

BEDFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

www.blcga.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

held at

SOUTH BEDS GOLF CLUB

on

Monday 8th September 2008 at 1.00pm

The County Captain welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked South Beds Golf Club and especially Wendy Albone for her help in arranging the meeting.

THOSE PRESENT

L May (Captain), A Shuter (President), M Watchorn (Vice President), K Harris (Secretary), A Taylor (Treasurer), H Molloy (Handicap Adviser), M Seabrook (East Region Representative), J Faris (Immediate Past Captain), 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 & M Browning (LB), W Albone (SB), S Eastley (BM), H Nolan (B&Co), L Pearce (W), N Shane (Ca), C Waters (JOG), C McDonald (B), E Mackirdy (Mow) N Jackson (M), G Walpole (PP), J Barton (Til), A Cherry (C&NB), A Hayward & B Sheldon (DD) and A Stroomer (MtP).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from E Bruce (Vice Captain), B Kewell (C), A Whitehouse (DD), B Lee (AV) and M Underhill (TheB).

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (30th June 2008)**

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

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Kathy was asked to find out if Ball Finding devices were unacceptable in the same way as Distance Measuring devices. EWGA confirm that they are not allowed in Championships.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Audrey has received a card from Val O'Grady thanking Bedfordshire and John O'Gaunt Golf Club for hosting the East Anglian Scratch Championship on 18th August, which had been a very well run event.

5. **EWGA – EGM**

Lesley explained that she had invited one of the Non Executive Directors (NED) and a representative from EWGA to the meeting, however as one of them was unable to attend she felt it right that neither should attend. She has also spoken at length to both Ada Parr (one of the Non

Executive Directors) and Jim Robinson (EWGA CEO) to try to understand more of the background to the situation.

This is a brief resume – The problems arose between January and April before the first Board Meeting. The 4 NED's had been interviewed and recruited (although they are only paid expenses not a salary) and met the relevant people at EWGA including the Sue Whittaker, the Management Board Chairman. However before first Board Meeting they were told that Paula Perla had left and would be replaced, a fact already known to the Chairman but not passed on. A remit for the new CEO was discussed amongst the Chairman and the 4 Non Executive Directors, but at the next meeting the new CEO was already in place. Again, a fact already known to the Chairman but not passed on. The 4 NED's felt that the Chairman was not communicating effectively, was giving no leadership and in some instances was being less than truthful.

After asking for the Chairman's resignation the situation escalated to the calling of an EGM by EWGA (the Company) with a Resolution to remove the 4 NED's from the Company.

The minutes of the Management and Operational Boards have been on the EWGA web site and all information received by Bedfordshire has been passed out to all County Delegates for discussion at their clubs. The County Delegates had been asked to bring their vote to the meeting but before these were taken Lesley reported that the Executive Committee had taken a vote prior to the meeting with 10 against the Resolution and 3 for. The club votes were:

Beadlow – against, Leighton Buzzard – against, Beds & County – against, Caddington – against, Wyboston - against

The following clubs gave their discretionary vote to the Executive Committee – Bedfordshire, Pavenham, Millbrook, Mowsbury, South Beds, Colmworth & North Beds and Mt Pleasant.

The following clubs had not yet made a decision - Aspley Guise, John O'Gaunt, Tilsworth and Dunstable Downs.

The following clubs were not represented at the meeting - Aylesbury Vale, Chalgrave, Colworth, Stockwood Park and The Bedford.

Lesley asked that all clubs had a further discussion and reported back their decision by October 1st to Kathy so that Bedfordshire can vote accordingly at the EGM.

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

Margaret was not able to attend the meeting in June but has used the minutes to give a short report.

Our own Jocelyn Faris was congratulated by the Chairman for qualifying for the matchplay stage in the Seniors Women's Closed Championship.

The East Anglian 36 hole individual Championship was discussed again and it was decided it should be left to the County Captains to decide on its future. This competition was started and run by Cambridgeshire Val O 'Grady who is standing down. The EWGA have been asked if they will pay the facility fee.

Club delegates have been asking for the members pack promised by EWGA, it details their job descriptions amongst other things. This has been delayed due to budget restrictions.

The Chairman explained that the ELGA Trust is really short of money so it is important that CJO's closely monitor all grant applications to ensure that only those girls with the most need apply. Please use the website to purchase any of their merchandise to help the trust. It would also be good if clubs organise an ELGA Trust Stableford competition. Details have been sent to clubs. Margaret reminded delegates that the Trust is run completely separate from EWGA and is for the benefit of our future golfers. Bedfordshire golfers have and do benefit from the Trust.

County Match Week was discussed and Cambs and Hunts thanked for organising it so well. Timings for the first group out were thought to be an issue also the Captains meeting on the Sunday did not discuss additional point previously noted for discussion. It was thought a better time for the meeting could be arranged. It was suggested that the draw used by the Northern region should be used as a template for County Match Week and the County Finals. This is to be discussed.

It was recommended that the 6 counties work out a fixture list for 2nd Team Matches.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT (Ann Taylor)

Current Account has only £1189.05 but there are still some funds to come in from the Autumn Competitions.

The Deposit Account has not been touched this year and we have had over £200.00 in interest added so that is very healthy. Our share from the Midlands Division fund was £704.00.

12 Clubs have now received the £50.00 training grant, so there are still a lot of Clubs who have not applied yet.

We have received a very generous donation from Hanscombe Financial Services of £800.00.

Chris McDonald as about the amount in the reserve funds – Ann reported that there was in excess of £16,000. Lesley explained that as we have a healthy balance the subscription increase mentioned at the last meeting would not take place. However as costs to the County by the clubs hosting events have risen, the entry fees for County Competitions (which cover food, prizes and a club gratuity) will rise in 2009.

8. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Lesley May)

During the summer months our team members have gone from strength to strength. In July Holly & Laura finished in the top 15 in the English Amateur Stroke Play at The Berkshire.

Recently Holly played in the European Women's Individual Amateur Championship in Austria and finished 17th - which was the 4th best British position.

Laura Collin finished joint 3rd at Royal Birkdale Scratch Open and her handicap is now +1. This means we have two + golfers, Sally Shayler who is 1, Katie Burman 3 then about 5 other golfers on 5. So you see we are improving all the time.

Nikki Jackson & Sandra Gardner have reached the Daily Mail Foursomes final for the second year running. They have had to win 7 rounds to reach the last 16. The final takes place 19th - 21st October at Marriot Delmahoy in Scotland - so we wish them good luck.

The County Knock out Final is taking place at John O Gaunt Carthegena Course on 3rd October at 10 a.m. between Lynn Pearce and Trish Purnell from Wyboston and Barbara Talboys & Lynn Allen from the Bedfordshire, all are welcome to give support.

County week next year is being held at Stock Brook Manor Country Club, Billericay and a few of us went over and played the course. There are one or two tricky holes, but the main thing was they had large and extremely undulating greens - which we of course, are not used to!!! So winter practice will be taking the right club to the green and getting the ball close to the pin!!

Also, in order to give our teams match play experience during the winter Lesley is organising a Scratch Ladder which will take place between October and April. She has contacted the Clubs and they have been most supportive in giving courtesy at off peak times. It will probably only be on a few occasions for any one club. Lesley thanked Bridie Quinn for the original suggestion & to Cecilia Holden who has produced the rules etc. Lesley will send a copy to the delegates for their notice boards.

The Mixed Foursomes, which is taking place on September 20th at The Bedford, only attracted 20 entries - and this after a struggle - so unfortunately the event will make a loss of over £200. However, Lesley has contacted the County Men and they have agreed to contribute £100 to this event, for which she thanks them.

The work of Captain seems to expand year by year and this year has been no exception with the problems of EWGA and the EGM. Also the Golf Partnership, which Margaret Watchorn is dealing with so splendidly. Lesley worries about future Captains and those that work full time being able to deal with all the problems that arise. **She would like to look into getting extra help for the Captain - perhaps a Training Officer - and if anyone is interested perhaps they would get in touch with her.**

9. VICE CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Elaine Bruce)

In Elaine's absence Lesley read the report.

Since our last meeting we have completed this years second team fixtures but have unfortunately suffered two defeats.

On 4th August we hosted Norfolk at John O'Gaunt. The morning foursomes matches were all lost which left too much to do in the afternoon - the girls mounted a fantastic comeback in the singles and nearly pulled off a win but the final result was Bedfordshire 5 and a half, Norfolk 6 and a half.

The last match was on the Jamboree day at the Menzies Hotel and Country Club at Barhill in Cambridgeshire. Our Jamboree match was against a very strong Cambs and Hunts team and despite our best efforts we were defeated 10 and a half to 1 and a half.

All in all this year 16 ladies played 2nd team golf - 2 making their debuts (Vicki Collin and Dawn Glennie) and 1 receiving 2nd team colours (Chris Jones).

At this years jamboree 2nd team captains convened a meeting along with 2nd team captains from Essex and Hertfordshire who will be joining us in the Norfolk Bowl matches next year.

The proposal for next year is to continue with a round robin format finishing with a jamboree day where all 6 teams play their final match. In order to have a jamboree day with 3 matches it was decided to reduce 2nd team matches to 6 a side instead of the current 8 a side. This will also help to reduce the cost to counties as we will be playing 5 Norfolk Bowl matches instead of just 3. 6 a side will also help with team selection as for the working ladies playing all 5 matches means 5 days holiday which may not be possible for some.

In order to fit in another two matches, second team matches will start at the end of May. At this point all counties will have named their first teams for county week. Anyone named for first team will not at this point be eligible for the second team but should anyone go to county week and not actually play they will be eligible for the remaining 2nd team matches.

All counties are taking these proposals back to their respective counties for the 'go ahead'.

10. GOLF PARTNERSHIP REPORT (Margaret Watchorn)

36 people have registered for the Forum at South Beds Golf Club on the 10th September and 32 for the Forum at the Bedfordshire Golf Club on the 16th September. Stephen Peet, the Regional Development Officer will make a presentation and there will be an opportunity for all attendees to participate in a question and answer session.

11. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT (Shirley Cleaver)

The Knockout Foursomes has reached its final stage and the final will be played at John O'Gaunt on the 3rd October.

The Autumn Meeting will take place on Tuesday 9th September and will include the Veterans Cup. As both divisions are playing a different format we have decided to convert the Silver Division scores to stableford points to ascertain the winner. Teams for the Shield must be handed in before play.

Shirley will do the draw for the 18 hole Stableford and send all participants their tees times as soon as convenient.

We are still seeking a venue for the 36 Hole Stableford in 2009.

All County Delegates should have the County clothing price list. Chris McDonald suggested that this should also be posted on the web site.

12. HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT (Heddwen Molloy)

Things have been very quiet on the handicap front since the beginning of the year when the 2 workshops were held, to go through with all the clubs the 2008 changes to the system and, as has been previously reported by Margaret at the last meeting, all the clubs did attend and appeared to find them very useful. They must have been useful because we have not too had many queries since.

However, we have had a request for our opinion concerning the possible lapsing or starrng of handicaps. This is obviously being seriously **considered** for England and currently does apply to some other countries.

Heddwen forwarded to every club delegate details of the question asked and requested their responses at this meeting. Just to recap:

Currently in England handicaps only lapse if a player is no longer a member of any affiliated club.

Acting on feedback to date, the EWGA and EGU are seeking the views of the membership on the subject of 'lapsing of handicaps.' A possible new 'starred' system would indicate that a player had not achieved 3 qualifying scores in the previous calendar year; club committees and organisers of open meetings could then decide how to use this information with regard to conditions of entry.

With the introduction of Supplementary Scores and Nine Hole Qualifying Competitions into the CONGU UHS 2008, the Handicap Committee feel that there is now ample opportunity for playing members to return a minimum of Qualifying Scores per calendar year.

Some clubs have already introduced their own form of 'in-house' lapsing, i.e. returning a minimum number of Qualifying Scores per calendar year.

The Handicap Committee would like members' comments on the following:

1. Should handicaps lapse as per Clause 25 in the CONGU UHS 2008?
Or
2. Should a 'starred' system be adopted to identify players not returning a set number of scores per calendar year, leaving clubs or organisers of open competitions to set their own conditions of entry.

FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE HANDICAPS LAPSE the following applies:
(Blue box)

When a player fails to return the specified number of scores in the period between Annual Reviews of handicaps resulting in a lapse of handicap, the following points are relevant:

- The handicap is ‘starred’ and deemed to be inactive in the sense that it is not acceptable for competitions in which a CONGU handicap is required. The ‘starred’ handicap, however, is not ‘lost’. It can be used in the normal manner for all forms of social golf and is valid where a handicap certificate is a condition required to play at another golf course.
- A ‘starred’ handicap does not preclude a member from playing in a club 18 hole qualifying competition in order to have a CONGU handicap allotted. Such scores, however, must be excluded from the calculation of the CSS.
- Clubs have discretionary powers in very exceptional circumstances to allow the retention of a CONGU handicap where ill health or injury has precluded a player from returning the specified number of scores.

There was a considerable discussion amongst the members present however it was clear that not all clubs had come to a decision so County Delegates were asked to email Heddwen with comments and a vote was not taken.

13. JUNIOR ORGANISER’S REPORT (Cicely Goldsmith)

On 13th July, the Junior Fun Day was held at Bedfordshire Golf Club’s academy course. After many phone calls, Vicky Astley, who runs the competition, managed to persuade 11 girls to take part. The girls started with a warm up session on the driving range and then set out on the academy course in groups, each group being accompanied by a lady helper. The competition included a quiz and a putting competition. There were some promising players amongst the girls who did not at that time have handicaps. The overall winner was Clare Wilkie aged 11 from Aspley Guise and Annabel Pitts from Beadlow Manor was runner up.

The Junior Championship, organised by David Sweetnam, was held on 20th July at Beds & County Golf Club. Katie Burman (JOG) defended her title with an excellent gross 75. Fiona Cooper (B&C) also played really well to win the nett prize with 69 (gross 88) cutting her handicap in the process. The winner of the U16 gross was Molly Thorne (Bed) with a gross score of 86. Molly also cut her handicap. Both Katie and Molly will now go forward to play in what is probably the last Midlands Champion of Champions at Shifnal Golf Club on 14th September.

Seven girls travelled to Durham City Golf Club for the English Girls. The weather was not good but Katie did qualify to play in the matchplay. Megan Birdsey injured her knee and Katherine Carragher is still suffering from the wrist injury she sustained there.

Unfortunately this clashed with the Midland Girls Challenge so only Victoria Walley from Aspley Guise entered that competition. Victoria said that she enjoyed the experience and that she played reasonable well.

Four girls entered the Midland Girls Championship at Sandwell Park on 7 August. Megan had to pull out because of her injured knee. The 3 left (Katie Burman, Lizi Sweetnam and Molly Thorne) were entered for both the gross and nett team prizes. The girls had a brilliant day - Katie retaining the Championship with Lizi hard on her heels. Both girls reduced their handicaps. Their combined scores enabled Bedfordshire to win both the gross team prize and the nett team prize. As this competition will not be held again it appears that we retain the trophies!

Katie also won the John O'Gaunt Girls Open and Lizi won the Leighton Buzzard Ladies Championship. Lizi and her brother reached the semi finals of the Hoylake Open Scratch Mixed Foursomes. Both girls have had a fantastic summer. Sadly we lose Lizi next year as she will be 19. She has been a very loyal support and a great ambassador for Bedfordshire Juniors.

At the Inter Counties Challenge Shield held at Hintlesham Golf Club, Ipswich, on 21 August the scores on the day were very low, the CSS reducing to 70. Molly Thorne played extremely well to win the U15 Nett Silver prize with a nett 67 reducing her handicap. Sophie Hillier also played really well finishing with a nett 70 having reduced her handicap over the previous 2 - 3 weeks from 18 to 14.

The Adult/Junior Foursomes is our last County competition of the year. This is to be held on Sunday 5th October at Aylesbury Vale. Sue Paterson is in charge of this competition and as she only has about 8 pairs so far, she has asked me to appeal to you all to drum up some more entries. The entry forms are in the Junior Handbook – each girl should have a copy. If you can't get hold of an entry form please feel free to contact Sue Paterson (tel no 01525 712992). One of the pair must be in the bronze division and the other in the silver. Cicely proposed that entry forms for this competition should also be in the Yellow Book next year so that the Ladies are aware of it and can take the initiative if necessary.

The County Junior Jamboree was held at Gog Magog yesterday. This is the day when all four Counties in the old Midlands Division (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs & Hunts and Bedfordshire) play their last County matches and the winner goes forward to the Midland Matchplay Finals. Bedfordshire stood a good chance of winning having halved one match and won one. Unfortunately Cambs & Hunts were too strong for us so they go forward to the Matchplay finals.

Gill Westgate arranged a coaching session in August at Bedfordshire Golf Club for girls without handicaps. We are aware that this is where we need to encourage more girls to take up golf. Although only 6 girls took advantage of the session, we felt it was really worthwhile. One little girl is only 7 years old but is very keen and has real potential. Another session is proposed for the October half term week. **Could the delegates please ask their Club Committees to actively encourage any girls who show an interest in golf. If any girls do join your club can you please let us know so that we can introduce them to County golf and to girls from other clubs.**

Chris Sparks, EWGA Regional Organiser, is preparing to arrange some more Birdies/Eagles training next year and hopefully some of our girls can take part.

Cicely thanked all the members of the Juniors Committee who work very hard. They are all very willing and helpful and are committed to supporting the Junior Girls as much as possible.

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

The Seniors Section has been quite busy since the last meeting and have had some good results!

- On 14th July Elaine James played in the Midland Seniors Tournament and won Division B. (In 2006 Elaine won all three regional seniors events!) Well done Elaine.
- On 16th July the Seniors played against Suffolk at Millbrook. We all had a challenging game and the result was a 2 all draw.

- On 28th July we held the Seniors Championship at Aspley Guise. We had 62 entrants which was fantastic and the Seniors Champion, winner of the Squires Cup for the best gross score, was our County Captain Lesley. The competition was fiercely fought though and Cicely only lost out on countback! Cicely won the Bond Trophy for the best nett score in either division for over 65s. The other main winners were Elaine Eayrs (B&C) in division 1 and Anne Coates (also B&C) in division 2. The winners of the Lannaway putter were B&C's team of Elaine Eayrs, Pauline Pittman, Angie Tatum-Hume and Margaret Watchorn. Well done to everyone who played.
- On 5th August the Seniors played against Northants at Staverton Park and Sam thanked our County President Audrey for leading the team, on a very wet and miserable day, to a convincing win of 6 ½ - 1 ½.
- During the season the Senior 2000 knockout has been going on and we now have our 2 finalists – Pauline Pittman from B&C and Mary Haseman from PP. They are going to be fighting out the final on Friday September 19th at Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands Golf Club at 9.30.

Still to come for this season is a match against Buckinghamshire at South Beds on the 18th September. **And finally the Autumn Jolly 4BBB at Tilsworth on September 29th. Sam has only had 14 pairs entered, which is very disappointing. She has done the draw and sent it to the appropriate clubs but if anyone else would like to enter she knows she can fit you in!!**

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

We have had just one match since our last meeting. We played Buckinghamshire at Leighton Buzzard last week, and came away with a 5 ½ to 2½ win. Well done ladies. Leighton Buzzard presented an excellent course, only slightly damp! We also had a very good meal, and the ladies of Leighton Buzzard had provided us with drinks and biscuits at the half way house, as well as flowers for the tables, and county coloured serviettes. Only small things one might think, but they certainly made a big difference to the general ambience of the day – thank you Leighton Buzzard!

We have our Annual Meeting coming up on the 22nd Sept. when we play for the Past Captain's Championship, and also the Carol Rose Trophy. We have 40 entries. This is being played at Bedford and County this year, and we are all looking forward to playing with old friends from other clubs within the county.

16. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Monday 3rd November

None of the Executive Committee Members positions are up for re-election and no-one has resigned therefore there are no nominations. The committee have received no propositions for the meeting.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Carolyn Water (JOG) asked about the status of the County Card. Lesley explained to the meeting that she is still in discussion with the men about this and is still trying to resolve the fact that we do not want to lose a revenue source.

Chris McDonald (B) asked if the Bronze Autumn Meeting would always be stableford format. It was explained that this change was planned two years ago and it was felt that to really determine if the format is correct the 2009 meeting will be the same.

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

The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting on Monday 3rd November 2008 at 2.00pm and will be held at the Bedfordshire Golf Club.

The next County Meeting is on Monday 1st December 2008 at 1.00pm and will be held at John O'Gaunt Golf Club.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 14.30pm.

Signed _____

Date _____