



# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

LADIES' VICE-CAPTAINS INFORMATION PACK

APRIL 2020

### **President's - Information for Ladies' Vice-Captains - April 2020**

There is not a specification for the role of BCLGA President, however, it can best be described as being the BCLGA's principal representative. I will be supporting the juniors at most of their events, supporting the first team at some of their events, such as County Week which should have been played in June at Northampton GC (*unfortunately this has been cancelled for this year because of Coronavirus*) and the County Team National Final in September to be played at Spalding GC, Lincolnshire, if we enter a team.

I also will be at as many County events as I can fit into my calendar, where I hope to be able to see and meet as many of you as possible, along with the lady golfers from your clubs.

Next year, as tradition dictates, the County Summer meeting will be held at my own golf club, Oakland Park. I am very proud of my golf club with its extremely friendly members, brilliant staff, fantastic hospitality and interesting golf course. You can be assured of the warmest of welcomes, the best of catering and a golf course with some excellent golfing holes, which will be presented in the best of condition. It is a short course, but it is challenging and well worth a visit.

Please put the date into your diaries and try to persuade all your ladies to support this event on **Friday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021** and have an enjoyable day.

Lynda Hilton

BCLGA President

### **County Captain – Information for Ladies' Vice-Captains - April 2020**

Firstly, can I congratulate you on taking on the role of Ladies' Captain at your club in 2021.

I hope you enjoy the role. You will get much support from your own Ladies, club management and Ladies' committee. However, we hope that you will feel just as able to contact us if you need any specific support. If one of us cannot answer your query, we are likely to know someone who can, and we can put you in touch with them. Our contact details are on our website: [www.bclga.org.uk](http://www.bclga.org.uk) If you are not already "opted-in" on our website, please do that soon; instructions on the website are easy to follow. You will then be sent automatically my monthly Newsletter.

Normally we host a get-together in April for all new Ladies' Vice-Captains to give you a chance to get to know your counter-parts in other clubs. Obviously in 2020, this is not an option. So, we hope this information pack gives you an insight into our roles and the specific activities that we provide for women and girl golfers (of all standards).

The County is a link between England Golf and individual clubs. Bucks has 35 clubs and we have some 2700 women and girl members of those clubs. Anyone who is a paid-up member of a Bucks golf club is eligible to participate in our activities, subject to any specific competition rules. We also provide Rules and Handicap advice, develop new referees, review and maintain course ratings, hold club delegates meetings, run First, Second, Senior and Junior teams, support the development of new golfers (particularly junior girls) and run fun and serious individual and inter-club Competitions. For all of our activities to be successful we need the clubs in Bucks to support our activities, which is where you come in. You will find information about these activities in this pack.

Each County is allocated to a Region; we are part of Midlands South Region, which also includes Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Hereford & Worcestershire. There are regional competitions that all Bucks Ladies are eligible to enter.

My role as County Captain is to steer and oversee the governance of the County organisation and take particular responsibility for the First Team. We are all volunteers, with no paid staff. There is an Executive Committee comprising President, Captain, Second Team Captain, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Competitions Secretary, Junior Organiser, Seniors' Captain, Rules and Handicap Adviser and there are two non-Exec roles that also attend – the County Coach and The England Golf voting member. We meet about six times a year and we are supported by several other ladies who assist us to deliver our activities (run competitions and leagues, run development programmes, referee matches, assist with our IT, help with the County lunch, and many other activities.)

The whole organisation is governed under a Constitution (on the website) and the periods of office of roles on the Executive are staggered, so that we can have new people with new ideas coming on the Executive every year. Our vacancies for the forward year are announced at the Delegates meeting in February. We would welcome your input through nominations to the various roles. This year the roles that we are still looking for nominations are for an Hon. Secretary and a County Junior Organiser – these roles start from the day after our AGM, to which you are invited of course, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 2pm at Harleyford Golf Club.

I will now give you some information about some specific activities:

### **County Match week**

Every year the County Captain (assisted by the County Coach, Tony Bowers) selects a First Team to represent Bucks in a regional Inter-County Match event. The 2020 event was scheduled to take place on 14th to 17th June at Northampton Golf Club. The other Counties that would have been taking part in this event are: Worcestershire & Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Berkshire. Each match consists of 2 foursomes & 3 singles, i.e. 7 players per round. Due to Corona Virus this CMW event has been cancelled.

The County that wins CMW, then goes on to represent the Midlands South Region at the National Finals Week, this year it will be held in Spalding, Lincolnshire from 13th to 18th September. Currently England Golf have confirmed that NFW will still take place, but the format will be quite different – more of a celebration of women's golf. Assuming that we take part, I will organise the team and their supporting arrangements.

### **Second Team matches**

The second team matches are for low handicap players who are not yet regular members of the first team. Second team players are typically a mixture of juniors or experienced ladies, who aspire to represent their County. We have friendly matches v Middlesex and Bedfordshire in the spring, with a mixture of first team, second team and juniors selected.

The second team has its own League matches, playing against Berkshire and Oxfordshire, with the winner of these matches then playing off against the winner of the Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire & Herefordshire matches for the Midlands South Second Team Trophy.

Although some of these activities will be curtailed for 2020, the Second Team Captain, Jackie Edwards, would like to hear from any players who have a handicap of 10 and below who would like to be included in the second team squad. Email her on [2ndtmcaptain@bclga.org.uk](mailto:2ndtmcaptain@bclga.org.uk) or phone on 07884 185 389.

### **Social Event - County Lunch**

The main social event is the annual County Lunch, held in March. It is a fundraising opportunity for the Captain's charities and County Match Week and/or National Finals Week expenses.

It is also a lovely opportunity to meet friends in a social setting. We had 83 ladies at the 2020 lunch, held at GXGC. We hope that you will want to bring a few ladies to next year's event. You can book a table together. Even if you cannot make the date, it is still possible to bid online for some of the excellent 4 ball vouchers that we have to auction.

### **Tri-fold**

We produce a leaflet at the beginning of each calendar year which summarises the BCLGA events. This is sent out to the club delegates and placed on the website. We would welcome your assistance in ensuring all ladies in your club can access a copy.

### **Delegates Meetings**

These are currently held four times a year. Each club is invited to send one or two representatives. There is usually a free short game coaching session with the County Coach (Tony Bowers) for an hour before the meeting which has proved popular and increased attendance.

These delegates meetings are our opportunity to ensure that all clubs are informed of the latest BCLGA activities and events and to gain feedback and input from the clubs on future activities and events. The choice of delegate from each club is entirely up to you.

It is important that a) you choose someone who can attend regularly (it does not need to be the same person for the whole year but it helps if it is) and b) that you encourage your delegate to share their knowledge with you, your Committee and your ladies.

### **Business Planning**

We have a Business Plan which sets out what our aspirations and targets are for the next three years. It is on the website ([www.bclga.org.uk](http://www.bclga.org.uk)) The Business Plan had excellent input from delegates in 2019 and we will report progress at future delegates meetings and at our AGM.

Gail Sharp

County Captain

### **Honorary Secretary - Information for Ladies' Vice-Captains - April 2020**

The role of the Honorary secretary is to provide efficient and timely secretarial support to the County Captain and Executive, maintaining appropriate formal records and being the BCLGA official point of contact with England Golf and with Ladies' Captains, Ladies' club committees and club delegates.

I organise the Executive and Delegates meeting venues, circulate the agenda before each meeting and distribute the minutes following the meetings including posting information onto the website.

The same applies to the AGM which is held on the last Wednesday of October.

I coordinate with Tony Bowers, County Coach the number of ladies attending his short game clinic prior to the Delegates meetings.

I maintain an updated list of all club officials to ensure records are correct and information is sent to the relevant person. It is important that I have the correct email address as this is my method of contact with you and your club.

I edit the Trifold for the upcoming year and once approved, I circulate it to all Ladies' Captains/Delegates.

I send out emails on behalf of the Executive to clubs as requested - promoting matches and other events.

I receive emails and queries from Ladies' Captains, club delegates and members and ensure that they are forwarded to the relevant Exec member. Please can I ask that you include your club in any email correspondence.

Maura Spencer

Honorary Secretary

### **Competitions Secretary - Information for Ladies' Vice-Captains - April 2020**

I am responsible for:

**Leagues**, including **Bronze and Silver Summer Scratch Leagues**. Singles scratch competitions – 3 singles for each team. The sign up for these is by end of January 2021. Entry forms and rules are available on the BCLGA website under Competitions - Rules and Entry forms heading. Entry fee is £25 per team payable by the club.

**Winter League Greensomes League** – Scratch greensomes competition – a team of 6 players, playing as 3 pairs. Sign up for this league is by end of August 2020. Entry form and rules are on the BCLGA website under Competitions - Rules and Entry forms heading. Entry is £25 per team payable by the club.

**Coronation Medals** – Entry for this is free and just requires the entry form to be completed with your Club's best scratch player result over 4 qualifying rounds in the year and your best net player result over 4 rounds in the year. Entry is required by end of February 2021 for the playing year 2020. Entry forms and rules are available on the BCLGA website under Competitions. Your club management should be able to assist you to determine which two women or girl players in your club have the best scores.

**Charity Eclectic Competition** – This is a charity fund raiser – generally for the Captain's Charity(ies). This year it is for Thames Valley Air Ambulance and WorkAid. Each club sets up an

eclectic competition to run from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> September. Any number of rounds can be played and at any time. The entry fee is £3 per person playing in the competition. The club with the best scores are awarded a trophy at the AGM.

**Cygnet Trophy** – this is a competition for which the entry fee is £3 per person entering, with the money coming to the County to help towards supporting our young players. It is a stableford competition and the best two scores for 3 handicap categories. You can move players up into lower handicap categories if there are not enough scores in any category, but lower handicaps can't play down! It can be played at any time from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September with the results to reach the Competition Secretary by 5<sup>th</sup> October. Entry forms and rules are available on the BCLGA website under Competitions - Rules and Entry forms heading.

**Bucks Shield** – this is the County's major Club Knockout competition, played each summer season. Sign up for this competition is by end of January 2021. The competition is played in rounds with the draw for each round being made at either a Delegates' Meetings or at the annual Vice Captain's Meeting. Teams of 7 play home and away with the aggregate winning team going through to the next round. Entry is £25 per Club. Glenise Marfell currently runs both the Bucks Shield and Inter Club Foursomes. Entry forms and rules are available on the BCLGA website under Competitions.

**Inter Club Foursomes** is played in October and is an inter-Club Competition. This year the competition will be on 15<sup>th</sup> October at The Lambourne Golf Club. 4 players from each Club will play in strokeplay format in 2 Foursomes pairs and then the scores of the two pairs will be aggregated as their Club's Score. This competition is always followed by a meal and presentation. Entry forms and rules will be available from early Summer on the BCLGA website under Competitions.

**Knockouts** – The County runs several individual/pairs knockout competitions over the year. These include a singles knock out for Silver Players called the **Challenge Cup**. Entries are needed by 28<sup>th</sup> February and cost £15 per entry. For Bronze players, there is the **Rose Bowl**, which again is £15 entry fee. There's also a pairs **Summer Greensomes** competition. In the winter there's a **Winter Foursomes** competition. For these competitions, there is an automatic draw done by Club V1 and the draw will be sent out to participants. The pairs competitions are £15 per player (£30 per team). The Winter Foursomes needs entries submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> September. These competitions are currently organised by Jackie Maher who is the Knockouts Organiser, but Jackie will become the Competition Secretary at the AGM and Heather Pentney will be taking over this role.

**Champion of Club Champions** – This is eligible to be entered by each Club's Champion. It is a scratch knockout. Entries to be received by 28<sup>th</sup> February. Entry forms and rules are available on the BCLGA website under Competitions.

**County Championships** – These are held in May each year and normally incorporates the Senior and Intermediate Championship. Entry for this is open to anyone with a handicap of 18.4 or

lower and there is a scratch and nett competition. The qualifying rounds are two stroke play rounds, with the top 16 scratch results qualifying for a match play knockout competition to find the overall County Champion. The Seniors championship is usually based on one of the two stroke play rounds, with no match play. The competition closing date is normally in April. Entry forms and rules are available on the BCLGA website under Competitions. Unfortunately, this year has been cancelled due to coronavirus.

**Summer Meeting** – This competition, usually at either the President or the Captain’s Club, is organised by the Competition Secretary. This year it will be held at Gerrards Cross on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020. We are keen for teams of three to sign up. Entry forms and rules are available on the BCLGA website under Competitions.

**Par 3 Competition** – This was to have been our first year of a new fun competition to be held at Wycombe Heights, but unfortunately it has been cancelled due to the corona virus.

At present we have cancelled or put on hold all our competitions scheduled up to the end of June. However, we hope to review our arrangements for the rest of the year and we sincerely hope that we will not have this situation again next year when you are ladies’ Captain. So we would ask you to please encourage your ladies’ section to participate in as many of these as possible and make a note of the key dates for signing up to the various competitions

Gilly Stimpson

Competition Secretary

### **Senior Captain - Information for Ladies' Vice-Captains - April 2020**

Sadly, as a result of Covid 19 the Seniors League for the 2020 season has been cancelled. We normally play home or away matches against various other Counties. These matches are for ladies aged over 50 on the 1st January. Each League match feature seven singles played off scratch. The team is selected based on the players with the lowest handicaps available for the day.

We also have two friendly inter-County matches played in the four ball better ball format and we typically play a team of handicaps of 8 to 14.

If you know of any of your ladies who are the appropriate age and handicap range, who do not currently play for the County Seniors team, please encourage them to get in touch with me.

There is an annual Inter-County Seniors Team Championship, in which four Seniors are invited to represent the County. Essex is hosting the event in 2020 on Monday 21st September at Rochford Hundred Golf Club.



There are two Seniors/Vets meetings a year ([Spring](#) and [Autumn](#)), details of which are available on the Competitions Tab. The Dates are 28th April and 7th October 2020 respectively.

There is also a new Midlands South Seniors Championship which started in 2019, which will be held at Copt Heath on 20th August 2020.

As I write, our friendly matches played during August and September are still in place and I will update you on those nearer the time. We are also hopeful that the Inter County Seniors Team Championship at the end of September might still go ahead. The Seniors/Vets Spring meeting due to be held at Buckingham Golf Course at the end of April has been cancelled. I am still taking entries for the Autumn Meeting but appreciate that many want to hold fire until we have had our restrictions lifted.

Susanna Mitterer

County Seniors Captain

### **County Junior Organiser - Information for Ladies' Vice-Captains - April 2020**

#### **County Junior Committee**

The County Junior Organiser has a committee who run events for junior girls.

Girls range from around 7 years old (sometimes younger) to 18 – a girl is a junior until the end of the calendar year in which she reaches her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. We run events for girls both with and without handicaps, but not for absolute beginners.

#### **Junior Play Days**

For girls who have not yet gained a handicap, plus those with higher handicaps, we run Play Days once a month at both Abbey Hill (Milton Keynes) and a venue in the south of the county (to be confirmed). These consist of a couple of hours with various challenges and competitions for the girls. The main aim is to ensure the girls enjoy their golf and meet other girls who play golf. We encourage the girls who attend the Play Days to join a club near their home (if they are not already a member) and obtain a handicap at their club.

#### **Junior Competitions**

For the girls who have gained a handicap, we run 5 individual competitions between March and September. At most of these competitions we also run a 9-hole competition for pre and higher handicap girls, to start giving them some experience of playing a full course. When available, we use forward tees for the 9-hole competition.

We also run the very popular **Karchargis Trophy** at the end of the summer holidays – a greensomes competition for pairs consisting of a lady and a junior girl. If you do not know of this

competition already, you might like to enter when you are Ladies' Captain with one of your junior girls.

### **Academy Coaching**

Our main junior development initiative is Academy Coaching - a structured coaching package of 6 half day sessions, once a month from March to October (not July or August), with a professional at Wycombe Heights or Abbey Hill, in groups of around 8 girls per group.

### **Intermediate Training**

This is another initiative to give the girls some more experience and to encourage them to meet each other so they have more girls to play golf with.

We hold sessions in the school holidays (Feb, Easter, May, July, August, October), which last a full day, with skills challenges in the morning and matchplay or a team competition in the afternoon. These are open to all the girls who are not part of the county elite squad and we also invite our past juniors up to the age of 21. These are run by our county training officer (a PGA teaching pro). Girls without handicaps are welcome as long as they are able to play on a full course.

### **Elite Coaching**

Elite coaching is not part of the junior responsibilities, however all the lower (around 8 and below) handicap junior girls are invited to be part of the county elite squad, who have 4 or 5 coaching sessions over the winter and spring. This year, there are 11 junior girls in the county elite squad.

### **Matches**

We also have lots of matches through the year – league scratch and handicap matches against other counties, friendly matches against Woburn and Beaconsfield and also a couple of friendly matches for the high and pre-handicap girls against other counties.

### **Other Events**

Some of the girls also enter various junior opens and other competitions through the year - we try to keep up with what is going on and let all the parents know, but most of this is done between the various parents. We have a closed Facebook group for the parents and girls to share information and publicise achievements.

### **Safe Golf**

As a county association, we are very aware of our safeguarding responsibilities, and have just revised all our procedures to meet the new Safe Golf requirements.

We make sure that there are sufficient adults to supervise all our competitions, so there is no need for parents to stay at our events. We do not allow caddies for our competitions, but parents, grandparents, etc are very welcome to spectate, and the rules are more relaxed at the pre-handicap events.

## **Vacancies**

We are currently looking for more help on the junior committee – a junior secretary to run the administration side of the juniors, a couple of people to help with the play days and one or two people to run some of the matches. We also need a new County Junior Organiser.

Details of the role descriptions are on the Junior Officers page of the county web site.

Working with the juniors is extremely rewarding – you meet some delightful young ladies, and everyone involved is always very appreciative of all the help provided by county.

Janet Beal

County Junior Organiser

## **Handicap Advisor - Information for Ladies' Vice-Captains - April 2020**

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

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

I pass on all communications that I receive from England Golf and the R&A to our club Handicap Secretaries. At present, the majority of information is on helping clubs prepare for the introduction of the new World handicapping System. This involves both multi-club seminars and assisting with individual queries.

My role also calls on me to provide rules education and advice and I have visited many clubs to run workshops on the Rules which were introduced in January 2019. I am available to run sessions for your ladies if invited.

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

Christine Bishop

Rules & Handicap Advisor

**Hon Treasurer - Information for Ladies' Vice-Captains - April 2020**

My role is to manage the finances of the Association.

I maintain financial records of our income and expenditure, liaising with our auditor (chosen at the AGM) to finalise the accounts for each year and present them to the members at the AGM.

I report to the Executive at each meeting and look after specific matters that have a financial aspect, such as the insurance for the Association.

Carolyn Rivett  
Hon Treasurer

**England Golf Voting Member - Information for Ladies' Vice-Captains - April 2020**

England Golf has a series of meetings every year at which every Association is entitled to send a Voting Representative. These meetings are used to seek input from Associations on future England Golf policy and to keep Associations up to date with new developments. Items of significant importance are cascaded down to individual clubs.

Susanna Mitterer  
Bucks EG VM