

BEDFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

held at

AYLESBURY VALE GOLF CLUB

on

Monday 6th September 2010 at 1.00pm

The County Captain welcomed everyone and thanked Aylesbury Vale Golf Club for hosting the meeting.

THOSE PRESENT

E Bruce (County Captain), S Cormack (Vice Captain), M Watchorn (Vice President), K Harris (Secretary), M Seabrook (East Region Representative), H Molloy (Handicap Adviser), E James (Course Assessor Officer), J Cocksedge (Ass Handicap Advisor), C Tate (Competition Secretary & DD), E Mackirdy (Mow), L McCartney (BM), H Nolan (Beds & Co), A Shirville (LB), B Lee (AV), J Barton (Til), J Randall (SB), J Monico (B'shire), A Kavanagh (TheB) and J Garratt (AG&WS).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from A Shuter (President), L May (Immediate Past Captain), J Levinson (Treasurer), S Turnbull (Seniors Captain), G Smith (Past Captains' Captain), M Dawson (CJO), P Willis (Beds Golf Partnership & Colmworth) G Walpole (PP), C Clarke (SB), L Pearce (WL), P Aubigne (JOG), C Hawker (CM), C Goode (Ca) and C Taylor (MtP).

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (19th July 2010)**

June Barton proposed and Claudine Tate seconded that these were a true record of the meeting and the County Captain signed them.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Australian Spoons 2011 and 'Ladies Links' should be in your clubs now, please make sure they are available for all to see. EWGA diaries are now available £5.50 each; your secretary should have an order form.

The AGM Agenda and minutes from last years meeting will be sent out to Delegates after this meeting.

5. COURSE ASSESSOR'S REPORT

We have completed the assessments so far this year for Leighton Buzzard, Beadlow Manor – Baroness course, The Bedford and Colworth. Hopefully the Baron Course at Beadlow will be completed in October, which leaves Stockwood Park & Chalgrave Manor to complete the initial assessments for the County.

6. GOLF PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Steering Group Vacancies

We still need a replacement for Cess Holden. If this is not resolved soon, this could have serious ramifications on our ability to run events as volunteers and a full Steering Group are critical for the success of these.

Golf Mark

GolfMark registrations have gone from strength to strength. Having 10 registered by June, we now have another 5, bringing the total up to 15. The Bedford GC has registered and, as part of the condition of being awarded the PESSYP project for this year, has agreed to work towards getting GM within 2 years.

County Academy Programme.

We had 9 coaches apply the position of CAP coaching and we agreed that they all warranted being given an interview. 8 were available for interview on 23rd August and we are pleased to report that the standard was generally good and, whilst we were looking for 6 coaches to cover 3 venues, we will be asking the Steering Group if they would be prepared to provide a small amount of extra funding for a 7th candidate to support one or more of the others due to a lack of level 1 assistant applications.

Although we did not have any responses from level 1 coaches, we are continuing to address this issue along with finding volunteer coaches to apply as well.

team Beds & Luton

With the new programme of 'Get Back Into' starting in the autumn, we have John O'Gaunt, Tilsworth, Stockwood Park and The Millbrook wanting to take part. In the north part of the county, Bedford Borough council run something similar and are working with Mowsbury for delivery.

Beds River Festival

The Beds River Festival was a great success for us, However, it was impossible for us to get any meaningful measure. Over the two days, there was a constant stream of people, mostly children, who wanted to have a go; whether it was using the tri golf, golf xtreme or having a go in the inflatable golf net, which we borrowed from Cambridgeshire partnership.

The lesson learnt from this exercise was that in the future, we must ensure that there are ample volunteers available to help run the event. We should be aiming for 4 people at any one time, with a shift of around 2 to 3 hours each.

As a result of this event, we have now ordered an inflatable golf net for our own partnership, so that we do not have to make a 100 mile round trip to borrow one from our neighbours, not to mention the problem of availability.

Equipment and Funding

We have various equipment, including half sets, a golf net and Tri-golf, if anyone is running an event and wishes to borrow this equipment then please contact us or look at the website for further information.

Also if anyone wishes to run any events to encourage participation in golf particularly for women and girls and would like some funding please apply to us and complete a simple funding application form.

7. EAST REGION DELEGATE'S REPORT (Margaret Seabrook)

Merger – The EWGA and EGU have extended the timetable for the preparation of a proposal to merge the two organisations. This will allow detailed work to be completed on the proposed article of association of a new merged company. The proposal is due to be presented at tomorrow's meeting. Once a merger proposal has been finalised and approved by the two boards it will be published and circulated to members of both organisations. The EWGA will hold a series of road shows to further inform members about the proposal. The decision on a merger will be made by the voting members of both organisations at general meetings held on the same day. These are now expected to take place early in 2011.

BLCGA hosted the East Region Ladies Championship at Bedfordshire Golf Club on Saturday 4th September. There were a total of 52 players from all over the East Region from as far as Royal Cromer and South End-on-Sea. The East Region Champion 2010 is 14 year old Amber Ratcliffe from Royal Cromer G C with a gross 139. Our own Sally Shayler was the runner up with a gross 142, and Charlotte Thompson from Channels Golf Club was 3rd with 146 gross. The Nett Champion is Georgina Blackman from Chelmsford G C with a net 139, second net was Lucinda Gibbons from Aldwickbury Park G C and 3rd Paige Kemp from Boyce Hill Golf and Country Club. The weather was very kind and the course was set up in excellent condition for a Championship. Margaret particularly wanted to say a big thank you to Bedfordshire G C for allowing us to hold the event there, particularly on a Saturday. Thank you also to all the many helpers who made the event such a success. Thank you to Margaret Watchorn, Lesley May, Elaine James, Claudine Tate and Kathy Harris from BLCGA and to Dr Andrea Kingston Ladies' Captain of Bedfordshire Golf Club and her team of helpers.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT (Jacky Levinson)

The end of August marks the end of the Association's financial year, and the next task is to prepare the final accounts for the year and get them audited. To this end, please could anyone with income and/or expenditure relating to 2009/2010 pass the details to the Treasurer without delay.

During August, the overdue donation to the Junior Section was eventually made (my apologies for the oversight!). As we collected subs from 1136 ladies, the sum of £1136 was transferred across, along with a donation of £40 received from Caddington Ladies' Section.

We have finished the year still 'in the black', but as mentioned at the last Delegates' meeting, BLCGA has not been immune to the effects of the 'credit crunch' and this has prompted a modest increase in subscriptions for next year. Whilst on the subject of subscriptions, these do fall due on 1st January and failure to pay by 31st January will mean that the Club's affiliation will lapse so if all delegates could inform their Clubs of this as soon as possible, hopefully this will avoid any problems.

Simon Kimber, chair of BCGP writing to the County Treasurer has asked that all clubs identify correctly the number of Junior girls at their club as this number equates to the Coaching Grant given to the County. This figure is requested on the 2011 Subscription Form.

9. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Elaine Bruce)

Elaine thanked Margaret S and Bedfordshire GC for all the work done to make the recent EWGA East Region Championship so successful.

Rob Cheney has again been approached to assist with the coaching for the 1st & 2nd teams through the autumn and winter.

The assistant coach at John O'Gaunt will help with the 'improvers' golfers with a handicap between 13 & 9. If any clubs have ladies in this category please let Elaine know so they can be brought into the program.

The £50 grant for clubs is still available until the end of the year but will not roll over for clubs not making use of it in 2010.

10. VICE CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Shelagh Cormack)

Shelagh accepted that this has not been the most successful year for the 2nd team however even though we have lost matches they have been very close calls. The match against Norfolk was a good example.

The 'young' team from Essex were the winners at the Jamboree but Shelagh did admit they were a delight to watch as their game was indeed better than Bedfordshire's. Despite the losses Shelagh was pleased to say that the camaraderie within our team is brilliant and we are hoping for more success in 2011.

11. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT (Claudine Tate)

The Final of the County Knock-out Foursomes took place at Dunstable Downs on 19th August between Dorothy Blackburn and Diane Green of Aspley Guise and Jean Ward and Rachel Hobbs of Beds & County. The winners for 2010 are Dorothy Blackburn and Diane Green who won 2 & 1.

The 1st & 2nd Division Autumn Meetings will be held at The Bedford on Wednesday 8th September. 37 ladies representing 9 clubs have entered the 1st Division and 20 ladies representing 7 clubs have entered the 2nd Division.

The 18 Hole 4BBB Stableford will be held at Chalgrave Manor on 27th September. For this competition we have 36 entries representing 10 clubs

Claudine thanked all those who have worked so hard to ensure reasonable entries in the competitions this year.

12. HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT (Heddwen Molloy)

It is a very quiet time for handicaps at the moment with no changes happening obviously and she has received very few queries. All appears to be running smoothly.

However, although the majority of clubs are linking with the CDH regularly it would appear that not all clubs are doing so. In order for the system to work efficiently it is necessary for all of us to do our part. She has sent an e-mail to Handicap Secretaries to this effect but would appreciate it if you would also do whatever you can to help in this area.

With regard to clubs' views on the number of cards required to keep an Active Handicap 12 replies received to date so if your club has replied – thank you. To those clubs who have not given their opinion yet, please let her know. It is your opportunity to give your views on a subject that will affect every player.

The only other thing is that the EWGA has decided that Rules Seminars will be run in alternate years and that the new series will commence during 2012. It is believed that this would enable EWGA to continue to have the necessary number and quality of excellent referees to officiate at our championships and competitions. As you know currently we only have 2 qualified referees in Bedfordshire (Margaret and Joan) who attended a seminar this year. Although one or two of us have taken the course in the past we need to refresh our skills and attend one of these seminars. So if you know of anyone else who would be interested she would be pleased to hear from you.

13. JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT (Maureen Dawson)

On behalf of the Junior Committee Heather Nolan thanked again the clubs who had sent donations to the Junior Fund, these now totalled over £400. These donations will be used to assist the 2011 training program.

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

On August 9th a team of 16 ladies travelled to Rushden to play against Northants. They were captained by Joan Cocksedge as Sam was not able to be there and achieved a good win by 5 matches to 3.

On 26th August we held the Seniors Championship at Dunstable Downs. The weather was disappointing and we almost did not begin play because the clouds were so low it was like dense fog! However we did play, the conditions improved, the course was in great condition and we all had a good day. The Seniors Champion, winner of the Squires Cup for the best gross score, was, for the second year running, Past County Captain Jos Faris. The winner of the Bond Trophy for the best nett score in either division for over 65s was Helena Walkington from Aspley Guise. The other main winners were Jane Firth (Aspley Guise) in division 1 and Jenny Webb (Dunstable Downs) in division 2. The winners of the Lannaway putter were Aspley Guise's team of Elaine James, Helena Walkington, Vicky Astley and Christine Moxom. Well done to everyone that played.

During the season the Senior 2000 knockout has been going on and we now have our 2 finalists – Irene Abri from Wyboston and Rita Greenlaw from Leighton Buzzard. They are going to be fighting out the final on Wednesday September 22nd at Aspley Guise Golf Club at 2.30pm.

Still to come for this season is the Autumn Jolly 4BBB at Bedfordshire on September 13th. Sam has had a fantastic response and has a field of 72 ladies entered to play.

The last event for the Seniors this year is a match against Bucks at Millbrook on Thursday, the 9th September. In the past this has been a singles match off scratch but this year we are going to play 4BBB off scratch. We are hoping for a good result.

15. PAST CAPTAINS' CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Gill Smith)

Nothing to report for the Past Captain's since the last meeting.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jan Garratt (AG&WS) - Ann Taylor her Vice Captain had asked about the 2011 Championship. Claudine explained that despite several letters to the club about this event they had eventually emailed her in August to say they were unable to host the event. It was agreed that in future the relevant Club Delegate would be copied in on the letter from the Competition Secretary to a club being asked to host an event. In this way the Ladies Committee will be aware and can monitor progress to assist the Competition Secretary. Claudine will email all County Delegates with 2011 fixture information.

Alison Kavanagh (The B) – her Lady Captain thanked all the clubs for their help in organizing their Shield matches in 2011.

Margaret S congratulated Elaine James on coming 3rd in the EWGA Northern Region Seniors Competition.

The Veterans Trophy, Ampthill Cup and the Team Shield will be presented at the AGM and not at the Autumn Meeting.

17. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Annual General Meeting Monday 1st November 2010 at John O'Gaunt Golf Club – Commencing promptly at 2.00pm.

The next County Meeting is on Monday 10th January 2011 South Beds Golf Club, commencing at 1.00pm.

Elaine thanked Aylesbury Vale Golf Club for their hospitality and closed the meeting at 2.00pm.

Signed _____

Date _____