



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

Harleyford Golf Club - Wednesday, 31 October 2018

#### **PRESENT:**

Sally Harborne	County President
Sue Ashworth	County Captain
Gail Sharp	County Vice Captain
Maura Spencer	Honorary Secretary
Carolyn Rivett	Honorary Treasurer
Janette Psyllides	2nd Team Captain
Di Davies	Joint Competitions Secretary
Gilly Stimpson	Joint Competitions Secretary
Susanna Mitterer	Seniors Captain
Janet Beal	County Junior Organiser
Christine Bishop	Handicap Advisor
Phillipa Cook	England Golf Representative (from item 7)
Tony Bowers	County Coach
	plus 44 Members

The County Captain, Sue Ashworth welcomed everyone to the BCLGA Annual General Meeting and thanked Harleyford for once again hosting the meeting. Sue then introduced the members of the Executive with a special welcome to Carolyn Rivett who was co-opted as Honorary Treasurer last November.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

27 apologies were received

#### **2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - Sally Harborne**

This year has absolutely flown by: 2018 has been a great golfing year in the annals of BCLGA. I see my role as one of support and to that end have watched plenty of great golf played in true golfing spirit.

The start of the season was marred by un-seasonally bad weather for weeks on end and many events had to be cancelled or rescheduled. I have stood on the side of fairways in pouring rain, dense fog and brilliant sunshine hoping for some shade from the trees watching our junior girls progress up their own golfing ladder. There is always a very happy buzz when the Juniors meet and if there happens to be a rather shy new girl arrive, she is soon welcomed into the fold and swapping jokes around the lunch table. I will leave Janet to tell you of all their achievements this season but there are many. We must extend a huge vote of thanks to the parents who willingly transport their daughters to the four corners of the County and beyond. They are also a very happy gang supporting each other as well as their offspring.

Janette invited me to Huntercombe and Southfields to watch the 2<sup>nd</sup> Team play League matches against Oxfordshire and Hereford & Worcestershire where I am pleased to say we were victorious. It's great watching good golf played on lovely courses and our thanks to the clubs who allow us courtesy.

County Match week at Denham was a very well organised event, as we all expected having Phillipa in control. Denham was a great venue to try out a new format of 3 days. For the sixth time in recent years, BCLGA were victorious going onto the National County Finals at Royal North Devon, one of the oldest courses in the county. The team for RND consisted of 12 players, 7 of which were juniors who all took on the challenges that the course and weather threw at them. Some inspirational golf was played, many new friendship formed and I was very proud to have been a member of the supporting team.

One of the highlights of my year was hosting the County Summer meeting at my own club Whiteleaf. The greenkeepers pulled out all the stops and produced a course in tremendous condition. My thanks go to Gilly who worked very hard to enable the day to be enjoyed by so many. In the end we had 75 ladies playing in the morning and afternoon competitions.

We had two fantastic holes in one - one in the morning on the 5<sup>th</sup> hole and, rather like buses, another one in the afternoon on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole.

The prize winners were happy with their John Lewis vouchers and a full list of winners is available on the County website. The pen sweep made £310 for Sue's charity 'The Willow Foundation'.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the members of BCLGA who have welcomed me to their clubs. And a special thank you to the Exec Committee who all work tirelessly on your behalf, for their help and friendship over the past 12 months. And so we have come full circle, the end of our year but the start of a new one, let's hope it is as successful and enjoyable as this one has been.

### **3. MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Were accepted as a true record

*Proposer - Helen Mines, Ellesborough GC*  
*Seconder - Marian Purdy, Ellesborough GC*

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

At last year's AGM we received a letter from Janet Pusey (Ellesborough) asking the Exec to consider if the Bucks Shield semi-finals could be held as a 'home' and 'away' match and whether the Final could be held at a weekend rather than mid-week. Janet also asked if previous finalists should be 'seeded' for the following year?

The suggestion of 'seeding' was discussed at length but dismissed by the Executive as we considered the random draw for opponents at each round remained the fairest method for the competition. However, a consultation with the clubs ensued regarding the home/away/weekend proposals and the questions posed were:

*"At the moment we hold the two Bucks Shield Semi-final matches and the Bucks Shield Final on the same day (a midweek day usually in September).*

- a. Would you prefer the Finals Day to be held at a weekend instead of mid-week?*
- b. Would you prefer the semi-finals to be held as 'home' and 'away' matches as in the preliminary rounds leaving the Finalists only to play on Finals day?*

- c. If not, would you prefer the 2 losing semi-finalists (from the morning round) to play each other in the afternoon to determine 3rd and 4th places? All 4 clubs would then play 2 rounds on Finals day whereas in the current format only the 2 finalist clubs play in the afternoon.*
- d. Would you prefer the Finals Day to remain as it is?"*

Each Lady Captain, Bucks Shield Captain and Delegate received this correspondence but we asked for only one consolidated response per club by 18th January. For the changes to be viable, of those clubs who sent in their responses, there had to be at least two-thirds in favour of a change – less than that and the status quo would remain.

The results were as follows:

- A - Final held at a weekend - 20% in favour
- B - Semi-final as home and away match - 23% in favour
- C - 3rd and 4th place play off - 10% in favour
- D - No change to format - 47% in favour

And so out of 30 clubs, 22 replied with a preference, 3 clubs did not take part in the Bucks Shield competition and 5 clubs did not respond. It was therefore agreed that the Bucks Shield Finals Day format should remain as it is.

## **5. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES AND COMPETITION SECRETARIES REPORTS**

**JOINT COMPETITION SECRETARY - Gilly Stimpson, Leagues & Meetings [Report published in advance]**

### **The 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 with the weather and so there were not too many problems sorting out the matches.

The winning results were as follows:-

- Premier Division - Beaconsfield
- 1st Division - Harleyford
- 2nd Division - Burnham Beeches

### **The Summer Scratch League:**

The Summer League ran fairly smoothly this year with the exception of The Buckinghamshire GC pulling out of the Silver league after the start of the competition.

#### **Silver Division Winners:**

- Premier Division - Woburn
- 1st Division - Denham
- 2nd Division - Magnolia Park
- 3rd Division – Flackwell Heath

#### **Bronze Division Winners:**

- 1st Division – Hazlemere
- 2nd Division - Beaconsfield
- 3rd Division – Chiltern Forest
- 4th Division – Oakland Park

### **The County Championships:**

The County Championships were held at Buckingham GC in May.  
County Champion - Daisy Kennedy (Stoke Park)

Intermediate Champion - Alice Kozlowski (Ellesborough)

Senior County Champion - Denise Goodacre (The Lambourne)

Thank you to Sally Harborne for running the competition, she did an excellent job.

### **Summer Meeting:**

We had a very successful Summer Meeting on 27th June held at Whiteleaf GC. This year we held a morning and an afternoon competition to enable as many ladies to play as possible. We had 25 teams entering - 13 in the morning and 12 in afternoon. A great atmosphere, good weather and a delicious lunch.

### **Coronation Medal Competition:**

This year we clarified the rules to reflect that **any** qualifying medal competition counted. It was evident that some clubs had calculated their scores to include all qualifiers whilst others had only counted EG medal rounds.

Silver Coronation Medal - Rachel Stone (Beaconsfield) - score + 8

Bronze Coronation Medal - Alison Macleod (Denham) - score - 16

### **Summer Charity Eclectic Trophy:**

The Summer Charity Eclectic Trophy was won by Denham with an impressive score of 145. This year has had the lowest income for the Captain's Charity with only 11 Clubs entering and one club choosing to make a donation rather than enter the competition. The total income was £1,018.

### **Cygnets Trophy:**

The Cygnets Trophy has raised £1,252.50 for the Junior section (just a few pounds more than last year). Oakland Park won the trophy with a score of 243.

### **Moving Forward**

In the coming year there will be some changes to the roles undertaken by those who organise the various County competitions. There will be only one Competition Secretary with volunteers helping to run some of the County Competitions.

My role will continue and in addition to my existing responsibilities I'll also help and support the volunteers who will run the Knockouts, the Bucks Shield and Interclub Foursomes. The knockouts will be run by Jackie Maher (Burnham Beeches) and the Bucks Shield and Interclub Foursomes will be run by Glenise Marfell (Gerrards Cross).

We will be looking for a new County Competitions Secretary for 2019 and clubs are asked to consider if they have a member who may be interested in undertaking this role.

**JOINT COMPETITION SECRETARY - Di Davies, K/O's, IC Foursomes & Bucks Shield [report published in advance]**

### **Winter Foursomes:**

The losing semi-finalists were Tracey Searson & Kathy Fraser (Harewood Downs) and Elaine Harrison & Bernie Howe (Buckingham).

The Final on Thursday 3rd May was hosted by Gerrards Cross between Lois Shoosmith and Marilyn Plummer (Ellesborough) and Fiona Moore and Sandra Lacey (Chartridge Park). Fiona and Sandra emerged as winners, 2 up on the 18th hole after a very close match.

### **Summer Knockout Competitions:**

All four of the Knockout Finals were played at Flackwell Heath GC on Thursday, 25th October. The weather remained unusually warm and sunny which was a bonus. Three of the four matches went to the 18th hole.

### **Champion Of Champions**

Jessica Turner (Ellesborough) played Denise Goodacre (The Lambourne) with some fantastic golf being played. Both players had some excellent approach shots close to the pin and both had great up and downs on par 3s to halve the hole. A very close match finishing on the 18th hole with Jess 1Up.

### **Challenge Cup**

Gilly Brewer (Harewood Downs) played Anne Terry (Magnolia Park) in another close match with both players chipping in during the course of the match. Anne received 1 shot from Gilly and the match finished on the 18th hole with Gilly winning 1Up.

### **Rose Bowl**

Barbara Briggs (Stoke Park) nursing a chesty cough played Gill Hepsworth (Burnham Beeches) and Barbara won the match 5&3.

### **Summer Greensomes**

The losing semi-finalists were Jackie Edwards & Pam Tierney (Lambourne) and Lynn Fitzpatrick & Claire Richardson (Burnham Beeches).

The Final took place between Carolyn Howell & Jenny Gibson (Woburn) and Jessica Pilgrim & Rachel McKinlay (both juniors from Stoke Park). Carolyn and Jenny received 3 shots from Jess and Rachel. Once again this was a very close match finishing on the 18th hole with Carolyn and Jenny winning 1Up.

### **Bucks Challenge Shield:**

The semi-finals and finals were held on Friday 14th September at Flackwell Heath GC. The losing semi-finalists were Ellesborough and Harleyford.

In the afternoon, Burnham Beeches beat Woburn to win the Shield, 25 years after their previous victory. It was a very closely contested final with Burnham Beeches securing a 4-3 win and the final game being concluded on the 20th hole!

### **Interclub Foursomes**

This was hosted by Harleyford GC on Wednesday, 17th October. The prize for the Best Pair went to Margot Sharp and Trish Ellis (Stowe) scoring a nett 76.

The winners of the Interclub Foursomes Cup with a combined nett score of 156 were the Woburn team consisting of Alison Corke & Sheila Harrison and Julie Clarke & Julia Gallagher. Both pairs scored a nett 78.

In 2nd place were the team from Burnham Beeches with a combined nett score of 156.5. Their players were Henriette Watkins & Catherine Smith, Claire Richardson & Andrea Sims.

### **Other Matters:**

There have been a number of issues raised with regard to 'rules for the various competitions' and changes will be introduced for the forthcoming year. A summary of the proposed changes for each competition is outlined below:

#### **(1). Bucks Shield:-**

Rule 7 will be clarified as follows:

7. The club going through to the next round shall be decided:

i). If one team wins seven and a half or more games over the combined Home and Away leg of the match, play can be stopped in subsequent games.

ii). In the event of a tie, there will be a countback on the number of holes won by each club over the

total from all 14 games played (An example is given on the "Sample Results Sheet".)

iii). If there is still no clear winner, the team qualifying for the next round shall be decided by sudden death play-off. The lowest handicap player from each team in the second leg shall play sudden death play-off from the first tee to a conclusion.

**Rules 20 & 21 will be clarified as follows:**

20. Each Club should select its preferred offered date and respond to their opponents within 7 days of the dates having been offered.

21. If a player has a walkover then that player is deemed to have played a round. The result of the walk over match would be recorded as 10&8.

**(2). Champion of Champions, Challenge Cup, Rose Bowl, Summer Greensomes and Winter Foursomes:**

The following method of arranging the draw for the various competitions will be adopted for the forthcoming year:

**The venue for the matches**, except for the final, shall be the "home" club of one of the players. The first round draw will be done by automated software with the first named player(s) having home advantage. For the second round draw onwards, home advantage is decided by the organiser using the following algorithm:

a) if one player/pair had a home draw in round one and the second player/pair had an away draw in round one, then the second player/pair is given home advantage in round two.

b) if both players/pairs had the same advantage in round one, then home advantage in round two is decided by the organiser by the toss of a coin. For the third round onwards a similar pattern applies, if one player/pair has not had a home advantage then they are given it in round three, but if both players/pairs have had the same advantage in the first two rounds, then the organiser decides by the toss of a coin.

The first four players in the **Champion of Champions** draw will continue to be seeded and it remains the responsibility of players to notify the competition organiser of any change in handicap between the date when the form is submitted and the closing date for entries to the competition.

Finally, on behalf of the County I would like to thank all the Clubs that have allowed us courtesy of their wonderful golf courses during the year for the various competitions. I would also personally like to thank the members of the Executive Committee and lady members of clubs who have kindly hosted events this year for all their help and support.

**6. REPORTS - COUNTY CAPTAIN AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

**(i) COUNTY CAPTAIN - Sue Ashworth**

I'm pleased to report another extremely successful year for the County and I shall endeavour to whisk you through the highlights with the aid of a few photos to keep you interested...

Towards the end of last year we received an invitation to meet with the BB&O Union representatives with a view to discuss the viability of a merger. In January we met with the Berks and Oxon Executive members to discuss the possibility of merging the 3 Ladies Associations. We had a good exchange of ideas and opinions but we were all in agreement that at this stage, the Associations were not ready to merge.

Our meeting with the BB&O Union President (Alistair Booth) and Secretary (John Kennedy) which

followed was cordial and frank, but it became clear that without the merger of the 3 Ladies Associations they felt there was no benefit in pursuing any further discussions about merger with the Union. It was agreed by all that it would be of value to 'revisit' the subject matter on an annual basis addressing concerns and perceived obstacles which could be explored without the pressure of a 'time deadline'.

It was also agreed that 'merger' was probably inevitable, but not imminent as combined counties will (by the nature of their large and complicated set-up) no doubt be the last to merge.

After a review of our finances the Executive decided to create an annual grant or bursary funded by the County which any full member of the BCLGA can apply for. Applications are now invited twice yearly with a suggested maximum funds of £5K annually. No single applicant may receive more than 50% of the total available per year. Once awarded, the grant can be used for contribution to club fees, golf equipment, coaching, County and National level competition entry fees, travel and accommodation, but with financial caveats imposed on certain categories. In return, it's expected that successful applicants will actively support the Association by playing in County teams and competitions.

The Executive have final approval on who we offer these grants to, but the initial receipt and review of any application is undertaken by a sub-committee consisting of 4 officers. Application forms are available on the County website and I'd encourage you to publicise the grant widely amongst your membership particularly if you know of someone (adult or junior) who might benefit from such financial assistance.

Beaconsfield GC hosted the Annual County Lunch in March this year and looked after us extremely well once again - with 81 ladies in attendance and thanks to the generosity of all the clubs who donated 4 ball vouchers and raffle prizes, we raised a total of £2,755 from the auction and raffle.

For those of you who have taken the time to read Janet's report on-line and her regular Junior Newsletters, you'll already be aware of the various achievements our junior girls have racked up this year. My thanks to Thalia Kirby our Junior Capta and it's clear we have an extremely talented pool of over 100 junior girls within Bucks - a fact that other Counties clearly envy. Our Junior Captain for the coming year will be Eleanor Barnett (Ellesborough) and I know she will act as an excellent ambassador for the junior section.

We have several single figure handicap players, 2 of whom (Thalia Kirby and Daisy Kennedy) have been selected for the National Girls squad. We also have 5 girls in the England U18 Regional squad this year - Amelia Curtis and Jess Pilgrim (from Stoke Park), Olivia Lee and Grace Rigby-Walden (from GX) and a new junior Chiara Noja (who has recently joined The Buckinghamshire and changed her County affiliation from Hertfordshire to Bucks).

The Junior scratch and handicap teams both reached the Midland South Finals again this year, but lost out to Northants. Our 2nd Team also reached the MS Finals and were victorious against Hereford and Worcestershire. This is the 2nd consecutive year that Janette has led her team to victory, so many congratulations to her and all the players involved in reaching the Finals.

Having had the start of the golfing year blighted by awful weather and several junior events and the Senior Spring Meeting cancelled, we finally had some decent weather in May at Buckingham GC when they hosted our **County Championships**. Both Gina Lloyd (the Lady Captain) and several of the lady members kindly turned out to help act as starter and ball-spotters. This 3 day event is the major competition of the year for our elite golfers and Thalia Kirby (Stoke Park) won the 36 hole scratch prize, Alice Kozlowski (Ellesborough) won the handicap and Intermediate prizes, Denise

Goodacre (Lambourne) won the Seniors scratch prize on count back from Janette Psyllides and Dot Kelleher (Denham) won the Senior handicap prize.

Daisy Kennedy (Stoke Park) went on to beat Rachel Goodwin (Harleyford) in the Championship match-play stages and she, along with Denise and Olivia Lee (our Cty Junior Champion) represented Bucks at the England Golf Champion of Champions event at Frilford Heath last month.

Regional County Match Week was hosted by Denham in June and was a resounding success. Not only did we host the event in the new 3 day format, but for the 6th time in 7 years we won!

The team consisted of:

Gillian Kinnear (Gerrards Cross)	Megan Dennis (Woburn)
Georgina Bowers (Stoke Park)	Lily Robinson (Woburn)
Rachel Goodwin (Harleyford)	Alice Kozlowski (Ellesborough)
and juniors	
Hannah Cash (The Buckinghamshire)	Amelia Curtis (Stoke Park)
Daisy Kennedy (Stoke Park)	Thalia Kirby (Stoke Park)

A fantastic achievement and all credit to Tony our coach; the players who performed brilliantly, to the Denham staff and members for hosting the event and especially to Phillipa (our Event Organiser), Helen, Maura and Janet for their considerable contribution in ensuring everything ran as smoothly as possible.

With extensive planning, preparation and assistance from all the volunteers who gave up their time, it proved to be a great success and clearly the other 5 Midland South counties felt the same as it will remain as the shortened version in 2019 when Oxfordshire host the event at Frilford Heath.

In June Sally (with the help of Carolyn and Gilly) hosted the County Summer Meeting at Whiteleaf and the sun shone all day. With 2 holes-in-one, immaculate course conditions, delicious food and great company it truly was a memorable day. Congratulations to Anne Worby, Alison Gillam and Julie Cunnah (Stoke Park) who won 1st prize and thank you to the 25 teams of 3 who played who raised £310 for The Willow Foundation

The Bucks Shield Finals Day was hotly contested at Flackwell Heath last month between Burnham Beeches, Ellesborough, Woburn and Harleyford. Burnham Beeches were eventually victorious beating Woburn in the Final and it was their first win in 25yrs ! Even more astonishing was the fact that 2 of their players (Henriette Watkins and Sue McEntee) also represented Burnham Beeches in the team 25 years ago.

Flackwell Heath were particularly helpful when we had to find a venue for the County KO Finals at relatively short notice and kindly agreed to host the Champion of Champions, Challenge Cup, Rose Bowl and Summer Greensomes finals last Wednesday. Having all 4 finals played on the same day made for a great end to the County golf season and the ladies of Flackwell made us extremely welcome.

It was interesting to hear that they have managed without a Lady Captain this year and instead have instituted a scheme whereby one of the Ladies Committee acts as 'duty officer' each month. With only 50 lady members, the system is a great compromise and seems to be working very well.

Towards the end of September we represented the Midland South region at the English Women's National Finals at Royal North Devon GC facing the 5 other qualifying regions:

Surrey (South Region)	Norfolk (East Region)
Gloucestershire (South West Region)	Yorkshire (North Region)
Staffordshire (Midlands North Region)	



Our squad consisted of:

Denise Goodacre (The Lambourne)

Georgina Bowers (Stoke Park)

Alice Kozlowski (Ellesborough)

Lily Robinson (Woburn)

Rachel Goodwin (Harleyford)

and juniors

Hannah Cash (The Buckinghamshire)

Thalia Kirby (Stoke Park)

Amelia Curtis (Stoke Park)

Daisy Kennedy (Stoke Park)

Grace Rigby-Walden (The Buckinghamshire)

Olivia Lee (Gerrards Cross)

plus 11yr old Rosie Bee Kim (The Buckinghamshire) who was most definitely the youngest competitor (possibly ever) at the event.

With the assistance of a £2,900 grant from England Golf I secured self-catering accommodation adjacent to Royal North Devon GC which proved to be excellent.

We experienced some of the most extreme and challenging weather conditions over the 5 days and EG did an amazing job of keeping the tournament going, albeit in a reduced playing format for most of the week. Unlike previous years where the County Captains meet only on the practice day for a general briefing, the EG Tournament Director gathered the referees and all 6 Captains together for a weather update each afternoon and proposed a playing schedule suitable for the time and weather constraints which had to be both playable and safe.

With 45-50 mph gusting winds and heavy rain forecast, even the locals were surprised at the prolonged ferocity of the conditions and the tenacity of the players.

It resulted in only one day of normal 36 hole play (Monday) with the remaining week reduced to 18 holes. Even then, there were times when the gusting wind affected both the balls lying on the green and on the tee leaving many players struggled to remain stable whilst swinging.

The course is the oldest links course in the country, is on 'common land' and therefore is used by both livestock and the general public. Both proved interesting 'hazards' at times during the week and free relief was offered for any ball coming to rest in 'liquid or solid' animal poo!

With one of the largest squad in attendance consisting of 7 juniors (some who had not even experienced Regional County Match Week), we had hoped all our players would have played their first match by the end of play on Tuesday afternoon. With the curtailed format our plans had to be revised.

By Thursday evening with 1 loss and 3 wins under our belt, we stood as joint leaders with 6 points alongside Gloucestershire and Surrey. We knew we had to beat Gloucestershire on Friday to stand a chance of winning overall, but they proved too strong (both physically coping with the extremely adverse weather conditions and in their superior performance on the course) and we suffered a 1-5 defeat.

Despite that, I'm proud to say we had our most successful result in the history of the tournament (since 1953) finishing equal 2nd on points and a creditable 4th on games score.

Upon request, Phillipa has subsequently circulated to the participating Captains (and the EG Championship Committee) the comprehensive documentation pertaining to the shortened version CMW as it's clear that the majority of regions are looking for an alternative to the current 5 day format.

The 'Good Luck' cards and messages we received from both individuals and the Bucks clubs were very much appreciated. My thanks go to the team who performed brilliantly and to Helen Mines, Janet, Sally and Tony who supported the team during the most testing of playing conditions

Preparation for these major events requires time, commitment and hard work and not just on the part of the players. Tony runs our Elite Training sessions throughout the Winter and Spring months and we rely on the generosity of several clubs who allow us courtesy of their facilities for these 'full day' practice sessions. My thanks to Burnham Beeches, The Oxfordshire, Woburn, Harleyford, and Denham who have hosted us this year. Not only does it allow Tony and I to assess the players for selection, but it acts as a forum for the girls to practice and play together. Morale is high, friends and foursomes partnerships are forged and I think there are very few counties who have a stronger team bond than Bucks.

Tony has also run short-game clinics for anyone attending the quarterly County Delegate meetings - they have proved very popular and I can't reiterate enough the importance of your County Delegate attending these meetings to find out what's going on within the County. They provide an important link in the communications to and from your Club members, both to ourselves and further up the chain to EG.

My thanks go to Denham, Lambourne, Beaconsfield, Woburn, Gerrards Cross, Harewood Downs, Ellesborough and Buckingham for hosting our Delegate, Junior Committee and Executive Committee meetings this year. Special thanks also to Harleyford for once again hosting this Annual General Meeting.

And so... that concludes my report. I trust it's given you a flavour of what we've achieved this year and I feel we can all be justifiably proud of our successes.

## **(ii) VICE CAPTAIN - Gail Sharp**

Since taking up the role of County Vice-Captain, I have attended as many meetings and golf events as possible to ensure that I am "up to speed" with the breadth of the County Captain's responsibilities. It has been an interesting year, and I have learnt a lot about the background work that goes into providing all the varied BCLGA activities.

### **GDPR**

I have coordinated the BCLGA response to the new General Data Protection regulations (GDPR) which came into effect in May 2018. Our Privacy Notice has been revised and is on the website and we have deleted data that was surplus to our specific requirements. We are rebuilding a contact database on an "opt-in" basis. When the new website goes live, we will utilise generic email addresses for our Committee and Competitions activities.

### **Governance**

Following attendance at an England Golf Governance Seminar, we have instigated a review of our insurance arrangements. We have renewed all existing policies during the year as they fell due. We are awaiting a report from a potential new Insurance broker on our current policies and may make some changes for 2019

### **Grants**

We introduced a new grants scheme with a budget of up to £5,000 to distribute. The purpose of the scheme is to support BCLGA members (whether adult, intermediate or junior) develop and/or sustain their golfing endeavours through the provision of financial assistance.

In total we have supported 6 female players this year, (5 junior and 1 adult), with a total sum allocated of £4,060 during the whole season. (Some of these funds appear in the 2017/8 financial report and some will fall into the 2018/9 financial year). These grants paid for equipment, travel and subsistence for regional, national or international competitions and coaching.

The closing date for applications for the first round of 2019 grants is 1st March 2019. The application process and forms will be on the new website.

### **New Website**

Much work has gone into the design of the new website and it is currently being populated with information for 2019. I have recently taken over responsibility for completing this project with Anne Terry. We hope to complete this transfer shortly and will inform you all of the changeover date via club delegates.

### **(iii) 2ND TEAM CAPTAIN - Janette Psyllides**

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

In April we played Oxfordshire at Huntercombe GC and won the match 7-2. In May we played Berkshire at Harleyford and also prevailed by a margin of 7-2. We used a good mixture of mature players as well as a number of juniors who went on to play for the 1st team at National Finals. 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 Worcestershire & Hereford.

The final took place on 22nd August at Oxford GC. Maggie Findlay, the Oxfordshire 2nd Team Captain very kindly acted as starter in the morning. We had a strong team and took a commanding lead in the morning foursomes, coming from behind in the last group to win all 3 matches.

After a well-earned lunch break and a couple of team changes the singles matches commenced. We knew that we needed to focus as Worcestershire & Hereford would come out fighting and the matches all proved very tight. Karen Pollard, the Oxfordshire County Captain acted as starter. The sun finally shone and despite some tense moments, we took the first 2 matches on the 16th hole to ensure victory. The overall result finished with a 6-3 win for Bucks to retain the league title.

Thanks to Oxfordshire for hosting a great day at an interesting and challenging course, and to Worcestershire & Hereford who proved to be steely competitors and great sports. Thanks also to Sue Ashworth, County Captain, Gail Sharp, County Vice Captain, Sally Harborne, President, Di Davies, Joint Competitions Organiser and Tony Bowers, County Coach, for coming along to support the team – it was very much appreciated.

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

Janette Psyllides	Gerrards Cross	Gillian Kinnear	Gerrards Cross
Katie Reid	Wexham Park	Henrietta Watkins	Burnham Beeches
Sue Martin	Flackwell Heath	Kerry Sumner	Buckingham
Olivia Lee (J)	Gerrards Cross	Rosie Kim (J)	The Buckinghamshire
Pamela King	Gerrards Cross	Sue Holdship	Gerrards Cross
Lyn Fitzpatrick	Gerrards Cross	Dot Kelleher	Denham
Amelia Curtis (J)	Stoke Park	Lisa Holloway	Harleyford
Barbara Lewis	Hazlemere	Catherine Smith	Burnham Beeches
Lily Robinson	Woburn	Liz Keens	Gerrards Cross

The players have been brilliant all season. We have had a great blend of youth and experience and a great team spirit. We will look to integrate a new crop of youngsters next year and help them to transition from the junior ranks to adult teams.

At our end of year meeting last year, the Midland South 2nd Team Captains voted to change the format for the Regional Final to be more inclusive. It was suggested that the new format will consist

of the top 2 teams playing a full match (3 x foursomes in the morning and 6 singles in the afternoon) to establish an overall champion. Whilst the 2 finalists are having lunch, the remaining 4 counties will play against their counterparts in 5 x singles matches (North/South) for some extra competition and to make the day an 'end of season celebration'. This should mean that as the finalists are completing their matches everyone will be able to spectate. We will finish with a tea and prizegiving.

Northants will be the first to host the new format Final in 2019 and I will provide further details once this year's Team Captains' meeting has been arranged – this end of year meeting has also changed format to reflect travelling and time constraints and we are scheduled to have a Webcall meeting on Wednesday, 21st November, at which point all the arrangements will be confirmed.

**(iv) SENIORS' CAPTAIN - Susanna Mitterer**

I would like to thank all the Senior Ladies from Bucks for participating in the various Senior events, leagues and our Autumn meeting. As always, we had great fun on and off the golf course, even if our golf did not always match our enjoyment.

It has not been the most successful season for our Senior Ladies League matches - we only managed 1 win match against Oxfordshire and thus ended up joint last with just 2pts (7½ matches won in total).

**League Matches:**

Berks	9 May at Burnham Beeches
Hants	22 May at Blackmoor
Oxon	6 June at Beaconsfield
Herts	13 June at Mill Green

**Results:**

Berks won 5½ to 1½
Hants won 5 to 2
Bucks won 4½ to 2½
Herts won 5½ to 1½

**County Colours:**

Catherine Smith has earned her County Colours this year – well done Catherine!

Our Friendly matches were a little more successful - we won our match against Beds (3 - 1) and halved against Middlesex.

The 4 players competing at the South East Inter County Seniors Team Championships on 25th September at Highgate Golf Club were Liz Keens (Gerrards Cross), Carol Weir (Beaconsfield), Denise Goodacre (The Lambourne) and I (Woburn). Carol had the best score of 83 (SS 75) and together with the other team members scores of 87, 88 and 89 this gave us a total team score of +31. The event was won by Sussex with a score of +21.

Our Senior Autumn Meeting was held on a lovely autumn day at Oakland Park on 3rd October and we had 16 teams competing. The winning score of 92 points came from Harriet Duckworth, Anne Terry and Jean Carter (Magnolia Park). My sincere thanks go to Oakland Park GC for hosting this event and for making us feel so welcome on the day.

**A brief look forward to 2019:-**

After the cancellation of the Senior Spring Meeting, I'm really pleased that we will be returning to Buckingham GC on Tuesday, 30th April 2019.

The Senior Autumn Meeting will be at Oakland Park GC on 2nd October 2019.

All 2019 League Matches are now confirmed as follows:

Berks 18 April at Calcot Park (A)

Hants 21 May at Harleyford (H)  
Oxon 10 June at Henley Golf Club (A)  
Herts 13 June at Burnham Beeches (H)

Our Friendly match v Beds is on 29th August at Ellesborough and our friendly match v Middlesex (A) will be at Northwood GC on 8th August.

We will also be hosting the South East Inter County Seniors Team Championship 2019 on 23rd September at Woburn GC (Dukes course).

As always, please contact me if any of your lady members turn 50 this year and play to a handicap of 14 or below as I would love to welcome them to the Seniors squads and include them in our matches and friendlies.

Looking forward to seeing you all again in 2019.

**(v) COUNTY JUNIOR ORGANISER - Janet Beal**

Firstly, I would like to thank lots of people:

Cecilia Williams (our Development officer) who looks after our Academy training. This is aimed at girls who have learnt the basics of the golf swing, and are looking to develop their skills and gain their first handicaps together with girls who have been playing for a while, but still enjoy the group lessons. Invitations for the 2019 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.

Tony Bowers (our County Coach) runs 4 or 5 intermediate coaching sessions during the year for junior and intermediate girls who are not (yet) in our Elite squad. These are full day sessions with lots of skills challenges followed by some competitive golf in the afternoon.

Katherine Millburn, who runs our Pre-handicap competitions for girls up to playing 9 holes on a par 3 course. We have a badge scheme, so the girls can progress through to Bronze, Silver and Gold badges. 2018 has not been a good year for the Pre-handicap girls as several of our competitions have been cancelled as a result of lack of numbers.

Delyth Barnett (our Junior Competitions Secretary) who runs the junior competitions through the year. These are open to any junior girls (with a handicap) who are members of a Bucks golf club. Delyth also runs the Karchargis Trophy - a greensomes competition for pairs of one lady and one junior girl.

Helen Mines is our Junior Committee Secretary, organises our meetings and looks after the junior area of the County website.

Thanks to Sue Ashworth, Sally Harborne and Gail Sharp who came along to our competitions and spend their time acting as starters, giving out prizes and making sure all the girls get round the course safely.

Thanks to 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.

Finally, thanks to all the parents, grandparents and other friends and family who act as taxi drivers and supporters for the girls.

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

Newsletter, which runs to 4 pages as there were so many highlights this year.

#### County Finals:

I was very pleased to be part of County Finals at Royal North Devon where 7 of our junior girls played for the county 1st team - 3 of them playing for the first time.

Sue has given a report on National Finals, but I would like to add that I had a great time and was extremely proud of our juniors (and the older girls) who all played fabulous golf in very difficult conditions - they all managed to play with great big smiles on their faces.

#### Junior Captain

Finally, I would like to thank Thalia Kirby for her year as County Junior Captain and announce that Eleanor Barnett (Ellesborough) will be the new County Junior Captain for 2018/19

### **(vi) 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 providing guidance on qualifying and non-qualifying competitions. I do not have any unresolved issues.

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. As with previous years, my report showed all records to be accurate and without errors.

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

England Golf Handicap Appeals Procedure

Local Rules from R&A

World Handicapping Summary

CONGU® Changes Summary Document

Extension to Winter Rules period in April

So that I can 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.

I have been working with the BB&O Union and developed my 2019 Rules Seminar to use across the region. The target audience for these seminars are club members and it provides an informative and informal introduction to the 2019 Rules of Golf. A short summary of the 2019 rules will be presented later in the BCLGA Annual General Meeting.

The World Handicapping System will be launched in 2020 and England Golf are running seminars across the country to update clubs on the system. A short summary of these changes will be presented later in the BCLGA Annual General Meeting.

### **(vii) ENGLAND GOLF REPRESENTATIVE - Phillipa Cook**

The focus of England Golf is to grow the game of golf in England, encourage more families, women and girls and many more to the game of golf.

The Strategic Plan outlines how this is to be achieved:

- "Outstanding Championships, Competitions and Events" – organising first-class events for every level of golfer and every type of customer
- "Winning Golfers" – supporting and developing elite golfers

- “Excellent Governance” – adopting standards, policies and procedures to become a model of best practice
- “Improved Image and Promoting the Benefits of the Sport” – Promoting the benefits of golf and challenging negative perceptions of the game
- “Stronger Counties and Clubs” – Helping counties and clubs become more resilient and responsive to customer needs
- “More Members and Players” – inspiring more people to play golf, to play more often and to join a club

The core business of England Golf is running the many competitions throughout the season – 52 scratch championships and handicap events for men, women, seniors and juniors; training programmes for the elite players; handicap and rules including USGA course rating; engaging with counties and clubs either via the Club Support Officer or the Compliance Department.

Much time is currently being spent on delivering the Worldwide Handicap System workshops plus training sessions on the new Rules for 2019. An area of work that is increasing is with regard to Safeguarding. England Golf has been commended as one of the best national governing bodies in this area. However, the caseload continues to increase - England Golf has managed 85+ cases in the last 12 months.

A great deal of the time at this year’s Voting Members’ meetings has been taken up with the matter of the proposed rise in affiliation fees. The Board considered that the current activity within England Golf, the services it was providing to the game, was appropriate. The Board considered this necessitated a fee rise to £9.50 for 2019. The level for future years would be considered through the long-term Business Plan, which would be discussed and debated over the coming months.

The Voting Members’ meeting at Woodhall Spa on 12th September was dominated by the Affiliation Fee issue. The EG proposal for a fee of £9.50 was defeated but a counter proposal for a fee of £9.00 was passed. This will mean that certain programmes may have to be curtailed.

All the 2018 competitions organised by the Midlands South region have had a good attendance (the Australian Spoons, the Midlands South Fourball Better Ball and the Midlands South Junior Championships). Next year there will be a new competition, a Midlands South region Seniors’ Championships, which will be an 18-hole stroke play event hosted by Berkshire (proposed date Monday 8th July 2019 tbc).

## **USGA COURSE RATING**

All courses in the country will require a Slope Rating for when the Worldwide Handicap System is introduced in 2020. To that end all courses should be rated under the USGA system, which will provide the necessary information for the Slope Rating to be calculated. We have rated 10 courses in Bucks this year, which brings the total to 31 since this round of rating commenced in 2014 – a 10 year review is being carried out for the Women and an initial rating for the Men. Any course not rated before WHS is implemented will be given a provisional rating. However, all being well the remaining courses in Bucks will be rated next year. Thank you to all those who have helped with this year’s course ratings.

If a club is planning any changes to their course they should notify either myself or the BB&O Union so that we can review the course assessment and re-visit the club if necessary.

## **WEBSITE**

The BCLGA website is being updated and the new site should go live fairly soon. I feel that this is an appropriate time for me to retire as the website administrator. Having taken on the role in November 2002 and steered the site through a total revamp in 2008, after 16 years it would seem time for a change. Thank you to Helen Mines who has been updating the Junior section of the current website since its launch.

## **MIDLANDS SOUTH REGION COUNTY WEEK DENHAM GOLF CLUB, 18th to 20th JUNE 2018**

As the first county to host a County Week over 3 days rather than the full week there was a huge amount of work involved, but it was satisfying to demonstrate that this format is quite feasible. The event ran very smoothly and thanks should be recorded to all those volunteers who gave up their time to help. Particular thanks to Helen Mines for all her hard work on the administration side and to Janet Beal for making sure that all was in order on the rules and refereeing side of things.

Denham are to be congratulated on hosting this successful event. The course was in excellent condition, the club house facilities worked very well and the food was as ever exceptional. The management, staff and members were extremely friendly and helpful.

At the County Week Debrief Meeting on 31st July the 6 counties were asked to vote on whether they would like 2019 to be a 3 or 5-day event. The vote went in favour of the shortened format. It was agreed that the 3-day format should be adopted for County Match Week 2019 and after that event, the counties would vote again at the 2019 Debrief Meeting to decide which format would be taken forward for the foreseeable future.

Other Regions were anxiously waiting to see how our County Week went, before deciding whether to change the format for their own Region's County Week. I have sent an information pack to various counties across the country giving details of how the shortened form of County Week was organised. Following the conclusion of the County Finals Week I have also sent the same documents to the Captains of the 5 other counties competing at Royal North Devon GC.

James Crampton (EG Director of Championships), came to Denham to see how the format worked. I have sent him a full report on the event which has been circulated to those on the EG Championship Working Group. The Midlands South Region County Week is an item on the Agenda for the meeting of the Working Group at Kings Norton GC, which I shall be attending on the morning of the BCLGA Annual Meeting.

## **(viii) COUNTY COACH - Tony Bowers**

Firstly, may I thank Sue Ashworth for her endless energy and enthusiasm over the past 2 years as County Captain - it has been great working with her. I look forward to working with our new Captain, Gail Sharp, and hope we can share the same amount of success in her tenure as Captain. It has been a great year for both the Bucks junior and 1st teams. There are too many successes to cover individually, but the full details are recorded on the County website.

### **Elite Training:**

The Elite training is by invitation and gives us the opportunity to identify who's 'on form' as well as introduce new players who are improving their handicaps with a view to competing at a higher level. Each session covers short game skills/drills with a competitive edge and foursomes play to test new partnerships.

This year has seen several younger players move up to the 1st team squad, we hope their



improvement continues to keep Bucks strong & competitive.

We held 5 sessions this year at various venues throughout the County and also introduced a new competition at The Oxfordshire GC in February. The County Captain's 1st team played against my selected Junior team giving the youngsters a chance to meet and compete against the best players Bucks has to offer.

It was a very enjoyable day and we hope this will become an annual event.

#### **Intermediate Training:**

This is mainly for the girls on the periphery of the squads. It gives them the chance to meet other girls in a similar position for some advanced training and experience different formats of general play, as well as the chance to arrange social games with the other girls away from the structured training.

The sessions have been held at the Royal Masonic School in Rickmansworth and at Burnham Beeches GC and we thank them both for their support and for allowing courtesy of their facilities.

#### **County Week and County Finals:**

Sue I'm sure, will cover in more detail our success at Regional CMW and the fantastic effort the girls put in at National Finals at Royal North Devon GC in September, but I would just like to add my congratulations to all the squad members - their performances were fantastic and I could not have been prouder.

I believe with the current squad of players, more successes will definitely follow.

### **7. SUMMARY OF WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM AND 2019 RULES - Christine Bishop**

Christine gave a Powerpoint presentation on the new rules to be introduced in January 2019 and the Worldwide Handicap System to be implemented in 2020.

A number of questions were fielded from the floor as listed below:

#### **RULES**

**Q** - Who is responsible for timing the 3 minutes allowed in searching for a lost ball?

**A** - It is not stated in the rules as to who is specifically responsible, therefore anyone can start the 3 minutes.

**Q** - ALTERNATIVE STROKE & DISTANCE - can the new rule be used in competitions?

**A** - CONGU have stated that the new OB/Lost Ball rule is not allowed in any CONGU® qualifying competition. Therefore, the new Alternative Stroke & Distance Rule must be used only for non-qualifying competitions. In all qualifying competitions the current rule of stroke and distance will still apply.

#### **WHS**

**Q** - How is the course handicap worked out for match play situations?

**A** - Each handicap will be worked out using the individuals handicap index then finding their course handicap using the slope chart. The Slope Chart for the club will be displayed at a prominent position and players will look up their Course Handicap in the table.

**Q** - In a matchplay situation where there are gimmies how is the players final score worked out?

**A** - Currently, there are no plans to use match play scores for handicap purposes. The countries that do so at the moment use various methods such as a 'Most Likely Score' for the hole.

**Q** - In a singles stroke play open for example, how is the players score policed?

**A** - Before play the player must sign in to indicate their intention to play. At the end of the competition their scores are entered onto the system, which each club will have installed.

**Q** - In a bronze competition scenario what happens if a player has a handicap index of 20.5 and the course handicap reduces their handicap to below that, then are they in the silver division? And vice versa from Silver to bronze?

**A** - The Committee In Charge of the Competition will need to revise their rules to cope with this situation. The WHS Board will be producing some guidelines when the final system is announced.

**Q** - Will handicaps round up and down as before?

**A** - Yes

**Q** - When will the course rating for slope index be completed in Bucks ?

**A** - All the ladies ratings have been done. In Bucks only 8 mens ratings need to be done. If a course is not rated then they will be given a provisional rating of 125.

**Q** - Are players allowed to play off any tee?.

**A** - Yes providing the course has been rated for their gender.

**Q** - If a player is unable to play golf for sometime due to illness what happens to their handicap?

**A** - The player will be able to retain the handicap index. Clubs will have jurisdiction over the players handicap when they return to play.

**Q** - Will we be responsible for our handicap adjustment?

**A** - Players will be responsible for entering their scores onto the system after play. Handicap adjustments will be calculated overnight and ready to play the next day. There will be some provisions for technical problems.

## **8. TREASURER'S REPORT - Carolyn Rivett**

Since attending the AGM last year to hear that there was a Treasurer role vacancy, volunteering and then being co-opted to the Executive Committee, it has been a year of constant learning for me. Before this, I had very little knowledge of what the County Association did and I have been introduced to the delights of County Week, National Finals and all the other County competitions, as well as the training and development work. I would like to thank the other members of the Executive Committee for all their help and support, but especially Phillipa for her help with understanding the details of the accounts.

During the year, a question was raised regarding the level of accumulated funds that the BCLGA had and some decisions were made by the Executive Committee to allocate some of these funds to projects which would benefit the wider membership of the Association. A planned Gala Day for next year and our new Bursary scheme which was introduced this year will be covered by other officers. This planned expenditure will mean that the BCLGA will expect to have a deficit for the next couple of years and contributes to the deficit this year. However, the accumulated funds that we have in hand are sufficient to cover the planned expenditure.

After making a surplus in the year to July 2017 of £6,051, we have this year moved to a deficit of £7,946 for the main accounts in the year to July 2018. The main contributing reasons for this

movement are as follows:

- 1) Affiliation income was boosted last year by £3,634 of income which related to 2015/16. Several years accounts have been affected by the changes made in the way that affiliation fees are paid to us by the BB&O, but looking at the membership on a club by club basis with overall membership steady at just under 2500, I would expect the on-going affiliation fees to be around £15,000-£16,000 each year.
- 2) A payment to charity of £1,445 was made in this year relating to funds collected in 2016/17.
- 3) Bills of £2,898 for the Summer Meeting 2017 were not received until August 2018 and have been accounted for in this year, although the income was in last year.
- 4) In previous years, part of the monies raised at the County Lunch were used in support of the National Finals costs, but in 2017/18 all monies raised were given to the County Captain's Charity because of the healthy position of our funds. This reduction in income and a small increase in costs meant that the National Finals cost us an additional £2,422 above last year.
- 5) The new Bursary scheme resulted in payments totalling £1,580 being made to 4 individuals. Development of the new County website cost £1,828 this year.

Of the above items, only the Bursary scheme, website development and the funding for the National Finals are likely to carry on as costs as the others are all one-off adjustments. Also, a legacy of £5,000 which had been left to the BCLGA has now been fully utilised towards coaching costs. These will increase from 2018/19.

The accounts for the Junior Section show a small deficit of £938 compared to a surplus of £716 last year. The difference is as a result of a reduction in the funding received from England Golf, the Girls Golf Rocks programme and our decision to maintain the level of support to the Junior Section despite this.

The accounts presented to the end of July 2018 have been approved by our Honorary Auditor, Mr S Godfrey of Godfrey Anderson & Co. No issues were raised following the review.

There being no questions I propose that these figures be approved and ask for a seconder

*Seconder - Linda Liston Oakland Park GC*

The Accounts for August 2017 to July 2018 are approved.

## **9. 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 Godfrey has been re-appointed.

## **10. RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A REVISION TO THE CONSTITUTION**

In accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Constitution and following the change in format to the matches played during Regional County Match Week, the Executive deemed it necessary to change the allocation of points awarded to the winners of the Foursomes matches and as such, require the following amendment to Item 13 of the Constitution entitled 'County Colours and Team Selection':

First team members must have acquired 6 points from County Match Week matches, 1 point for singles, 1 point for foursomes (formerly 1 point for singles, ½ point for foursomes).

This revision has been agreed by the Executive and presented to the County Delegates for approval ahead of today's AGM and now a simple majority is sufficient to formalise the amendment.

*A show of hands indicated a majority in favour of this amendment to the Constitution.*

## **11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The applicant for the vacant position of Honorary Treasurer has been duly proposed and seconded.

**Honorary Treasurer**

**Carolyn Rivett (Whiteleaf GC)**

Co-Opted at Executive Meeting on Wed 29th November 2017

*Proposed by Sally Harborne (Whiteleaf)*

*Seconded by Sue Ashworth (Woburn)*

*Carolyn Rivett was duly appointed by a show of hands*

The following Executive Committee members stay on to complete their terms of office:-

Sally Harborne	-	President
Gail Sharp	-	County Captain (from VC)
Maura Spencer	-	Honorary Secretary
Janette Psyllides	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Team Captain
Janet Beal	-	County Junior Organiser
Christine Bishop	-	Handicap Advisor
Gilly Stimpson	-	Competition Secretary
Susanna Mitterer	-	Seniors' Captain

The following will continue in their role but as non-Exec officers:

Phillipa Cook	-	England Golf Representative
Tony Bowers	-	County Coach

*These Were Unanimously Passed By A Show Of Hands*

### **PRESENTATION TO THE OUTGOING OFFICER**

Di Davies is stepping down as Joint Competition Secretary. Sue presented Di with a gift as a thank you for all her hard work in the past year.

#### **Sue then gave her closing 'Thank You' address:**

And so that brings me to the end of my duties as your County Captain, but please indulge me whilst I offer a few personal thank yous before 'I finally fall off my perch'...

I'd like to thank all the County clubs who have allowed us to use their facilities and courses for our competitions and meetings, for their generosity in allowing us courtesy of their courses. Thank you also to the Lady Captains and members of those clubs who have made us feel so welcome. I should like to make special mention of my home club - Woburn where the management, staff and lady members have all been incredibly supportive. Having provided 2 consecutive County Captains, I did wonder if all their 'goodwill' had been used up during Phillipa's tenure, but 'no', they were as gracious and generous as I could have hoped for and I am extremely grateful.

To all the BCLGA members who have kindly contributed towards my charity (The Willow Foundation) thank you! The total raised at various County events during my captaincy is just over £7,800 - thank you ladies for your generosity.

To the members of both the Junior and Executive Committees over the past 4 years - thank you for

your friendship, support and efficiency. The Association relies heavily on volunteers, their time and their expertise to enable it to function. Long may that continue as I know it will ensure our future success.

Particular thanks must go to Janet Beal whose dedication to the Junior Section is clearly evident in the huge amount she does for the girls and of course to Phillipa Cook - whose wealth of Association knowledge is second to none. She and I have spent many hours travelling together to various meetings and events and I'm eternally grateful that she has always insisted on driving... I'm hoping our conversations covering family, County matters and golf in general will continue, but on the golf course which I certainly intend to frequent more often from here on in!

Thank you to my husband for doing all the things I probably should have been doing over the past couple of years — although he's still travelling the world with work, I think he's looking forward to seeing a bit more of me now and not having to constantly deconflict our diaries. Hopefully, we can even plan a few holidays together or just enjoy our garden and allotment...

Finally, thank you to Gail for accepting my invitation to become Vice Captain - she joined the Executive Committee this time last year with very little knowledge of County matters. She's faced a very steep learning curve but has embraced the challenge extremely well.

Ladies, it's been an honour and a privilege to serve as your County Captain and I'm confident I leave the future of the Association in very safe hands

Gail presented Sue with her Past County Captain's brooch and Sue in turn handed over the County Captain's badge of office to Gail.

## 12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

An email was received from Karen Forti, Oakland Park GC which read -

"Under Any Other Business at the AGM on 31st October 2018, please would the Committee clarify the wording of Rule 7 of the Bucks Shield, especially with reference to when the teams 'walk in' on Leg 2.

*My question is-*

*'In Leg 2 (usually the Home game) does the winning team have to win 4 games in BOTH the Home and Away legs (as in rule 7) or can the team "walk in" after reaching a total of 7 1/2 points in both games'*

I am asking this as to whether the Home and Away games have equal value, otherwise it would be more advantageous to play the Home game first.

As the Home team has to book 7 tee times from the Management (often valuable weekend ones) plus the team making the commitment to play, a team walking in after 1 or 2 games in Leg 2 is dispiriting for the players at the latter part of the field, who do not have a full game or a chance to win their games"

Gail responded:

We have looked at the wording of the Bucks Shield rules for 2019: Rule 7 will state and I quote:

*7. The club going through to the next round shall be decided:*

*i). If one team wins 7½ or more games over the combined Home and Away legs of the match, play can be stopped in subsequent games.*

It does not say that play must be stopped. It is of course open to the two teams to agree to play out all the matches in the second leg if they want to ensure that tee times are not wasted and players

who have had to travel to the fixture get a game of golf on the day. Basically, it is up to the Team Captains to agree on a course of action prior to the start of the second leg of the match.

The home and away matches have equal value, because each match will be home to one team and away to another, whichever way round the matches are played. The matches do not have to be played in the order that they are drawn out of the hat. That is clear in Rule 19.

I hope that is clear. A written response will be sent to Karen.

### **13. VOTE OF THANKS**

Gail called on Jenny Masterton Smith, Whiteleaf GC to give the Vote of Thanks

President Sally, Captain Gail and members of the Executive Committee.

On behalf of the ladies here today and all lady golfers in Buckinghamshire, I would like to extend a very sincere and huge thank you to you all for the work you do and the support you give to us all, and a special thanks to Christine for today's comprehensive information on the new rules and slope handicaps.

I would like to wish retiring Captain Sue a well deserved rest along with others retiring from the committee, and then to wish good luck to Gail and her new committee for the coming year.

Finally, thank you again for all your work and an early Happy Christmas to all lady golfers.

### **14. CLOSING ADDRESS - Gail Sharp, County Captain**

Good afternoon Ladies

I have spent 2018 getting to grips with the various strands that make up a typical County year; I have seen some amazing golf during that time and long may it continue. I know I shall be supported by an excellent Committee. Most of all, I want the next 2 years to be enjoyable, for you and for me.

It is traditional for a County Captain to select a charity to support during her tenure. I have actually chosen to support two over the 2 year period. They are:

- Workaid (based in Chesham). Workaid tackles poverty by renovating unwanted tools of all sorts, including sewing and knitting machines, and supplies them to specific projects in Africa to enable disadvantaged people learn new skills and become self-supporting. Not only will we collect funds for the charity, we will also arrange opportunities at some events for you to clear out your cupboards of surplus wool, material and haberdashery...and
- Thames Valley Air Ambulance (based in Stokenchurch). This charity provides medical and paramedical services at the scene of an incident, and then speedily transfers the patient to the appropriate hospital, increasing their chances of survival. On average, they are called out 6 times a day to locations that cannot easily be served by regular ambulance services.

Workaid will be having a Charity Golf day at Gerrards Cross, my home club, on Friday, 14th June and I hope that some of you might like to come to that event. Details will be on the County website in the Spring. Apart from the Charity Golf Day which is specifically for Workaid, I propose that all other funds raised are split equally between the two charities.

Turning to County events, we have produced a flyer with the key 2019 County dates on it, which you can take with you as you leave. Full details of the events will be posted on the County website. I would like to highlight just a few:-

The County Lunch will be at Gerrards Cross on Wednesday, 27th March - there will be an opportunity to play 13 holes before lunch for the early birds. Sara, our Head Chef, is excellent so I hope lots of

you will come to that.

The County Championships will be run over two weekends in 2019. The 36 hole qualifying rounds will be played on Sunday, 12th May (combined with the 18 hole Seniors championships as usual). The matchplay knockout stages to find the overall County Champion will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 18th/19th May. We are very grateful to Burnham Beeches GC for allowing us to try out this weekend format, which will enable our working ladies and juniors to play without taking time off work or school.

We are planning a Gala Golf Day at Gerrards Cross on Friday, 26th July. This will be open to all female members of a Bucks Club to come along and enjoy a day filled with golf-related activities. Actually

playing the course will be the only activity not on offer; however we will have:

- a variety of short game skills clinics,
- putting competitions,
- nutrition, pilates and sports psychology talks,
- hand and neck massages,
- clothing sales,
- various information stalls

and for the inner you.....gin-tasting and buffet lunch.

The day will run from 11am to 7pm, so those of you that work can hopefully sneak off around 4pm and still have lots of activities to enjoy. Registration for this event will start on 1st March and registration forms will be on the County website.

Another event that will be happening at Gerrards Cross in 2019 is the England Golf U16/U14s Girls Championships - 6th to 8th August, which I hope many of you might want to come and watch.

Our Summer meeting would normally be held at my club this year, but given the other events already mentioned, I have decided to go out of County for this event in 2019. I have booked Harpenden GC for Wednesday, 10th July. It is relatively accessible from different parts of the County and comes well recommended. It will be the usual 3 ball alliance format.

All event details will be on the County website. Talking of which, the new website is nearing completion thanks to a lot of work by Anne Terry and will be operational before Christmas. We hope

you will like the new format. We are at the stage now of finalising the initial content. When it is ready, we will do a changeover from the current website to the new format. This will mean that the

website is offline for a short period, whilst switching from the old one to the new one. The web address will remain the same.

We are encouraging you all to "opt-in" for news emails - under GDPR we cannot just assume that you want us to contact you about golfing matters! Another form to complete - but very easy and quick to do. You can do it online on the existing website (under 'Latest news', 'Keeping in touch'). This service will start when we have gone live with the new website.

I look forward to seeing some of you for mince pies at the next Delegates meeting which is on

Wednesday, 5th December at 10.30 at Buckingham GC.

**The next AGM will be here at Harleyford on Wednesday, 30th October 2019 at 2pm.**

This meeting is now closed at 16.27. Have a safe journey home.

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