

BEDFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

www.blcga.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at

JOHN O'GAUNT GOLF CLUB

on

Monday 1st November 2010 at 2.00pm

County Captain Elaine Bruce welcomed everyone to John O'Gaunt for the 2010 AGM.

Unfortunately, Audrey, our County President was unwell with a viral infection and was unable to attend the AGM but had asked Elaine to read out her words on her behalf:

"I am so sorry to miss this my last AGM as your President.

Bedfordshire had a very exciting and successful County Week at West Herts, and everyone played superb golf – a joy to witness. Well done to all the players and thanks to all the caddies and helpers. I would like to praise the standard of golf of our Juniors - there have many handicap reductions and it is good to see them all improving and playing good golf. Congratulations also to all the winners of our county competitions.

I must thank those ladies retiring from our committee this year. They have all worked exceptionally hard. My thanks also go to the County Delegates for all their work throughout the year.

There are two people in particular I must mention who have helped me out over the past three months: Margaret Watchorn my Vice President for standing in for me at county competitions and Cicely Goldsmith for attending junior events on my behalf.

I thank you for electing me as your President, which has been a great honour and a privilege. I have enjoyed meeting up with old friends as well making many new friends.

Thank you all for your support and kindness."

THOSE PRESENT

Executive Committee - Margaret Watchorn (Vice President), Elaine Bruce (Captain), Shelagh Cormack (Vice Captain), Kathy Harris (Secretary), Sam Turnbull (Seniors' Captain), Gill Smith (Past Captains' Captain), Margaret Seabrook (East Region Representative), Lesley May (Immediate Past Captain), Jacky Levinson (Treasurer), Shirley Cleaver (Competition Secretary), Claudine Tate (Assistant Competitions Secretary & DD), Heddwyn Molloy (Handicap Adviser), Maureen Dawson (Junior Organiser), Elaine James (Course Assessor Officer) and

County Delegates –L McCartney (BM), E Mackirdy (Mow), J Monico (B), H Nolan (B&Co), B Lee (AV), G Walpole (PP), A Shirville (LB), J Garrat (AG&WS), J Martin (Col), P Aubigne (JOG), A Kavanagh (TheB), C Goode (Cad), C Taylor (MtP), C Clarke (SB) and L Pearce (W). Also attending were 49 members of BLCGA and in total 16 of the 21 Bedfordshire golf clubs were represented. 78 Ladies attended in total 7 more than last year.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following ladies sent their apologies: Audrey Shuter (President), J Cocksedge (Assistant Handicap Adviser), P Willis (BCGP), E Wand (DD), C Hawker (CM), M Enge, S North, B Quinn, P Wilson, C Kallamier, S Patterson, C McDermot, M Tollervey & J Squires (SB), V Astley (AG&WS) and L Collin (JOG).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (02 November 2009)

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

Heather Nolan proposed and Heddwen Molloy 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 the Executive Committee has agreed them.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

A note was read out from Mrs Janet Squires. Kathy hoped that results of the 2010 Golf Club Questionnaire sent to all golf clubs were proving interesting reading. She also reminded everyone to sign the attendance form.

5 COURSE ASSESSOR'S REPORT (Elaine James)

The team is making steady progress to complete the courses outstanding in the county. To date, 22 out of 24 courses have been assessed.

But, work does not stop there so if anyone knows that major structural work is likely to take place at their club at any time in the foreseeable future, Elaine would be very grateful for any information. It is for the benefit of everyone that her work is kept up to date.

Now the season has come to a close, she can report that she has submitted current assessments for:

Leighton Buzzard, Colworth, Baroness and Baron Courses at Beadlow Manor and The Bedford.

With the exception of Leighton Buzzard, the S.S. for these other clubs will be forwarded in the next month or so for implementation next season.

Due to major works being carried out at Chalgrave Manor for the last couple of years, she has delayed any assessment for the moment, but hopes that she can complete a visit by the end of next season, together with the only other remaining course of Stockwood Park.

Finally, on behalf of EWGA and herself, she thanked the members of her team, as without their support, she could not have completed any of these courses.

A lot of time and effort is put in by them without any remuneration and she really appreciates their dedication, ESPECIALLY when they gave up watching the last day of the Ryder Cup, so that they could assess Beadlow Manor, the date of which had already been confirmed at least a month earlier. Elaine could not have known that matches at Celtic Manor would go into the Monday. Understandably, there were a few rumblings on the way round. They had hoped that Europe would win but had to wait until they got home to see what happened.

Nikki Jackson proposed and Gill Smith seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

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

Only 13 Counties expressed an interest in Public Liability Insurance from Towergate, the EWGA therefore deemed they could not spare any more time on this initiative. Counties are free to contact Towergate individually if they would like a quote on Public Liability Insurance.

County Match Week Finals funding increased to £2000 per team from the EWGA ring fenced pot. The ring fenced pot comes from the Regional Competitions.

County Captains from the Region met to discuss alternatives to the current format for County Match Week. The County Captains like the format as it is although smaller counties are struggling with the financial burden. Another meeting has been scheduled for the 3rd Nov to further discuss this topic. The East Region Chairperson is attending this meeting. There are a number of alternative formats to be discussed.

Sue Whittaker, EWGA chair of the Management Board attended our meeting on the 25th October. It was good to meet her and Margaret believes we all came away with confidence in her abilities. She updated us on the proposed merger with the English Golf Union. Whilst maintaining the traditions and histories of women's golf we must remember the merger is for the **FUTURE** of both women's and men's golf. It will be important to have one body representing both men and women especially with golf becoming an Olympic Sport in 2016. With the EWGA being a much smaller organisation than the EGU, the EWGA's primary concern is to protect women's golf. On a statistical basis we would have a ratio of 6 men to 1 woman. The initial board is proposing at present to have a ratio of 6 to 4. Four women therefore need to be elected. Marketing and sponsorship are thought to benefit from the merger particularly for women. The Regional road shows should be announced by the end of this year.

The East Region Foursomes Championship held in Suffolk was won by Sally Shayler, Bedfordshire G C and Bridie Quinn, South Beds G C. Congratulations to Sally and Bridie, it is great to have Regional Champions from our County. We are hosting the 2011 Foursomes Championship at Pavenham Park G C on 20th April 2011, Margaret hopes we have winners from our county again next year.

Amber Ratcliffe from Royal Cromer G C won the East Region Championship held at Bedfordshire G C on the 4th September with a Gross 139. Sally Shayler from Bedfordshire G C was 2nd with 142 and Charlotte Thompson from Channels G C was 3rd with 146. Thank you very much to Bedfordshire G C for hosting the event and all those from the club and the county who worked so hard to make the day a success.

Margaret wished Jocelyn all the best for the next three years as our Representative on the East Region Committee. Her wealth of experience, dry wit, quick brain and no nonsense approach is just what is needed.

Lesley May proposed and Margaret Watchorn seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

Elaine thanked Margaret for representing Bedfordshire's interests over the past three years on the East Region Committee and for the work undertaken in organising the Regional events within the County and presented her with a gift.

7. GOLF PARTNERSHIP REPORT (Pippa Willis)

In Pippa's absence the report was read by C Holden.

We have made a lot of progress in the last year and are now focussing heavily on the deliverables in our Development Plan and there are many projects underway. I will try to give you a brief up date of where we are:

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

We have a county development officer in place, Steve Bygrave

STEERING GROUP VACANCIES

We had two vacancies on the steering group this year as unfortunately Colin and Cecilia had to step down. The BCGU have now found a replacement for Colin, Tim Bevan a member at Chalgrave Manor has joined the committee he will take over the role previously filled by Colin – that of Chair of the Volunteer Sub-Group.

Despite regular communication with BLCGA, there is still no sign of a replacement for Cecilia. There is a real need to fill this role as Pippa is the only ladies representative at the moment and due to work commitments it is very difficult for her to attend the partnership meetings and the BLCGA meetings and she believes this makes the communication link very hard. She would be very grateful if anyone could fill this role and help with partnership or knows of anyone who may be willing to take on this role. Cecilia also put in a plea for someone to step forward to assist Pippa.

GOLFMARK

The number of accredited clubs has risen from four last year to six now with two of these achieving the high achieves accreditation.

To follow are some examples of the projects that the partnership is involved in:

County Academy Programme

We have the level 3 coaches on board but we were still short of assistant coaches and volunteer coaches so if you know of anyone who would be willing to help please contact Steve Bygrave

The talent assessment days have been set for Thursday 28th October and Sunday 7th November. A flyer has been produced and is on the BCGP website along with an application form that can be completed on line and submitted to Pippa.

We have had a successful meeting with the Beds County Union TIP and County squad representatives and have agreed a unified approach to the coaching of the CAP, Squad and TIP players. This will ensure a structured pathway for coaching from the bottom end up to elite player.

VOLUNTEERS

The County Volunteer Awards programme has been agreed and widely circulated to clubs, schools, professionals etc and the awards night is Monday 6th December at Leighton Buzzard. For further details please see the website.

The PGA agreed that we could use the Cedars Coaching Academy (based in Leighton Buzzard) to promote an ASQ level 1 course which would be run at Tilsworth on 25/26 October but is not to run due to lack of interest. This was a disappointing result given the amount of effort Steve Bygrave put in to finding applicants. If you know of anyone who would be interested in doing this level 1 course or volunteering in any way please let Steve or Pippa know.

Disability Coaching

We have met with Autism Bedfordshire and Professionals at Mowsbury to arrange lessons for autistic adults and agreed two series of lessons of one-hour duration to be funded by BCGP, each of 8 weeks, one before Christmas and one after. Each series of lessons will accommodate up to 8 people.

Equipment Purchases

We have a Tri Golf and golf extreme Equipment and some starter sets stored at Stockwood Park and if anyone is interested in using this when running taster sessions please let us know. We have also now purchased an inflatable golf net.

Bedford River Festival

We had a stand at the River Festival with the inflatable golf net and Tri Golf equipment. We had a lot of people come and have a go and we aim to attend more events next year to raise the profile of golf in Bedfordshire.

Funding

If any clubs or groups of people are looking for funding to run sessions to develop golf participation, there is a funding application form available on the website and we would be more than happy to consider your application.

If you have any questions or queries or would like to volunteer to help please do not hesitate to contact Pippa or any member of the steering committee.

This is a taster of what we have done in the last year please look at the website regularly and read our newsletter to keep up to date with what is happening.

Shelagh Cormack proposed and Sam Turnbull seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

8. HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT (Heddwen Molloy)

As the current R & A Rules of Golf book covers the period 2008-2011 there were no major amendments this year. However, the "Decisions On the Rules of Golf" book is updated every 2 years the latest being 2010-2011 so clubs were once again recommended to obtain a copy of this as it is an excellent reference book listing in the front section any New or Revised Decisions that have been made by the R&A since the previous publication.

Several queries received this year demonstrated that occasionally there is confusion between the Rules of Golf laid down by the R & A (i.e. the Rules) and the Conditions of Competition, which are laid down by the club committees or anyone else organising competitions. All golf is played to the same R&A Rules but the Conditions of Competition are laid down by the organisers of each competition covering such things as method of entry, payment, eligibility etc. This subject was one of the items covered in the Handicap Secretaries Meetings held in March when clubs were strongly recommended to review their Conditions of Competition. These should be reviewed regularly to ensure they take account of any changes that may have occurred e.g. to cover the use of DMDs if they are allowed, use of buggies, whether Active Handicaps are required, etc. With a comprehensive set of Conditions of Competition organisers are able to deal with any problems that arise in a consistent, fair and equitable manner. The BLCGA Conditions of Competition are also currently being reviewed to ensure they reflect any recent changes and advice received from our governing body.

In line with the Rules of Golf, the CONGU Unified Handicapping System also covers the period 2008-2011 so there have been no fundamental changes to the system this year.

However, with effect from 1st January 2010 handicaps became either Active or InActive. This system was explained fully throughout 2009 to ensure that players had sufficient time to return the required 3 Qualifying Scores to keep an Active handicap. The system appeared to be accepted by the majority of golfers with few problems having been encountered. As mentioned last year, a review of the system will be carried out at the end of this first year. As part of that review EWGA requested counties to obtain their clubs' opinions regarding the number of cards they feel should be required to maintain an Active Handicap – should it remain at 3 or be increased to 5? The answers we received from the Bedfordshire clubs showed that 11 clubs felt 3 cards should be sufficient and 5 clubs felt the number should be increased to 5 cards. Five clubs unfortunately did not give their opinions despite several requests – but at least they had the opportunity to have an input.

Distance Measuring Devices (DMDs). DMDs are artificial aids and the R&A Rule 14.3 prohibits the use of artificial aids. However, the note under this rule states "The Committee may make a local rule allowing players to use devices that measure or gauge distance only". In the absence of such a local rule the use of a Distance Measuring Device would be contrary to Rule 14.3.

The R&A, LGU, both Scottish National Unions, both Irish National Unions, the Welsh National Union and the EWGA i.e. 6 of the 7 National Unions of the home countries prohibit the use of

DMDs in their competitions. The only one to permit their use is the EGU, which is understandable when that organisation is sponsored by one of the manufacturers.

The situation in England did cause problems at many clubs at the beginning of the year as the EGU permitted their use but the EWGA did not. In view of the difficulties encountered at the clubs, e.g. when men's and women's medals were played at the same time, the EWGA decided to allow the use of the devices at club level in EWGA medals, Australian Spoons and the Ping 4BBB Tournament. A Local Rule must be in place to allowing their use. They will not be allowed at regional or national level. In order to help clubs, a notice was distributed to County Delegates and Handicap Secretaries giving clarification.

Further complicating the situation, some golf trolley manufacturers have built in DMDs that measure more than distance, even though the use of the ones that measure anything other than distance e.g. wind speed, elevation etc. are not allowed under any circumstances in competition. It should be noted that iPhones and golf GPS are expressly prohibited. It should also be noted that if a player has a device with them when they are not allowed in that competition, the penalty is disqualification whether or not the device is used. Rule 14.3.

In line with our governing body it was decided to prohibit the use of Distance Measuring Devices in competitions organised by BLCGA and tape was made available to cover, if necessary, any devices on trolleys prior to commencement of play. Clubs were also advised that this is a course of action they could take if the need arose.

Central Database of Handicaps (CDH). The CDH is now up and running and 18 of the 21 clubs in the county have uploaded their information. To the best of my knowledge the system appears to be operating reasonably well although there have been some problems as would normally occur in new computer systems, particularly when so many different software programmes are used, each synchronising with the CDH. For example some ladies were given .1 back in the spring when the competition was Reduction Only. This was caused by a glitch in the Club 2000 software, which has been rectified. It did prove useful throughout the year that BLCGA printed off the results and sent the relevant information back to clubs as in previous years even though it was not strictly a requirement. As all our 2010 competitions have been completed I have recently carried out an audit of all the Qualifying Competitions organised by BLCGA in the year. This was done to confirm that all results uploaded by the county have been correctly received by the CDH. Although there was nothing to be too concerned about I am currently compiling a list of minor errors that have shown up in order to discuss them with the EGU. If you have come across any problems please let me know. As usual clubs will be receiving updates of their software before March 2011 and I have been assured that these should correct any errors that have come to light so far. Please bear with us until all the teething troubles have been corrected.

Several Bedfordshire clubs now play 9 Hole Qualifying Competitions on a regular basis and they do appear to be more popular than when first available. The Supplementary Score cards, however, do not appear to be so popular. Maybe the situation will change if the number of qualifying cards required to maintain an Active Handicap is increased to from 3 to 5 cards.

Finally, we received notification from EWGA in August that, following discussions between the Rules Sub-Committee and the Operational Board it was decided that Rules Seminars will be run in alternate years commencing in 2012. Nominees will continue to be invited to attend the R&A Rules School and it is believed that this would enable EWGA to continue to have the necessary number and quality of excellent referees to officiate at championships and competitions at county, regional and national level. These Referees should undertake refresher courses every four years

through the LGU and they should re-take the R&A Rules School examination every 10 years. Our incoming President, Margaret Watchorn and Assistant Handicap Advisor, Joan Cocksedge recently completed the course. Currently we only have these two ladies who are qualified referees in the county, as others who have taken the course in the past do need to take a refresher course. County delegates have been asked to contact me if anyone at their club is interested in attending a Rules Seminar and can give the time commitment to referee competitions when required.

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

Carried unanimously.

9. JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT (Maureen Dawson)

It was with much trepidation that Maureen took over the post of County Junior Organizer from Cicely last November. With the help of her committee, it has proved to be an interesting and exciting year.

It began in January when, once again, we invited the girls and their parents to a meeting. We outlined our plans for the coming year especially the training programme that had been put in place. Georgia Testa was introduced as the Girls' Captain and we were lucky to have Holly Aitchison there. Holly told everyone about her career so far, starting with her experiences at Club and County junior level and culminating in her first year on the Professional Circuit. She answered many interesting questions from the girls and parents alike. It gave us an inspiring start to the year.

We have had 38 girls involved in training. The Elite group were invited to train with the County 2nd team. We arranged 2 assessment days and invited 20 girls to participate. 6 girls were selected for the programme and sessions began in February 2010. Those 6 girls in the Birdies group have had 5 sessions of whole day training at Bedfordshire Golf Club with Geraint Dixon and Richard Banks. These sessions included all aspects of golf, diet and exercise with a physiotherapist. They have all reduced their handicaps by at least 2 strokes and Claire Wilkie reduced hers by 12.

Eleven girls were selected for the Development group to have training with Paul Simpson at Stockwood Park. The other two groups, Elite Passport and Passport, have had a programme of sessions through the summer months - both at Bedfordshire Golf Club.

All this training has had a positive effect on the enthusiasm and commitment of these young girls.

The girls have had a hard time when playing in the County Matches where they are expected to play off scratch against teams (especially Essex) that have most of their first team players with single figure handicaps – we only had Sophie and Georgia in that category. We lost all our matches but the girls fought hard with spirit and good grace, and they are looking forward to achieving better results next year.

The first competition played was the Past Captains' Salver at The Bedford Golf Club. Fiona Cooper of Bedford and County won with 38 points. The Junior Championship was held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club and was won by Sophie Hillier of John O'Gaunt with a gross score of 80. The Handicap Cup was won by Bethany Healey (The Bedford) with a net 71. Natalie Rendell (Aylesbury Vale) was the winner of the Best Gross for the over 16s with 91. The Fun Competition for girls with junior starter handicaps – or none at all – was held on July 4th on the

Academy Course at Bedfordshire Golf Club. It was won by Freya Daniels of Dunstable Downs Golf Club. The Sue Paterson Salver was won by Elena Tizzard of Leighton Buzzard and Heather Nolan of Bedford and County with 36 points.

Sophie and Natalie went forward to the Midlands Champion of Champions competition at Lutterworth Golf Club. Unfortunately Natalie had to withdraw after the first round, but Sophie finished 7th. Sophie was also selected to play at County Week at West Herts Golf Club and was the only representative from Bedfordshire at the East Region Girls' Championship when she had two rounds of gross 80.

In September, Sophie became the Bedfordshire Schools Girls Champion when she scored a gross 78.

The County Academy Programme is now taking over some of the Junior training from this month. On October 28th and November 7th talent assessment days are being held at Stockwood Park and Bedfordshire Golf Clubs for boys and girls between 9 and 15 years of age. The County Golf Partnership has appointed 6 level 3 coaches plus volunteers, and Bedfordshire Golf Club has been chosen as the centre for girls' coaching. We will still be responsible for arranging Birdie Squad training and for those girls not chosen at assessment days.

Maureen thanked all those clubs that have supported us with donations this year. You have raised a total of £703. We bought 6 trophies for those clubs that nominated a competition making a net profit of £651 to put towards the training programme. We have also had several individual donations.

Maureen also thanked her committee for all their hard work this year, and President Audrey, Captain Elaine and Cicely for their support. It has been very much appreciated.

Cicely Goldsmith proposed and Sheila Fairey seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

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

The year began with our first match against the County 2nd team at Caddington. The standard of play was excellent and it was good to see so many youngsters playing for the County 2nds. We played foursomes both in the morning and the afternoon and the young team certainly showed us how strong they could be. The Seniors only managed to win 2 matches so the result was a 6-2 win for the County 2nds.

In our matches this year we struggled against some tough opposition but all the players enjoyed the close matches. We lost 1½ - 2½ against Norfolk and Suffolk and drew 2 - 2 with Cambs and Hunts. Our match against Bucks, which has in the past been very tough, against very low handicap ladies, was this year, for the first time, played as 4BBB off scratch. All the matches were close but we did lose 1½ - 2½.

The match for higher handicap Seniors, played off handicap, against Northants was played at Rushden. The team all played very well and the result was a win to Bedfordshire by 5 matches to 3.

Championship Day was in August at Dunstable Downs in damp and dismal weather conditions. (We were actually in the clouds!!) The 53 ladies who took part produced some good results. The Seniors Champion, and winner of the Squires Cup was Jos Faris from Bedford & County with a gross 84. The winner of the Bond Trophy for the best nett score in either division for over 65's, was Helena Walkington from Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands with a nett 70. The other main winners were: Jane Firth from Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands, best nett in division 1 and Jenny Webb from Dunstable Downs, best nett in division 2. The Lanaway Putter winners were the team of Elaine James, Helena Walkington, Vicky Astley and Christine Moxom from Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands.

The Senior 2000 was quite well supported by Clubs this year with 12 Clubs producing qualifiers. Through the summer the knockout stage of the competition continued and the final was held on September 23rd at Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands. Irene Abri from Wyboston Lakes and Rita Greenlaw from Dunstable Downs, had a very close match with Irene Abri the final winner. Well done to both ladies.

The final event of the season was the Autumn 'Jolly' at Bedfordshire. Sam was delighted that there were 72 entrants this year (by far the highest number) and although there were one or two troubles, everyone who took part had a good day overall. The winners of the 4BBB were Angie Tatum – Hume and Ethnie Williams from Bedford and County. Second were Chris Pike and Ann Taylor from Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands and third were Edna Turner and Sheila Fairey from Bedfordshire.

Sam thanked everyone for their support this year. The Championship and 'Jolly' had plenty of entrants and these events would not run smoothly if she did not have support from other ladies for things like signing people in, selling raffle tickets and helping with results.

She also thanked everyone who has played in any Seniors matches this year. Sam appreciates that we did not win all our matches but knows that we all played our best and enjoyed ourselves too!

This is Sam's last report as Seniors Captain and she said thank you to everyone who has made her 3 years smooth running and a pleasure (most of the time!!).

Copies of the Seniors accounts have been circulated. If anyone has any questions please ask. You will see that there is a small surplus for the year.

Seniors subscription forms are available for County Delegates to take away.

Margot Norris proposed and Elaine James seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

Elaine thanked Sam for her hard work and good humour over the past three years but with the increase in competitor numbers it has certainly paid off. On behalf of the County she presented her with a gift.

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

168 ladies joined our society this year, down on last year.

The match results this year:

In April we played with the Men's Past Captains at Bedfordshire Golf Club. Again we played a Texas Scramble, as it seems very popular. I did a draw with Derek on the day to decide on the teams with the exception of ourselves, as we thought we ought to play together! The camaraderie was great on that day and one Gill will remember for a long time. Bedfordshire did us proud with the food, always a nice ending to a day.

We then went to Pavenham Park for our match against the Northamptonshire ladies, and we lost this match 4/3.

Next came our old rivals Cambs/Hunts. This was played at Abbotsley Golf Club, Gill found this course very difficult, and the team lost this one 5/1.

We then played Hertfordshire, at East Herts Golf Club, well worth a visit if you have not been there. This game we managed to win 4/3. Gill was able to subsidize this match from money collected when they visited us last year.

The last match was at Aylesbury Vale, and Gill was most impressed by the course and the facilities generally. She had not been over there for about 6 years, and the improvement was very marked, please give it a try if any of the County Meetings are there next year. This was our match against Buckinghamshire – which we won 6/1.

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.

Our Annual Meeting was held at South Beds Golf Club, and a good day was had by all despite the slight hitch with the evening meal. Results were:

Champion		Heather Nolan	Bedford & County.	39 pts.
Carol Rose Trophy		Jane Firth	Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands.	37 pts
Div 1	1 st	Jane Firth	Aspley Guise	37 pts
	2 nd	Carol Sainsbury	Tilsworth	36 pts
	3 rd	Joy Stepney	John O'Gaunt	36 pts
	4 th	Terry Brown	John O'Gaunt	36 pts
Div 2	1 st	Heather Nolan	Bedford & County	39 pts
	2 nd	Joan Cocksedge	John O'Gaunt	37 pts
	3 rd	Maria Knaggs	Aspley Guise	34 pts
	4 th	Cally Hawker	Chalgrave Manor	34 pts

Afternoon Fourball 9 holes.

1 st	Chris Lawry (PP) & Adrienne Lane (DD)	21pts
2 nd	Joy Stepney (JOG) & Jane Firth (AG)	18 pts
3 rd	Lesley May (JOG) & Maria Knaggs (AG)	18 pts.

At the Annual Meeting this year Gill decided to support the Keech Hospice as it is just down the road from South Beds Golf Club. The ladies were fantastic in their support, both donating prizes and buying tickets. Thank you, Maureen (Clarke) for your time so willingly given to run the

raffle. A sum of £180 was raised. Due to the problems we had with the evening meal, the caterers at South Beds did not charge the original sum agreed with them. The difference was added to the raffle money, and Gill was able to send a cheque for £300 to the Keech Hospice, and she has had a reply thanking us for our generosity.

The accounts for the year have been circulated, and we trust you find them satisfactory. As we still have a healthy balance, Gill sees no reason to increase the subs, which she proposes should remain the same £1 as last year. The entry forms to join the society for 2011, and lists for the matches, will be available shortly.

Gill has enjoyed her 3 years being involved with all the Past Captains from the Bedfordshire Clubs, and Captains from the Counties we play, and she thanked them all for the friendship and support over the years. She also thanked our President Audrey, for her support in the matches.

Gill hopes Anne enjoys her term as much as she has, and wishes her well.

Anne Harris proposed and Lorna Harvey seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

Elaine thanked Gill for the hard work undertaken during the past three years and on behalf of the County she presented her with a gift and wished her well in her new County role.

12. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT (Claudine Tate)

Claudine took over from Shirley Cleaver as County Competitions Secretary in April, due to her ill health and had somewhat of a baptism of fire. However with the help of many people, she has managed to muddle through.

The first event in the calendar was the 2nd Division Spring Meeting at Bedfordshire Golf Club. Due to lack of entries the competition was changed to an 18 Hole Medal which 28 ladies entered, however due to heavy overnight rain no trollies were allowed on the course and in the end 15 ladies valiantly carried their clubs and played in the cold and wind. In 2011 this meeting will be held a little later, on 7th April. Let's hope the weather will be kinder.

The winner of the Janet Miller Trophy was Lynn Allen (B). The qualifiers from this event for the County Cup were Lyn Allen, Jill Brown (PP), Heather Nolan (B&C) and Sheila Fairey (B). After the knock-out, Lyn Allen won the County Cup with Heather Nolan as Runner-up.

The Championship and 1st Division Spring Meetings were held at John O'Gaunt in May and a total of 74 ladies entered the competitions. On the Thursday Laura Collin (JOG) won the best Gross over 36 holes with 148 followed by Sally Shayler with 160. Katie Burman (JOG) had the best gross morning round and Penny Fletcher (JOG) won 1st Nett. Sophie Hillier (JOG) had the best afternoon gross with Fiona Cooper (B&C) winning 1st Nett. Penny Fletcher also won the Dalton Salver (best nett from both 1st & 2nd Div Spring Meetings), and Dorothy Blackburn and Margot Norris won the afternoon Foursomes.

The 16 qualifiers of the Championship were Laura Collin, Sally Shayler, Katie Burman, Sophie Hillier, Bridie Quinn, Fiona Cooper, Juliette Withey, Elaine Bruce, Cecilia Holden, Yvette

Bunker, Gill Westgate, Kate Wright, Pippa Willis, Christine Jones, Dawn Glennie and Vanessa Jay.

After an exciting knock-out, Laura Collin became County Champion for 2010, winning the Lady Ludlow Cup, with Sally Shayler as Runner-Up.

On 5th July the 36 Hole Stableford was held at Beadlow Manor Golf Club, 4BBB in the morning and Foursomes in the afternoon. 40 ladies entered the competition and the Lanaway Pictures were won by Jo Evans and Jacky Levinson (CAD) with Brenda Gibbons & Judith Abraham (TheB) as runners-up. Nikki Jackson & Sandra Gardner (JOG) came 1st in the morning and Clare Hind & Juliette Johnson (B) were 1st in the afternoon.

The Knock-out Foursomes this year attracted a field of 43 pairs from 12 clubs. The Final was held at Dunstable Downs on 19th August and was won by Dorothy Blackburn & Diane Green (AG) who just edged out Rachel Hobbs & Jean Ward (B&C). Many thanks to Vice-President Margaret Watchorn who kindly agreed to referee the Final.

In 2011 the closing date will be later, 20th February, with the preliminary round to be played by 11th April.

Due to a double booking, both the 1st & 2nd Division Autumn Meetings were held concurrently on 8th September at The Bedford Golf Club. 36 ladies entered the 1st Division and 20 ladies entered the 2nd Division.

In the 1st Division stroke-play competition, Fiona Cooper (B&C) won both the Best Gross and the Antcliffe Bowl (best gross combined over the 1st Div Spring & Autumn Meetings). Louise Simons won the Silver Coronation Medal with 2nd Nett going to Joy Stepney (JOG) and 3rd Nett to Melanie Fortune (DD).

In the 2nd Division Stableford competition, Judith Abraham (TheB) won the Bronze Coronation Medal with Heather Nolan (B&C) as runner-up and 3rd place to Dilys Maggs (B&C). Heather Nolan also won the Ampthill Cup (best combined 2nd Div Spring & Autumn Meetings).

Due to complications in calculating the results of the Veterans Cup and the Team Shield, these were not calculated on the day. As the 2nd Div Autumn Meeting was Stableford and the Spring meetings in both divisions were Stroke-play, all the results had to be converted to the same format to calculate the winners of these two trophies. This was discussed at the September committee meeting and it was agreed that, unless the format of 2nd Division Autumn Meeting reverts to stroke-play, these trophies will be announced and presented at the AGM.

The winner of the Veterans' Cup was Lesley May and the Team Shield was won by The Bedford Golf Club with the team of Louise Simons, Brenda Gibbons, Elaine Parkin, Alison Kavanagh, Judith Abraham and Pam Harmsworth.

The 18 Hole 4BBB Stableford was held on 27th September at Chalgrave Manor. 36 ladies entered this competition and the winners of the Audrey Bradley Vases were Terry Brown and Diane Hall (JOG), with runners-up Rebekah Howe (B&C) and Alison Kavanagh (TheB). Unfortunately on the day Sandra Gardner (JOG) slipped on the 14th tee and broke her ankle in 3 places. It is lovely to see her here today and we give her our best wishes for her continued recovery - and hope to see her back playing golf in the New Year.

Many congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to all who took part in the competitions. Claudine also thanked the County Delegates who worked so hard to encourage ladies to enter the competitions, ensuring that we have had a reasonable number of entries to this year's events.

We had very mixed weather in our competitions this year but the host Clubs have, without exception, made us most welcome and looked after us admirably, very ably assisted by their Lady Captains whose help has been invaluable. The courses have been in excellent condition and the food has been first-rate.

A special thank you to Elaine James for all her time and help throughout the year and for teaching Claudine the Puma computer system. Thanks also to our President Audrey, who asked Claudine to take on this job, and for all the support she has received from her, Lady Captain Elaine, Vice President Margaret, Jacky, Heddwen, Kathy and the rest of the committee. Your help and encouragement has been a real boost. Also thank you to Cess for keeping the web page up to date with all the start sheets and results and to Shirley for forwarding the entries.

There is an envelope for each County Delegate on the table by the door which includes a sheet of all the County events for 2011 as well as flyers for individual events. Could you please remember to collect these and sign the receipt sheet before leaving. Please ensure the flyers are prominently placed, at the appropriate time, to remind ladies to enter the various County events.

Lastly, if anyone would like to purchase any County Clothing or Umbrellas for the forthcoming year, these are available today.

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

Carried unanimously.

Elaine was happy to present a thank you gift to Shirley Cleaver and was pleased to see her looking so well again.

13. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT (Jacky Levinson)

Copies of the Association's Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 31st August 2010 have been circulated.

The Income and Expenditure Account shows that our expenditure for the year exceeded our income by £2,679.90 – not quite as much as for the previous year, although there is some expenditure relating to 2010, which was incurred too late to include in the accounts, so the true picture is a little worse than shown. This expenditure will now be shown in the new year's accounts.

The financial picture is not very rosy. We are barely covering our overheads at the County Competitions and as catering costs seem set to continue to rise, inevitably the entry fees for next year's competitions will have to be reviewed.

County Week has a big impact on the Association's funds and this year was no exception, although the net expenditure for this year was considerably less than in 2009.

We have made training grants to the Ladies' Sections at 10 clubs this year.

The Association's Balance Sheet (shown separately to the Income and Expenditure Account) shows how much we had in the bank as at 31st August 2010. The account with the Halifax Building Society was closed through the year and the balance transferred in to the current account to keep the current account in the black.

We are having to dip into our savings to cover our general expenses and, just like with a household budget, this is never a good sign. Reluctantly, the annual subscriptions have been increased by £1 a head to £7 for 2011, but with only around 1100 members, the financial impact of this increase will be modest. The Executive Committee is planning to review the financial situation through the winter and hopefully come up with some plans to turn things around. Meanwhile, if County Delegates could actively promote the County events when they return to their Clubs then maybe our competitions will be better supported next year and this will help keep costs down.

Jacky thanked Competition Secretary, Claudine, for all of her help through the year. Claudine's excellent record-keeping and organisational skills have really helped her to keep the books in order.

Finally, thanks are due to Mrs. Joanne Evans, ACA, for auditing the main accounts this year. Jacky will show the Association's gratitude by giving some vouchers to our auditor, as has been the custom in previous years.

Gill Smith proposed and Heddwen Molloy seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

14. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Elaine Bruce)

2010 has proved to be a successful year for Bedfordshire in both individual events and team matches.

As a County we were well represented at Regional and National Competitions both in the UK and the US. Lizi Sweetnam, Megan Birdsey and Heather Mutton have now been joined in the US by Vanessa Jay – we wish them all the best for the coming year.

Our County Champion Laura Collin represented us at the British Championship at Ganton, and at the English Strokeplay Championship at Whittington Heath where she qualified to play in the last round – a great achievement given the high quality field.

Katie Burman from John O'Gaunt produced some wonderful golf over the year and qualified for the finals of the Faldo series which was held in Ireland last month

Sally Shayler had a fantastic season. She finished in the top 12 at the St Rule trophy in a very very strong international field. She also came runner up in the East Region Championship and with her partner Bridie Quinn won the East Region 4's Championship narrowly beating Shelagh and Elaine by around 15 shots!

One particularly pleasing aspect this year was the progress of our younger players. You have heard Maureen's report but Elaine highlighted two players in particular, Sophie Hillier from JOG

and Fiona Cooper from Bedfordshire & County. They played wonderful golf and certainly had a great County Championship. Our Junior Organisers and Committees past and present deserve huge credit for the way they have encouraged and mentored our juniors. We really are reaping the benefits and it augurs well for the future.

Over the winter 2009 and into spring 2010 we have been coached by Rob Cheney. The coaching group has consisted of 1st team players, 2nd team players and juniors all of whom have benefited from Rob's enthusiasm and knowledge. We have just started his coaching programme for this winter and next spring working up to 2nd team matches and County Match Week in 2011.

As you know this years County Championships was held at a very chilly JOG. The standard of play was exceptional and home player Laura Collin beat Sally Shayler from The Bedfordshire Golf Club in a replay of last years final. Congratulations to all the competitors – the golf was a joy to watch.

After the final the team for County Match Week was announced – this years matches being at the lovely West Herts Golf Club.

The team was:

Megan Birdsey	DD	
Elaine Bruce	JOG	
Katie Burman	JOG	
Laura Collin	JOG	
Sophie Hillier	JOG	
Cecelia Holden	JOG	
Bridie Quinn	SB	
Sally Shayler	B' Shire	
Lizi Sweetnam	LB	
Kate Wright	LB	
1 st Reserve Pippa Willis		Bedfordshire & County
2 nd Reserve Fiona Cooper		Bedfordshire & County

Prior to County Match Week we played two friendly matches. In the first we played against Bucks at Woburn where we had a very good half against a strong opponent and against Northamptonshire we came out with a 4 : 1 win at Bedfordshire & County.

At West Herts as Captain Elaine had fantastic support from her Vice Captain Shelagh, President Audrey, Vice President Margaret and Past Captain Lesley. The whole week was one big team effort and a real joy to be a part of. Thank you to all of them. Elaine would also like to thank Lynn Pearce who tended to all our aches and pains throughout the week – with a 32 year age range in the team some of us had more aches and pains than others! A huge thank you too to all of our caddies – led by Lin Gunn – we would not have survived without them.

Our week got off to the best start ever with an 8 : 1 win over Suffolk – the best result ever by a Bedfordshire team at County Week – we really had got off to a flyer.

Next day however was a different prospect altogether when we played Hertfordshire – last years winners, and a team with handicaps ranging from 3 to +3. We narrowly lost the 4's 2 : 1 and in the process gave them quite a fright. However in the singles they were too strong and we lost overall 7 : 2 – a score line that flattered Herts – 6 : 3 or 5 : 4 would have been a truer reflection of the match.

On Wednesday it was the turn of Norfolk. The match was very tense – the kind that Captains have nightmares about – and the result was a hard fought half.

Thursday we played against our old adversaries Cambs and Hunts – too nerve wracking by half, and another half was the result.

We saved our best result for Friday when we played Essex. After a fantastic performance we went into lunch up 3 : 0! Essex was none too pleased. Needing 2 out of 6 points in the afternoon to win sounds easy but is anything but. Sally complained about being tired but after 9 games in 4½ days we could not see a problem and we sent her out again! She secured a half, Katie Burman won her match and in the last match Kate Wright who had been dormie 4 down fought back to get a half and secure the win by 5 : 4 . Elaine hesitated to single out any one player, but Sally Shayler excelled herself winning 8½ out of a possible 10 points.

Overall we finished joint 2nd our best ever result. Bedfordshire are definitely ‘getting there’ and a big thank you must go to the previous Captains for all they put in place to improve the standard. Our support at County Match Week was the best of any team and at times it felt like there was a sea of yellow coming down the fairway. Elaine said she could see lots of faces today that were at West Herts – thank you for your support and she hopes you will come to King’s Lynn next year – the support really does help.

Cess Holden proposed and Margaret Seabrook seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

15. COUNTY VICE CAPTAINS REPORT (Shelagh Cormack)

Shelagh felt she had aged somewhat since becoming Vice Captain. The results of the 2nd Team matches were as follows; they had a win against the Seniors but halved the match against Cambs & Hunts played at Aspley Guise. The young girls in our team did find the last hole a challenge. The matches have been quite close calls with the exception against Hertfordshire. The team was lacking a little experience but Shelagh was hoping for improved results next year. At the Jamboree the ‘kids’ from Essex played exceptional golf and were the eventual winners.

Shelagh thanked everyone who had played throughout the year with a special thanks to the ‘youngsters’, the team spirit has been excellent at all times.

If any club has young players please let Shelagh know. She thanked Elaine, Audrey, Margaret (W) and Lesley for all their help during the year.

Jos Faris proposed and Lesley May seconded the adoption of this report.

Carried unanimously.

16. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

Elaine presented the Captains Prize to the County Champion, Laura Collin and this was accepted on her behalf by Paula Collin.

Squires Cup

Jos Faris - Bedford & County

Veterans Trophy	Lesley May – John O’Gaunt
Inter Club Shield	Caddington
Knock Out Foursomes Runners Up	Dorothy Blackburn & Diane Green – Aspley Guise Jean Ward & Rachel Hobbs – Bedford & County
Wand Ward Trophy (Scratch League)	Leighton Buzzard
Senior 2000 Trophy	Irene Abri - Wyboston
Veterans Trophy	Lesley May – John O’Gaunt
Bronze Coronation Medal	Judith Abraham – The Bedford
Team Shield	The Bedford

17. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Over the years several ladies who have given exceptional service in supporting the County have been awarded Honorary Membership. Your Executive Committee has agreed that Cicely Goldsmith is a worthy candidate for this Honour.

Cicely served 2 years as Vice President, and 3 years as President of the BLCGA. She then took on the role of County Junior Organiser for 2 years with a view to setting up a new Junior Committee structure to organise and run all their events, matches and training. This Committee has proved to be very successful and we are continuing to see Junior Girls improve and enjoy their golf.

Thank you Cicely for all the work you have done over the years to support and develop golf in Bedfordshire.

Margaret congratulated Cicely and asked the ladies to show their support for the decision.

Cicely said she was overwhelmed by this but thanked the Executive Committee for this honour.

18. VOTE OF THANKS TO CAPTAIN & OFFICERS

This was given by Lorna Harvey, who said that she was sure that all ladies attending the meeting and those unable to be here joined her in thanking the Captain and all the Officers for the hard work they have done during the past year on our behalf. All the ladies joined her in showing their appreciation.

19. PROPOSITIONS

Proposition from Bedford & County GC

”Bedfordshire Ladies County Golf Association allow the use of DMD’s, for measuring distance only, in competitions which they organise.”

This was proposed by Pauline Hulance and replied to by Heddwen Molloy on behalf of

the Executive Committee. Heddwen explained as she had done in her Annual Report that the R&A & EWGA do not allow the use of these in their competitions as it is contrary to Rule 14.3. After much discussion a vote was taken and the Proposition was defeated.

20. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers have agreed to stand for re-election:-

Captain	Mrs E Bruce
Vice Captain	Ms S Cormack
County Junior Organiser	Mrs M Dawson
Hon Treasurer	Mrs J Levinson
Handicap Adviser	Mrs H Molloy

The above were re-elected en bloc.

New Nominees

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
President	Mrs M Watchorn	Mrs L May	Mrs M Seabrook

Carried unanimously.

On behalf of Audrey, Elaine presented Margaret with her President's brooch.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Vice President	Mrs G Smith	Mrs E Bruce	Mrs L May

Carried unanimously.

Margaret presented Gill with her Vice President's brooch.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Hon Secretary	Mrs P Foot	Miss K Harris	Mrs M Watchorn

Carried unanimously.

Elaine presented Kathy with a gift as a thank you for her time spent on the Committee.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
East Region Representative	Miss J Faris	Mrs M Seabrook	Miss K Harris

Carried unanimously.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Competition Secretary	Mrs C Tate	Mrs S Cleaver	Miss K Harris

Carried unanimously.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Seniors Captain	Mrs M Norris	Mrs S Turnbull	Miss S Cormack

Carried unanimously.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Past Captain's Captain	Mrs A Harris	Mrs G Smith	Mrs M Seabrook

Carried unanimously.

19. FIXTURES FOR 2011 - DATE & VENUE OF 2011 AGM

The next AGM will be held at **Dunstable Downs GC on Monday 7th November 2011 at 2.00pm.**

The next County Meeting is Monday 10th January 1.00 pm at South Beds Golf Club.

Main 2011 County Competition Dates:-

7th April - 2nd Div Spring Meeting, South Beds

12th – 14th May - 1st Div Spring Meeting & County Championship, Dunstable Downs

6th July - 36 Hole Stableford, John O'Gaunt

7th September - Autumn Meetings, Pavenham Park

28th September - 18 Hole 4BBB, Tilsworth

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kathy reminded the Club Delegates to take their handouts at the end of the meeting. She also asked them to encourage all their lady members who had Internet access to sign up for the EWGA Newsletter.

Subscription forms had already been circulated but Kathy asked the Club Delegates to make sure these were paid to the County Treasurer by 31st January.

Kathy also thanked everyone who had supported her during the little health blip she had recently undergone.

President Margaret first thanked Audrey our Retiring President and Cicely our Retiring Past President for nominating her as Vice President in 2007 and Lesley and Margaret for nominating her as President in 2010 and everyone for electing her. She said this is a great honour for both herself and her Club as she will only be the 2nd member from Bedford & County Golf Club to become President during the history of the Bedfordshire Ladies County Golf Association. She will be following in the footsteps of another Margaret – Margaret Lanaway who was President from 1970 – 1973. Margaret should have been the third but unfortunately Audrey Bradley died during her term of Office as Vice President. She hopes she can live up to both their reputations – or maybe not as the case may be, but she will try and uphold the values of this office.

Congratulations to all the newly elected members of the Executive committee and thank you to all the Club Delegates for all the work you do and have done over the past year. Keep up the good work for 2011.

Good luck and best wishes to all the players that represent our County Teams during 2011 – Margaret will do her best to support them all during her term of office. The next few years are going to be very difficult times for Golf Clubs and their members and we are likely to see some considerable changes. The BLCGA is here to provide guidance and assistance to all ladies who are members of Golf Clubs in Bedfordshire and Margaret hopes that she together with all the Executive members of your Committee will be able to lead us through those changes.

Thank you to John O'Gaunt Golf Club for your kind hospitality not only today but also for the support you gave everyone from BLCGA during the County Championship played here on your course earlier this year. Lady Captain Cess was asked to pass on our thanks to the members for their support. Margaret particularly thanked Pauline and her team who have made this meeting run smoothly.

Thank you to everyone who attended today and for being so understanding regarding the changes to the Agenda at such short notice.

On everyone's behalf she wished Audrey a speedy return to good health.

Margaret wished everyone a safe journey home and she hopes to see you all playing in our BLCGA organised competitions in 2011.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 3.50 p.m.

Signed _____

Date _____