

**BEDFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION**

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MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

held at

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD GOLF CLUB**

on

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 1.00pm

The County Captain welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Leighton Buzzard Golf Club for hosting it. County Delegates Gwen Walpole (PP) and Brenda Lee (AV) were attending their first meeting and they were asked to introduce themselves.

**THOSE PRESENT**

L May (Captain), A Shuter (President), M Watchorn (Vice President), K Harris (Secretary), E Bruce (Vice Captain), A Taylor (Treasurer), S Cleaver (Competition Secretary), S Turnbull (Senior's Captain), G Smith (Past Captains' Captain), C Goldsmith (County Junior Organiser), E James (Course Assessor Officer), A Shirville (LB), W Albone (SB), L McCartney (BM), B Kewell (C), H Nolan (B&Co), L Gunn (W), N Shane (Ca), J Cocksedge (JOG), N Jackson (M), G Walpole (PP), A Whitehouse (DD), M Underhill (TB) and B Lee (AV).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from H Molloy (Handicap Adviser), M Seabrook (East Region Representative), J Faris (Immediate Past Captain), M Frost (Assistant Handicap Adviser), C McDonald (B), C Waters (JOG), E Mackirdy (Mow) and S Eastley (BM).

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (10<sup>th</sup> March 2008)**

These were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the County Captain.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Beadlow Manor and Wyboston reported that they have used the £50 grant on training sessions and Aspley Guise has a session on the mental aspects of the game planned.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. Two e-mails from the EWGA Press Officer. One to request a photo of this meeting and one to ask for any relevant County or Club news. **Please see the notice on the website.**

b. Development Reports for March to June. As these come through regularly from Steven Peet our Development Officer, in future, instead of printing them and bringing them to the County Meeting they will be forwarded to County Delegates for club distribution.

c. At the last Midlands Division AGM it was agreed to archive all the historic paperwork and photographs. A DVD has been produced and after the Executive have had an opportunity to view it each club will be able to borrow it in turn.

d. On 8<sup>th</sup> May Emma Lowe EWGA sent an e-mail to say that Distance Measuring Devices are NOT permitted to be used in Regional and County competitions in accordance with Rule 14-3.

e. In the current Women & Golf magazine there is a quote from Kathy in the article about serving on committees.

f. Audrey has received a letter from EWGA about a Special Resolution. This is an amendment to the Articles of Association - item 11 concerning 'Non-voting members'. These are every individual lady member of English golf clubs and it would cost in excess of £30,000.00 to contact each one of them through their golf club (there is no central database of all members) each time notification of a meeting is required. This will be signed in favour and returned to EWGA.

Wendy Albone (SB) asked if ball finder machines were permissible in competitions? Kathy will ask Emma Lowe and report back.

#### **5. EAST REGION DELEGATE'S REPORT (Margaret Seabrook)**

As Margaret was unable to attend the last meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June, Kathy read the report.

The members' pack that is mentioned in the area of responsibility for the Club Delegate has still not been produced by EWGA as there is not sufficient money available so Jim Robinson is looking for sponsorship.

If counties need assistance in writing constitutions this is available at EWGA.

Details of the Special Resolution have now been sent out to all Counties and EWGA are hoping for a 75% response.

Anne Archer's report on the Australian Spoons competition was read and it was agreed that this competition should be promoted more within all clubs as it is a National Competition open to 21 – 36 handicap players. Emma Lowe will produce an information sheet for this event.

It is expected that the 2009 EWGA Conference will be held in April.

The ELGA Trust is really short of money so it is important that all CJO's monitor all grant applications. Current Trust merchandise is available on "sale" on the web site and new products are being sourced. It was suggested that clubs are encouraged to run one competition with the fees being donated to the ELGA Trust.

There will be a de-brief of County Match Week in all regions.

At a recent CJO meeting it was agreed that a Junior County Match Week was too expensive and a provisional fixtures list was agreed.

The next meeting is 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT (Ann Taylor)**

Subscriptions for the year are all in, totalling £7146 and £1195 has been paid to the Junior fund.

We have received a generous donation of £200 from Seabrook Investments to help towards training.

9 clubs have so far taken advantage of the £50 grant offered by the County for training.

**As the County subscriptions have not been increased for over 7 years it has been agreed to increase them by £1 from January 2009. This will be an agenda item for the AGM.**

Lesley explained that the Executive Committee will be meeting next month to look into all costs relating to County Competitions and County Match Week.

**7. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Lesley May)**

Since the last meeting in March the 1<sup>st</sup> team played against Northants at Millbrook. It was a foursomes match and we lost 1 ½ to 5. We had a practice match in April at Dunstable Golf Club, which ended spectacularly with a 'white out' of the course. We only just finished in time! Our other friendly was against Buckinghamshire, played at Woburn Golf Club on the Duchess course. We had a good match and only just lost by 1 ½ to 2 ½.

At the beginning of May the County Championships and County Cup finals were held at Bedfordshire Golf Club in good weather. The standard was high with exciting match play. In the semi finals Holly Aitchison had to play 7 under par to beat Laura Collin on the 18<sup>th</sup> who played 6 under par. The final was between Sally Shayler and Holly Aitchison, which Holly won and became our 2008 champion. Paula Collin won the County Cup.

The team for county week was  
Holly Aitchison – Bedfordshire  
Katie Burman – John O'Gaunt  
Elaine Bruce – John O'Gaunt  
Laura Collin – John O'Gaunt  
Cecilia Holden – John O'Gaunt  
Heather Mutton – Leighton Buzzard

Bridie Quinn – South Beds  
Sally Shayler – Bedfordshire  
Pippa Willis – Colmworth

County Week was held at The Links G.C. Newmarket and under the new regional format, which included Hertfordshire and Essex joining Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambs & Hunts and Bedfordshire. It was new scenario for us and there were 5 days of 36 hole competitive golf. None of the original counties could touch Herts or Essex, although in matches won we finished joint 3<sup>rd</sup> with Suffolk. You have to realise that Herts have 5000 members with an income of £25,000 compared to our 1500 members and income of £5000. Essex are equally large with 94 clubs compared to our 19. We are all hoping it will not develop into a 2-horse race as before we were all very much in the frame. We now know what we have to do and that is to have more players with handicaps of 3 and under. The way forward must be through our Junior section and we must all try and promote and help any youngster who shows interest. The junior committee are doing a great job with this.

Lesley and all of the team would like to thank the supporters and the caddies during County Week. It makes such a difference to the players to see the yellow Bedfordshire shirts supporting them. The team had a great many Good Luck cards and these are here today for you to have a look at. Another thing Lesley urged everyone to look at is the reports on the BLCGA web site. There are some excellent photos, taken by Lin Gunn, who also acted as a great caddie master during the week.

Lesley has arranged coaching sessions for the mid-handicappers for iron and the short game. We had one session last Saturday but only 6 people wanted to come and so Lesley had to cancel one of the sessions.

**The next date is July 28<sup>th</sup> for the short iron game with Mark Wall at John O’Gaunt. At the moment Lesley only has 4 names. She will e-mail all the delegates with the details again and hope that they will promote this.**

Lesley is now getting to work to arrange a training programme for the winter and next spring and looks forward to everyone trying to improve their handicaps this summer.

#### **VICE CAPTAIN’S REPORT (Elaine Bruce)**

Elaine thanked Lesley for all her hard work during County Week.

2nd Team matches played so far this year:

In April at Dunstable Downs we had an enjoyable match against the Seniors with a 7½ to 4½ win. In May we played Northants at Staverton who fielded a very strong team, many of whom were Staverton members. We lost 9 – 3.

The Norfolk Bowl matches are scheduled for Beadlow Manor on 21<sup>st</sup> July against Suffolk, at John O’Gaunt on 4<sup>th</sup> August against Norfolk and at the Moathouse on 11<sup>th</sup> August against Cambs & Hunts. Any supporters will be most welcome as it always helps to see a speck of yellow in the

distance – a real boost.

#### **8. GOLF PARTNERSHIP REPORT (Margaret Watchorn)**

Two Forums will be held in September at Beds & County golf Club. These will be on 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with a 6.30 start and are being run jointly by the BLCGA, BCGU and the PGA. The following representatives from each club will be invited – Captain, Vice Captain, CJO and County Delegate from both Ladies and Men's sections together with Club President, Marketing Manager, Manager/Secretary and Professional, together with the County Executive.

Margaret said how important it was for each club to attend one of the meetings, as a joint partnership is vital if we are to take advantage of the funding on offer from Sport England. Steven Peet the Regional Development Officer will be sending out further information about the meetings.

**County Delegates please see the minutes from the March Meeting for Margaret's previous report to remind your Ladies of the proposed Golf Partnership and the importance of these Forums.**

#### **10. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT (Shirley Cleaver)**

The second division spring meeting was held in good weather at John O'Gaunt on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> April for handicaps 21 to 35. There were 46 entries representing 11 clubs and 4 over 60's, all playing for the Janet Miller Trophy over 18 holes medal in the morning and a 9 hole Foursomes in the afternoon. Lucinda Holden (B&Co) won the Janet Miller Trophy and Lucinda Holden and Ann Coates won the afternoon Foursomes. The 4 best gross from the morning, Lucinda Holden, Sarah Walker, Paula Collin and Sue Cook went through to play in the County Cup in May.

The Championship and first division Spring Meeting was held in beautiful weather at Bedfordshire Golf Club on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May for handicaps up to 20. There were 31 players in the 36 hole championship and 29 in the 1st division playing 18 hole medal in the morning and foursomes in the afternoon. On the Friday and Saturday the 16 qualifiers from the Championship played match play and the Bronze division four best gross qualifiers played on the Saturday for the County Cup. The golf was excellent quality throughout and thrilled the supporters. Please see County Captain's Report for results.

This past week the 36 hole stableford was played, again in excellent weather at Beds and County Golf Club. The format was 4BBB in the morning and foursomes in the afternoon. There were 54 ladies playing representing 11 clubs. Pauline Pittman and Pat Anderson (B&Co) won the Lanaway Pictures. The morning 4BBB was won by Trish Sills and Paula Collin (JOG) and Jane Frith and Ann Taylor (AG) won the afternoon Foursomes.

The County Knock Out has reached the fourth round and the draw will be sent out in the next few days.

**The Autumn Meetings take on a new format in that the Silver Division play an 18 hole medal in the morning and the Bronze Division play an 18 hole stableford in the afternoon. The closing date for entries is 9<sup>th</sup> August and forms are in the yellow book. Shirley asked all the Delegates to spread the word around their Ladies Section to see if we can beat the 54 being the best entry this year.**

**Shirley also reminded the Delegates about the teams of four for the Club Team Shield which must be declared before the start of play in the Autumn meetings. Teams can consist of any combination of silver, bronze or a mixture.**

Shirley also reminded everyone that all competition results can be seen on the website.

**11. HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT (Heddwen Molloy)**

There was nothing to report at this time and Delegates were reminded that Martine Frost was available for any queries if Heddwen was not available.

**12. JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT (Cicely Goldsmith)**

On 13 April the Past Captains' Salver was held at Caddington Golf Course in very unpredictable weather including sunshine, hail, thunder and lightening. All the players managed to complete the competition. The event was won by Megan Birdsey, playing on her home course, with 34 points. Three players tied with the next best score of 31 points, but on count-back, Molly Thorne of Bedfordshire GC took second prize and Bethany Healey from The Bedford took third prize from Emily Midgley from John O'Gaunt. This was 10-year-old Bethany's first County competition and only her second ever 18 holes.

On 19 April Bedfordshire played a match against Norfolk at Pavenham Park GC. It was rather wet and very cold but our first team won by 4 matches to 2 and our second team lost 2-1. We were delighted with the first time performances of Vanessa Jay from LB and Victoria Whalley from AG. Both came in at the last minute.

On 13 July the Fun Competition for players with high/no handicaps will be held on the Academy course at Bedfordshire GC. Vicki Astley who is running this competition has worked very hard to get enough entries. She has now managed to sign up 10 players. This is the same number as last year. **Could delegates please ask their Lady Captains and Junior Organisers to check whether there are any other girls who would like to join in this event. The girls do not have to be members of the club but we would prefer that they have some experience of playing on a course.** There will be many adult helpers there to guide them. We do need to encourage more girls to take up the sport. Please either contact me or Vicki (01908 586351).

The Junior Championship is to be held at Beds & County on 20 July. Again it has been a struggle to encourage entries but we now have 12 girls taking part.

The Birdie Training, which was funded by EWGA and the County together with contributions from the girls, was extremely thorough and worthwhile. 6 girls were selected and Chris Sparks arranged for them to spend 4 separate days at TP Golf near Cambridge. In addition to a professional there was a psychologist and a physiotherapist to help them. The girls worked hard and really enjoyed their training.

We are arranging some training for girls with high handicaps in August.

Discussions have taken place at the CJO meetings about the future of the Junior Matchplay finals now that we have Herts and Essex in the Region. Herts have been holding a Junior County Week and are keen that this should continue. However, at the last meeting it was agreed that this would be too expensive and difficult to arrange especially for our small county. It was agreed that separate matches would be held with 8 in a team.

The County Schools Handicap Team Championship was held at Bedfordshire GC on 14 April in very cold wintery conditions. Fiona Cooper won the County High Handicap Girls Championship with 36 points with Georgia Testa in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 33 points and Molly Thorne 3<sup>rd</sup> with 31 points. Both Georgia and Fiona were in the winning team for their school Sharnbrook Upper. The Sharnbrook team now goes forward to represent Bedfordshire in the ESGA National Team Championship at Penn Golf Club in Wolverhampton in July. Fiona and Molly together with Kimberley Jones from Redbourne Upper have been selected for the girls team to take part in the George McPartlin Trophy which will take place in Hertfordshire. The best overall team score nationwide will see that team become national champions – Bedfordshire girls are the current holders.

Lizi Sweetnam and Georgia Testa both took part in the County Championship with Lizi making it through to the semi finals.

Katie Burman played very well in her first appearance for the County first team in County week at Newmarket.

You may have seen on the website that 3 Bedfordshire girls were placed in the top 6 at the NAS/UWT South East England Schools Championship at Letchworth GC during the last ½ term. Katie Burman was 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lizi Sweetnam was 5<sup>th</sup> and Megan Birdsey 6<sup>th</sup>. The County Team were runners up to Essex in the Team Competition. Katie and Lizi were selected for the S E Schools team to go to The Kendleshire GC Bristol this month for the NAS/UWT National Championship with Megan Birdsey as a reserve.

### **13. SENIORS' CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Sam Turnbull)**

The golf season is now well under way and the Seniors have already played 3 of their 6 matches.

- We played against the County 2<sup>nd</sup> team at the beginning of April which you heard all about from Elaine in her report. The County team were just too strong for us however and we lost the match 4 ½ - 7 ½.

- Our 2<sup>nd</sup> match was against Cambs & Hunts at Pavenham Park, in beautiful weather. We played singles off scratch, and even though all the bunkers were declared GUR for the day, because of the dreadful amounts of rain, we lost 3 ½ - 5 ½.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> match against Norfolk Vets Society was at Royal Norwich, 4BBB, and was halved. There seems to be a steady improvement!
- The remaining matches are against Suffolk at Milbrook on July 16<sup>th</sup>, against Northants at Staverton Park on August 5<sup>th</sup> and against Bucks at South Beds on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

The Senior 2000 Trophy Competition is under-way, only 10 clubs played the Qualifier this year which is rather disappointing. **Perhaps next year County Delegates can remind their Club Committees that it is played with the May Medal please.**

The Seniors Championship is at Aspley Guise this year on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Sam has had 50 entries so it promises to be an enjoyable and competitive day. Sam will send copies of the draw sheet to the Clubs together with the entry forms for the Lanaway Putter and also arrange to put the draw on the web site.

Some early entries for the Autumn 'Jolly' have already been received and Sam will be sending out a 'flyer' about this later on.

The proposed Regional Seniors Scratch League is still under discussion although we are not very much further forward.

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

The past captain's have had a bit of a hectic time over the last couple of months. We played the Men's Past Captain's in April, but unfortunately lost! We are thinking of changing the format next year and instead of playing against them, they have suggested playing with them. Obviously we've got them worried! Not sure of the format at the moment, but their Secretary thought it might be nice to try something different.

In May we played Northants at Mowsbury, and won the match 5 games to 2. Later on in May we played Cambs and Hunts at Bourne, this game we lost 3½ - 2½. In June we played Hertfordshire at The Hertfordshire, this we also won 4½ - 1½.

We now have a rest until September when we play Buckinghamshire.

The cost of these matches is going up and we were faced at Hertfordshire with being charged a £25 green fee. Bedfordshire clubs do not charge us a green fee when we entertain other counties, so we are going to have to rethink the way we operate the financial side of these games. Gill will see at the end of the season how much we have had to pay out over the year, and see what she can come up with, to try and make the costs a bit fairer to all who play.

There is some confusion as to whether Past County Captain's, that have not been a Captain of their own club, are eligible. They are, and Gill would like this to be included in the minutes to avoid any problems in the future. She could not find any written record of this fact, so thought it should be set straight.

A commercial now for the Past Captain's meeting in September. This year we are playing at Bedford and County on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. 18 holes a.m. and 9 holes p.m. or just 18 holes. There are 2 misprints in the yellow booklet, first, the ladies who only wish to play 18 holes will also play a stableford, not medal, as stated, and second, with regard to the closing date – page 28 says 22<sup>nd</sup> August, and page 27 says "Entries Accepted until 28<sup>th</sup> June" this should also be 22<sup>nd</sup> August, so there is still plenty of time for your Past Captain's to enter, so please remind them. They do not even have to find themselves a partner, as Gill will do that for them!

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

i. There was further discussion about Distance Measuring Devices and it was agreed that these should not be used in County Competitions and if clubs allowed them it should be written into their Local Rules.

ii. As the 36 Hole Stableford Competition at Pavenham Park clashes with the date arranged County Match Week in 2009 for Shirley will re-arrange this competition date.

iii. Lesley explained that the Men's County Card, which costs £10 and is able to be used over several Counties, is being discussed with a view to it being a joint Ladies and Men's card. She asked the County Delegates to ask their members if it was something they may be interested in. Lesley will report on the discussions.

16. **DATE & VENUE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008. PLEASE NOTE VENUE TO BE ADVISED.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 14.15pm and Lesley thanked Alison for organising the refreshments and Leighton Buzzard Golf Club for their hospitality.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_