

BEDFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at

BEDFORDSHIRE GOLF CLUB

on

Monday 3rd November 2007 at 2.00pm

The County President, Audrey Shuter welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked Bedfordshire Golf Club for allowing us to use their facilities and Lady Captain Chris McDonald for all her help.

Audrey was pleased to see so many ladies at the meeting and she hoped that they all had enjoyed their 2008 season in spite of the dreadful summer we have experienced.

Bedfordshire has again been well represented in international, national and divisional events this year and congratulations go to all those who took part. Holly Aitchison represented England on several occasions and has had very good results in a string of competitions finishing the season by winning the Liphook Scratch, thereby successfully defending the title she won last year. Holly's handicap is now plus 2.4. Unfortunately Holly is having a cartilage operation today and so is unable to be with us.

Laura Collin, also, has had a tremendous season with very good results. She was co-winner of the Critchley Salver at Sunningdale (Holly finishing in 3rd place). Laura also came 3rd in the British Open at Royal Birkdale where she cut her handicap to plus 1.

Congratulations to all players who represented Bedfordshire in County matches and also to the prize winners of all our County Competitions.

Before moving on to the Agenda, Audrey also thanked all the County Delegates for all their hard work throughout the year.

THOSE PRESENT

Executive Committee - Audrey Shuter (President), Margaret Watchorn (Vice President), Lesley May (Captain), Elaine Bruce (Vice Captain), Jos Faris (Immediate Past Captain), Kathy Harris (Secretary), Ann Taylor (Treasurer), Shirley Cleaver (Competition Secretary), Heddwyn Molloy (Handicap Adviser), Cicely Goldsmith (Junior Organiser), Sam Turnbull (Seniors' Captain), Gill Smith (Past Captains' Captain), Margaret Seabrook (East Region Representative) and Elaine James (Course Assessor Officer).

County Delegates – W Albone (SB), S Eastley (BM), N Jackson (M), E Mackirdy (Mow), C McDonald (B), H Nolan (B&Co), N Shane (Ca), A Whitehouse (DD), B Lee (AV), G Walpole (PP), A Shirville (LB), B Kewell (Col) and 39 members of BLCGA representing 16 of the 21 Bedfordshire golf clubs. 65 Ladies attended in total 12 less than last year.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following ladies sent their apologies: C Spencer (Til), S Kempster, E Wand (DD), L Harvey, M Gibson & S Fowler (JOG), H Aitchison & S Shaylor (B), M Enge, M Clarke & J Squires (SB), L Pearce (Wy), A Stroomer (Til) and L Holden (B&Co.).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (03 November 2007)

These have been previously circulated and the President hoped everyone had had the opportunity to read them.

Kitty Nulty proposed and Wendy Albone seconded that the minutes be signed as a true record of the last AGM.

Carried unanimously.

As last year the minutes will be circulated to all the clubs as soon as they have been agreed by the Executive Committee.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence relevant to the AGM but Kathy reminded all the County Delegates to sign for and take the contents of their plastic folder. She also reminded them to sign the attendance form.

5 COURSE ASSESSOR'S REPORT (Elaine James)

Although the weather has been very mixed, the team have managed to stay dry and complete the following courses:

South Bedfordshire-both The Warden and Galley hill courses.
Chalgrave Manor, Wyboston Lakes and Mount Pleasant

Anyone who took note of the proposed courses at last years AGM would realise that both Dunstable Downs and Bedford & County are missing from the above list. This was due to the fact that both clubs indicated that work was going to take place during the winter months that could affect the assessment, so they have been shelved for the time being and will be looked at again for 2009. John O'Gaunt was also on the list and at present has not been assessed but is imminent if the weather remains good, and Elaine has the team to complete.

To date twelve courses have been assessed, with another thirteen yet to visit.

With every good intention to complete the task in hand, it does depend on availability of team members, the weather and the courses having as little traffic as possible for us to get round 18 holes, and ultimately to consider the playing members. It is very difficult to get that happy balance.

Just to summarise, initially, this work was to be used for the slope system, and the intention is primarily to rate all the courses in Bedfordshire in line with the whole of the country so that any future system can be adjusted on block.

The courses Elaine proposes to visit in 2009 are John O'Gaunt (if it is not possible to visit before the middle of November), Dunstable Downs, Millbrook, both courses at Beadlow Manor and Bedford & County. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, this list may change as the year progresses.

Finally Elaine thanked her team members for their dedication in making days available in their own heavy schedules, and also to the ladies whom they have met on their visits for their patience, as they do take the whole day just to complete one course.

Gill Smith proposed and Margaret Seabrook seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

6. EAST REGION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT (Margaret Seabrook)

The first year of the new EWGA has been extremely testing. Serious problems arose within the new Management Board of the company resulting in a motion calling for the resignation of four Non Executive Directors. An extraordinary general meeting was called resulting in lots of paperwork analysis by county executives, club delegates and club committees. At the eleventh hour the Non Executive Directors resigned and the EGM was cancelled.

The EWGA realise that the issue was very divisive for the Association and plan to work hard to move forward. Jim Robinson the Chief Executive Officer of EWGA is meeting on 7th November with a representative from each county in the East Region to address any questions we have. Margaret had emailed club delegates for suggested questions and has received several replies. Sue Whittaker the Chairman of the Management Board has also expressed an interest in attending Regional meetings if invited. These gestures bode well for moving forward.

Despite trouble at the top all golf went ahead as normal. The last of the old Midland Regional competitions were held this year and Margaret expressed our thanks to the committee particularly the Chairman, our own Gill Latch from Dunstable Downs who worked so hard to make the Midlands such a successful Region. Next year we move on to Divisional events run by the East Region. Bedfordshire have been tasked with hosting the Australian Spoons Divisional Final.

Val O'Grady, the East Anglian 36 hole Individual Stableford Competition Organiser has asked the East Region to take on the competition. Herts and Essex have some reservations about finding another course and a decision has yet to be made on the future of the East Anglian.

The LGU have advised us that LGU Medals will cease to exist from 31st January 2009. The EWGA are to continue running medal competitions within clubs from 1st February 2009. Information has been sent to all clubs regarding the changes. There will now be Regional Medal Finals held in each of the EWGA's six regions with the top 10 players at each Regional final qualifying for the new EWGA Champion of Champions Final played in June (from 2010 onwards).

The best part of the East Region meetings for Margaret is when the Regional Chairman passes on her congratulations to members of our county. Jocelyn Faris was congratulated on qualifying for the match play stage of the Senior Womens's Close Championship at Stoneham and Holly Aitchison as winner of the Liphook Scratch Cup.

Lesley May proposed and Ann Harris seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

7. HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT (Heddwen Molloy)

At the beginning of 2008 Heddwen took over from Margaret as Handicap Advisor for Bedfordshire – a VERY hard act to follow.

Also at the beginning of the year the R. & A. issued their Rules of Golf 2008 – 2011 heralding one or two significant changes to the rules. For example, players are now allowed to lift the ball to identify it in a hazard - but following on from that it is now also a penalty to play a wrong ball out of a hazard. Also the penalty for deflecting a ball in motion (hitting your own bag etc.) is reduced to a one shot penalty in both strokeplay and, significantly, matchplay. These are but two of the changes. If anyone is unsure of the changes to the Rules of Golf 2008-2011 our BLCGA website has a link to the site covering these.

As you know, these rules are updated every 4 years and in line with that CONGU also updated the Unified Handicapping System making some significant amendments. In order to ensure that all clubs were aware of, and fully conversant with, these changes 2 workshops were held early in February covering all the changes and answering any questions raised. These were held at Bedford & County and South Beds Golf Clubs and were well attended by representatives from the vast majority of the clubs. In order to help the one or two clubs whose Handicap Secretaries were unable to attend either of these workshops Margaret and Heddwen went along to explain the changes directly to them and in this way Heddwen was pleased to report that ALL the Bedfordshire clubs received the presentation and had the opportunity to seek clarification on any points of which they were unsure - a very good result which shows the enthusiasm and interest from all our clubs in this very important area of our sport. This also enabled the changes to go through with very few problems – at least to our knowledge. It was also interesting to see that several men attended and in some clubs the main handicap and ladies handicap committees work closely together – with some clubs having only one.

One of the objectives of the changes was to modify the UHS to take account of the changing needs of the modern game. It was not be appropriate to go through all the changes made by CONGU but Heddwen mentioned one or two. Firstly there was the introduction of Qualifying Competitions over nine holes to provide additional opportunities for the return of Qualifying Scores. However, it was stressed that there is no desire to change the traditional way in which competitive golf is played and therefore the number of nine-hole competitions is restricted. They are at the discretion of the affiliated club and those interested clubs should apply for a 9-hole Standard Scratch Score.

The 2008 revision requires clubs to offer to members the facility to return Supplementary Scores, with any player who had returned six or fewer qualifying scores in the previous year being eligible to return up to 10 Supplementary Scores.

The Stroke Allowances previously recommended by CONGU became compulsory with the exception of Greensomes which remains a recommendation only.

Finally, it was felt appropriate to address the subject of away scores and in future when there are 20 or more home players AND 20 or more away players in a competition then separate CSS calculations will be carried out. It remains the player's responsibility to ensure that any away scores are recorded at her home club – the organising committee should make the return but it is the player's responsibility to confirm that it has been received and recorded.

As mentioned, CONGU had fallen in line with the R & A issuing the CONGU Handbook 2008-2011. Although this book will be our "bible" until 2011, CONGU are obviously keeping a weather eye open for any improvements they feel they can make to the system and with this in mind they are giving consideration as to whether or not handicaps should lapse if e.g. an insufficient number of cards are returned in the year. (Under the old LGU system handicaps did lapse if 4 qualifying cards were not submitted during the LGU year.) This is an area CONGU delegate to the national organisations and EGU/EWGA decided that handicaps in England should not lapse. However, this is being reviewed and clubs were asked for their opinions. These opinions will be collated and studied prior to the issue of the next handbook. Watch this space.

Margaret had already mentioned the changes to the Medals and this information has already been passed to all the clubs. We were also advised at that time that the LGU will not be issuing the LGU Pendants after 2008.

Finally, Heddwen thanked all those ladies who have supported her throughout the year in one form or another and understood when she had not been where she should have been on various occasions. She also thanked everyone for their kind thoughts and good wishes at what is a difficult time for both Bill and her.

Margaret Watchorn proposed and Elaine James seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

8. JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT (Cicely Goldsmith)

The Juniors' Committee, set up by our County Captain, Lesley, and Paula Collin, my predecessor, has been very successful. Cicely thanked all the committee members for their dedication and help during the year. They have carried out their individual duties extremely well and worked together to help each other.

A Junior Handbook was produced by Paula Collin and Cecilia Holden containing information and entry forms for the year. This was distributed to every girl in the County. Many thanks to Paula and Cecilia – it has been very successful and will be continued next year.

Training

Coaching sessions with Paul Simpson of Beadlow Manor for the 1st and 2nd teams throughout the winter were well attended and the girls learnt a lot. 6 girls were selected to take part in the EWGA/County Birdies training at TP Golf near Cambridge. This comprised 4 separate whole days of comprehensive training. It has been very beneficial, as most of the girls have reduced their handicaps over the summer. 2 sessions of coaching were also arranged with Geraint Dixon of Bedfordshire Golf Club. We need to encourage these girls to join Clubs and get handicaps. The difficulty is finding them. Cicely asked all County Delegates to let us know of girls taking lessons at their club so that we can bring them into contact with other girls in the County. A meeting is being arranged for early January for all the junior girls and parents. Margaret Watchorn will give a talk on rules and etiquette and Cecilia Holden will give some tips on course management etc. We are currently organising our next year's training programme.

County Competitions

The Past Captains' Salver was held at Caddington in April. Megan Birdsey (CAD) won with 34 stableford points, Molly Thorne (BED) was 2nd with 31 points on countback from 10 year old Bethany Healey (TB) in her 1st County competition, and Emily Midgley (JOG).

In July, the Fun Competition for girls with high or no handicaps was held at Bedfordshire Golf Club. Starting with a warm up in the driving range, the competition included an 8 hole competition on the Academy Course, a putting competition and a golf quiz. Claire Wilkie (AG) was the winner with Annabel Pitts (BM) runner up.

In July, the Junior Championship was held at Beds & County GC. Katie Burman (JOG) retained her Championship title with a splendid gross 75. Fiona Cooper (B&C) won the nett prize with 69, and Molly Thorne (BED) won the U16 gross with 86.

In October, the Sue Paterson Salver, a foursomes stableford competition for Adult/Junior pairs, was held at Aylesbury Vale GC. Megan Birdsey (CAD), partnered by our County Secretary, Kathy Harris (BM), won with 35 points. 2nd on 29 points were Sophie and Carol Hillier (JOG), 3rd on 28 points Victoria Walley and Lily Lim (AG). Elena Tizzard and Debbie Pollard Barns (LB) were 4th with 28 points and Fiona Cooper and Heather Nolan (B&C) were 5th with 26 points.

Lizi Sweetnam (LB) and Georgia Testa (BED) entered the County Championship at Bedfordshire GC. Lizi qualified in the top 16 to play in the matchplay and reached the semi final. Katie Burman (JOG) was selected to play in the 1st team in County Week at Newmarket in June and played very well.

Other successes out of County

In April, in the County Schools Handicap Team Championship, at Beds & County GC Fiona Cooper (B&C) won the Championship with 36 points with Georgia Testa (BED) 2nd on 33 points and Molly Thorne (BED) 3rd with 31 points. Molly and Fiona were in the winning team for Sharnbrook Upper School.

3 girls were placed in the top 6 at the NAS/UWT South East England Schools Championship. Katie Burman came 3rd, Lizi Sweetnam 5th and Megan Birdsey 6th.

7 girls travelled to Durham for the English Girls. The conditions were tough and 2 of the girls sustained injuries. Some of the bungee jump money, generously donated by Cecilia Holden and Laura Collin last year, was given to these girls towards expenses. Both Holly and Laura also received some of the money towards their expenses.

4 girls entered the Midland Girls Championship at Sandwell Park. Megan had to pull out due to injury. The 3 remaining girls were entered as a team for both the gross and nett team competitions. Katie Burman won the Championship with Lizi Sweetnam hard on her heels. Their excellent scores won the girls both the gross, Bridget Jackson Salver and the nett, Beryl Turner Plate team prizes.

Katie won the John O'Gaunt Girls Open and Lizi won the Leighton Buzzard Ladies Championship.

Lizi and her brother reached the semi finals of the Hoylake Open Scratch Mixed Foursomes and then won the Regional Final at Abbotsley in the Costa del Sol Masters Championship. The final is to be held in Spain in December.

In the Liphook Scratch, Holly Aitcheson having won, Katie was 17th, Lizi 21st and Megan 33rd.

Katie has been selected for the EWGA Futures Select Midlands Squad 08/09.

Matches

Against Suffolk on the Cathegna Course, in the first match of the season, the 1st team halved and the 2nd team won 2 – 1. Our 1st team won 4 – 2 against Norfolk at Pavenham Park and the 2nd team lost 2 – 1. In the Junior Jamboree at Gog Magog, our 1st team were soundly beaten by a very strong Cambs & Hunts who went forward to the Junior Matchplay finals at Droitwich in the October half term.

A friendly match was played against the County 2nd team at B & C but the 2nd team won.

Cicely thanked our President, Audrey and Lesley, our Captain for all their support during the year.

Kathy Harris proposed and Maureen Dawson seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

9. SENIORS' CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Sam Turnbull)

Sam's first year as Seniors Captain has flown by and even though Elaine gave her copious information she still forgot a few things.

The year began with our first match against the County 2nd team and what a start! Whilst on the way to Dunstable Downs Elaine Bruce rang to tell me the course was closed because of snow. Not a good beginning. Eventually the snow cleared and we were able to play 36 holes of tough competition. This was the first year that the match was played off handicap instead of scratch and although the Seniors fought hard and the matches were much closer the County 2nds were still the winners by 7½ to 4 ½.

The second match was against Cambs and Hunts at Pavenham Park and we were all delighted that the weather was much improved. Unfortunately the result of the match was a win for Cambs & Hunts 5 ½ - 3 ½.

We travelled to Norwich for our third match against Norfolk which we halved and we also halved our match against Suffolk that we played at Millbrook.

The final scratch match of the season was at South Beds and Bucks fielded a very strong team which beat us 6 – 1. Alison Hayward from Dunstable Downs being our lone victor!

Sam thanked Audrey Shuter, our County President, for leading our Seniors to their only victory in matches this year. The team of higher handicap Seniors who played against Northants at Staverton Park in atrocious weather had a convincing win of 6 ½ - 1 ½.

Championship Day in July at Aspley Guise was amazingly hot and with an excellent field of 62 this year the competition was hot too! The Seniors Champion, winner of the Squires Cup for the best gross score, was our County Captain, Lesley May from John O'Gaunt. This was on countback from Cicely Goldsmith, from Leighton Buzzard, who won the Bond Trophy for the best nett score in either division for over 65s. The other main winners were: Elaine Eayres from Bedford & County, best nett in division 1 and Anne Coates, also from Bedford & County, best nett in division 2. The Lanaway Putter winners were the team of Elaine Eayrs, Pauline Pittman, Angie Tatum – Hume and Margaret Watchorn from Bedford & County.

Over the summer the Senior 2000 Trophy knockout competition was played and the final was held on September 19th at Aspley Guise. Pauline Pittman from Bedford and County and Mary Haseman from Pavenham Park had a very close match with Pauline winning by sinking a putt for a par on the 18th hole. (She tells me that that was the only time she's ever parred that hole!) Well done to both ladies.

The final event of the season was the Autumn 'Jolly'. (Please note the name change from Autumn High). The 'Jolly' will be a fun day for any Senior with no limit to handicap. This year we played at Tilsworth and although there was not a big entry all who played had a good time. The winners of the 4BBB were Gleniss Rodwell and Karen Hough from Aspley Guise. Second were Margot Norris and Dorothy Blackburn, also from Aspley Guise and third from Aspley Guise were Ann Taylor and Jan Garratt. Everyone promised to enter again next year, however Sam did provide some inducement and gave all entrants a golf sock with a promise of receiving the matching one next year! (Sam did weaken and gave them all the other sock before they left!!)

During the year several ladies from our Seniors Section travelled outside our region to play golf. In January some ladies went to Portugal to play in the Portuguese Seniors Open. Of those Vicky Astley & Beryl McEwan from Aspley Guise won nett prizes. Elaine James also played in Portugal and also all the regional Seniors events and in July she won Division B in the Midland Seniors Tournament. Recently the team of Sheila Cormack, Margaret Watchorn, Jenny Wisson

and Elaine James went to Hunstanton representing Bedfordshire, to play in the Midland Veterans team championship.

Finally Sam thanked everyone for their support this year whether it has been playing in matches, signing people in, selling raffle tickets or helping with results. She also thanked everyone who has played in any Seniors events this year and looks forward to seeing them all next year!

Copies of the Seniors accounts have been circulated. You will notice 3 items in red. These are the things Sam forgot. They have all been dealt with and paid or bought but she was unable to put them through the books for this year!!

Chris McDonald proposed and Pauline Pittman seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

10. **PAST CAPTAINS' CAPTAIN'S REPORT** (Gill Smith)

We have had 177 ladies this year joining our society.

Our match results this year:

In April we played against the Men's Past Captains at Dunstable Downs – unfortunately being the “new kid on the block” Gill did not negotiate the shot situation very well. Dunstable Downs were still on Winter forward tees for the men and although Tony – their captain did give us some extra shots, obviously not enough as we lost that match 6½ - 1½! The camaraderie was great on that day, and the food was perfect.

We then went to Mowsbury to entertain the Northampton shire ladies, and this match we won 5/2.

Next came our old rivals Cambs/Hunts. This was played at Bourne Golf Club, and we lost this one 3½ - 2½.

We then travelled to Broxbourne to play Hertfordshire – a lovely course – we also managed to win this game 6½ - 1½.

Our last match found us at Leighton Buzzard where we entertained Buckinghamshire – and gained a win of 5½ - 2½.

All in all a good season. Gill thanked all the ladies who played in the matches, and to all the clubs that gave us courtesy of the course, and the help received from the Lady Captains of those clubs involved on the day.

Some counties now charge a green fee. Hertfordshire being the main culprit this year. You will see from the accounts that a deficit is shown for this match. We were charged a £25 green fee and Gill was a bit shocked, to say the least, so she made an executive decision to subsidise this match a bit. Gill is, therefore, thinking of charging those counties a green fee when they visit us, and holding that money in reserve to subsidize the match when we visit them the following year. She does not want to get into the situation that members want to know in advance how much it is going to cost, before they agree to play.

Our Annual Meeting was held at Bedford and County, and as always they made us very welcome. It made life so much easier for Gill when all she had to do was e-mail Paula with requests for different things, and back came the reply straight away with names of ladies and some gents who would help, thank you Paula.

Results were

Champion		Chris Lawry	Pavenham	42 pts.
Carol Rose Trophy		Margaret Watchorn	Bedford and County	34 pts.
Div 1	1 st	Di Morris	Aspley Guise	38 pts
	2 nd	Carol Sainsbury	Tilsworth	35 pts
	3 rd	Sam Turnbull	Bedfordshire	34 pts
Div 2	1 st	Paula Foot	Bedford & County	34 pts
	2 nd	Viv Young	Bedford & County	33 pts
	3 rd	Ann Allcroft	Bedford & County	31 pts

Afternoon Fourball 11 holes.

1 st	Pauline Pittman	Bedfordshire	
	Maureen Allen	Mowsbury	21 pts
2 nd	Joy Stepney	The Bedford	
	Eileen Watson	Bedfordshire	20 pts

Gill has circulated the accounts for the year, and trusts you find them satisfactory. As we still have a healthy balance, the subscription will remain the same £1. as last year. The entry forms for 2009 are in the County Delegates folder, to be returned to Gill by the end of February please.

Gill has enjoyed her year being involved with all the Past Captain's from the Bedfordshire Clubs, and she would like to thank President Audrey for her support in playing some matches, but also attending those she was not able to participate in, even bringing Mac – her husband – to one of them, there's dedication for you!

Beryl Wood proposed and Meredith Adair seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

11. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT (Shirley Cleaver)

Shirley made her first tentative steps as a new Competition Secretary on 1st April for the 2nd Division Spring Meeting, in familiar surroundings of John O'Gaunt. The weather seemed quite reasonable but as the wet soggy summer progressed it was in fact a good day. The format was 18 hole medal in the morning and 9 holes foursomes in the afternoon. The 4 best gross scores – Lucinda Holden (BC) Sarah Walker (CH) Paula Collin (JOG) and Sue Cook (Bed) qualifies for the County Cup. Kay Daniel qualified but was unable to go forward. Lucinda Holden won the Janet Miller Trophy.

A beautiful spring day in May for the start of the Championship played at Bedfordshire GC. 21 players for 36 holes and 29 in the First Division 18 hole medal and foursomes. The quality of the golf matched the weather – in the morning Holly Aitchison (BED) won the best gross with 70 - 1st nett Nikki Jackson (MILL) 69, Cecilia Holden (JOG) and Lynn Gunn (WY) both 70. In the afternoon Holly again won the gross with a 68. Margaret Seabrook (BED) was 1st nett with a 67 and Cecilia Holden was 2nd with a 68.

The afternoon foursomes was won by Barbara Talboys and Grace Belcher (BED) with 34 points and 2nd, as well as carrying out their official duties were Lesley May and Audrey Shuter with 31 points.

On the Friday the 16 qualifiers – Holly Aitchison, Christine Jones, Bridie Quinn, Jocelyn Faris, Laura Collin, Christine Sparks, Anita Boothe, Elaine Bruce, Sally Shayler, Gill Westgate, Lynn Gunn, Pippa Willis, Lizi Sweetnam, Margaret Seabrook, Kate Wright and Cecilia Holden played match play with the quarter finals being played in the afternoon. The Dalton Salver for the best nett score from the Spring Meetings was Nikki Jackson with a 69.

On the Saturday the four County Cup players joined the semis in the morning and the final in the afternoon between Lucinda Holden and Paula Collin with Paula being the winner. The semi final of the Championship between Holly, Laura, Sally and Lizi resulted in a final between Holly and Sally with Holly taking the title.

The 36 Hole competition was played at Beds and County on 23rd June The Lanaway Pictures and 1st aggregate were won by Pauline Pittman and Pat Anderson (B&C) with 86 points. 2nd were Cecilia Holden and Laura Collin (JOG) with 77 points.

The morning 4BBB winners were Trish Sills and Paula Collin (JOG) with 41 points, 2nd Ann Coates and Glynis Winrow (B&C) 40 points, 3rd Irene Saenger and Di Crotty (B) 38 points. The afternoon foursomes winners were Jane Firth and Ann Taylor (AG) with 39 points, 2nd Julia Cottenden and Sarah Fowler 37 points on count back from Jan Garnham and Rose Wrench (BC & JOG).

The experimental Autumn Meetings a Dunstable Downs saw both divisions playing on the same day in rain.

The Silver Division and Coronation Medal winner was Melanie Fortune (DD) 65, 2nd Nikki Jackson (MILL) 68 and 3rd Trish Sills (JOG) 70. The Bronze Division and Coronation Medal winner was Ann Taylor (AG) 35 points, 2nd Cally King (CH) 31 points, 3rd Lucinda Holden (BC) 30 points.

The Antcliffe Bowl for the winner of the Silver Division meetings was Holly Aitchison. The Amphill Cup for the winner of the Bronze Division meetings was Lucinda Holden. Trish Sills (JOG) won the Veterans Trophy. Dunstable Downs won the Team Shield with 140 points with Aspley Guise being runners up with 134 points.

The County Knockout Foursomes began in April with 62 players. The final was played in October between Barbara Talboys and Lyn Allen (BED) and Lyn Pearce and Trish Purnell (WYB). Barbara and Lynn won 2 up.

The 18 hole 4BBB was played in super autumn sunshine at Leighton Buzzard. Winners of the Audrey Bradley Trophies were Margaret Browning and Valerie Smith (LB) 38 points, 2nd Jocelyn Binks and Elaine Eayres (B&C) 36 points, 3rd Di Spinks and Cynthia Pike (PP) 35 points on count back from Barbara Talboys and Valerie Lake (BED).

Shirley congratulated all the winners and thanked all the ladies who had entered the competitions. Thanks also go to the Lady Captains for their help and friendship. No task had been too much trouble or mundane.

Shirley had many people to thank for helping her through her first year but especially Cecilia Holden for doing the cards and winners lists and for pulling her back from the brink. Elaine James for managing the County Computer and to Gill Smith for being on the end of a telephone.

She is looking forward to 2009 with some graet golf, lots of entries and great weather.

J Cocksedge proposed and S Showan seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

12. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT (Ann Taylor)

Copies of the Accounts have been handed out.

We started the year with a balance of £20203.41 and finished with £19379.70.

Again this year the Silver Autumn meeting relates to the previous year. This Autumn the format was changed to a combined day for both Divisions and as it took place in September, most of the costs will be shown in next year's accounts.

The Fun day was in September last year. The County Mixed event took place in September this year.

We have had to subsidize some of the County competitions this year to provide prizes as the catering costs have risen quite substantially, which is why we have agreed to increase the costs of competition fees for 2009. However Subscriptions will not be increased.

Expenses for the County teams has been split between 1st and 2nd teams and County week is shown separately. Some expenses for the 2nd team are not shown as they have yet to be paid.

Membership stands at 1200, this is 14 down on last year. Advertising income is down but Donations are up and insurance is up slightly. Ann has not yet had the quote for next year.

The entry shown as Training is the £50.00 paid to the Clubs for help with Coaching. Only 12 Clubs have applied so far.

Ann thanked Mr Richard Norris for checking the Accounts and with your permission will give

him some Vouchers as was done last year.

Jan Garrett proposed and Vicki Astley seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

13. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Lesley May)

Lesley has travelled through all the emotions this year from – challenging, worrying, elation, euphoria and PRIDE – Pride in the success of our county teams – Pride in our plus golfers, Holly and Laura who have had such a very successful year winning competitions here there and everywhere. They have finished up in the ELGA order of merit with Holly at 6th and Laura at 20th. – Pride in our juniors and we have several excellent juniors who are now coming through into our main teams. Katie Burman was 19th in the under 18 ELGA order of merit – pride in all the individuals who have won competitions – pride in YOUR support of the County and Pride in the committee who have worked so hard throughout the year.

TRAINING this year for the 1st team was foursomes practice matches against Northants and Buckingham and the men's scratch team at John O'Gaunt GC. The match against the South Beds men was cancelled due to torrential rain.

Psychology was held one afternoon with Maurice Campbell at Leighton Buzzard. Putting and technical advice was given by Paul Ashwell at Wyboston. 'Playing the course' with Mark Wall and 'Getting your Body in Trim' with Sally Olney who with Christine Ellis gave up an evening and worked hard on giving us exercise to get us in shape. We are very grateful to them for giving up their time. We had a weekend with Pat Smilie, a National Coach in Yorkshire – which was so successful we will repeat it again this year.

We ran 'Improver' sessions for mid-handicappers and also offered £50 to each Club in the County for training, coaching or rules etc. We had 12 clubs who took up this offer and we are going to offer the £50 again this year to each Club to hopefully help with the expense of coaching etc. It is now too late for those Clubs which have not taken it up for this year. We are going to run more 'Improver' sessions than we did last year during the summer and Lesley has also issued a Skills programme for you all and this is in the delegate's pack. I have called it 'Together with a Friend train the BLCGA way this winter'. The various skills are listed and it is hoped you can sign yourself off as you complete them. I believe you do need to get together and regularly practice in order to get your handicap down.

All the training leads up to COUNTY WEEK held this year at The Links G.C. Newmarket from the 1st – 6th June. After a great deal of consideration the team chosen was

Holly Aitchison (Bedfordshire)	Sally Shayler (Bedfordshire)
Katie Burman (John O Gaunt)	
Elaine Bruce (John o Gaunt)	Pippa Willis (Colmworth)
Laura Collin (John O Gaunt)	Reserve -
Cecilia Holden (John O Gaunt)	Jocelyn Faris (Beds & County)
Heather Mutton (Leighton Buzzard)	
Bridie Quinn (South Beds)	

County week was held for the first time under the new regional format which included Hertfordshire and Essex joining Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambs & Hunts and ourselves. It was 5 hard

days of 36 hole competition so a long week – but our team were wonderful and played well. An enormous thank you at this stage to the many caddies and supporters who came and helped us all. You have no idea what a difference it makes to see all the yellow sweaters around the course.

None of the original counties could touch Hertfordshire or Essex and Hertfordshire won the week and went through to the final with Essex in 2nd place. We beat Norfolk and for the 1st time Suffolk. We now know what we have to do and that in spite of Hertfordshire having 5000 members compared with our 1200 we can win!!! This winter we are concentrating on skills in readiness for next year when it will be played at Stock Brook Manor, Essex. 22nd – 26th June. This course has enormous and undulating greens so we shall be working hard on the skills – which I mentioned earlier- I have also provided for you to work on as well. We look forward to your continued support at Stock Brook Manor.

COUNTY MIXED FOURSOMES this year was reinstated at The Bedford in September. It is a 36 hole medal foursomes and was played in the most glorious weather and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We made a loss on this event although the gentlemen chipped in with a contribution but we do need more support – although all 5 members of the Collins family supported us I am not sure how many more of their relations play golf. – so please try and come next year – it is great fun.

COUNTY CAPTAINS FUNd Day next year will take place on the 8th October at John O Gaunt G.C. You may have teams of 4 comprising any combination of handicap and choose whether you wish to play in the morning or afternoon. Best 2 scores out of 4 to count and all on the par 3s. A raffle will be held in aid of the Juniors and I do hope you will today all put this date in your diary and support the event. The entry form will be in the Yellow Booklets.

Finally, - thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make a successful year, especially my V.C. Elaine Bruce – my mentor, Jocelyn Faris, to our No.1 supporter President Audrey and to all the committee who have put so many hours of work into running the county – especially to Kathy who is always so cheerful and willing and never says 'no' to any request I make.

Please make sure you all support our County Events – look out for the training programme and also think about how you want to use the £50 and together we shall all go forward to a great golfing 2009.

Elaine Bruce proposed and Ann Taylor seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

14. COUNTY VICE CAPTAINS REPORT (Elaine Bruce)

This year unlike the 1st Team we stayed in our original group of 4 counties to play for the Norfolk Bowl. As from next year we will be following the 1st team bringing in Essex and Hertfordshire which will bring an extra challenge. Like previous years the 2nd team matches will culminate in a Jamboree Day at one course when all the teams will play their final match of the season. Next year this will be played on 17th August at Aldeburgh in Suffolk. So in total next and subsequently the 2nd team will play 5 Norfolk Bowl matches rather than 3. This increase means a greater demand on player time and availability, course availability and finance. With this in mind 2nd team matches will

reduce from 8 a side (4 x 4's & 8 singles) to 6 a side (3x 4's & 6 singles). This will bring 1st and 2nd team matches in line.

This year a total of 14 players from 7 clubs took part.

Lily Lim & Helen Taylor – Aspley Guise, Juliette Withey, Gill Westgate & Jos Faris - Beds & County, Sharon Allen & Margaret Seabrook – Bedfordshire, Chris Jones – Dunstable Downs, Yvette Bunker, Dawn Glennie, Vicki Collin & Alison Corke – John O’Gaunt, Kate Wright – Leighton Buzzard and Lin Gunn – Wyboston.

Yvette, Dawn & Vicki made their debut for the 2nd team and Chris got her colours.

This year’s matches started in April at a very snowy Dunstable Downs where we took on the County Seniors. On arriving we really thought the match may have to be abandoned or reduced to afternoon singles only. But somehow the snow disappeared and we were able to complete the match as planned. The morning 4’s were halved but the 2nd team won the singles so the overall score was 7½ to 4½.

The next match in May was a friendly at Staverton Park against Northants. They fielded a very strong team several of whom were playing on ‘home turf’ and despite some very good golf the final result was a 9 – 3 defeat.

The defense of the Norfolk Bowl began in July with a match at Beadlow Manor against Suffolk. After winning the morning 4’s 3 – 1, the afternoon singles were halved. The final result was a win for Bedfordshire 7 – 5.

Next it was on to John O’Gaunt in August against Norfolk. Unfortunately Bedfordshire was ‘pointless’ in the morning which left a mountain to climb. The afternoon singles were fantastic. The excitement was unbelievable and spectators visibly aged! The match could have gone either way but in the end we narrowly lost 6½ to 5½.

Last but not least was our Jamboree Day at Barrhill again in August where our match was against Cambs & Hunts. To this point Bedfordshire and Norfolk had won 1 match each and Cambs & Hunts had won 2, so it was still possible for any of the teams to lift the Trophy. However Cambs & Hunts were not to be beaten. Their very strong team beat us by 10½ to 1½ to finish winners of the Norfolk Bowl, 2nd Norfolk, 3rd Bedfordshire & 4th Suffolk.

Elaine thanked the clubs who have allowed us the courtesy of their courses – we very much appreciate it. A big thanks to all the supporters, as Lesley said there is nothing quite like spotting a yellow jersey for spurring you on. And last but not least thank you to all the girls who played 2nd Team golf this year. It has been an absolute pleasure to Captain them and Elaine is looking forward to the new challenges of 2009.

Cecilia Holden proposed and Heddwen Molloy seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

The President thanked all the Officers for their interesting and comprehensive reports and their hard work and dedication during the past year.

15. VOTE OF THANKS TO CAPTAIN & OFFICERS

This was given by Ann Harris, who said that she was sure that all members of BLCGA joined her in thanking the Captain and her committee for all the hard work they have done during the past year on our behalf. At times it may seem to be a thankless task for them and we should all remember that they are volunteers working in our best interest. She asked the ladies to join her in showing their appreciation.

16. PROPOSITIONS

No propositions have been received.

17. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All Officers have agreed to stand for re-election and it was agreed to vote for them 'en bloc'.

Carried unanimously.

18. FIXTURES FOR 2009 - DATE & VENUE OF 2009 AGM

The next AGM will be held at **Leighton Buzzard GC on Monday 2nd November 2009 at 2.00pm.**

Main County Competition Dates:-

1st April - 2nd Div Spring Meeting, Aylesbury Vale

7th – 9th May - 1st Div Spring Meeting & County Championship, Leighton Buzzard

6th July - 36 Hole Stableford, Colmworth

9th September - Autumn Meetings, Bedfordshire

29th September - 18 Hole 4BBB, Millbrook

Please notes all fixture dates can be found on the web site.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Margaret Browning asked if there was any progress on the joint County Course Card. Lesley explained that she was still in conversation with the men.

20. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

**Inter Club Shield
Runners Up**

**John O'Gaunt G C
Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands G C**

**Knock Out Foursomes
Runners Up**

**Barbara Talboys & Lyn Allen - Bedfordshire
Lyn Pearce & Trish Purnell - Wyboston**

**Wand Ward Trophy
(Scratch League)**

John O'Gaunt G C

**Janet Miller Trophy
Amphill Cup
County Cup
Bronze Coronation Medal
Dalton Salver**

**Lucinda Holden – Beds & County
Lucinda Holden – Beds & County
Paula Collin – John O'Gaunt
Ann Taylor - Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands
Nikki Jackson - Millbrook**

**Senior 2000 Trophy
Runner Up
Lannaway Pictures
Carol Rose Trophy
Lannaway Putter**

**Pauline Pittman – Beds & County
Mary Haseman – Pavenham Park
Pauline Pittman & Pat Anderson – Beds & County
Margaret Watchorn – Beds & County
Beds & County**

Audrey thanked everyone for attending the meeting and Bedfordshire GC for their hospitality. She wished the County 1st Team good luck at Stock Brook Manor in 2009 and hoped that many supporters would turn up in their yellow sweaters. She wished everyone a good golfing year in 2009.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 3.25 p.m.

Signed _____

Date _____