

BEDFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

www.blcga.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

held at

BEADLOW MANOR GOLF CLUB

on

Monday 13th July at 1.00pm

The County Captain welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Beadlow Manor Golf Club for hosting the meeting and for the beautiful flowers.

THOSE PRESENT

L May (Captain), A Shuter (President), M. Watchorn (Vice President), K Harris (Secretary), G Smith (Past Captains' Captain), C Goldsmith (County Junior Organiser), E James (Course Assessor Officer), S Cleaver (Competitions Secretary), C Holden (Beds Golf Partnership), M Faris (Past Captain), S Turnbull (Seniors Captain), H Nolan (B&Co), L Pearce (W), N Shane (Ca), E Mackirdy (Mow), N Jackson (M), D Ashby (PP), K Hough (AG&WS), C McDonald(Beds), M Browning (LB), D Denyer & V Jones (BM) and J Martin (Col).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from E Bruce (Vice Captain), M. Seabrook (East Region Representative), A Taylor (Treasurer), H Molloy (Handicap Adviser), C Clarke (SB), A Shirville (LB), B McMillan (SP), A Stroomer (MP), J Garratt (AG&WS), A Whitehouse (DD) and J Barton (Tils).

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (9th March 2009)**

These were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the County Captain. Lesley thanked Heather for producing the minutes from the previous meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Lesley asked if there had been a response to Cicely from EWGA regarding the change of Regional Training Officer. Cicely stated that she had written to Linda Carruthers inviting her to attend an event or meeting but to date had no response. Lesley asked Cicely to express our disappointment to EWGA.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence but Kathy reminded County Delegates of the opportunity to sign up for the EWGA Newsletter for themselves and their Lady members at www.englishwomensgolf.org. Also Jim Robinson EWGA Chief Executive has said "there is no intention to 'sell' this database and the Association will ensure that the information is solely used for its own purposes".

5. GOLF PARTNERSHIP REPORT (Cecilia Holden)

For further details on any of the information contained in this report, please visit the Bedfordshire County Golf Partnership website, www.bedsgolfpartnership.com or contact either of your two BLCGA representatives, Cecilia Holden and Pippa Willis.

Since our last report in March, we have continued to make progress, albeit more slowly. Our initial funding of £2,500 from the English Golf Partnership (E.G.P.) is now in place, which we are using for the website and for marketing, and we hope soon to start running some workshops. Our website continues to develop and attract increasing numbers of hits and we are encouraged by the fact that our Homepage has already reached Google page rank of 2 - averaging over 500 hits per month.

We have also put together a framework which defines the relationships between The County Golf Partnership and the range of areas and relationships that we, and our partners, will eventually become involved with. A copy is available on our website – it is fairly complex, but we hope it gives some understanding of the potential for developing golf in the County.

To announce our existence we produced several thousand fliers and posters advertising our website and encouraging people to visit it. You may have already seen these in golf clubs and professionals shops. If you think you have not yet received a supply, please let us know.

In May we contacted all the PGA professionals in the county asking for support and so far 10 professionals from 6 different clubs have registered on our website to offer their services.

The mailings to individual clubs asking them to nominate a point of contact have brought mixed responses with only 15 out of 23 clubs having responded. Those who have responded will already have seen that we have started using your chosen communication channel to impart information.

Developments

We are delighted that a further two clubs, Leighton Buzzard and Stockwood Park, have joined Tilsworth in being GolfMark accredited and there are a further 5 at various stages in the process, with one, John O'Gaunt, close to being awarded both the GolfMark and High Achiever award. To those that have yet to start, please go to the GolfMark website (www.golfmark.org) and complete the initial assessment form. This will trigger a visit from the E.G.U. / E.W.G.A. Regional Development Officer, Steven Peet. He will then talk you through the whole process. For a number of clubs it may not be as long winded or as difficult as you think.

6 clubs have so far registered to participate in the 2009 National Skills Challenge.

Despite the widely publicised availability of club coaching grants from EGU and EWGA, only five clubs in the County have so far taken this up (Wyboston, Dunstable Downs, Mowsbury, Tilsworth and Leighton Buzzard). The amounts are fairly significant, and with less than 75 of the grants for non-GolfMark'd clubs remaining, any further delay may result in the application being rejected.

In March the EGU launched its “Adult Recruitment & Retention Toolkit” which is full of good ideas and initiatives to assist clubs with membership development. In recognition of the commitment of the 15 clubs signed up to the Partnership, we have purchased a copy for each of these clubs and will be hand delivering them to give clubs an opportunity to discuss what they would like to see the partnership doing for them.

In May, we launched the first of our Newsletters which was e-mailed to all those who have signed up to receive updates from the Partnership. This will be a regular quarterly feature and will be used to keep all updated on what we, and our Partners, are doing, including events, offers and issues throughout the County.

Our Partners

Our Partners, The Golf Foundation and team BEDS&LUTON (The County Sports Partnership) are already active within the County.

The Golf Foundation has already established Community Links with four clubs (Wyboston, Tilsworth, Stockwood Park and Leighton Buzzard) with a further two to follow later in the year (The Bedford and Millbrook). Seven School Sports Partnerships (SSP's) have also been established and continue to run Tri-Golf and Golf Extreme Workshops. Most SSP's are also running Tri Golf and Golf Extreme Festivals this year with a County Final to be held at one of our Golf Clubs in 2010.

Team BEDS&LUTON is the Bedfordshire County Sports Partnership and is tasked with actively increasing participation in and widening access to all sports within the County. Golf is playing a major part in its "Get Back Into" project which has now been running for two years. The programme targets people of all ages who have little knowledge or experience of the game and so far it has delivered programmes at Chalgrave, Stockwood Park, Bedford & County and The Bedfordshire. Since the start, 127 people have attended with an encouraging number continuing to play once the organised sessions have finished (either as a member of a club or through continuing lessons). A new programme is currently being prepared for September, so if your club would like to get involved, you need to do so now. In addition, work has been done in schools with two Tri Golf instructor courses delivering a further 17 new instructors. Further details on "Get Back Into Golf" and other team BEDS&LUTON activities can be found on www.teambedsandluton.co.uk.

Our Website

Opportunities exist within our website for both advertising and the highlighting of specific events at your golf club. Details of what we can offer can be found on the home page of the website or by contacting our secretary, Cecilia Holden, at secretary@bedsgolfpartnership.com.

What's Next?

- a. The completion of our Development Plan, targeted for July this year, which will include a range of initiatives and targets for the next three years. Approval of this by the E.G.P. will lead to further substantial funding being made available to enable us to start working on initiatives such as GolfMark Workshops, Taster Sessions, and Junior Golf Development.
- b. The start of a series of visits to clubs throughout the County to talk about what we might be able to do to help them and, just as importantly, to investigate what they expect or anticipate from us.

For the Bedfordshire County Golf Partnership to succeed, we need working relationships with a host of people and organisations ranging from the County Sports Partnership (team Beds & Luton) and the Golf Foundation to the individual Clubs and PGA Professionals. This takes time, but we are making progress all the time. Please do visit our website, ask us questions, or even better, offer your services!

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

Report from the East Regional Committee Meeting on 19th June at Gog Magog GC.

Firstly – apologies for not attending today's meeting – I am caddying for our County Champion Sally Shayler who is playing in the Women's British Open pre qualifying at Royal Berkshire. Laura and Holly are also playing.

Laura Collin from John O' Gaunt was congratulated as a semi- finalist at the British Open and named as 4th reserve for the Vagliano Trophy Team.

New Rules Courses are being planned; application forms should be out shortly. All applicants must come via county to enable the Counties to know who is available once the course is complete.

At the time of the meeting there were 2 clubs from our county whose EWGA subs were still unpaid. I did explain that both The Bedford and Pavenham had exceptional circumstances, one the clubhouse had burnt down and the other clubs manager had got into financial difficulties. Hopefully both clubs have now paid their subs making their handicaps legitimate.

The Disability Transportation Policy is on the EWGA website. Anyone needing to use a buggy in a National or Regional Competition must apply to the EWGA. Counties should have a policy for their County Competitions.

The New Members Pack is now known as The Information Pack. It gives lots of information about EWGA and is A5 in size.

Chrissie Owens, EWGA Management Board contacted me regarding coming to one of our County Meetings. I put her in contact with County Captain Lesley. She is keen to promote the EWGA and gain as much sponsorship as possible. We have been asked to encourage delegates to sign up on line for the EWGA newsletter. This can be done easily through the EWGA website.

Arrangements for the Australian Spoons Regional Final at Dunstable Downs on 21st July are all in hand. The Ladies Captain at Dunstable Downs, the Secretary and the caterer are all being most helpful. There are 36 pairs entered. This is down on the old Midlands but the East Region is now smaller. We look forward to a good day.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT (Ann Taylor)

Ann has now received the Subs from all the Bedfordshire Clubs, apart from Pavenham Park and The Bedford. A total of £6492.00. £684.00 less than 2008.

Course Cards total £670.00. £20.00 less than last year.

We paid out £700 to Holly Aitchison to help her with her expenses. £644.00 of this was given in donations from Clubs and Individuals and the rest made up from County Funds.

To cover the costs of County Week Ann had to transfer money from the Deposit Account to the Current Account so the Current Account now stands at £3487.05 and the Deposit Account is reduced to £10,481.44.

So far this year 3 Clubs have taken advantage of the Training Fund of £50.

Although the costs of events have become considerably more expensive we are maintaining a reasonable balance of funds at the moment.

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

Since March we have been very busy training and had matches against Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire.

In May we had a hard fought County Championship at Leighton Buzzard G.C. with Sally Shayler becoming the County Champion at the 21st hole in an exciting final with Laura Collin.

The team for county week 2009 was

Megan Birdsey - Caddington

Katie Burman - John O Gaunt

Elaine Bruce - John O Gaunt

Laura Collin - John O Gaunt

Cecilia Holden - John O Gaunt

Bridie Quinn - South Beds

Sally Shayler - Bedfordshire

Lizi Sweetnam - Leighton Buzzard

Kate Wright - Leighton Buzzard

Reserve - Pippa Willis - Colmworth

We had a brilliant County week. The results, which are on our web site, may look disappointing to you but to me they do not show the superb golf which was played or the very stiff competition we were up against. We lost 3 top players - Holly to the Pro circuit, Cecilia Holden with a broken wrist and with only 3 days to go Katie Burman went down with Glandular Fever.

Notwithstanding this all players played up to and beyond their handicaps and I felt really proud of them all. We had 3 youngsters in the team for the first time and they gained enormously from the experience and also Lin Gunn from Wyboston who stepped in at the very last minute. We were also lucky enough to have Lynn Pearce with us who looked after all the aches and pains of the team free of charge and really helped the team over a very long week. The team spirit was very high and everyone helped each other. With the youngster coming on gaining experience this year I know they will go on to greater things in the future.

Our thanks must go to all the caddies and support team who were wonderful. The only disappointment was that only 5 people from Bedfordshire came to watch the golf. Next year County Week is 13- 18th June and will be held at West Herts G.C., near Watford so I hope that ordinary members will be able to come and appreciate the wonderful golf which is played.

Our congratulations must go to Laura Collin who finished 3rd and won the bronze medal in the Ladies British Amateur Open. Laura is now 3rd in the EWGA order of merit and so impressed the selectors of the LGU that she was named as 4th reserve for the Great Britain and Ireland team to play against Continental Europe.

We have been running Improver sessions at John O Gaunt G.C. with Mark Wall. These have been available for mid handicappers in the County to try and encourage a reduction in handicaps and improve their golf. However, I have found it difficult to fill the 6 spaces for each session and I am not sure if it is worth all the work and organisation to continue with these. There is one more session on 25th July 10 - 11 and 11-12. At present I have one name for the 10 - 11 and 3 for 11-12. It must be that I have got the publicity for this wrong.

The entries for the Fund Day in October are gradually coming in, but I still need a lot more. The County Mixed Foursomes has only 1 entry and I need at least 25 entries to break even for this event. If I have not obtained enough by the closing date August 16th I will have to cancel the event. Please try and encourage your ladies to enter, not only these, but all the other excellent competitions. I will send out some posters for you to put on your notice boards.

Lesley asked Delegates to get feedback on the improver sessions from ladies who have attended them and report back at the next meeting.

9. VICE CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Elaine Bruce)

The 2008 season sees a change in the Norfolk Bowl format. As with first team matches Hertfordshire and Essex have joined us giving 5 matches rather than the three in previous years. As before the season will end with a 'jamboree day' with all the teams playing their final match on one day - this year our jamboree opponent will be Essex at Aldborough in Suffolk on the 17th August. The teams have also been cut from 8- a -side to 6-a-side. The same number of matches are now played as in 1st team games ie 3 foursomes in the morning and 6 singles in the afternoon.

This seasons matches began with Cambs and Hunts on the 29th May at Brampton Park. Sue Bellingham from Aylesbury Vale played in her first full 2nd Team match and secured a point in the afternoon singles which we halved 3 : 3 - a good result. Unfortunately the morning foursomes had been lost 3 : 0 meaning an overall score of 6 : 3 to last year's trophy winners.

Our next match was against Hertfordshire at South Beds on 11th June. This was our first 2nd Team Match when we would discover if Hertfordshire 2nd Team were as strong as we suspected they would be. In the end they won all nine points but Bedfordshire played some fantastic golf especially in the singles - all but one of the matches going to the 17th or 18th. 9 : 0 was not in my opinion a true reflection of the way we played. Looking at the results coming in from the other counties it would appear that as with First Team matches Hertfordshire may be the team to beat. The bar has been raised.

Today the team are playing against Suffolk at Haverhill.

Finally, I'm delighted to announce that Sheila Cormack has agreed to be my Vice-Captain. Sheila has been a staunch supporter of BLCGA for more years than she would probably care to remember! She has a wonderful knowledge of golf and Ladies County golf in particular. As the old saying goes 'what she doesn't know probably isn't worth knowing!' I am very much looking forward to working with her.

10. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT (Shirley Cleaver)

The County Knock Out Foursomes has reached the semi final stage. Mary Haseman, The Bedford and Jill Geary, Pavenham Park play Cynthia Pyke, Pavenham Park and Di Spinks, Pavenham

Park. Paula Foot and Angie Tatum-Hume both Beds & County play Marion Farrow and Sylvia Showan both John O'Gaunt.

The Championship was held on 7,8 & 9 May at Leighton Buzzard in very mixed weather. Duncan Mutton and his staff looked after us very well as did Lady Captain Julie and her Vice Captain Liz and their team in a very friendly and efficient manner, which all helped to the smooth running of the day.

The 16 qualifiers were Laura Collin, Sally Shayler, Dawn Glennie, Pippa Willis, Sophie Hillier, Kate Wright, Elaine Bruce, Debbie Pollard-Barns, Claire Hind, Michelle Fontaine-Geary, Helen Taylor, Bridie Quinn, Jocelyn Faris, Lilly Lim, Margaret Seabrook and Christine Jones.

Match play took place during the next 2 days and a very exciting final between Laura and Sally going to the 3rd extra hole resulting in the Champion being Sally Shayler. There is a match report on the website.

Results

Aggregate prizes

Best gross for 36 holes	156	Laura Collin	John O'Gaunt
2 nd gross for 36 holes	158	Sally Shayler	Bedfordshire

Morning

Best Gross	74	Laura Collin	John O'Gaunt
1 st Nett	69	Sarah Russell	Chalgrave Manor
2 nd Nett	71	Sophie Hillier	John O'Gaunt
3 rd Nett	72	Kate Price	Dunstable Downs

Afternoon

Best Gross	79	Sally Shayler	Bedfordshire
1 st Nett	75	Alison Corke	John O'Gaunt
2 nd Nett	76	Dawn Glennie	John O'Gaunt

Afternoon Foursomes

1 st	37 points	Gill Smith & Lorna Harvey	John O'Gaunt
2 nd on countback	37 points	Barbara Talboys & Grace Belcher	Bedfordshire
3 rd	31 Points	Pauline Pittman & Pat Anderson	Beds & County

Last week the 36 hole Stableford was held at Colmworth & North Beds, here again the weather was mixed all seasons in one day. There were 39 entries and the winners, under very difficult circumstances, were:

Lanaway Pictures

and 1 st Aggregate	62 points	Sam Turnbull & Sue Cribb	Bedfordshire
2 nd Aggregate	60 points	Paula Collin & Alison Corke	John O'Gaunt

Morning

1 st Nett	40 points	Heather Nolan & Jean Ward	Beds & County
2 nd Nett	39 points	Sandra Gardner & Nikki Jackson	The Millbrook

on countback from Nikki Clarke & Michelle Reddington

C McDonald asked if handicaps could be published for the Knock Out Foursomes. It was agreed that this was not possible as handicaps change throughout the year, competitors should confirm handicaps when arranging matches.

E Mackirdy asked if a printed fixtures list can be issued in addition to that on the web. Shirley and Kathy will put one together to be issued at the meeting after the AGM.

11. HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT (Heddwen Molloy)

In Heddwen's absence Margaret explained that clubs may have been circulated with documentation concerning the Rainbow Concept (www.rainbowgolfcourse.co.uk). Her advice is to ignore it as it is not supported by EWGA and CONGU.

12. JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT (Cicely Goldsmith)

The Abraham Trophy is run every year by EWGA. Girls submit their best 6 medal cards over the year and the best average drop in handicap in the Region goes forward to the final. Sophie Hillier(JOG) won the best average in the Region during last year with an average of -6. She now goes forward to the final at The Wiltshire on 27th July.

Our first event this year was the Past Captains' Salver held on 19th April at Tilsworth Golf Club. 12 girls entered on a fresh, sunny day. Most found putting difficult but there were some good scores. The winner was 11 year old Bethany Healey (TB) who scored 37 points. Our thanks to Tilsworth Golf Club, who made us very welcome, particularly the Lady Captain and her husband, the Club Captain.

The following Sunday, 26th April, we had our first County match. This was against Hertfordshire at Whipsnade. We felt we would be overwhelmed as their girls had far lower handicaps than ours. The 1st team play singles matchplay off scratch. However, our girls really played well and managed to lose by only 3 1/2 - 2 1/2. Fiona Cooper (B&C), who plays off 16, halved with her 7 handicap opponent while Sophie Hillier (JOG) who plays off 11 won against her 7 handicap opponent. The 2nd team halved their match off handicap.

On 26th May, the South East of England Schools' Championship was held at Bedford & County Golf Club. 3 of our girls entered. In the Girls Individual Competition, Megan Birdsey (CAD) came 2nd and Katie Burman (JOG) came 3rd. The Bedfordshire team of Megan, Katie and Georgia Testa (BED) came 2nd - missing the top spot by 1 shot! Megan and Katie now go forward to the finals, which are to be held at Fulford, Middlesex on June 22nd.

Our next County match was at The Bedford on 14th June against Cambs & Hunts. Again our opponents had handicaps of 2 - 7 whereas our lowest was 6 and highest 17. We were without two of our best players - both Katie Burman and Molly Thorn were ill or injured. Needless to say our girls were overwhelmed and lost 6 - 0. They took it well, realising that they had played really well.

On 5th July we held our Fun Day at Stockwood Park par 3 9-hole course - a new venue. Although Vicky Astley (who runs this competition) phoned about 45 girls, only 8 played. This competition is for girls without a CONGU handicap but who are members of a Bedfordshire Club. The girls started with a warm up in the driving range followed by the competition. They all enjoyed themselves and each had a prize. The overall winner was Annabel Pitts from Beadlow Manor.

Dave Sweetnam (Lizi's father) who is a member of our Juniors Committee is a PE teacher at a Dunstable school. He has noted that the Government is providing schools with grants to promote sports – probably with 2012 in mind. He has found that there is a mushrooming interest in golf and many schools are providing coaching. Keen to tap into this source of potential players, Dave suggested that he ran a competition following the usual Fun Day event. He contacted the East Region Development Officer for the Golf Foundation who sent goody bags. He generated quite a lot of interest in local schools and over 20 girls took part. Some had not been on the course before but they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Dave arranged for a Lady Pro from Whittlebury Park, Northampton to help them in the driving range before they played on the par 3 9-hole course. Again every girl had a prize – and what prizes they were. Dave had asked the local Pros for donations and they were very generous. There were 30-minute lessons, 3 holes on the course with a Pro, group lessons for 6 girls, free rounds with an adult on a par 3 course and many more. Sue Paterson also brought some putters and a 5 wood that she had bought when she was CJO but had not used. It was a great success.

BUT – where to go from here? Now we must try to bring some of these girls into clubs. Dave did write to Lady Captains to enlist their help. Many Pros are giving group lessons to girls on Saturday/Sunday mornings and it is up to us, the ladies, to encourage and welcome these girls into the Clubs. We desperately need active lady Junior Organisers in each club to liaise with the Pro to help any girls that he is coaching to progress to membership of the club. They could arrange to play a few holes with the girls and generally make them feel welcome. You may remember when you first started what a big step it was to go on to the course for the first time. Talk to the parents and take them into the Golf Club if they themselves do not play. The girls are there and we need them in the County. ***Cicely asked all County Delegates to bring this up at their Committee meetings.*** It could be one lady or maybe 2 or 3 could work together. If you had been there you would have been amazed at the natural talent and enthusiasm that these girls showed – some as young as 7 and 8 years old. Perhaps you could also persuade your General Committee to do some special offers re fees, such as 6 months trial, or a special rate for the summer holidays. Anything that would foster this interest and encourage more girls into clubs. 4 of our best players are 18 this year and will not be in the Junior Section next year so we need more girls.

On Saturday 11th July we played a match against Norfolk at Bedfordshire Golf Club. Again we were hampered by illness and injury – 4 of our regular 1st team players were not available. I am afraid that our girls, who felt that they had played well, were out-gunned again and lost to a much stronger team 6 – 0.

Yesterday we held our Junior Championship at Dunstable Downs. 13 girls took part in very windy conditions. Katie Burman, now almost recovered from glandular fever, retained her title of Champion with a fine 77 gross. Megan Birdsey won the handicap cup with a nett 73. Both Katie and Sophie Hillier, who had the best gross score for the U16s, go forward to the Midland Champion of Champions competition at Cotgrave Place Golf & Country Club in Nottinghamshire on 13th September. 4 girls entered who had not played in a County event before. 2 of them are the only girls in their club and were delighted to play with other girls. These girls also need encouragement from their Ladies Section or we could lose them.

Lesley reiterated the responsibility of the Ladies' Sections to encourage the girls in their clubs.

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 2nd team at the beginning of April at Wyboston and although I was not there I understand that everyone enjoyed the change of format. This year the teams played 4somes both morning and afternoon to give the County team some extra 4somes practice. However the County team were just too strong for us and we lost the match 2 – 6.
- Our 2nd match was against Cambs & Hunts at The Links in Newmarket. We played 4BBB for the first time this year off scratch and although all the pairs put up a good fight we lost the match 1 -3. The 3rd match against Norfolk Veterans Society was at Aspley Guise, 4BBB off scratch, and again the pairs struggled to overcome some very tough opposition and the match was lost 1-3.
- The remaining matches are against Suffolk at Haverhill tomorrow, against Northants at Colmworth and North Beds on August 6th and against Bucks at Weston Turville in September. We are hoping for some wins in these matches.

The Senior 2000 Trophy Competition is under-way, and more clubs played the Qualifier this year. This means that the knockout section has more rounds is therefore more interesting for all the qualifiers. Two ladies are already through to the semi-final having played their other rounds very quickly. The final will be played in September.

The Seniors Championship is at Bedford & County this year on Monday 24th August. I have had 40 entries so far and I am hoping for a few last minute entries too. It promises to be an enjoyable and competitive day. The closing date is the 20th July and I will send copies of the draw to the Clubs, together with the entry forms for the Lanaway Putter. I will also arrange to put the draw on the web site.

I have also received some early entries for the Autumn 'Jolly'. I will email a 'flyer', to encourage some more entries, to County Delegates to go on their Club's Senior's boards in a few weeks. In the yellow/orange books the form has the incorrect name & address on the bottom but Lesley (whose name is on the form) will pass the entries on to me. The date for the 'Jolly' is Monday September 14th and it is at Caddington.

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

The Past It's have had a busy time since the last Committee Meeting!

On 22nd April we met up with the Gentlemen from the County Past Captains' Society at John O'Gaunt Golf Club. We played a Texas Scramble, and did a draw for teams, with the exception of myself, who played in the same team as their Captain. It was a most enjoyable event, and it has been requested we repeat the format next year. This will depend on Derek Watchorn, who is their next Captain. I decided this year's format, after several requests from other Past Captains so it is his turn to decide next year. He did say it might be a fourball better ball matchplay off scratch, they don't like losing, but I am sure Margaret will know how to persuade him differently on our behalf.

We next travelled to Peterborough Milton to play Northants. A new course for the majority of our team, but we managed to halve the match.

Our next match was against our old adversary Cambs and Hunts. This was played at The Bedford Golf Club and unfortunately we lost 2 ½ - 3 ½.

We then returned to John O'Gaunt to play against Hertfordshire, again we lost 3 ½ - 2 ½.

All the clubs we visited were most generous in their hospitality.

Our last match is to be played on 30th July at Oakland Park in Buckinghamshire. The team have all been notified, and it is also displayed on the County Website.

Our Annual Meeting is at John O'Gaunt on Monday 21st September. (They have been very generous in allowing us the use of their course this year.) I have only got 15 entries so far. ***County Delegates are asked to remind their Past Captain's to get their entries in A.S.A.P.*** The cheques won't be cashed until the event! They do not need to find themselves a partner for the afternoon foursomes; I will arrange partners for them from a different club.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gill Westgate is running a coaching session for Juniors at Bedfordshire on 2nd August. All welcome but let Gill know.

Elaine James explained that the current County Computer – which was passed to Bedfordshire from the disbanded Midlands committee – is coming to the end of its life. Lesley proposed and Elaine seconded that a new computer is purchased with an approximate value of £200. Agreed unanimously.

Heather Nolan asked if there could be a revised schedule for County Meetings as the gap between the March and July meetings seemed too long. It was agreed to have meetings in January, March, May, July, September and the AGM in November.

It was agreed to hold the Captains' meeting again next January as it had been a great success this year.

Margaret Watchorn reminded the meeting of the EWGA Transportation Policy which can be found on their website www.englishwomensgolf.org and has also been sent out to all clubs. Bedfordshire will introduce a policy document and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Audrey endorsed Lesley's comments about County Match Week. There were 6 excellent teams playing amazing golf. She thanked Lesley for all her hard work before and during the week.

Audrey explained that the Vice Presidents brooch has a broken clasp and so she and Margaret have donated a new brooch to Bedfordshire, which she was pleased to present to Margaret.

Lesley thanked Beadlow Manor for their hospitality and closed the meeting at 2.15 p.m.

16. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next County Meeting is on Monday 7th September 2009 at 1.00pm and will be held at Dunstable Downs Golf club.

Other County meeting dates are as follows

Monday 2nd November – AGM – Leighton Buzzard 2.00pm start

Monday 11th January 2010 – Aspley Guise

Signed _____

Date _____