

Does anyone have any other matters arising that won't be covered at the meeting?" No further matters were raised by the members.

4. Overview from the President

In the autumn the Executive decided it should look at the way we were running ourselves. We were prompted to do this for a number of reasons – from an attempted phishing expedition to a drop in entries for our competitions. A 'governance review' sounds a bit grand but, in essence, that's what it is.

There is one group that is drawing up a risk register. Hopefully, not something to be stuck in the back of a drawer – rather a live document that will ensure we look regularly at what might be the important things for us as an organisation. A second group is drafting a set of policies and procedures. This sounds pretty boring but in these days of a blame/compensation culture is essential. Already it has brought to light the need for risk assessments at our competition venues – not that we'll be molly-coddling you! The third group is working towards a strategy for the County – how we can make ourselves more relevant to you the golfers. We will be involving the delegates later in the year as we don't want this to be top down: we need to deliver the golf you want, but also perhaps things you haven't thought of yet!

5. To receive reports from:

a. Captain – Laura Webb

Year one as Berkshire County Captain completed, and I must say it has been an interesting and fun year, for me anyway. I have really enjoyed attending lots of county events and presenting prizes. However, I confess to not managing to get to many of the Juniors' events and this is something I hope to correct for next year, if I can manage my diary.

So, April saw a very exciting County Championship at Mill Ride. Thankfully the weather this spring was not so wet as last year, and it was possible to play the Tegner Trophy to determine the 16 automatic qualifiers for the Championship. It was great that two of the juniors, Freya Burns (MR) and Bella Kent (SP/CR), playing in the Tegner progressed to the Championship. Unfortunately, neither girl managed to get past their first-round opponents, but I am sure they learnt much from the experience and that will stand them in good stead for future competitions.

The Final was a re-run of 2016 and was closely contested, with Laura Webb (EB) eventually closing out her opponent Emily Shaw (CR) by firing her approach on the 16th in to gimmy distance to take the title.

Many thanks to Mill Ride staff and members for their support and the friendly welcome received over the Championship, it was greatly appreciated.

Next up - the County Matches - I don't want to use County Match Week because it is now only 2.5 days. This was the second year for the new format, something everyone is still getting to grips with. That said, the Midlands South region has decided to continue with this condensed format, and many other regions are moving to it, as well as the England Golf County Finals in 2021.

As last year, the matches clashed with the English Senior Women's Open Strokeplay Championship and, of course, in the middle of exam time. This resulted in a number of potential players being unavailable for all or part of the time. Nevertheless, the team selected [Freya Burns (MR), Sally Collier (CR), Sheree Dove-Wilde (MR), Izzy Holmes (TB), Djura MacRae-Stoelwinder (CP), Emily Savage (G&S), Jules Tarr (CR), Julia Warke (MR), Becky Webb (EB), Laura Webb (EB)] looked very promising on paper, and we headed off to the Blue Course at Frilford full of optimism. There has been a report on the website, so I will not go into real detail here, suffice to say we came away somewhat disappointed.

Day 1: Lost to Oxon 4 - 1, beat Nothants 3.5 - 1.5

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

Day 3: Lost to Warwickshire 4.5 - 0.5

Overall, Bucks won and went on to represent our region in County Finals. Oxon were 2nd and we had the same match points as Northants & Warwickshire, but ended up coming 5th on game points.

Despite the apparently poor results, many of the matches were very close, and there were some notable successes. So, special congratulations to Izzy who won three of her four single matches. It would have been fantastic if she could have played on the final day, but a well-earned post exam holiday with school mates awaited and to be fair sounded better than being at Frilford!

Congratulations also to rookies Sally, Freya and Jules who all got Foursomes wins, (although Jules did have three different partners to help her achieve her three!)

So, a huge thanks to all the players. Win or lose, they are a great group of girls and I am proud of how they represented Berkshire both on and off the course.

Very many thanks to all the volunteer caddies, those who came to watch, and those who sent in 'Good Luck' cards, the team really appreciated your support. Particular thanks to Margaret and Charlie who really did all the hard work behind the scenes for me, making my life so much easier.

Next year we will be in Northamptonshire from 15th to 17th June, so block off your diaries. I am already looking forward to it!

Some of you may be interested to know that as a result of the change in County Match format, the rules for awarding of County Colours have been updated. They now reflect the equal importance of Foursomes matches. After reviewing players points status under the new criteria, no one achieved their colours this year although one or two are very close!

These rules are also being used when determining who is eligible to play in 2nd Team matches and, for consistency, all Midland South Counties will now use the same criteria.

Just before I finish, there are already some dates penciled in for 1st / 2nd team squad practice matches next year, so if you would like to be involved, keep a note of them and be sure to let me know your availability:

Sun 3rd May: - Match v Mill Ride Men at Mill Ride GC

Sun 17th May: - Match v Wiltshire County Ladies at Ogbourne Downs GC

Sat 23rd May: Match v Middlesex County Ladies at Muswell Hill GC

I also am planning the traditional Captains' farewell dinner with guest speaker. The date for this is Friday 20th November at East Berkshire GC. I hope many of you will be able to attend – the speaker will be very entertaining, I think!

Finally, I want to thank those members of the Executive Committee who leave us this year. Irene our secretary extraordinaire, Nicky our dedicated EG rep and especially Charlie for all the help and support she has given me this year as 2nd Team Captain. It has been a pleasure working with you all.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy and successful 2020 golfing season.

MB thanked LW. "Laura, thank you very much for that. We are very privileged to have Laura as our County Captain; this year she will be Captain of the Irish Women's team competing in both the European Team Championships and the Home Internationals – so good luck! More immediately, Laura is off to Portugal next week to compete in the Portuguese Seniors and then at the beginning of March she heads to Spain for the Spanish Seniors. Play well, Laura!"

b. 2nd Team Captain / Training Officer – Charlie Keenan

From the sunny slopes of the Italian mountains.

I have been honoured to be the 2nd team Captain for the last 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 for 2019. Again, the goal was to find potential players with low or falling handicaps who had the potential to join the County team set up.

We were lucky again to have some of the Junior elite team play in some of the matches and training this year. Even with their exams over the period, I was delighted we were able to call upon three junior players for the matches.

For those who are unaware, the 2nd team normally has three matches – one friendly with Hampshire and two Midlands South league matches against Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. However, in 2019, the Midland South league introduced a Finals day for all of the six counties to attend.

Our only friendly match was hosted by Berkshire at Temple Golf Club on 29th May. Though it was a weekday, we were lucky as it was also half term, so we had two juniors in the team! Hampshire has a strong team and the match was very close, but we managed to win the Foursomes and halve the singles match. A win 5 - 4, the first time in some years.

The first 2nd team league match was against Oxfordshire at Henley Golf club on 2nd June. As usual, the team faced many of the Oxon 1st team. That made it a tricky day for the team but there were some great performances from our juniors and of course, some of the senior players. Unfortunately, it was not enough, and we lost 2.5 - 6.5. Next year, we anticipate that they won't be able to field some of these players due to the change agreed about 2nd team eligibility, so hopefully that will mean a more level playing field!

The 2nd league match was against Bucks. Always a hard match, as the depth of Bucks means we usually face a strong team. The match was played at Reading Golf Club on Sunday, 30th June. It was a real struggle to get a team and I especially have to thank Donna Hunt (EB) who came out in the morning to play in the Foursomes, and then went back to play for her club in the afternoon.

As always, the team played their hearts out to try to match the length and power of some the Bucks team. We managed to win one of the Foursomes and two singles. Cathy Jones and Freya Burns winning their singles match. Had we won one more match it might have made the Midland South Finals a different proposition! Oxon, rather than Bucks, could have topped the South league!

As I mentioned this year there was a change in the finals format: all the teams being invited to play in a final's day.

The format was that the winners would play the usual Foursomes and Singles format, the remaining four teams would play Singles. The matches were held at Wellingborough Golf Club on 19th July. Unfortunately, the day didn't quite work out re timings or result for us.

First, we lost a player early in the day, but luckily Margaret Berriman stepped in to fill in the gap for the team. A big thank you to her as it was literally last minute. Even with the power of Margaret, we lost our match against Northamptonshire. If this format is to continue, then next year there will need to be changes as there was too big a gap between the main match and the others finishing.

Re training for the teams – we continue to find new ways to build the teams and introduce each of them to each other. Practice matches and get togethers were only partially successful with only one match

played in 2019! This was mainly due to the weather and the challenge of finding the time to fit in with everyone's schedule.

As I hand over to Sally, I want to give a big thank you to all the players, the BCLGA Exec and others who have supported me these past two years and made my role enjoyable. Without them, the job would have been a lot harder. I would like to thank Laura Webb and Ann Williams as the County Captains during my term.

Sally, I wish you success in the role for 2020 / 2021 – enjoy and have fun.

LW thanked CK on behalf of the Exec and the members for her support and contribution during her term of office. LW commented that she has been brilliantly support by CK, who has also helped SH identify juniors to play in county matches. CK has done a superb job and should be applauded for her efforts.

c. Hon. Secretary – Irene Gregory

President, Captain, Ladies

I can't believe that five years have now passed since I took up this role and this is my last AGM. I remember the day I received the phone call from Nicky Jones. I was in London at the time and it was a beautiful, sunny day and it was my birthday, 1st October, so she clearly got me on a good day to accept the invitation.

I have to say, I am glad I accepted as it's been an experience I have thoroughly enjoyed. I have met and worked with some lovely people. I have looked back over the last five years and during this time, I have seen 26 people move in and out of various roles on the Executive Committee, from President to Training Officer. All these roles are important to servicing the County and supporting you, the members. I have been fortunate to have been part of that team effort and the team environment that we work in, and I do believe I've gained some valuable experience and knowledge along the way. I would certainly recommend that anyone interested in taking on a role, should do so, as it can offer you so much. I probably wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet and get to know so many of the ladies in the county who play golf, some of which have become friends along the way.

I'm leaving at a very interesting time for golf, with the World Wide Handicapping system coming in, and BCLGA looking at their Governance Policies and Procedures. I think I will miss the interaction all this will bring.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the Executive Committee, and the ladies in the County, who have helped throughout my time in the role.

I would also like to say some 'Thank You's' to the clubs who have made my life a lot easier by allowing BCLGA to host our Exec and Delegates meetings during 2019. Without the support, generosity and hospitality of the clubs, it would be difficult for us to function 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 have been extremely helpful and very supportive too.

The clubs are:

Exec Meetings:

1. Sonning Golf Club – 11th February
2. Royal Ascot – 22nd May and 10th September

County Delegates:

1. Sand Martins – 3rd April
2. Temple – 5th June

3. The Berkshire – 18th September

AGM:

1. Temple – this evening.

Last but not least, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the numerous County Delegates, past and present, for their help and support, not just this year, but every year that I've been in office, so thank you very much to all those delegates.

Before I sign off, I would like to wish Sheila, the incoming secretary, all the very best for the future and I hope she enjoys the role as much as I have.

That concludes my report and I hope to bump into you all during the golfing season.

Thank you very much.

MB thanked IG. "Irene, where do I begin? I suppose 5 years ago! You took over the secretary's role as a 'newbie' to the County Exec and soon very much owned the role. I'm your third president and you have coped with all of us! In fact, I'm not sure how I would have coped this year without your help and support. You have been the epitome of efficiency. Now, you know exactly what I'm going to give you – as in your usual efficient way, you went out and purchased all the leaving gifts! Enjoy! More particularly enjoy your well-deserved adventure to New Zealand next week!"

d. Voting Member / Regional Representative – read my Muriel Quinsac

MB updated the members that Nicky Jones was unable to be here this evening as she is only just out of hospital and it wouldn't have been sensible for her to attend. Muriel Quinsac who, until recently, was Oxfordshire's voting member, and who you will see from the papers, is proposed as our replacement for Nicky who retires at this meeting, will give Nicky's report.

MQ delivered NJ's report. My role covers two areas, the England Golf Voting member for Berkshire Ladies and the Berkshire Regional Representative for the Ladies' Midland South region comprising Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Worcester & Hereford (one golfing county).

Voting Member Role

As I am sure you all know, England Golf, located in Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, is the governing body for golf in England. Each year they hold three General Meetings (including the AGM) where the Board present the county Voting Member for each county union (men), county association (women) and also counties where the union and association have now 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 which 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 is also be passed back in the other direction.

Funding for England Golf comes in part from a grant from Sport England, although this is reducing for golf, but also from the affiliation fee paid by each golf club member (£9.00 pa this year, 2019). From 2020 this fee will increase to £9.50. As added value to the affiliation fee this year, from 1st July, 2019, the affiliation fee includes insurance. The partnership is with Bluefin Sport and is underwritten by Allianz. Full details can be found on the England Golf website.

Another important area of work for England Golf is Safeguarding and SafeGolf, which 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; this was introduced last year. It was formed to help golf

respond to the issues of child protection in sport. Its mission is to safeguard the welfare of children and young people, as well as vulnerable adults at risk, in the sport of golf.

The SafeGolf website is – 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.

SafeGolf is the safeguarding standard England Golf are now promoting to all their affiliated clubs to ensure all clubs provide a safe and positive experience to children and young people whilst playing golf. Clubs that were already Golfmark accredited have met the SafeGolf standard by completing this process. However, in 2020 all other clubs will be required to become SafeGolf accredited as part of their affiliation to England Golf. Becoming accredited covers areas including:

- 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 MUST HAVE ONE.

Full details were sent out to all affiliated clubs before Christmas. EG also offer a great deal of support for Clubs through their Club Support Officers, and tools are available to help so please go to the section 'For Golf Clubs' on the EG website 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, and the BCLGA 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. Please check with your club; if no details are received, please just let me know.

Regional Representative

Each region must hold three meetings per year and the Regional Representatives 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 Midlands South (MS), is the organisation and running of regional competitions. In 2020 these will be:

- County Week (Northampton GC Northants) 15th – 17th June.
- The Girls' Championship
- 4BBB (open to all members of BCLGA) on 20th August at Copt Heath GC, Solihull
- Australian Spoons, a Foursomes' competition which all Berkshire clubs can enter by holding qualifying competitions at their club. In 2020, the regional finals are being hosted by Berkshire at Mill Ride GC on 6th July. Please check with your clubs that they are holding a qualifying competition.

Seniors' Championship

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

In 2019, Berkshire organised the MS Seniors' Championship. It was held on 8th July, at Temple GC. It was an 18-hole stroke play competition with both scratch and handicap prizes with our County Captain, Laura Webb being crowned the inaugural Midland South Seniors' Champion.

Website

The most recent version of the BCLGA website is now over five years old and is not mobile friendly. Interest has also been expressed for the inclusion of on-line competition entry. We are therefore in the process of re-developing the site to address these issues and it will be launched shortly. Input to the website comes from many sources and is reliant on timely input from many different sources including 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. 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.

IG thanked NJ. As already advised, Nicky is unable to join us this evening. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nicky for all her hard work and dedication to BCLGA. I have had the pleasure of working with Nicky for the last five years and during this time she has worked tirelessly as your Voting Member, and previous to that role as County Secretary. I'm sure she has taken on other roles too as she has been involved with BCLGA for 20 years, so she really deserves a well-earned break. Thank you very much Nicky for all your hard work and contribution.

MB took the opportunity to advise the members that NJ has taken the decision to relinquish her role as Webmaster but would continue to work on finalising the new website. This means that BCLGA will be seeking a replacement Webmaster, so if anyone is interested in taking on this role, could they please either contact, NJ (Webmaster), MB (President) or SH (County Secretary). Thank you.

e. Seniors' Captain – Pat Bennett

Last year we lost the Intercounty Matchplay League, pipped at the post by Hampshire. This year we looked for a positive reversal. We won our matches against Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, so a nail-biting final match against Hampshire at the Army Club would determine the winner. Although we lost the match, we regained the title (and new trophy) on holes up. The players were:

- Laura Webb and Gabi Heuchel - East Berkshire
- Jane Sly - Mill Ride
- Katherine Irving - Castle Royle
- Linda Hunt - 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 overly friendly. We lost to Surrey, Sussex and Middlesex. The players were:

- Margaret Berriman, Teresa Taylor - Goring and Streatley
- Barbara Hudson-Reed - Easthampstead Ladies
- Cathy Jones, Gillian Godson, Pat Bennett, Lynn Griffiths - Reading
- Airlie Dyson, Jo Russ, Airlie Dyson, Alison Blackmore, Carol Thorogood - Newbury and Crookham
- Judy Crawley - Sand Martins
- Julie Sheppard - East Berkshire
- Nicola Ewart, Elspeth Cooper - Sonning
- Penny Johnston - Temple.

I'd like to thank Airlie Dyson for stepping in as Captain for the Sussex match as I was unavailable. The friendly matches are 4BBB, thus allowing more players to be selected. I tried to ensure everyone who signed up got a game.

We hosted a match against Guernsey at Reading in April. Some of the players were obviously not seniors, but we won quite handsomely with Berkshire players from both the League and friendly teams.

My thanks go to the clubs who hosted our home matches - East Berkshire, the Berkshire, Reading, Winter Hill and Calcot Park.

The Seniors' Championship was held in July at Reading, with Gabi Heuchel succeeding to be Champion.

The 10 Counties' Seniors' Team Championship was held at the Kings Course at Woburn in September, with the selected players being Linda Hunt, Jane Sly, Tracy Crew and Katherine Irving. It proved to be a tough course and the scoring reflected its difficulty. We came well down the field.

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

Berkshire was well supported in the English Seniors' Women's Championships at St Enedoc and Enville. The players were Cathy Jones, Gabi Heuchel, Pat Bennett, Tracy Crew, Linda Hunt, Jane Sly, Katherine Irving and Sheree Dove-Wilde, who was the runner-up in the Matchplay of the Ann Howard flight.

In January, there was success for Laura Webb and Linda Hunt in the Portuguese Seniors' Ladies Championship in Villamoura. Laura won the 4BBB with her partner at the Victoria course. She was also part of the Irish team who won the team event. Linda was in the England team and came second. Linda came 3rd gross and 1st nett, while Laura was 4th gross.

Laura Webb and Charlie Keenan came 9th in the Pair's competition at the Spanish Seniors at La Manga in March, with Gabi Heuchel and Pat Bennett also playing. Laura Webb was 9th in the Singles' competition.

Laura Webb, as the British Seniors' Ladies Open Champion, played in the US Senior Women's Open Championship at Cedar Rapids Country Club, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She tied 5th after the qualifying rounds with 4 over par. Sixty-four players qualified for the Matchplay and she won until the quarter finals, when she was beaten by the eventual runner-up. What a great performance.

Laura Webb defended her title in the British Seniors' Open Championship in September, coming 8th, with Jane Sly, Sheree Dove-Wilde and Gabi Heuchel also participating.

The Seniors' Championship will be held at Donnington Valley on Thursday 9th July - the handicap limit is 20, so many of you may be eligible (minimum age of 50 on the day).

I'm pleased to confirm that Tracy Crew is taking over from me as Seniors' Captain. I'm sure she'll enjoy the experience and I hope that many of you will make yourselves available for the matches.

Next year's fixtures are almost complete and will be on the website shortly. Whilst there is 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'm sure Tracy would like more players to consider playing. The friendly matches are handicaps 8 to 12. Please let her know if you'd like to be added to the list.

MB thanked PB. "Pat, thank you for all you have done for the Seniors over the last two years – particularly congratulations on winning back the League Trophy! I know from having been on the edges of the team how much you put into making sure that all the matches went off smoothly – that the right people turned up on the right day at the right place. The Executive, too, will miss your inimitable input! As a small token of our gratitude please accept this small donation to your wine cellar."

f. County Junior Organiser – Sharron Hargreaves

Good evening Lady President, Lady Captain, Ladies

Another year has flown by and 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 coaching and attending fun competitions, who are the future of the Junior Team and Ladies' sections of golf clubs across the county.

I 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 given me support over the last two years and she has now stepped down from her role as competition organiser; so, thank you Ann for your help and guidance.

Now it brings me on to the successes the Berkshire Girls have achieved in 2019. 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 had six fixtures during the year, and have been organised and run by Sarah Pallot and her helpers – thank you.

Billingsbear – seven girls entered and the winner was Amy Nemeth-Yuile.

Bradfield College – Texas scramble format, new location and new format.

East Berks – ten girls took part and the winner was Mollie Shay.

Oratory School – six girls took part and the winner was Amy Nemeth-Yuile.

Lavender Park – six girls entered and the winner was Bethia Melville.

The Junior Team have been amazing again this year. We have had some great achievements in the team event. BB&O coaching competitions and many matches have been played throughout the year against Bucks and Oxon, and we've had some great wins. The Junior Championships saw Freya Burns being crowned the Junior Champion for the second year running and went on to represent the County in the England Champions of Champions.

The Junior Team increased last year and we now have Holly Lund from Sand Martins, Evie Napier from Hennerton and Lottie Caddle from Calcot Park. Unfortunately, both Freya Burns and Felicity Deaney have come of age and can no longer play for the Juniors but you will still see both the girls playing for the 2nd team this year.

The County Coaching programme sees so many of the girls in coaching and progressing through the levels. Sand Martins GC for Level 1 girls and Mill Ride GC for Level 2 and 3. The County were also pleased to announce that we appointed Terry Wild from Mill Ride as the Junior Team Coach. Terry and Mill Ride have offered the junior team the use of the facilities at the club, from the driving range, putting green, practice area and the golf course itself. Along with this, Terry worked with the girls to further develop their short game, putting and team play in line with the England Golf Talent Pathway for level 4 players.

Terry ran one full day session and three half day sessions for the girls during the summer months, which brought the girls together to work as a team and further develop their skills. It was also key that they all wore their county team kit when being coached, which opened the eyes of many golfers at Mill Ride; both members and guests too especially, when eight girls were on the first hole together putting the new rules of golf into play!

Terry also ran 9-hole roll ups with different team formats each month for the girls to enjoy the game and socialise with other team members. This gave the girls an opportunity to practise, play different formats of golf and more importantly learn from each other, have fun and build a strong team for Berkshire. We are

pleased that we are able to continue this programme for the girls in 2020 with the funding from England Golf that we apply for each year.

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 Bella Kent from Castle Royle who reduced her handicap by 9½ shots and is now playing off single figures. Bella is only 13 years old.

Now it brings me great pleasure in announcing that the 2020 Junior Captain is Vicky Prietzel from Goring and Streatley, and the Vice-Captain will be Megan Hewinson from Hennerton GC. I'd also like to say a big thank you to Felicity Deaney, the 2019 Junior Captain. Felicity has done fantastically well this year and is now at Cardiff University where she now plays for them.

Now for some thank you's – thank you to Margaret Berriman who is in her first year as County President and has done a fantastic job in being a starter at many county events for the girls and supporting them. Thank you again to Sarah Pallot for running the fun competitions, and to Marion Walker for organising the coaching programmes at Sand Martins and Mill Ride.

The County Captain, Laura Webb, and the Executive Committee have also been a great support to me, as well as the Junior Committee, and we all look forward to working with you all again in 2020.

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.

MB thanked SH for her contribution to the County in 2019, and said it was a pleasure to attend the junior events and watch them progress.

g. County Handicap Advisor – Marion Hitchcock

President, Captain, Ladies

Most of you should know me by now, but just in case, my name is Marion Hitchcock. I am the County Handicap Advisor and my role is to support members and Handicap Secretaries on any handicapping issues within the Berkshire region.

To-date, I am pleased to report that I've had a quiet year with regards to handicap issues, which has allowed me to focus on the WHS changes to come.

Whilst I have a captive audience, and a different audience, I thought I would take the opportunity to recap on the WHS which has kept me busy this year.

In November 2020, we will see the introduction of the new WHS, which will affect us all, and to prepare for this, last summer, I attended an England Golf Training session on the changes that will be implemented. I have also attended workshops at the Oxfordshire GC and Donnington Grove which were run by the BB&O.

One of my responsibilities as a member of the BB&O team is to audit the handicap database for Berkshire clubs, to ensure the transition to the new system reflects true and correct members' handicap records.

Most of you should be aware by now that the WHS will be using an average of your best eight out of 20 scores to determine your handicap. To have a fully developed handicap you will need to have submitted 20 qualifying scores during the period July 2018 - July 2020. I would suggest that you please check with your handicap secretaries to see how many cards you currently have on your record, so you can make up any shortfall if you need to. Later, in the summer, individual handicap records will show your current handicap and what your handicap will be under the new system.

We will start the transition towards the World Wide Handicapping System during 2020. I personally feel very positive about the changes and once we all get used to them, I am sure you too will see the advantages.

I am likely to receive updates from England Golf and plan to communicate these via the County Secretary, and will also post this information on to the BCLGA website. I would encourage you to seek these out, and visit both the EG and BCLGA websites to make yourself aware of the proposed changes.

Thank you.

MB thanked MH for her contribution throughout 2019, and if she didn't think that 2019 was busy, MB was confident that the introduction of the World Wide Handicapping System will keep her occupied.

h. Joint Competition Secretaries – Gillian Myers / Deidre Cuthbert

Good evening Lady President Lady Captain and Ladies

During the 2019 year we have organised 17 different competitions for the county. This year the numbers taking part were just under 500, a slight drop from last year but still excellent support. We DO encourage you to go onto the BCLGA website to see the various competitions open to all levels of golfer that you are able to enter in 2020. Many thanks go to the club delegates, for promoting the County competitions and keeping the clubs up to date with information from the County. Please continue to encourage your ladies to join in our competitions which offer your club players different courses to enjoy.

Thanks go to the clubs that have hosted our events this year, - Maidenhead, Goring and Streatley, Mill Ride, Sonning, Sand Martins, Reading, Donnington Grove, The Downshire, and Mapledurham. All these clubs and their ladies' captains have been extremely welcoming and helpful in running the days. This coming season will see a different set of hosting clubs.

For the individual knockout competitions – The Ann Bryant and the Winter Knock out, there seems to be a 50/50 situation of clubs that charge a minimal green fee and those that don't. This is entirely at the club's discretion, and division of any fee is shared by the players.

In 2019 we were able to run the Third division Spring and Autumn meeting after a few years' break, enabling the Katy Plater trophy to be reinstated.

Now, for this year's results:

Winter Match Play KO 2018 - 19 Angie Burns (Mill Ride)

Spring meeting Division 1 - Gold Medal & Scratch prize – Linda Hunt (Newbury & Crookham). Nett prize– Ann Williams (Goring & Streatley)

Spring Meeting Division 2 - Scratch prize - Gwen King. Nett prize - Judy Jones (Castle Royle)

Spring Meeting Division 3 - Sandra Hall

Inter Club Shield - Winners - the Berkshire. Runners-up - Goring & Streatley

Individual Winner - Jo Grant. Runner-up - Pam Thomason

Duncan Trophy – Winners – Sonning. Runners-up - Sand Martins

Tegner Trophy - Laura Webb (East Berks)

Elizabeth Jacobs Clock - Becky Webb (East Berks)

Most improved gross scores am/pm for the Tegner Trophy

The Championship Trophy - and continuing her reign as County Champion - Laura Webb (East Berks)

The Seniors' Championship Trophy - Gross - Gabi Heuchal (East Berks). Nett Prize - Julie Parsons (Mapledurham)

Tournament Cup – Bella Kent (Stoke Park/Castle Royle)

Ann Bryant Cup - Pam Thomason (Maidenhead). Runner-up - Alison Vessey (Goring & Streatley)

President's Salvors - Claire Randell (Sonning) and Donna Hunt (East Berks)

1st Division Autumn meeting

Joyce Cave Cup - Laura Webb (East Berks)
Helen Brown Sauce Boat - Charlie Keenan (Reading)
Edna Simmons Trophy - Laura Webb (East Berks)
Coronation Silver Medal - Kim Richardson (Donnington Grove)
Aspect Trophy - Jax Lawrence (Castle Royle)

2nd Division Autumn Meeting

Poulton Cup - Sharron Hargreaves (Castle Royle)
Coronation Bronze Medal - Sharron Hargreaves (Castle Royle)

3rd Division Autumn Meeting

For aggregate Spring and Autumn score:
Katy Plater Trophy - Dorothy Hawker (Donnington Valley)
Millennium Competition - Chris Smith (Easthampstead Ladies), Chris Woolhouse (Hennerton) and Pauline Ronson (Sand Martins)
Team Competition - Easthampstead Ladies

Now, for Gill's and my in house 'Thank you's. Thank you to Margaret Berriman, our President, and Laura Webb, our County Captain for presenting prizes and always being on hand at the competitions to support us.

Thanks to Ann Pennell, who has become an expert at organising our venues for the following year's events, and for running the knock out competitions.
To Nicky Jones, who helps to get our competition reports out within a short time. You have been so helpful, often having to neaten our reports up to look their best!
Huge thanks to Irene Gregory for the years she has put in as secretary, which is very often a thankless job!
And thanks to our new Treasurer, Ish Thomson, who has been very good at keeping an eye on our finances.

Finally, a big personal thank you to Gill Myers for being my mentor in planning and presenting the competitions this year, and who I'm still learning from. Gill will be completing her term as Competitions Secretary this year and we are looking for someone to replace her and work alongside me. So please, if you are interested in having more involvement in the County, let us know. We will be sending a small advertisement out which we would ask you to display on your notice boards.

Thank you all, and we look forward to a successful and happy golfing 2020 season

i. USGA Course Rating Team Leader – Margaret Berriman

For many years either Teresa or I have stood here and bemoaned the lack of input we've had from The Men. It is completely the reverse this year: without the input from David Harvey or Ian Bishop, no Berkshire courses would have been rated. In fact, seven were completed: Wokefield Park, the two Donnington's, Sonning, Bradfield College, Goring & Streatley, and Winter Hill. I think that leaves only four to be completed in Berkshire before the new handicapping comes in at the end of this year.

Apart from my heartfelt thanks going to David and Ian, there are a number of our members who have turned up to help, so a big thank you to Anthea Winn, Gabi Heuchel, Ish Thomson, Kathryn Price, Ann Williams and Teresa Taylor. Without the 'assistants' ratings just would not happen. Thanks, girls!

6. Hon. Treasurer – Ish Thomson

Background. The safe level of reserves was previously set at £12k, and over the past few years, attempts have been made to reduce to this level. Despite this in 2018, the account made an excess of income over expenditure of about £2.5k.

At the 2018 AGM the decision was made to change the accounting year from Sep - Sep to Oct - Oct, which properly reflected the golfing year. Thus, this accounting year was 13 months rather than the 12 of previous years. The effect of this is that some expenditure items have hit the account twice in this year – they were paid both in October 2018 and October 2019. In summary, last year the account was overstated, and this year a significant correction has materialised. It is anticipated that over the next 12 months the account will settle down to a new 'normal' level of activity. This year the account spent £9,855.39 more than in 2018, and the account value is now £12.5k with an additional £2.8k in the Trophy Reserve fund. Total Value is £15.3k

Major expenses which hit the account twice and their Oct 19 costs were:

Angela Uzielli Comp	£1,098.24
Autumn Meet Comp	£890.00
Seniors match Woburn	£550.65
Hennerton Juniors Comp	£396.00
Total	£2,934.89

Note: Competition entries are paid in advance of the competition.

Other high expenditure items were:

Junior coaching. A budget of £2,500 was given at the start of the year. The total spend was £7,207.21, but of that £890 was paid in Oct 2018 for coaching provided the previous year. Parental income and the EGU grant totalled £3,620, resulting in an overspend of £197.21 attributable to this year's accounts. The anticipated coaching cost to the County is expected to markedly reduce next year due to no winter coaching, reducing centres to two, and higher parental contributions.

Clothing - A total of £1,871.06 was spent on clothing, with an income of £961.98. In 2018 it was agreed that junior kit would be subsidised by 50% resulting in a cost to the County of £360. There is also a stock of clothing held, valued at £294. Overall there is £255.08 of clothing costs unaccounted for. Steps have been taken to improve the ordering process.

County (President's) Dinner - Although there is an apparent loss of £312, this sum was paid into the account in Sep 18, so the dinner broke even.

Committee Expenses - These have increased this year. Again, this is partly due to the accounting year, with about £310 being paid in this year for expenditure in 2018.

Using the figures above, about £4,160 of the expenditure for 2019 properly belonged to 2018, which would have brought the real value of the account at year end 2018 to around £18.5k. Thus, for this year there is an effective reduction in the value of the account of £3.2k to £15.3k.

INCOME

The main source of income is affiliation fees - £5.50 per member. Over the past few years there has been a downward trend in affiliation fees. Historically the average income was around £12k. Last year (2018) the income was £11,647. This year, despite being a 13-month period, the total income was £10,912. We have noticed a tendency for clubs to delay paying their affiliation fees, they should be paid within two months of membership year. Affiliation fees have not been increased for many years, and the Exec will be seeking to increase fees from November 2020.

SUMMARY

The Account is now almost down to the safe level of reserves planned a few years ago. With the ongoing gradual reduction in affiliation fees, careful management will be required in this next year to ensure that the reserves level is maintained.

IT asked if there were any questions from the members. Fiona Hobbs (Easthampstead Ladies) asked if the Exec had a strategy for over-spending, as it seems that County Match Week and the matches make up 65% of the affiliation fees. MB advised that the Executive will be discussing this at their next meeting, which was actually tomorrow, 16th January.

Ann Smillie (Goring & Streatley) also enquired about the proposed increase of the affiliation fee from £5.50 and would like to know when this will be introduced? IT explained that the financial period that we work to is from 1st November. MB added that the BB&O (which collects our affiliation fees for us) usually sends out their paperwork in June to advise clubs of the England Golf and County Affiliation fees.

IT proposed the adoption of the Accounts, and Fiona Hobbs (Easthampstead Ladies) seconded this. The accounts were adopted.

MB thanked IT for her work on the accounts, and also the huge amount of work she does behind the scenes.

7. Presentation of Trophies

GM and MB presented the trophies to the winners of the Battscombe Birdies and the Handicap Reduction Cup.

The Battscombe Birdies is awarded to the person who has over the year accrued the highest number of Birdie and Eagle scores, in the First Division Spring Meeting, t Autumn Meeting and the Tegner Trophy and this year that was Laura Webb.

The Handicap Reduction Cup is awarded to the person who has had the most significant drop in their handicap, which is worked out by a formula from their starting handicap in January, to their achieved handicap at 31st October., With a drop of 29 to 15 and using the percentage calculation, -0.6363., the winner is Anneliese Churchill from Sonning golf Club.

8. 2020 Officials

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

Rule		Nominee	Proposer	Seconded
7.1	Election of Voting Member	Muriel Quinsac	Nicky Jones	Margaret Berriman
7.1	Election of 2 nd Team Captain	Sally Collier	Charlie Keenan	Laura Webb
7.1	Election of Seniors' Captain	Tracy Crew	Pat Bennett	Laura Webb
7.1	Election of Honorary Secretary	Sheila Hayes	Irene Gregory	Nicky Jones
7.2	Re-election of Treasurer	Ish Thomson	Nicky Jones	Margaret Berriman

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

9. Any Other Business

Maria Thorpe (Easthampstead Ladies) enquired about the costs of the 2nd/3rd Division Autumn Meetings as it was getting difficult for ladies to sign up. IT explained entry fees are taken in advance of October and the amount of £1,000 was the cost to paid to the venue. DC also further clarified that all county competitions were self-funding and only ever break-even. The Seniors' event at Woburn was also queried in terms of cost, and MB advised that this was a 10 Counties championship which BCLGA would support.

10. Vote of Thanks

Elsbeth Cooper (Sonning) gave the vote of thanks and said it was a great pleasure to say a few words. She thanked all the members of the Exec and thought it was a very informative meeting. She offered "Special Thanks" to all those Exec members standing down and hoped they would enjoy more time for themselves. She also went on to say that without volunteers, nothing would happen. We should take heed of the request to fill other roles. We mustn't also forget the County Delegates and other ladies who have helped out at county events. She wished everyone a successful year.

11. Close of Meeting

MB thanked everyone for coming this evening. She looked forward to seeing the Delegates at the first meeting on 4th March, and said the County was extending the invitation to the Ladies' Captains and Vice Captains to join us. She also hoped to see other members of the county at the various County competitions throughout the year. Next year's AGM which will be at Reading Golf Club on 13th January. Meanwhile, have a safe journey home.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.