



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

Held via ZOOM Webinar - Wednesday, 28 October 2020

PRESENT:

Lynda Hilton	County President
Gail Sharp	County Captain
Janet Beal	County Vice Captain and CJO
Maura Spencer	Honorary Secretary
Carolyn Rivett	Honorary Treasurer
Jackie Edwards	2nd Team Captain
Gilly Stimpson	Competition Secretary
Susanna Mitterer	Seniors' Captain and EG Voting Member
Christine Bishop	Handicap Advisor

plus 65 Members

1. INTRODUCTION TO AGM VIA ZOOM - Gail Sharp

Good Afternoon and Thank you for joining us today by Zoom for the Annual General Meeting 2020 of Buckinghamshire County Ladies Golf Association.

Before we start the business of the meeting, there are a couple of points to mention about using Zoom for this meeting.

- You have all been registered as attendees, and as such are muted as a default setting and cannot be seen on screen.
- If you want to ask a question during the meeting, you have two ways to do it:
- Either you can click on the Q&A tab at the bottom of your screen and type in your question, (which everyone will be able to see)
- or you can click the Raise hand tab and your desire to ask a question will be noted: you will be unmuted individually at an appropriate time to physically ask the question. Your name will appear on the screen when you are talking but not your face.
- If there is more than one person attending the meeting sharing your device, then please type in the additional names and their club in the Q&A box with the words "also attending" so that we can include them in the numbers attending.
- If the sound level is too high or low, then you can adjust your audio settings by clicking on the audio symbol (like a pair of headphones) and then use the slider to increase/decrease the sound level.
- We will be screen sharing slides and documents during the meeting and at that time you should be able to see the document/picture and the person who is talking, but no-one else.
- The meeting will be recorded to assist Maura with the minutes, but the recording will be deleted once the minutes have been agreed with the Executive.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Tony Bowers County Coach; Jackie Both and Fiona Robb, Buckingham GC; Cathy Armstrong Ellesborough GC; Lin Hubbard Flackwell Heath GC; Glenise Marfell Gerrards Cross GC.

3 **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME ADDRESS - Lynda Hilton**

Good afternoon, a warm welcome to this historic first AGM by ZOOM and thank you for supporting this unique event.

2020 is "The Year of the Terrible "Virus"!

We, the Executive Committee, hope that you and your families have, so far, escaped unscathed and we send our heartfelt commiserations to any of you who succumbed to this horrible virus. We sincerely hope that you and yours stay safe and well.

Past County Presidents had the luxury of giving you an overview in their AGM Welcome Address of their first year in office, with regards to the fixtures and events in all BCLGA categories. Unfortunately, I am not able to do this, because of the unprecedented events of this year, which we all have had to deal with and are still having to deal with.

As I have not been able to show support for the County this year as I had planned, I am looking forward to beginning next year, as I should have been able to begin this year. That is by supporting our Juniors, our up and coming players, the First team, the Second team, the Seniors and all sections of the County, as well as all of you, the BCLGA membership, in 2021.

As the behind the scenes work continues, I would like to say how I now realise just how impressive and effective our past County Captains have been during their tenures. This is also true of Gail, our present Captain, who has had the added stress of dealing with the effects that this year has thrown at her.

I would also like to thank all the Executive Committee, who have continued to work behind the scenes ensuring our County is up to date with everything that has happened, is happening and everything that will be happening in the future.

The majority of fixtures had to be cancelled for the year from March 2020 and I am now hoping that 2021 brings back competitive golf to the County and all of us. I am sure we are all looking forward to picking up in 2021, where we left off at the end of last year.

Thank you to our Executive Committee members, who are leaving 'the team' today for all their work during their period in Office. Also, a thank you and a warm welcome to all new incoming members, who have kindly "volunteered" to be part of 'the new team'.

Finding 'willing volunteers' for any of these positions is a difficult yearly task. If you are able to help in any way in the future, please contact any member of the Executive Committee to let us know of your interest. You will find a very friendly and happy group to welcome you on board, who have a shared love of golf as well the promotion of golf to all ages and abilities of ladies

I am immensely proud to be representing you as your President and look forward to what 2021 will

bring. I wish you all happy golfing for the future, with less stress than this year.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 2019 minutes have been posted on the BCLGA website for the past few months. Gail stated that she would propose the minutes be adopted and this was seconded by Gilly Stimpson.

Maura reported that the outcome of the prior votes cast by the members was: 58 in favour, none against and 1 voting paper was not counted as it arrived after the vote closed.

Gail confirmed that the minutes were accepted as a true record. They were duly signed by Maura Spencer, Honorary Secretary on behalf of Gail Sharp, County Captain.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 2019 MINUTES**

No matters arising and no questions were submitted via Q&A's

6. **PRESENTATION OF COLOURS AND TROPHIES AND COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT - Gilly Stimpson**

This year my report is much shorter than normal; there are usually lots of trophies to present but it has been a very dry year.

Today I will be announcing the winners of the various events that were able to take place.

We were able to successfully run the Senior Championship alongside the Junior Championship at Harleyford GC in August under very strict Covid rules.

Through various means I was able to present the trophies to the winners which included a trip up to Warwickshire and a photo shoot on the bridge at Gerrards Cross GC on a very sunny day.

I shall now present the slideshow of the winners listed below.

Summer 2020

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, summer activities were all cancelled resulting in the cancellation of the following:

Summer Meeting; Summer League; The County Championships; Summer Charity Eclectic; Cygnet Trophy; all the Summer Knockouts; Bucks Challenge Shield; and Inter Club Foursomes.

We also had to cancel the inaugural par 3 competition which was to be held at Wycombe Heights GC.

The Winter Scratch League 2019-20

The Winter League runs from October through to April and is run as a greensomes competition in divisions. This year we only had 14 entries.

The winners were as follows:-

- Premier Division - **Denham**
- 1st Division - **Harleyford**
- 2nd Division – **Oakland Park**

Winter Foursomes 2019-20

Congratulations to **Jackie Taylor** and **Pam Heavyside** of **Wexham Park** who were the winners of the Winter Knockout, retaining the trophy they won the year before.

Senior Championship 2020

Congratulations to **Denise Goodacre** of **Burnham Beeches** for winning the Seniors Championship and

Nerys McGuinness of Harleyford for winning the best net score competition.

Other Trophies:

Coronation Medals

- Silver Coronation Medal awarded to **Ella Butteriss - Wexham Park**- score +3
- Bronze Coronation Medal awarded to **Elizabeth Howton – Huntswood** – score -7

Presentation of County Colours

Although we have had no County matches this year, we do have one player who has been awarded her County Colours for her past performance and contribution to the County First team and that is Susanna Mitterer. These colours were going to be presented at the 2020 County Match week, but as that was cancelled, Gail took the opportunity to present them to Susanna a few weeks ago when they met at Farnham Park GC.

Winter 2021

We are pleased that the Winter Leagues and the Winter Knockout competition will take place but played as a Better Ball format. We have had good entries for these competitions.

This will be my last Report as my tenure has come to an end. I am delighted that **Jackie Maher of Burnham Beeches** is taking over my role. Jackie will be handing over her role to **Heather Pentney of Harewood Downs** and **Glenise Marfell of Gerrards Cross** has agreed to stay on to run the Bucks Shield and the Inter Club Foursomes.

Thank you to Jackie and Glenise for being a great support to me over the last couple of years. We have our fingers crossed that next year will be more like a usual year.

7. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT - Gail Sharp

Before I start my report, I must inform you that during this year we have, sadly, lost two of our senior ladies.

- Noreen Williams, a member of Gerrards Cross, was County Secretary for 12 years from 1982 to 1994 and then President in 1996 to 1999. She passed away after a battle against cancer at the end of April.
- Jen Marshall, a member of Denham, was County Champion in 1972, County Captain in 1977 to 1979 and subsequently our President in 2007 to 2009. She passed away quite suddenly in August.

Both ladies contributed an enormous amount to the County, and they will be missed at a personal level for their friendship and sense of fun. Covid 19 restrictions prevented us from attending their funerals, but we have made in memoriam donations to the families' choices of charity.

I started my report last year by saying that my first year as your County Captain had been an interesting experience to say the least, and I can easily repeat that for my second year, but for entirely different reasons.

We started 2020 off with a full calendar of events. We held the first Delegates meeting at Beaconsfield on 27th February, when we discussed ways that golf clubs could increase their female membership, reviewed Safe Golf support materials, and did the Bucks Shield draw.

Tony and I held two first team training events with high hopes of our chances of repeating our previous success at County Match Week. The annual match between the first team and a juniors team was won by the first team, on this occasion they were all juniors!

And we held the County Lunch at Gerrards Cross on Wednesday 3rd March. It was well supported, raised funds for County Match Week and for my two charities, with the speaker this year being Katie Eyton from Thames Valley Air Ambulance. I'd like to thank all the clubs who donated four ball vouchers and raffle prizes; it is really appreciated! and my thanks as always to our principal organiser, Helen Mines.

Then....Covid 19 forced a National lockdown; and we started by cancelling all our events until the end of June, plus the summer knockouts including the Bucks Shield and the June Delegates meeting.

The Executive started to use Zoom for our meetings; initially we used the "free version" that lasts 40 minutes, but recently we invested in the professional version that allows greater numbers to attend and does not limit time on a specific occasion. We held a Zoom meeting with Delegates in September and decided to invest further in the Zoom webinar facility for this AGM. This expenditure is not excessive and easily compensated by the reduction in travel costs.

I said last year that I was impressed by the amount of "behind the scenes" work that Executive Committee members undertake and, whilst our competition programme was decimated this year, other aspects of our work could and did continue. Hopefully you will already have read the information reports from individual Committee members lodged on the website, but I would like to summarise what has been achieved this year:

- the World Handicapping System preparations by clubs have been supported throughout the year by Christine, who also gave valuable advice to ladies at Magnolia Park, which closed at the end of July, on how to retain their handicap whilst they transferred to other clubs
- a level 1 rules school was held in March in conjunction with BB&O, with 6 Bucks ladies subsequently passing the exam
- a Delegates induction pack has been completed and hopefully will be a good introduction to the role for new Delegates
- our own County SafeGolf procedures have been completed all bar one aspect (our Welfare officer needs to have completed a short course that has not been run this year) - Janet has led on this development
- an Information pack was sent out to Vice-Captains in April, in lieu of our annual get together, contributed to by all the Executive and co-ordinated by Maura.
- County Competition rules have been updated to reflect the new WHS
- Covid 19 playing rules were developed and issued to underpin the Winter Leagues and knockout competitions
- Some junior competitions and intermediate training sessions have been held once Covid restrictions were lifted, thanks to Tony, Janet and Delyth
- The Junior and Senior championships were held in August - congratulations to Roisin Scanlon, Denise Goodacre and Nerys McGuinness.

- England Golf updates provided by our Voting member, Susanna, have been issued at regular intervals, including promoting the opportunity for clubs to apply for R&A Covid 19 support funds, with one of our clubs being successful in their application
- I have sent out regular Newsletters to all Opted-in members and placed the Newsletter on the website to maintain communications with you all

Although the Regional County Match Weeks were all cancelled for 2020, England Golf proposed to have a National County Team event in September at Spalding in lieu of National Finals Week. We indicated an interest in participating if the event went ahead, but England Golf finally abandoned the idea in August when it became clear that maintaining even limited Covid -19 restrictions for a large team event would not be practical.

Nevertheless, England Golf and the R&A restarted some of their elite individual competitions at the end of July and we had some excellent results. These are reported more fully in Tony Bowers report, but our congratulations go to Thalia Kirby of Stoke Park and Megan Dennis of Woburn who blitzed their way through the stroke play rounds of the English Women's amateur golf championship (coming 1st and 6th respectively), with Thalia only losing in the semi-finals of the match play to the eventual winner. Thalia and Rosie Bee Kim also made it through to the match play of the R&A Women's amateur championship, when Thalia made it to the last 8.

The English Senior Women's amateur championships were rescheduled to Frilford Heath in the hottest of August weather; well done to Andrea Sims of Burnham Beeches for coming 2nd in the handicap section.

Our juniors also performed well in national and open competitions, with Roisin Scanlon, coming 12th in the English girls amateur strokeplay championship. This competition was abandoned due to dreadful weather, which was hard luck on our other three juniors who had made the cut but had no chance to shine.

We now have 15 girls with current handicaps between scratch and 7; the youngest is only 11 years old and only 2 of them will be leaving the junior section at the end of the year. And we have more practicing hard in the wings! The Junior Section provides girls of all standards with the opportunity to meet up with other girls and practice golf. It helps to sustain their interest in the sport, and I would encourage anyone who is introducing a young girl to golf to make sure they are known to our County Junior Organiser.

Thank you all for your support over the last two years for my two charities. Over the two year period, we have managed to raise £5200 for Workaid and Thames Valley Air Ambulance. This will be split equally between them. I had hoped to have handed over two cheques (and have slides to show you to prove it) but at the last minute, Covid-19 intervened and we had to cancel the cheque presentations. However, we will organise them as soon as we can, and I will post photographs on the website.

I would like to finish my report with some heartfelt thank yous:

- 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 turn out and support our events

- 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 personal 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 take part in our competitions and support our teams: (they really appreciate the good luck cards).

- to the ladies that provide the Executive with additional help in a number of support roles, in particular Jackie Maher, Glenise Marfell, Delyth Barnett, Cecilia Williams, Anne Terry, Nerys McGuinness, Sue McKeon and Helen Mines. Thank you for your time and contribution. We could not function successfully without this extra practical support.

My final thank you has to go to the Executive Committee members.

I was fortunate to have inherited a hardworking Executive with a breadth of talent and experience. It would be invidious of me to single out individuals as they have all worked together so well as a team, as well as being very dependable in their specific roles. However, I can safely say that I have made some long-term friendships from Executive members past and present, and I would like to give them all my thanks for their support over the last two years.

8. **TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1ST AUGUST 2019 TO 31ST JULY 2020 - Carolyn Rivett**

2020 has been an unusual year and the accounts are not in line with our original plans. Covid 19 has meant the cancellation of many competitions and also training events which the County would normally run. The main accounts for 2019/20 show a loss of £324 compared to the previous year loss of £19,451. The Juniors' section showed a loss of £496 compared to a previous year loss of £2,556.

Main Accounts

Income was down from £38,289 to £29,382. Just over £1,000 of this was from reduced Affiliation fees, £1,600 from Charity income and the balance from Competitions.

Affiliation Fees

We have lost 2 clubs in Buckinghamshire this year, Aylesbury Park and Wavendon, who together contributed 58 members. Overall, membership dropped by another 3% from the year before and we have also lost Magnolia Park towards the end of this year. Some members may join other Buckinghamshire clubs, but because of these particular clubs' locations, they may end up in other counties. With the early opening of golf courses after the lockdown and the lack of other sporting activities available, golf clubs would be expected to have gained new members and hence increased Affiliation Fees. However, some clubs which had membership renewals during the lockdown have postponed their renewals by a month or more and part of the reduction in affiliation fee income may be due to the money being pushed into next year. In addition, clubs may also have delayed paying their fees over and our July year end may have highlighted any delays. We are hopeful that any increased affiliation numbers will feed through into next year's accounts to replace the lost fees from closing clubs. We also agreed with the BB&O this year to stop charging for the County Card, which

will lose us around £550 per year of income starting in the current financial year. Following this decision, the Executive Committee had voted to increase affiliation fees from November 2020 from £6.50 to £8, but with the Covid issues we have now decided to postpone this increase until November 2021.

Charity Income

We were lucky to get the County Lunch in just before lockdown, but the Spring, Summer and Autumn Meetings were all cancelled, and these would normally add to our Charitable income with raffles etc.

Competition Income

As you will be aware, many County competitions have been cancelled and money has either been refunded or carried over into next year. The 2020 Spring and Summer Meetings were cancelled, and money refunded but for the other club and individual competitions entrants were given the choice of carrying the money over to next year or having a refund. In total almost £4k of competition entry money was carried forward to 2020/21.

National Finals

As this event is run in September, the costs are always in the year after the County Match Week when we qualified. The income and costs in this years' accounts relate to the 2019 National Finals and we will have no costs for National Finals in next years' accounts as the event did not take place this year.

Expenditure was reduced from £57,740 to £29,707, down £28,033 on last year. Most areas had reduced costs but the important points going forward are as follows:

Charities

In recent years we had made a change from donating only half the fundraising money received to charities and keeping the other half to support County Match Week and National Finals, to donating all the fundraising money to charity. From this year, we have decided to revert to the previous policy of retaining half and donating half to try and bring our accounts back to a break-even position.

Bursaries

The Bursary scheme was one of the initiatives to reduce the level of accumulated funds held by the Association. The Bursary scheme has now been closed and all payments have been made against the awards made. Ad hoc requests for support from members or clubs will be considered on a case by case basis.

Gala Day

As above, the Gala Day was an event held in 2019 to reduce the accumulated funds held by the Association. The event was a great success and if we decide to hold another similar day, it is likely to be closer to cost neutral.

Competitions

Costs were down due to competitions being cancelled. This is in line with the income lost above.

County Match Week

This event was cancelled due to Covid.

National Finals

The costs for National Finals week were high for last year as the event was held in Cheshire and accommodation was expensive. With a team comprising mostly juniors we need to arrange suitable accommodation for them so they can be suitably chaperoned. We will budget in future for a lower

cost if possible. Also, the England Golf Grant has increased from £2,900 to £4,000 should we qualify next time.

Coaching & Training

Coaching sessions and matches have been much reduced due to Covid, although we have run several first team squad and Intermediate training coaching days.

Meeting Cost

We have decided to break these out as a separate heading this year, when in the past they were included under other headings.

Team Expenses

Costs are reduced as matches were cancelled for part of the year.

Travel

Travel costs are much reduced due to events and training being cancelled as well as all Exec Meetings & Delegates meetings being held on Zoom. The Executive Committee will discuss whether we will continue to use Zoom for some meetings once restrictions are lifted, as a cost saving, and in the 20/21 accounts we have purchased a copy of Zoom to allow more attendees.

Website costs

The main work in the redevelopment of the website is complete with only minor amendments and ongoing costs planned for.

Insurance

The insurance was re-negotiated last year, and some savings were made in last year's accounts, but this is the full saving with an on-going cost of around £500 reduced from £1,500 previously, when we had 3 separate policies.

Miscellaneous Costs

This comprises engraving, accommodation when attending England Golf Meetings, the County Lunch costs for the Executive Committee and volunteers, the AGM cost and clothing costs for new Committee members (1 item per person).

Junior Accounts

Income was down from £6,470 to £3,439. Of this £1,546 related to competition costs and £931 related to Academy and coaching income with the balance being made up of donations and a slightly lower income from the Cygnet Trophy.

Due to Covid 19 some competitions, some Academy training and some coaching sessions were cancelled, although a series on online coaching videos were produced for the juniors. The only major events run for the Juniors in this financial year were a Par3 competition and the 2019 Autumn Meeting.

Expenditure was reduced from £9,026 to £3,935. Of this £2,280 of the decrease related to competition costs which includes entry fees into regional competitions, £884 related to travel, £1,047 related to coaching costs and the balance to general and merchandise.

ON-GOING BUDGET

On the basis of the issues this year we have re-worked our forecast for this current financial year as this will also be affected by Covid 19. We have already missed National Finals which would have been held in September 2020 and the Autumn Meeting for 2020

The accounts presented to the end of July 2020 have been approved by our Honorary Auditor, Mr S Godfrey of Godfrey Anderson & Co. No issues were raised following the review.

Carolyn then proposed that the 2019 accounts be adopted, and this was seconded by Gail Sharp.

Maura reported that the outcome of the prior votes cast by the members was: 62 in favour, none against and 1 voting paper was not counted as it arrived after the vote closed.

Carolyn confirmed that the accounts for the year end 31st July 2020 have been adopted.

9. **ADOPTION OF AUDITORS MR STEPHEN GODFREY**

Carolyn stated that the Association had been served well by the current auditor, Stephen Godfrey Associates and she proposed that they be appointed for another year. This was seconded by Janet Beal.

Maura reported that the outcome of the prior votes cast by the members was: 62 in favour, none against and 1 voting paper was not counted as it arrived after the vote closed.

Carolyn confirmed that Stephen Godfrey Associates are adopted as the BCLGA auditors for another year.

10. **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORTS**

2ND TEAM CAPTAIN - Jackie Edwards

As 2nd Team Captain (subject to confirmation) I was looking forward to our matches and the other events that had been planned for the year. It was not to be!

We were not able to participate in friendly matches, the planned events in May and July against Berkshire and Oxfordshire or any other events at the end of the golfing year due to cancellation of almost all Bucks County golf including the 2nd Team.

It has been decided to hold a 2nd Team Annual Meeting this Autumn, but a date has not yet been agreed.

We have also agreed to hold the Bucks vs Oxfordshire and Bucks vs Berkshire matches around the same time in 2021 as had been planned in 2020. I will communicate to the entire 2nd Team when these dates and venues are finalised. I hope this will be soon.

In 2021, I look forward to stepping firmly into the 2nd Team Captain role! I would also like to explore opportunities to widen 2nd Team participation and development. I will be asking 2nd Team players, colleagues in the BCLGA Exec and other BCLGA members their views on how we could strengthen the 2nd Team and widen participation for the team members.

SENIORS' CAPTAIN - Susanna Mitterer

Sadly, due to the Covid lockdown and restrictions we have not been able to play any Seniors League or Friendly matches this season. We also had to cancel the Spring and Autumn meeting.

I am in the process of arranging our 2021 fixtures and hope that we will be able to play a near normal season next year. As always, please do let me have an update list and contact details of any ladies

who have turned 50, playing off a handicap of 14 and lower so I can invite them to join our team.

COUNTY JUNIOR ORGANISER - Janet Beal

Firstly, many thanks to all the junior committee:

- Cecilia Williams, our development officer, looking after our academy coaching. Like most other things, our face to face academy coaching was cancelled this year, but Cecilia organised some online lessons with Noel Rousseau, our academy coach at Wycombe Heights, which were sent out to all the academy girls, so at least they could continue working on their golf at home and at their own clubs. The academy coaching 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 2021 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 Delyth.
- Delyth Barnett, our competitions secretary, running the junior competitions. We managed our first couple of events this year before lockdown and have managed two more events since resuming golf. I am delighted that Delyth will be taking over as County Junior Organiser at the AGM. Delyth has been a great asset to the junior section as competition secretary over the last 4 years and I am sure that she will be a great success as CJO. I am pleased to announce that Wendy Egan will be taking over as junior competitions secretary.
- Tony Bowers, our County coach, who runs the Intermediate Training sessions for junior and intermediate girls who are not (yet) in our elite squad. We managed to hold our February session as normal, but since the return to golf have changed the format to separate morning and afternoon sessions for smaller groups. We have managed to hold four of these sessions since mid-July.

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

- Lynda Hilton and Gail Sharp who come along to 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.

Well done to all the girls who have managed to play lots of golf this summer. There have been some amazing results and lots of handicaps have tumbled.

Normally I would be thanking Ciara Egan for her year as Junior Captain, but her year was severely curtailed. I am pleased to announce that Amelia Curtis from Stoke Park and Ciara Egan from Woburn will be Joint Junior Captains for 2020/21 and wish them both a successful year.

HANDICAP ADVISOR - Christine Bishop

My role is to support clubs, Handicap Secretaries and our members on the Rules of Golf and CONGU® handicapping system. Much of my role this year has been around the World Handicapping System (WHS) which England are adopting on 2nd November 2020. Earlier in the year, before the lockdown due to the COVID-19 virus, I ran some Educational Seminars for clubs around the area and these were very well attended. Unfortunately, the continuation of the education programme where we were to visit clubs was cancelled due to the virus.

In preparation for WHS, I assembled a team of people to contact clubs and ensure that their club records on the Central Database of Handicaps were free of any duplications, errors or records that should be deleted. I am indebted to Janet Beal and Sue McKeon for their assistance on this.

There have been additional challenges for switching over to World Handicapping caused by the virus, but it will still happen on 2nd November. Most of our clubs have signed up to the WHS platform giving them access to player's WHS handicap index information.

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 the audit was straight forward with no irregularities.

I have given notice to the Bucks Executive that I will not be continuing in my role past 2021. I am moving out of the area to be closer to my mother who needs my support. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role during the last 10 years and encourage anyone interested in handicapping and who would like to be involved in county golf to seriously consider the role.

ENGLAND GOLF VOTING MEMBER - Susanna Mitterer

Throughout the year I attended a series of virtual update meetings which focused very much on the gradual re-opening of golf courses and received briefings and guidelines on SafeGolf following the latest Government Covid guidelines. A precis of the relevant issues and advice was posted on the BCLGA website and in our regular newsletters. Please do continue to visit our websites for updates throughout the rest of the year.

COVID 19 Support Fund: over 750 applications were received during July/August for the £2.555m made available by the R&A for golf clubs and facilities in England to help deal with the impact of the pandemic. Princes Risborough was the only club in our County who was successful in their application. A total of 330 clubs received on average £7,700.

In early October England Golf added a further £500,000 from their internal surplus to the fund and money is now made available to those clubs that have narrowly missed out on the original R&A fund. A further 101 clubs have now been identified as eligible to receive funding from the EG pot. They will receive notification of having been successful from Monday 19th October.

Membership Campaign: In July England Golf launched a new campaign, 'Membership: Give it a Shot', to maximise new membership opportunities from the increased participation levels that golf has enjoyed since play resumed in May.

Focusing on four core values, equality, diversity, family and community, England Golf's membership call to action of 'Give it a Shot' comes to life through three key messages:

- 'Play is Flexible': As golf continues to evolve in line with modern lifestyle choices, there have never been more ways to enjoy the game – whether that is practicing at the driving range, playing a quick nine or a competitive round over 18 holes, the choice is yours.
- 'Clubs are Sociable': A hugely popular aspect of any sport and club membership is the social benefits: the opportunity to meet in a safe environment, share stories, and build lifelong friendships through the game. Golf is a game for all generations and families to enjoy together.
- 'Golf is Affordable': Golf club membership is a lot more affordable than people perceive with many membership options to suit age, lifestyle and budget.

The membership campaign will be heavily promoted by England Golf on a national scale and will provide an opportunity for every golf club in England to connect and promote their own membership benefits for new and existing members.

For more details visit: <https://www.Englandgolf.org/new-membership-campaign-launched/>

World Handicap System:

Access to World Handicap System Platform & Toolkit is now available for all Golf Clubs. All TV's have signed up to the licence and data migration is due to be completed by 5 October 2020. However, two of the largest ISVs (Intelligent Golf and Club Systems) have so far failed to upload their members data at the time of writing this report (18th October), which will cause significant issues for the golf clubs concerned, as their members will not be able to access their new HI unless that data is transferred in a timely and complete manner.

EG are urging all golf clubs to put pressure on their ISVs and service providers to speed up the transfer of their member data (including name, CDH number and email identification markers) and thus allow the timely launch of the new system for all clubs in England.

Golf Clubs should also focus on how much their members know about the new World Handicap System (WHS) which comes into play on 2nd November. EG has a series of tools to help with the WHS education campaign which are all available from their website.

All resources are available for download, including posters, social media adverts and much more – just visit: <https://www.Englandgolf.org/download/world-handicap-system-toolkit>

AGM / GM Elections:

- Maura Page, Gill Dean, Sue Milner and Carol Alford were elected to join the EG Board of Directors.
- Nick Coward has been ratified to continue as Chairman of the EG Board.
- Philippa Cook has been appointed to Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee.
- Susanna Mitterer was elected to the Nominations Committee.
- The reduction of the number of General Meetings per year down to 3 was approved by the voting members.

England Golf Affiliation Fees: will remain unchanged for 2021 at £9.50.

COUNTY COACH - Tony Bowers

Unfortunately, there is not a lot to report this year, due to Covid 19 decimating the golf competition calendar.

We held three winter training sessions for the first team squad at Burnham Beeches in November, The Oxfordshire in February and Harleyford in March. This latter session included the first team match v the juniors, which the first team won (although on this occasion they were all juniors anyway).

The pre-season friendlies against Hereford & Worcestershire, Bedfordshire and Middlesex all fell at the beginning of lockdown and were cancelled, as was County Match week at Northampton, and the England Golf "Festival of Women's Golf" planned for September to replace National County Team Finals Week also got cancelled.

During the summer months a few national individual competitions were held under strict Covid rules. I am sure you will be pleased to know that some of our Bucks players did exceptionally well in these events.

- English Women's Amature Golf championship - Thalia Kirby and Megan Dennis played fantastically well to come 1st and 6th respectively in the qualifying two rounds of strokeplay; in the first round of the match play, Megan lost to the eventual runner up, but Thalia reached

the semi-finals, losing to Emily Price the eventual winner.

- English Senior Women's Amature Strokeplay championship was held "locally" at Frilford Heath and attracted quite a few Bucks senior ladies. The weather was phenomenally hot, which took its toll, but Andrea Sims of Burnham Beeches should be congratulated on coming second in the handicap section.
- English Women's Amature Strokeplay championship - we had 8 first team squad players in this competition, of whom only Thalia (Tied 14th) and Megan (Tied 28th) made it through the cut.
- English Girls Amature Strokeplay championship - this was also held "locally" at Sandy Lodge and we had 8 junior girls in the competition. The weather conditions (heavy rain) resulted in 4 of our players making the cut, but the competition was then abandoned, with Roisin Scanlon (Tied 12th), Olivia Lee and Ella Butteriss (Tied 19th) and Grace Rigby-Walden (Tied 27th).
- The R&A Women's Amateur Championships - these were held at the same time as the English Girls: Thalia Kirby and Rosie Bee Kim both made it through the strokeplay cut. Rosie lost out at the match play round of 32, but Thalia made it to the last 8, only losing to Aline Krauter from Germany, the eventual winner of the competition.

We have a depth and breadth to our squads in Bucks and I look forward to 2021 when I hope some semblance of return to normality will enable us to showcase our Bucks talent in a County team format.

11. **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A REVISION TO THE CONSTITUTION - presented by Janet Beal**

The Executive Committee has discussed and agreed to propose some changes to the existing constitution. These changes have been presented to the Delegates and no adverse comments have been received. The revised constitution and a summary of the principal changes have been lodged on the website with the AGM documents.

We received one question in advance of the meeting on this topic.

Gill Leach of Beaconsfield GC asked, 'If the constitution will be frequently reviewed in future?' Janet replied that 'We will only review the Constitution when it is needed so it will happen, but it will not be a regular occasion'

There being no further questions raised at the AGM, Janet Beal proposed the adoption of the new Constitution, which was seconded by Lynda Hilton.

Maura reported that the outcome of the prior votes cast by the members was: 61 in favour, none against and 1 voting paper was not counted as it arrived after the vote closed.

Janet confirmed that the new Constitution has been adopted, that it would be dated with today's date and lodged on the website.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There are four vacancies arising on the Executive Committee at this AGM:

- **Jackie Edwards** (Burnham Beeches) was co-opted to the role of Second Team Captain after the last AGM and is now proposed formally for the role by Maura Spencer (Lambourne) and seconded by Lynda Hilton (Oakland Park)
- **Fiona Robb** (Buckingham) is proposed for the role of Honorary Secretary by Jackie Boath (Buckingham) and seconded by Gail Sharp (Gerrards Cross).
- **Jackie Maher** (Burnham Beeches) is proposed for the role of Competition Secretary by Gilly Stimpson (Burnham Beeches) and seconded by Carolyn Rivett (Whiteleaf)
- **Delyth Barnett** (Ellesborough) is proposed for the role of County Junior Organiser by Janet Beal (Beaconsfield) and seconded by Gail Sharp (Gerrards Cross).

Maura reported that the outcome of the prior votes cast by the members was:

63 in favour, none against and 1 voting paper was not counted as it arrived after the vote closed.

Gail then confirmed that Jackie Edwards, Fiona Robb; Jackie Maher and Delyth Barnett are duly elected to the Executive Committee. She welcomed them to their new roles and stated that she was sure that they would be a great part of the Executive Committee going forward.

Gail confirmed that Lynda Hilton stays on as President; Carolyn Rivett stays on as Treasurer; Susanna Mitterer stays on as Seniors' Captain and England Golf Voting Member.

In the Non-Executive roles, Christine Bishop remains as the Handicap Advisor/ Rules Advisor; Nerys McGuinness as her Assistant Handicap Advisor and Tony Bowers as the County Coach.

13. INSTALLATION OF INCOMING CAPTAIN

I am particularly pleased to confirm that Janet Beal, who has had a very quiet and therefore unusual year in the Vice-Captain's role, is continuing on now to be the new County Captain 2021-2022.

I wish Janet all the best in the forthcoming two years. She has accumulated ten years experience with BCLGA (as Joint Competitions Secretary, Junior Competitions Secretary and more recently four years as County Junior Organiser). I know she is Bucks County through and through and will serve us all very well indeed.

14. PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING CAPTAIN

Thank you Gail and good afternoon Ladies.

It is traditional to present a Past Captain's Brooch to the outgoing captain. Even though I can't actually do this physically, be assured that a brooch is on its way to Gail.

When Gail asked me to be her Vice-Captain back in mid-2019, little did we know what the next year and a bit would bring. I was looking forward to learning all about the role of County Captain from Gail and instead we seem to have spent most of the year zooming.

Gail has been a fantastic County Captain. In 2019 she initiated the BCLGA Gala Day, which I hope many of you were able to attend. This was a great day and really showed Gail's intention to include as many BCLGA members as possible in our events, and she had more planned for this year, just a shame that everything was cancelled.

Thank you Gail for all your hard work. You will be a tough act to follow.

15 **PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING OFFICERS**

As most of you will know, it is traditional to present flowers, champagne and gift vouchers to outgoing Executive officers at their final AGM. However, this does not work by Zoom!

So, Gail arranged for the flowers and champagne to be presented recently to Maura, Gilly and Janet, with the vouchers to follow in the post!

Maura and Gilly leave the Executive today. They have both been **superb** in their roles; reliable, diligent and hard-working, with a great sense of humour - what more could we have asked for.

Janet leaves her role as CJO, and the flowers and champagne were a thank you for her last four years contribution to the Association.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The members did not raise any questions via the Q&A or raise hand options.

17. **VOTE OF THANKS - Cathy Armstrong**

On behalf of the BCLGA membership, it gives me great pleasure to offer a vote of thanks to Gail and her Committee, for all their hard work throughout this year.

It has been a truly extraordinary year for us all, with many County events being cancelled. This has been a great shame especially as so much time and effort goes into their organisation.

As members of the County, we are grateful for the energy and commitment of our Officers, who have kept Bucks in the forefront of Senior and Junior womens' golf at County and National level.

We thank Gail for her successful two years as Captain and wish her a happy retirement. Also, we offer our best wishes to the incoming Captain, Janet Beal and her Committee.

18 **CLOSING ADDRESS - Janet Beal, County Captain**

Now I would normally give my closing address and tell you all about the exciting events we have planned for next year.

However, I just don't know what we will be doing.

We have plans for various events, but these are all dependent on Covid and any regulations that may be in place.

So, here is what I hope we will be doing next year...

The very popular Seniors Meetings are already in the diary. The Spring Meeting is at Buckingham on 27th April and the Autumn Meeting at The South Buckinghamshire on 8th October. These are great events, teams of 3 and are open to all ladies aged 50 and over.

The Summer Meeting will be at Oakland Park on 16th July and will be hosted by our President Lynda Hilton. Again, this will be a team event, open to all ladies. Oakland Park always provides a great welcome to BCLGA events, so this should be a great day.

We also plan to run a ladies Par 3 competition. The juniors have enjoyed their par 3 so much over the years that Gail decided to run a competition for the ladies, and I would like to make this happen next year.

BCLGA is there for ALL our county members, not just the elite players and the juniors, and I want to make sure that you all feel included. The competitions I have just mentioned are open to all, as are

the winter and summer knockout, so please encourage the ladies at your clubs to enter and enjoy our events.

For those of you who like to watch elite golf, we are delighted to say that the English Women's County Finals will be held at Denham Golf Club from 17th to 19th September. This is a national inter county competition, with the winning counties from each of the regional County Match Weeks taking part. It will be a fabulous exhibition of top amateur ladies golf, so please come and watch if you are able.

Buckinghamshire are playing in the regional County Match Week at Northampton from 21st -23rd June, and if we win, we will be playing at Denham. We've won CMW for the last 6 years, so no pressure.....

We have our first Delegates Meeting on 30th November, which will be a zoom webinar with Christine Bishop running a session on WHS. We will all have had four weeks experience of the new system, and I'm sure you will all have lots of questions for Christine.

The usual trifold with all the 2021 events will be published in January, a little later than normal this year, once we have most of the events in the diary.

We had arranged the County Lunch on 3rd March at Beaconsfield but are now looking to reschedule later in the year, so watch this space for more details.

The Vice Captains meeting, which is normally held in April, is a chance for all the new Vice Captains to meet, so we will postpone this until we are actually able to get together in person, so please wait for a date to be published.

I hope to meet as many ladies as possible during my two years as county captain. I'm very good at presenting prizes and acting as a starter for competitions, so if you need someone just ask and I'll put on my red shirt or jacket and come and help.

Finally, my charity for the next two years is Carers Bucks. Carers Bucks is a charity which supports unpaid carers in Buckinghamshire. They support people who are caring for a family member or friend who cannot manage without them due to illness, disability or a mental health condition. They provide support to carers aged 6 - 96+ in a variety of ways including regular support groups, information and advice, one to one support, events and activities, and school support. We will put more details about Carers Bucks on our website.

Thank you all for attending the AGM. Hopefully we will be able to meet face to face next year.

For our AGM next year, we have booked Harleyford GC for 2pm on Wednesday 27th October 2021

I hereby close the BCLGA AGM at 14.50

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