



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

Harleyford Golf Club - Wednesday, 30 October 2019

PRESENT:

Sally Harborne	County President
Lynda Hilton	Incoming County President
Gail Sharp	County Captain
Maura Spencer	Honorary Secretary
Carolyn Rivett	Honorary Treasurer
Janette Psyllides	2nd Team Captain
Gilly Stimpson	Competition Secretary
Susanna Mitterer	Seniors Captain & EG Pro Tem
Janet Beal	County Junior Organiser
Christine Bishop	Handicap Advisor
Tony Bowers	County Coach
	plus 67 Members

WELCOME ADDRESS

The County Captain, Gail Sharp welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Buckinghamshire County Ladies Golf Association. Gail stated her aim is for the prize-giving and AGM to finish by 3.30. Gail then introduced the members of the Executive Committee.

1. APOLOGIES

19 apologies were received.

2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - Sally Harborne

2019 has been a great golfing year for BCLGA as you will all have seen from the various reports on our County Website. My role is one of support and to that end I have watched plenty of great golf played in true golfing spirit.

This year I was lucky enough to have stood on the side of fairways in sunshine rather than the rain of 2018 and have watched our junior girls progress along their own golfing ladder. Our junior girls are always eager to welcome any new member into the fold, swapping jokes around the lunch table generally enjoying themselves. As you will have seen from Janet's report and the Junior NewsLetter, their achievements are many and varied, including 8 of them representing Bucks in the National County Finals at Delamere Forest in Cheshire in September.

The parents of the girls are always willing to give up their time to transport their daughters to the four corners of the County and beyond and support them both on and off the course. Without their continued support, our Junior Girls would find it difficult to play in as many events as they do.

County Match week at Frilford Heath was organised by Oxfordshire this year, as a team we managed to beat Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Worcestershire & Herefordshire, Northampton and Warwickshire

gaining a maximum 10 points and consequently we went forward to represent Midland South Region at the National Finals.

Our Gala Day in June was a different type of day for the Executive to arrange. It was aimed at the club golfer, with plenty of golf tuition from 7 local Professionals. Driving, use of Irons, bunker practice, Tony doing a grand job on the putting green just outside the club house, Massage sessions, Mental Fitness, Pilates and a delicious lunch. There was retail therapy too. Over 170 Ladies attended the day and we had many very complimentary comments via email after the event. It took a huge amount of work from quite a small team but it was a marvellous day and is perhaps something that can be repeated in the future.

The National Finals came round very quickly and we were off to Delamere Forest with our team of 12 golfers plus Gail, Helen, Carolyn and myself. We stayed in an AirBnB house in Kelsall, just a few minutes' drive from the golf club with Helen acting as House Mummy. Carolyn and I helped in the various tasks of feeding the team, washing kit, ferrying to and from the Course and generally keeping everyone happy. The team played some very special golf and all enjoyed the experience that a big competition throws at you. We ended up in 4th place which perhaps does not reflect the magnificent golf played. We were the only team that beat the eventual winners but others were more consistent.

This is my last year as your President. I have been a member of the Executive Committee since November 2011, (with one year off in 2017 for good behaviour!). I have made many lasting friendships and would like to extend my thanks to all the members of BCLGA and a special thanks to the Executive who all work tirelessly on your behalf, for their help and friendship.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all golfing success in the future. I am sure our paths will continue to cross on the various beautiful courses we have and hold dear in Buckinghamshire.

3. **MINUTES OF 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

*Proposer - Jenny Masterton Smith, Whiteleaf GC
Seconder - Louise Coslett, Gerrards Cross GC*

The minutes were duly signed by Gail Sharp, County Captain.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

None

5. **PRESENTATION OF COLOURS, TROPHIES & COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT**

COLOURS

We have several individuals who have earned their County Colours this season.

First Team Colours were awarded to **Lily Robinson (Woburn)** and these were presented to her at the end of County Match Week in June. **Amelia Curtis (Stoke Park)** and **Rosie Bee Kim (The Buckinghamshire)** also earned their First team Colours and these were presented to them at the end of National Finals Week in September.

We also have three ladies who have earned their Senior Colours this season -

Julia Gallagher (Woburn); Irene Brien (Beaconsfield); Susanna Mitterer (Woburn)

TROPHIES

The Midlands South County Match week - The Doris Abraham Trophy won by Bucks at County Match

Week was displayed by Sally Harborne.

The Midlands South Second Team Final trophy salver was presented to Janette Psyllides.

The Midlands South Junior Scratch Team Final trophy was presented to Eleanor Barnett (outgoing junior captain) and Ciara Egan (incoming junior captain) as they had both played in the decisive crucial final match.

COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT - GILLY STIMPSON

WINTER SCRATCH LEAGUE

The Winter League runs from October through to April and is run as a greensomes competition in divisions. This year we only had 15 entries. We were lucky this year in respect to weather, so not too many problems sorting out the matches.

The winners were as follows:

Premier Division - Woburn

1st Division - Gerrards Cross

2nd Division - Hazlemere

SUMMER MEETING

We had a very successful Summer Meeting on 10th July held at Harpenden Golf club, in Hertfordshire. We had 13 teams entering, A great atmosphere, good weather and a delicious lunch.

SUMMER LEAGUE

The summer league ran fairly smoothly this year. The winners were as follows:

Silver Division

Premier Division - Woburn

2nd Division - Ellesborough

3rd Division - Harleyford

4th Division - Oakland Park

Bronze Division

1st Division - Hazlemere

2nd Division - Chartridge Park

3rd Division - Harleyford

4th Division - Weston Turville

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS were played at Burnham Beeches on the 12th, 18th and 19th May 2019. Well done to all who participated, particularly to Alice Kozlowski who won the County Championship, The Matchplay and also the Baxter Bowl. Well done to Susanna Mitterer for winning the Senior Championship. The full results are on the County Website. My thanks to Sally Harborne for her excellent organisation.

OTHER TROPHIES

Coronation Medals:

Silver Coronation Medal will be awarded to Ella Butteriss, Wexham Park; score +28

Bronze Coronation Medal will be awarded to Jane Kellett, Wexham Park; score -12

Summer Charity Eclectic:

Summer Charity Eclectic Trophy was won by **Beaconsfield** with a score of 99.5. This year has again had a disappointing number of entries. This means the income for the Captain's Charity, with only 12 clubs entering and one club making a donation, is £1043.

Cygnets Trophy:

The Summer Cygnets Trophy has raised £1356.50 for the Junior Girls. This is just a few pounds more than last year. **Chartridge Park** won the trophy with a score of 230.

BUCKS CHALLENGE SHIELD AND INTERCLUB FOURSOMES

A big thank you goes to Glenise Marfell for becoming the Bucks Shield and Inter Club foursomes Co-ordinator this year.

The 2019 Bucks Challenge Shield competition was held at Harleyford Golf Club on Thursday 12th September. The Semi-finals on the morning were contested between Harleyford vs Ellesborough and Beaconsfield vs Denham. The winners of the semi-finals were Harleyford and Beaconsfield. Well done to Harleyford who won the afternoon final.

The 2019 **Bucks Challenge Shield** Competition was held at Harleyford Golf Club on Thursday 12th September. The Semi-finals in the morning were contested between Harleyford vs Ellesborough and Beaconsfield vs Denham. The winners of the semi-finals were Harleyford and Beaconsfield. Well done **Harleyford** who won the afternoon final.

THE 2019 INTERCLUB FOURSOMES took place on Thursday 17th October at Harewood Downs Golf Club. The winners were **Harewood Downs**, with Burnham Beeches coming 2nd. Pamela King and Janette Psyllides won the next best pair score, on countback from Camilla Trendell and Rachel McKinlay.

KNOCKOUTS

My thanks to Jackie Maher for organising all the knockouts for 2019.

WINTER FOURSOMES

The Final of the 2018/19 Winter foursomes KO competition was played at the Lambourne GC on 15th April 2019. The finalists were Pam Heavyside and Jackie Taylor from Wexham Park GC and Margot Sharp and Fiona Robb from Buckingham GC. The close match was finally won 2 up by Pam and Jackie.

CHALLENGE CUP

The Challenge Cup KO final was played at Harleyford GC on 28th September 2019. The finalists were Gilly Brewer from Harewood Downs GC and Christine Bishop from Stowe GC. Both played off the same handicap. Gilly Brewer became the 2019 Champion winning 2&1.

ROSE BOWL

The Rose Bowl KO final was played at Gerrards Cross GC on 25th September 2019 between Sue Davies, Beaconsfield GC and Gill Hepsworth.

Befitting a match between life-long rivals, the game was nip and tuck all the way, finally being won by Sue sinking a long putt on the 19th hole.

SUMMER GREENSOMES

The Summer Greensomes final took place at Burnham Beeches on Thursday 3rd October 2019 and was between Jackie Edwards & Anne-Marie Gilbert of The Lambourne GC against Nerys McGuinness & Gail Lawrence of Harleyford GC, with Nerys and Gail winning a very close match.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

COUNTY CAPTAIN - Gail Sharp

My first year as your County Captain has been an interesting experience to say the least.

What stands out for me is the extraordinary workload that goes on behind the scenes to organise the County programme and to liaise and communicate with clubs, ladies' captains, delegates and

members.

Our primary task is to support, nurture and promote successful women's and girls' golf at all levels, from the complete beginner to our first team players at national level. Coupled with this, we have a responsibility to ensure the governance of the sport appropriately through correct application of handicaps, rules and course ratings.

I am fortunate to have inherited a hardworking Executive with a breadth of talent and experience. So I will start my report by thanking them all for the support they have given me during this past year.

However, the work is not only done by the Executive Committee. We have a number of members who are prepared to offer some of their time in support roles, whether it is running specific competitions, supporting us with the website, organising the County lunch, being House Mum at County Match weeks etc. I would like to thank Jackie Maher, Glenise Marfell, Delyth Barnett, Cecilia Williams, Katherine Milburn, Anne Terry and Helen Mines publically for their contribution to the County this past year. We could not function successfully without this practical support.

The Executive have all prepared reports for you to read in advance on their areas of responsibility and these have been loaded onto the website. I therefore do not intend to spend a lot of time repeating the details that they have set out for you. I will concentrate in this report on other areas.

Delegates Meetings - we have held four of these since the last AGM. Our aim is to make these enjoyable and informative events for all those attending, using the sessions to discuss one or two topics in some detail, plus any time-relevant business like the Bucks Shield Draw, relegating general updates to written information handouts. We have looked at priorities for a County Business plan, how we might change the Spring and Autumn meetings to attract a larger entry, whether to introduce a Par 3 competition, what would be sensible to have in a new delegates induction pack and feedback on further website developments that would be helpful. As a result, there will be several changes made to our operational activities

Tony, our County Coach, continues to attend all bar the December meeting, to give delegates a coaching session for an hour before the meeting. From feedback, this clearly adds value to the sessions.

Vice-Captains' Meeting - the format for this year's event was changed to something akin to a parent's evening; different aspects of Executive activity was promoted on different tables and the Vice-Captains' could circulate and spend as much or as little time as they needed at each information point according to their prior knowledge of County matters. This will be repeated in 2020.

County Match Week at Frilford Heath - we had a clean sweep at County Match Week in June, beating all the other 5 counties to score the maximum 10 match points. However, there were several nail-biting finishes as two of our wins were 3:2 and could have gone the other way. Full results are on the website. Lily Robinson was awarded her first team county colours at the end of the week.

National Finals at Delamere Forest GC - my full report is already on the website, but in summary - it was an extremely tough course as befits the National Finals, we had the largest and youngest team, we started slowly but had some excellent victories, beating the eventual winners (Glos) and second place county (Lincs), drawing with Surrey and losing to the fifth and sixth placed teams, ending up 4th on games won. It was an exhausting week but we are all very proud of our team, and aspire to do even better next time. Amelia Curtis and Rosie Bee Kim were awarded their first team colours at the end of the Nationals.

County Champions - I am delighted that Alice Kozlowski (County Champion), Susanna Mitterer (County Seniors Champion) and Grace Rigby-Walden (County Junior Champion) all played in the England Golf Champion of Champions tournaments held at Woodhall Spa over the weekend 6th to 8th September, and all were honourably placed.

Gala Day - it was a new idea to hold a Golf Gala Day, intended to be a fun day, specifically aimed at the "standard" female club golfer. The planning team of Sally Harborne, Susanna Mitterer, Janet Beal, Janette Psyllides (whose original idea it was) and I met several times to tease out what we should have on offer, who to book, where to locate everyone, how we could schedule all the sessions that we wanted to hold, how to promote the event, how to handle the ticketing etc. We are immensely grateful to Gerrards Cross for allowing us the use of the clubhouse and all the practice facilities for the whole day, and to the members who volunteered in a range of on-the-day support roles. The weather was fine, everyone turned up and everyone seemed to have a good time. We were inundated with thank you emails after the event.

Grants - we have been running the grants scheme for two seasons now and so far we have allocated 10 grants, two to adults (for equipment) and eight to juniors (for coaching, entrance fees and travel & subsistence). Up to now we have operated the grants scheme by allocating up to £5k per annum from our reserves. However as Carolyn has indicated in her Finance report, we are looking to review this scheme going forward, with a view to funding future applications from discretionary charitable income, rather than our core funding.

County Lunch - the 2019 County lunch was held at Gerrards Cross on March 27th and attracted some 80 ladies. We had a lovely lunch, a very successful auction of donated four balls, a magnificent raffle table of plants and prosecco (mainly the latter), an interesting talk about Workaid, one of my two charities, and a small quiz based on tasting different types of chocolate bars. I'd like to thank all the clubs who donated fourball vouchers and raffle prizes; it is really appreciated!

Website - the new website was launched in December 2018, so has been operating for ten months now. It has taken us a while to get to grips with how to upload information onto the site without sending it all to Anne Terry, our website administrator, but she has to help some of us more often than others. We are having a review meeting on 31st October, to identify a development plan for over the winter months. Feedback from recent questionnaires through the delegates will assist this process. One particular disappointment to me is that I had personally hoped to make more use of the Newsletter facility for all members who have "opted-in". It will be my New Year's resolution to send out a News Update every month next year.

My two charities - Workaid and Thames Valley Air Ambulance - thank you all for supporting me through the various fundraising activities that occur during the year, mainly raffles at our various events. I have the latest newsletters from the two charities at the AGM. I would like to draw your attention to the Workaid article which clarifies what donated items they can accept (it is much wider than you might expect) and their address/opening hours in Chesham. A Thames Valley Air Ambulance crew were able to attend the Gala Day for half an hour to demonstrate the range of equipment they carry in their road ambulance cars. My speaker for the 2020 County lunch will be from TVAA.

Collaboration with BB&O and the Berkshire and Oxfordshire Ladies Associations - you will be aware that discussions have taken place in the past to explore the appetite for merging into one organisation. There have been no new discussions on this topic in 2019. However, we are developing some joint working arrangements where it is practical to do so; for example, the BB&O Secretary will be handling our DBS checks in future, there is a joint programme for rolling out WHS seminars, we have used the BB&O offices in Thame for meetings on occasion and we will be

promoting a new joint competition for the Under 25s in June next year.

Operational Changes made by the Executive during 2019 and for 2020

- change of format of Seniors' Spring and Autumn meetings to have two separate but concurrent team competitions (Seniors 50-64s and Vets 65+) and no individual trophy
- change to insurance policies to amalgamate 3 policies into one
- summary of key points of Exec meetings now placed on website
- pop up banners purchased to enhance our visibility when attending different venues
- transportation policy documents have been updated
- Champion of champions knockout - where an individual player belongs to more than one Bucks club and wins both their club championships, she will in future represent both clubs in this competition. The club at which her "home handicap" is registered should be the one to pay the entry fee and the one at which "home matches" are played
- venue for Bucks Shield Finals - a venue for this event will continue to be booked in advance of the first round being played, so it is potentially possible that the finalists might have a home advantage; however it has been agreed to trial the home and away fixture arrangement for the semi-finals round
- changes have been made to the walkover/player or pairs substitution rules in county knock-out competitions: a beaten individual or pair from a previous round can be reinstated subject to certain time scale rules.
- a Par 3 competition for adult players is being investigated to be held at Wycombe Heights

Club Closures - it is with regret that I confirm that Wavendon and Aylesbury Park Golf Clubs closed during the year, and the membership dispersed to other clubs. This affected over 60 affiliated Bucks ladies.

I started with some thanks and I would like to end with some thanks:

- to all the clubs that give us the use of their courses and their facilities whether for Executive or Delegates meetings, training sessions, an individual match or a large competition and to the Ladies' Captains who support our events on their premises and provide starters and ball spotters; special mention to Harleyford for again hosting our AGM.
- to Tony who is a fantastic County coach, equally happy coaching the younger intermediate golfers, the (generally) older delegates, and the main County teams, and for his support during County and National Finals week in particular
- to all the parents, friends and members who provide transport, caddy for daughters or friends, attend prize-givings and generally support our members
- to you the BCLGA members who come to our meetings, support our competitions and our teams: (they really appreciate the good luck cards).

2nd TEAM CAPTAIN - JANETTE PSYLLIDES

I am delighted to report that the 2nd team enjoyed another excellent year.

In early June we played Oxfordshire at Harewood Downs GC and won the match 6-3. Then later the same month we played Berkshire at Reading GC and also prevailed by a margin of 6-3. We used a good mixture of players from across the county. This put us at the top of our mini league and qualified us for the Midlands South Regional Final against the Northern winners, who were Hereford & Worcester.

The final took place on 19th July at Wellingborough GC, as Northants were hosting. Many thanks to Tracy Bishop, the Northamptonshire Captain who welcomed us to Wellingborough, a lovely course and fantastic clubhouse, and hosted the day. This was the first time that all the counties participated

in the Finals Day and I think the new format proved a success.

The morning matches were very tight with Hereford & Worcester taking an early advantage with 2 wins, although Sue and Katie managed to win for us by a very good margin, 5 and 4.

After a well-earned lunch break and a couple of team changes, the singles matches commenced. We introduced some youth to the team with Ciara Egan and Eleanor Barnett earning their first caps for the 2nd Team. The sun finally shone and we got off to a great start taking the first 2 matches, with Deeya playing well and winning handsomely. H&W fought hard to win the middle matches, and with Kadda prevailing in the penultimate match, we were tied 4-4 with the last match still out on the course.

Eleanor arrived at the 18th tee 1 down, with Bucks needing her to get a half – after a perfect drive, she made the green in regulation and holed a lovely 2 footer to get a much needed half. With a couple of handsome wins in the morning foursomes and singles we were awarded the trophy by virtue of superior match wins. This retained our title, making us winners for the third year in a row!

Thanks to Northants for hosting a great day at an interesting and challenging course, and to Herefordshire & Worcester who proved to be steely competitors and great sports.

Thanks also to Gail Sharp County Captain, for coming along to support the team in some unpleasant weather conditions – it was very much appreciated.

The following players have represented the 2nd team in the league matches this year:

Janette Psyllides – Gerrards Cross; Sue Holdship – Gerrards Cross; Katie Reid – Gerrards Cross; Henrietta Watkins – Burnham Beeches; Powatti Ramchand – Abbey Hill; Kadda Mohammed – Gerrards Cross; Pamela King – Gerrards Cross; Liz Keens – Gerrards Cross; Lyn Fitzpatrick – Burnham Beeches; Deeya Aggrawal – Stoke Park; Eleanor Barnett - Ellesborough; Ciara Egan – Woburn.

The players have been brilliant all season; we have had a good blend of youth and experience and a great team spirit. This is my last year in charge as I will be stepping down after 4 years. We have a good pool of players and a winning formula, – so let's hope we can continue to build on this success.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time managing the team and working on the Executive Committee. I'm very proud of the team's results and spirit as well as the wider work within the committee that I have contributed to. I hope I will be able to continue to support the team and the county in the future.

SENIORS' CAPTAIN - SUSANNA MITTERER

Bucks Senior Team came third in the League (with 4 points) behind winners Berkshire and Hampshire (both on 6 points). It was a tightly fought league this year with Berkshire winning on 18.5 matches won vs. Hampshire 18 matches. Our Bucks Senior's team won 13 matches and I am very proud of this year's valiant effort and would like to thank all those that have played! Congratulations to Irene Brien, Julia Gallagher and myself (Susanna Mitterer) for achieving the County Senior Colours this year.

Friendly Matches: We played two friendly matches. We beat Bedfordshire 4:0 and drew with Middlesex 2:2 Many thanks to all the senior ladies who played in the Friendly Matches.

The Intercounty Seniors Team Championship was hosted and organised by BCLGA and held at Woburn on 23 September 2019. Representing our County are Carol Weir (Beaconsfield), Catherine Smith (Burnham Beeches) and Julia Gallagher & Susanna Mitterer (Woburn). Sussex won (again) and Buckinghamshire came 8th.

Spring Meeting: 13 Teams participated in the Seniors Spring Meeting held at Buckingham Golf Club on 30th April. All 4 Woburn teams were in contention for the winning place but the team of Phillipa Cook, Sheila Harrison and Clare Fulton beat their club mates of Lindsay Arnell, Jo Pellew and Lind

Wray by 2 points to take the title with 73 points. 3rd and 4th place were also occupied by Woburn teams on 70 points.

Lindsay Arnell of Woburn won the Individual Prize with 36 points.

Buckingham Golf Club was in great condition with very tricky but excellent greens (as commented on by many of the ladies). Many thanks go to the Club for hosting us and looking after all of us so well.

Autumn Meeting: The BCLGA Seniors Autumn meeting was held at Oakland Park on 2nd October 2019. We had a record number of 20 teams (60 Players) playing. This was the first time the event was played in its new format, with a main prize for Seniors (under 65s) and Vets (over 65s).

The weather gods granted us a sunny and dry day, and Vets Team of Sue Davies, Maureen Smith and Janet Merritt from Beaconsfield took full advantage to win the Seniors Autumn Meeting with 83 points. Runners up were Alison Thorne, Anne Higson and Gillian Pugh from Oakland Park with 82 points.

The Seniors Trophy went to the 3-ball alliance from Wexham Park: Pam Heavyside, Jackie Taylor and Alison Scanlon with 79 points.

Many thanks go to the team at Oakland Park for their warm welcome and presenting the course nicely despite the recent adverse weather!

COUNTY JUNIOR ORGANISER - JANET BEAL

Firstly, I would like to thank **Katherine Millburn**, who is stepping down from the junior committee: Katherine has run the Pre-Handicap competitions for the last 4 years, organising 9-hole competitions on Par 3 courses for the newer girls using the BCLGA badge scheme to help the girls move from having lessons to getting out on the course. Many thanks to Katherine for all her hard work, and the success of the juniors now coming through is testament to all her work with the pre handicap girls.

Secondly many thanks to the other people who run the junior section:

Cecilia Williams, our development officer, looking after our academy training. This is aimed at girls who have learnt the basics of the golf swing but are looking to develop their skills and gain their first handicaps and at girls who have been playing for a while, but still enjoy the group lessons. Invitations for the 2020 academy training will be going out in December, so if you have girls at your club who would benefit from the academy training, please get in contact with Cecilia or myself.

Delyth Barnett, our competitions secretary, running all the junior competitions. We have junior competitions throughout the year, open to any junior girls with a handicap who are members of a Bucks golf club, including the Karchargis Trophy, a greensomes competition for pairs of one lady and one junior girl.

Tony Bowers, our county coach, who runs 4 or 5 'intermediate training' sessions for junior and intermediate girls who are not (yet) in our elite squad. These are full day sessions with lots of skills challenges and then some competitive golf in the afternoon.

And thirdly, thanks to everyone else who has helped with the girls:

Sally Harborne and **Gail Sharp** who come along to our competitions and training sessions, spending their time acting as starters, giving out prizes and making sure all the girls get around the course safely.

All the **golf clubs** and their members who have made us so welcome this year and shown such an interest in all the girls and their achievements.

All the **parents, grandparents** and other **friends and family** who act as taxi drivers and supporters for all the girls.

Rather than go through all the successes of our junior girls, please read the Junior Autumn

Newsletter. Bucks have a great group of girls and it's often difficult to keep up with all their achievements.

We are always looking for more people to help with the juniors – this does not need to be a huge commitment, but if you are willing to help at one or two events please contact me.

Finally, I would like to thank **Eleanor Barnett** for her year as junior captain. Eleanor has been a great role model for all the juniors and has been a great help to Delyth at all the competitions. I would like to announce that **Ciara Egan from Woburn** will be the Bucks Junior Captain for 2019/20.

HANDICAP ADVISOR - CHRISTINE BISHOP

My role is to support clubs, Handicap Secretaries and our members on the Rules of Golf and CONGU® handicapping system. This also involves me in providing guidance on qualifying and non-qualifying competitions.

I am required to conduct a Category 1 Audit every year where I scrutinise the scores returned by the lowest handicapped ladies in our county and report back to England Golf. This year there were a few anomalies and these have all been investigated.

I pass on all communications that I receive from England Golf and the R&A to our Handicap Secretaries and this year these include:

Update to CONGU® regulations World Handicapping Summary Document Information on WHS Education programme WHS Checklist

My role also calls on me to provide rules education and advice and I visited many clubs since the last AGM to run workshops on the new 2019 Rules.

In preparation for World Handicapping in November 2020 I am driving the education programme within our county. There are currently 3 workshops planned and there will be ongoing support to clubs when they educate their members on WHS and I am also running an information session for club delegates on 2nd December 2019 at Gerrards Cross Golf Club.

To enable me to continue to communicate effectively, it is important that I know when the Handicap Secretary at a club changes, so I would ask that this information is provided to myself or the County Secretary as soon as possible.

ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE (PRO TEM) - SUSANNA MITTERER

I attended the General Meeting at Woodhall Spa on 10/11 September – a Brief Summary of key issues:

Independent Golfer

A great deal of time was spent debating the EG proposal on how best to engage with the Independent golfer. Whilst there is almost universal agreement amongst the EG Reps that we need to find a way to engage with the independent golfer, there was much debate on how best this could be achieved. In particular the two options being considered by EG (offering insurance and some form of 'small h' handicap) received mixed response from the floor.

A potential timetable for any introduction of a system or process to engage with the Independent Golfer would be after the WHS is implemented. There was more general consensus that we need to explore and research further on how to engage with the independent golfers and how this would add new revenue streams to Clubs & Counties and what opportunities it would provide, particularly for those clubs who are struggling to retain members.

Subsequent to the meeting I was invited by Richard Flint (Participation & Club Support Director) and Nick Pink (current CEO to step down in Oct) in an email dated 22 Sept, to join a County Advisory

Group that is working on concrete proposals developing options/scenarios for how EG can engage with the 'Independent Golfer' and how this could translate into a business plan (risks/opportunities/benefits). A first meeting will be held on 29th October at Woodhall Spa.

World Handicap System (WHS) Shortly after the General Meeting the final agreement of the master WHS licence from the R&A/USGA to EG and the other Unions, through CONGU was signed. The introduction of WHS in England remains on track for November 2020.

New CEO With Nick Pink leaving on 17th October it was announced that Richard Flint would take on the interim Executive Directors role and a process was now live with the Board Sub-committee seeking a new CEO in November.

EG Centenary A Board sub-committee had been formed, chaired by Ian Watkins and joined by Philippa Cook and Doug Pool plus Past Presidents to recommend how EG should celebrate its Centenary in 2024.

EG Reps Meeting. EG Reps agreed to appoint a Co-ordinator who would compile an Agenda for forthcoming EG Rep meetings to be held in advance of EG General / Annual Meetings. This ensures that some issues could be tabled for general debate and EG proposals could be discussed before these general meetings.

Following a meeting held at Woodhall Spa on Tuesday 29th October, I would like to add the following to my written report: -

England Golf / Independent golfer

Club Managers & Advisory Group Meeting, Woodhall Spa, 29th October 2019

Background: numbers of club members are in steady decline by 10-15% per annum with only 600,000 golfers now paying affiliation fees. However, over 2 m independent golfers are playing golf regularly, without being associated to a club nor having insurance and an official handicap.

Hence it was recognised by EG that in order to grow the game and seek alternative income sources for our clubs we needed to think about how we engage with the independent golfer.

Yesterday I attended the above meeting – having been invited to join this Group by Richard Flint (Participation & Club Support Director) and Nick Pink (the then CEO). You might recall, from my report of the General Meeting held in September 2019, that EG presented a draft paper on 'The Independent Golfer' to the Voting Members which caused a somewhat heated debate. Whilst there was a general consensus that our sport needed to engage with the Independent Golfer there were many polarised views and many perceptions/assumptions of how this could affect golf clubs, in particular if the offering involved providing them with a handicap.

In conclusion of the GM – voting members felt that a more rationale, fact & research based approach was needed and that a business plan should be developed through extensive consultation with all key stakeholders. This Advisory Group was formed and Golf Club Managers were also invited to join to widen the level of involvement. A total of 26 individuals met yesterday for 4 hours of brainstorming, workshops and input.

We focused on the Pros/Cons and likely risks to golf clubs and how to mitigate them and also on how we could size up the opportunity for our struggling clubs.

In particular we discussed:

- The likely impact on golf clubs (positive/negative)
- The operational management: virtual versus club managed - the integrity of the handicap system and issues/risks of offering a handicap to independent golfers
- How funds would be managed (i.e. reinvested back into the game via counties and clubs)

- Benefits/Value proposition to all the stakeholders

We concluded that EG would now, following our input, re-draft the Paper in a more detailed format and at an appropriate stage also engage with a wider stakeholder community, such as PGA/R&A and Golf Pro's, etc. A brief for a competitor analysis and more in-depth market research would also be prepared, both to be reviewed by the Advisory Group in early Spring before being tabled again with the Voting Members at a General Meeting.

No decisions would be taken during 2020 – as this topic warranted a much wider and extensive consultation period. Likely voting for implementation of preferred options would not happen before 2021.

COUNTY COACH - TONY BOWERS

This year has been another fantastic year of exploits for the BCLGA Junior/Scratch teams and individuals .

The training sessions have been well attended and very helpful in the selection process for myself and the County Captain. Some exciting new faces have emerged and I know will be valuable servants to the County in the forthcoming years.

The Junior scratch team won their respective league series with Oxon/Berks very comfortably and I witnessed some very impressive victories on the way to qualifying for the Mid/South finals against Worcs/Hereford at Overton Park in August. Once again the girls showed their strengths against formidable opponents triumphing 4/2 and winning the trophy.

On the Scratch team front we once again triumphed at CMW in June at Frilford Heath, winning 5/0 and showing the benefits of our training sessions with comprehensive Foursomes performances setting up our overall team strengths and making the Singles play much easier. We took a very young squad by comparison to the other counties. Everyone stood up to the test and performed extremely well and secured our place at the Nationals finals once again in September.

At the National Finals in September recently we once again took the youngest squad there, which included 2 rookies and 8 Juniors. The performances were nothing short of amazing!!! After a very unfortunate start with an 8/1 defeat to Yorkshire which in all honesty should have been more like 6/3 at the worst, the girls regrouped and defeated Lincolnshire 7/2 on Tuesday, lost narrowly on Wednesday 5 1/2 to 3 1/2 to Norfolk and then produced 2 great last hole fight backs to draw with Surrey on Thursday. Then on the final day, they produced the performances of their short golfing careers to defeat the National Champions Gloucestershire 5/4, the only team to beat them the whole week.

It was a very tiring but extremely rewarding week and gave me great hope for the forthcoming season because I believe this Squad will go from strength to strength and fulfil the promise they have already shown.

Great times ahead for BCLGA.

USGA COURSE RATING - PHILLIPA COOK

All courses in Bucks have now been rated under the USGA System – the 36 clubs have been visited and all 40 courses will have the necessary paperwork in place ahead of the implementation of the Worldwide Handicap System in November 2020. Nine courses were rated during 2019 – most have received their new Certificates; the remainder will be issued in the next few weeks.

I would like to thank all those who have assisted with the course rating since this new round of rating started in 2014. It was a big task to get all the courses done by the target date of December

2019. Working closely with the BB&O Union has enabled the rating to be carried out simultaneously for the men. I would like to record my thanks to the Union's lead raters for Bucks for ensuring that at least one of them was able to fit in with my schedule to visit each of the courses with me. This has shown that whilst not a Unified County, we have a good relationship with the BB&O Union and can pool our resources and work well together.

It is disappointing that the smaller counties of Berkshire and Oxfordshire have not been able to reach the target date. For those courses still to be rated they will be given a Provisional Rating by England Golf, which will be used until the actual rating has been carried out.

The new Standard Scratch Certificates are issued direct to the clubs as soon as the paperwork is complete. The new SSS figures have to be used immediately upon receipt from England Golf. The Slope Rating information is calculated at the same time as the SSS but the information is retained by England Golf. They will be releasing that information to all the clubs in early 2020 in readiness for the WHS.

I have been advised by England Golf that they will be running training sessions for new raters in 2021 once the WHS is up and running. Since I have been doing the rating since 2003 and just completed my second full round of the clubs, **I will be looking for someone to take over this role from me.** I would like to hear from anyone interested in taking this on so that they can do initial training with me next year and then full training with England Golf in 2021.

In the meantime I will continue to look at any reviews necessary for any club in Bucks that has had changes to their course.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT - CAROLYN RIVETT**

The main accounts for 2018/19 show an income of £38,289, down £2,952 on the previous year. Expenditure was £57,740, up £8,553 on the previous year. This resulted in a deficit of £19,451 this year, up £11,505. Of this increased deficit, £3,927 related to the spend on the Gala Day and £3,970 on Bursaries, which were both planned expenditure for this year. Excluding these costs, the deficit would be £11,554 compared to last year of £6,366 (after excluding bursaries).

Although we planned to have a deficit, this is a larger deficit that we had planned for as we had declining income and increased costs. On the income side, we are seeing a steady decline in affiliation numbers of roughly 3% per annum, although for 2019/20 this looks like it will fall faster than in previous years. Aylesbury Park and Wavendon Golf clubs have closed this year and due to the location, not all their ladies have rejoined other Bucks clubs. We have not increased affiliation fees for 5 years, as we have had a surplus of funds, but going forward this will be something we need to consider. Also, in 2018/19 we had a reduction in competition fees, as the Seniors Spring Meeting was cancelled due to poor weather, however, we will not have incurred the costs associated with this event.

The main increases in costs are related to County Match Week, National Finals, coaching and travel costs. For County Match Week and National Finals, we always try and find the best deals on accommodation, but with a significant number of juniors in the team, we generally need to find self-catering as opposed to hotel accommodation. Although County Match Week has been reduced to 3 days from 5 days, with self-catering accommodation in June, we were obliged to book a full week as this is the minimum let period in high season. National Finals is in September and again is considered high season for self-catering accommodation. We used Airbnb this year for National Finals, but due to the size of house needed and the area, it was still expensive. Between County Match Week and National Finals the costs increased by £1,932 from the prior year. Costs may be reduced going forward, as a 3 day format means we need a slightly smaller squad than for a 5 day format and

hence can book a smaller house.

Coaching costs have increased by £2,283 from the prior year, but last year we had the last £1,400 of the legacy which was used for training. Our cost per day has not increased.

Travel costs have increased by £2,123 and this is partly due to an increase in the mileage rate paid (up to £700 potentially) but the rest is due to increased mileage and travel claims. We have had increased mileage claims from the higher number of rules and world handicapping seminars we have been supporting at clubs (potentially up to £500 extra), and this is likely to continue into the current year.

The Juniors section had an increased deficit this year mostly due to a fall in numbers attending the Academy coaching (from 26 to 14) and also a fall in junior and pre-handicap competition fees. We are planning to review the way that pre-handicap competitions and coaching are managed to see how we can be more cost effective.

A saving of £600 was made in the year on insurance, by combining our previous 3 policies into one, and changing broker to the England Golf recommended broker. This also delivered increased levels of cover for the reduced premium. There will be a further saving in the next financial year as the full effects of this come through.

We have decided that we need to review our expenditure fully and create a new budget going forward to reflect our changing costs. It has been decided by the Executive Committee that the Bursary scheme introduced to utilise some of the surplus funds, should be modified going forward. In future years, rather than put 50% of the money raised by the silent auction at the County Lunch towards National Finals, we propose to allocate bursaries, based on a more restricted criteria, from this 50% and to build the cost of National Finals into our on-going costs. A new budget for future years will be drawn up so that we can calculate the amount we need to raise from affiliation fees and competitions and set levels accordingly. We have sufficient accumulated funds to carry us through the current year, even with current levels of spend, so we do not have an imminent concern.

The accounts presented to the end of July have been approved by our Honorary Auditors, Mr S Godfrey of Godfrey Anderson & Co.

Questions from the floor:

- a) Lynda Hilton, Oakland Park: Accounts are showing a big increase in printing, postage and stationery. Carolyn Rivett: As advised by England Golf, the Executive team no longer get an annual allowance for costs incurred and therefore have to claim a refund for these expenses.
- b) Helen Gyselynk, Harleyford: Will the Gala Day be repeated? Carolyn Rivett: The Gala Day was held to utilise surplus funds for the benefit of the club golfer. The first Gala Day was priced at £10 entry fee to encourage attendance. It is proposed to hold the Gala Day every 2/3 years and with an increased entry fee.

There being no further questions I propose that we adopt the accounts as read and ask for a seconder.

Seconded: Sue Ashworth, Woburn GC

Unanimously approved by a show of hands from the floor.

8. ADOPTION OF AUDITORS

I would like to propose the reappointment of auditors Mr Stephen Godfrey of Godfrey Anderson & Co.

Seconded: Lynda Hilton, Oakland Park GC

Mr S Godfrey has been re-appointed.
Unanimously approved by a show of hands from the floor.

9. **ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT**

Sally Harborne proposes Lynda Hilton, Oakland Park GC as the new President for 2019/2021 with full support from the Executive.

The election of the new President was fully approved by a show of hands from the floor.

10. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

County Vice Captain

Gail Sharp, County Captain proposes Janet Beal Beaconsfield GC, as her Vice Captain for the forthcoming year 2019/20, and thereafter as County Captain from November 2020 to October 2022. Janet's nomination has been seconded by the Executive.

Janet's election was unanimously approved by a show of hands from the floor.

Second Team Captain

Janette Psyllides stepped down as second team captain and to date we do not have a volunteer to take on this role. Gail Sharp will be arranging the matches and team selection and will ask one of the senior players to be Captain of the day; however, if anyone is interested in being co-opted for the forthcoming season, please let Gail know after the AGM.

England Golf Representative/Voting Member

There were two nominations for this role:

Christine Bishop (Stowe) and Susanna Mitterer (Woburn)

The entire Executive proposed and seconded both these nominations. The responsibilities of this role and the attributes required of the role were set out in a short paper that had been circulated in advance to Ladies Captains and Delegates and placed on the website. A copy was placed on chairs together with the two candidates' personal statements. Gail asked the members to take some time to read through the two personal statements, before the ballot was conducted.

Whilst the votes were being counted, Gail confirmed that the following members of the Executive Committee members remained in post to complete their terms of office:

Gail Sharp	-	County Captain
Carolyn Rivett	-	Hon Treasurer
Maura Spencer	-	Hon Secretary
Gilly Stimpson	-	Competition Secretary
Susanna Mitterer	-	Seniors' Captain
Janet Beal	-	County Junior Organiser
Christine Bishop	-	Handicap Advisor

The following would continue in their role but as Non-Executive Officers:

Tony Bowers	-	County Coach
Phillipa Cook	-	USGA Course Rating Organiser

All unanimously approved by a show of hands from the floor.

Presentation to the outgoing 2nd Team Captain, Janette Psyllides.

Gail paid tribute to Janette's contribution as follows:-

"As you will realise from my earlier comments, after four years in the role, Janette Psyllides has completed her term of office and steps down from the Executive today.

She has done an excellent job as Second Team Captain, building up a good team spirit amongst a great cohort of players, from many different clubs. It was fantastic for her to crown this with the win of the Second team Final against Hereford & Worcester on a rather murky day in July this year.

It was also Janette's brainwave idea to hold a Gala Day, and she played a key role in organising the logistics of a very successful day. We shall miss her contribution to the Executive."

Gail then presented Janette with some gifts on behalf of all the membership.

RESULT OF BALLOT FOR ENGLAND GOLF VOTING MEMBER

Gail then announced that the results of the ballot showed more votes cast for

Susanna Mitterer and thereby confirmed that **Susanna Mitterer** was elected to the England Golf Representative/Voting Member role.

Investiture of Incoming President Lynda Hilton

Sally presented Lynda with her badge of office.

President Lynda Hilton's Acceptance Speech

"I would like to thank Sally, all the Past County Presidents and the County Executive for asking me to become the next County President. This came as quite a complete surprise and an honour not dreamt of or looked for but an honour that is deeply felt.

So, thank you all for allowing me to become the next County President.

Sally is going to be a very hard act to follow, she is extremely popular with the County Juniors and the county First team. She has been a marvellous House Mother on the away trips our teams have undertaken. I will endeavour to work as hard and hopefully be as successful as Sally.

I am looking forward to representing County across the board in all aspects of the BCLGA with all that entails.

Next year Gail, our County Captain is hosting the County Summer Meeting at Gerrards Cross Golf Club, her home club and the following year I will be hosting the County Summer Meeting at Oakland Park, my home club.

I hope you all will be able to support these two traditional competitions.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who sent me messages of kind support and best wishes, as well as Oakland Park for all their kind wishes".

Presentation to the outgoing President, Sally Harborne

Gail stated: "It gives me great pleasure but also a tinge of sadness to be giving Sally her Past President's brooch, now that Lynda is IT and Sally is PAST-IT.

I did not really know Sally at all before I joined the Executive - but over the last two years we have spent a great deal of time together both on County business and socially and have become firm friends.

Sally has been a superb President for the County over the last two years. She has been everywhere, watched everything, supported everybody and even won us the "best dressed buggy" accolade at the National Finals Week. We shall miss her wisdom and her friendship on the Executive."

Gail then presented Sally with her Past president's brooch and gifts on behalf of the membership.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. VOTE OF THANKS - GILLY BREWER, HAREWOOD DOWNS GC

May I say firstly it's been great to hear about all the successes and achievements in Bucks County this year.

Much commitment and a lot of time goes into achieving results like these not to mention all the work that is put into organising and running all the other events that take place in the County year. So Lady Captains and Ladies will you join me on behalf of all the membership in saying a huge thank you to the County Captain and her committee.

13. CLOSING ADDRESS - GAIL SHARP

I would like to thank you all for coming and supporting this AGM.

The next Delegates meeting will take the form of a specific seminar on the World Handicapping System. It is scheduled for Monday 2nd December, the venue will be Gerrards Cross; coffee and mince pies will be available from 10 am and the meeting will start promptly at 10.30. Three places will be available per club for the delegate and two other ladies.

The Executive will be starting the detailed planning for the new season The website will be updated with all the new dates before the end of the year, including the 2020 Delegates meeting dates etc.

I would like to thank Jack Slade the General Manager here at Harleyford for allowing us to use the club for our AGM again this year and I would like to confirm that the 2020 AGM will also take place here on **Wednesday, 28th October 2020 at 2.00 pm**

I hereby close the meeting at 15.03 and wish you all a safe journey home.

Signed.....Date.....