may be more than 400,000 men in Berkshire so it's surprising how long it's taken the Union to find one willing to rate!) I have taken him out to two ratings and Rosemary Rice, our Area Boss, has worked very hard to train him up so he is now a qualified rater and can share the strain. I must also add that David is a very nice bloke and he has got on extremely well with our rating team. He is also a very good techy nerd which is an excellent attribute in a lead rater.

John Kennedy, the Union secretary, has done his best to be helpful – even though that did mean he booked me in to rate Sand Martins during the 'beast from the east'. For once there were *no* golfers on the course – closed because of snow – so we got around fairly quickly. Although everyone's fingers were so cold, it was almost impossible to complete the paperwork. Then, to add insult to our injured fingers, England Golf said it would not accept a rating done in early March. I won't go into the exchange of emails before and after the rating! I'm afraid Sand Martins went to the back of my queue ... but at least it is now completed and with Rosemary.

I have discussed with John setting up a meeting in December for all the BB&O raters to identify our target courses for 2019 – and then for him to collect the necessary paperwork. Certificates of Measurement have been a bone of contention this year!

I realise that some golfers might be worried that their course will not be rerated before the new handicapping comes in. All the Women's tees already have a 'slope' so there is no problem there. If a course does not have a slope for Men, it's likely their slope will be calculated from the Women's.

I do have to thank my assistant raters. These are people who get up early and get cold. Despite the warmest, driest summer in 40 years, I seem to choose rating days when it rained! Nevertheless, they have come along, measured anything that stood still and have always been cheerful companions. Course rating couldn't happen without our assistants – so a *huge* and heartfelt thank you from me.

With David on board I would hope we will do eight courses in 2019; the ones with priority will be those which do not have an 'EGU rating' for the Men's tees. And I must say, I'm looking forward enormously to working with him.

j. BCLGA Tournament Panel

With the new Rules of Golf coming in for 2019, and new referees being trained, there seemed to be an opportunity to review how the Association used referees.

England Golf has a so-called Tournament Panel which comprises all its referees and administrators. Various people from this group come together as necessary to discuss 'problems' and suggest solutions. This seemed like something BCLGA could copy.

The first meeting of the panel, to look our on-going Terms of Competition, took place in early October. For this it was our administrators – our competition secretaries past and present – who shared ideas and built on experience. I'm sure that the anomalies that existed in our competition rules have been ironed out. Future meetings will cover some additional rules training for those who are willing to act as referees at County competitions.

The Panel does not have regular meetings – nor a consistent membership – but is an everchanging group depending on what needs to be discussed/decided and when this needs to be done.

EC thanked Margaret for the work she had done in her roles and her team of course raters.

5. Hon. Treasurer – Mary Harwood

Madam President, Lady Captain, Ladies

As you can see, we continue to find ourselves in a very healthy financial position. Despite my best efforts to spend money, we have a surplus for the year. This is partly because you are all paying by BACS transfer, so we hold money in the account for various competitions where the bills will be paid in the next financial year.

You will note that the EGU grant for Junior Coaching was down by £1,000 this year and will continue to be down in future years. This has not affected us because it has always been policy that the County expends money of Junior Coaching as we see it as an investment in the future; in addition, the parents are paying a little more for their girls to join the coaching schemes. However, you will see that we did receive a grant towards Girls Golf Rocks and this has been well spent by our Junior Coordinator.

Affiliation fees are down, and I think this reflects the trend that many clubs are experiencing – the loss of lady members – and certainly in my own club the loss of men as well.

You will note that Committee expenses are up. This reflects the fact that Committee members, and Junior Committee members are claiming their expenses and the majority now do this on a regular basis. In the light of petrol costs and in line with EGU, we have increased the mileage rate to 35p a mile for this financial year. Otherwise, everything is as normal for the year.

As this is my last time of presenting the accounts, I would like to thank the Committee and the Junior Committee for their timely presentation of bills and for ensuring that I can easily identify BACS payments. It has been a great privilege to act as Treasurer to the Association and I wish my successor all the best.

Are there any questions?

- a) Gabi Heuchel (East Berks GC) asked why there was only a £200 reduction for County Match Week when the format had changed from 5 days to 2.5 days? AW (County Captain) advised that all of the accommodation costs for 2019 have already been paid.
- b) Mary Lush (Sand Martins GC) asked about accruals and why we don't accrue? MHW advised it is not something we have ever historically done. However, the new Treasurer may view things differently.
- c) AW (Royal Ascot GC) stated that the accounts were not signed as audited as normally would be. IG advised that the accounts were already audited and they were just a copy presented on the day due to them not being sent out ahead of the AGM. However, a signed audited set of accounts would be presented with the AGM Minutes and be displayed on the BCLGA website.

EC asked for the accounts to be adopted. These were proposed by Fran Campbell of Mill Ride Golf Club, and seconded by Deidre Cuthbert of Bradfield College.

EC thanked Mary for her contribution and an excellent job in keeping the accounts in good order and on behalf of BCLGA and the members, presented her with a gift.

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

IG invited MHW to provide the background for the proposed amendment (Resolution 1). MHW advised that competitions do still run into October and so the accounting figures can look peculiar, and the figures can fall into the following financial year. It, therefore, made far more sense to take the accounting period to the end of October. Following the explanation by MHW, IG read out the proposal (copy attached) to ensure the members fully understood the changes to the accounting year. A show of hands was requested and the vote was carried unanimously to accept the change.

7. Presentation of Trophies

GM and EC presented the trophies to the winners of the Battiscombe Birdies and the Handicap Reduction Cup. (Please see photographs attached.)

8. 2019 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	Secunder
7a	Election of the President	Margaret Berriman	Elspeth Cooper	Nicky Jones
7b	Election of County Captain	Laura Webb	Ann Williams	Charlie Keenan
7c	Re-election of the Treasurer	Ishbel Thomson	Mary Harwood	Elspeth Cooper
7d	Election of Joint Competition Secretary	Deidre Cuthbert	Gill Myers	Irene Gregory

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

EC presented Margaret with the County badge and wished her well in her new role as President.

MB thanked Elspeth, on behalf of all the County for all her hard work over the last three years. MB further commented that Elspeth had been a big supporter of all the sections of the Executive and no task was too big, or too small and she will be a hard act to follow.

AW presented Laura Webb with the County badge. LW advised she was very pleased and honoured to take on the role of County Captain and welcomed the opportunity.

9. Any Other Business

a. Term of Officers following Resolution 1 vote

Teresa Taylor (Mapledurham GC) asked if the officers would be extending their term with the change in AGM period. IG advised that she would be willing to continue but cannot speak for the other members.

b. BCLGA Website

Katherine Irving (Castle Royle GC) raised questions regarding various areas of the BCLGA website, i.e. posting of results, links not working, the legacy/history links, lack of a Clubhouse facility. Feedback from the respective Executive members was given and advised that in order for the website to remain up-to-date and current, they were dependent upon volunteers and the members themselves to provide information. This subject will be picked up as an Agenda item for the Executive meeting to follow up, and will also be raised at the next County Delegates' meeting.

c. Maximum Shots for Strokeplay

Jennifer Neill (Winter Hill GC) raised a question about how clubs would be handling the maximum number of shots for Strokeplay in their competitions. Members seemed generally unaware / or confused about this option and following a discussion, MH (County Handicap Advisor) said she would obtain further clarification and advise.

EC provided an explanation as to where this had come from and that each Club and their Committees would need to make this decision as to how they felt they wanted to handle this. This will be further discussed at the next County Delegates' meeting.

d. No. Of Qualifying Cards

Jo Russ (Newbury & Crookham GC) asked as to how many qualifying cards are required to enter competitions. MH clarified and explained that it is the responsible of each club to set their own limits. Jo Russ also asked about how the handicaps will be done with the introduction of the new WWHS and MH confirmed it would be calculated from the best eight cards out of 20 played. A link is available on the website which provides further information.

10. Vote of Thanks – Jane Sly

Jane Sly (Mill Ride GC) gave the vote of thanks to the Executive Committee for continued efforts and strategic direction, particularly with bringing juniors through the ranks, ie from clubs to County. Jane also wished the new Executives success in their roles.

11. Close of Meeting - the meeting closed at 12.20 p.m.