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# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

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DELEGATES' MEETING MINUTES

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BUCKINGHAM GOLF CLUB

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WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2022  
11.30 - 13.30

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**PRESENT:**

Janet Beal (JB)	County Captain
Lynda Hilton (LH)	President
Carolyn Rivett (CR)	Hon Treasurer
Fiona Robb (FR)	Hon Secretary
Jackie Maher (JM)	Competitions Secretary

**Affiliated Club****Delegate/Representative**

Beaconsfield

Debbie Parrish

Buckingham

Sue Moore

Burnham Beeches

Jackie Maher

Chartridge Park

Jane Osborne

Denham

Dot Kelleher

Ellesborough

Alex Camp, Mary Hipperson

Farnham Park

Kirsty Fuller

Lambourne

Norma Lee

Oakland Park

Lynda Hilton

Wexham Park

Debbie Quigley

Whiteleaf

Anne Chaplin, Tricia Fisher

Woburn

Allison Rennison

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>WELCOME:</b></p> <p>Janet welcomed everyone, and she hoped everyone enjoyed the coaching session with Tony Bowers; the final coaching session for this year will be on 14 September at Harleyford. 12 clubs represented at the meeting with 14 attendees.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES:</b></p> <p>39 People sent apologies:</p> <p>Sue Schmidt, Regatta Gomersall - Beaconsfield</p> <p>Jackie Edwards, Maggie Stevens - Burnham Beeches</p> <p>Trish Morrisby, Christine Davies - Chartridge Park</p> <p>Rosemayre Barry - Chesham &amp; Ley Hill</p> <p>Margaret Pitman, Jacqueline King - Chiltern Forest</p> <p>Jennifer Aitken - Datchet</p> <p>Kate Brown - Denham</p> <p>Marilyn Plummer - Ellesborough</p> <p>Annie Slattery - Farnham Park</p> <p>Sue Light - Flackwell Heath</p> <p>Pamela King, Sue Holdship- Gerrards Cross</p> <p>Gill Redman, Sara Lumley - Harleyford</p> <p>Gilly Brewer, - Harewood Downs</p> <p>Alison Caldwell - Hazlemere</p> <p>Sue Withey - Huntswood</p> <p>Maura Spencer, Rosie Herbet, Beverley Heald - Lambourne</p> <p>Anne Shaw - Oakland Park</p> <p>Sandra Siggers, Mel Mounsdon- Stowe</p> <p>Caroline Bond - Thorney Park</p> <p>Anita Parker, Yvonne Black - Weston Turville</p> <p>Anne Chaplin - Whiteleaf</p> <p>Alison Kavanagh, Jenny Gibson - Woburn</p> <p>Janet Crookes - Wycombe Heights</p> <p>Susanna Mitterer - Vice Captain and England Golf Voting Member</p> <p>Jackie Edwards - 2nd Team Captain</p> <p>Delyth Barnett - Junior County Organiser</p> <p>Lois Shoosmith - Ellesborough</p> <p>Karen Scott - Handicap Advisor</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 7 April 2022:</b></p> <p>It was reported the Minutes of the last meeting had been on the website since April and were agreed and signed off by the County Captain.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING:</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising. The Exec Reports were on the website for everyone to read in advance of the meeting; no questions were raised at the meeting.</p>	

## **5 COUNTY CAPTAIN REPORT:**

County Match Week went very well with BCLGA winning all five matches. The team worked really hard, played lovely golf and had won CMW by the Tuesday evening, so in Wednesday's matches the girls could relax and have fun. The team was:

Alice Kozłowski - Ellesborough  
Thalia Kirby Harleyford  
Megan Dennis - Woburn  
Lily Robinson & Georgia Lloyd - Buckingham  
Ella Butteriss - Beaconsfield  
Grace Rigby-Walden - Gerrards Cross  
Hannah Cash - The Buckinghamshire

All the girls had come through Junior/County Training and County Championships so JB gave massive thanks to everyone who has been involved the junior/county training and championships in recent years.

## **6 CLUB COMPETITION ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**

We touched on this at the last meeting and asked Delegates to send in information; the question was are clubs restricting entries eg. handicap, number of times people played? FR: a number of clubs responded, common theme is that a lot of clubs are putting entry requirements for Trophy competitions of 36 handicap index and club championships also have HI limits. Mix of fun comps, medals, trophy competitions across all the clubs. So there are lots of opportunities for new ladies to join in competitions and get used to playing in them. Some clubs say part of entry for club championships they need to have played in 3 qualifying competitions in the year before or in the year of the club championship to be able to enter. Some eg. Buckingham in medals have 2 divisions but 1 division in stablefords. No entry restrictions other than club championship which is a HI of 35. In mixed knockouts the men play of 18 handicap index & the ladies play off 28 HI (you can enter with higher handicap but must play off max allowed). JB: there seems to be a large variety of competitions across the clubs with handicap pilimits but it's up to individual clubs to decide. Some clubs do have limits for knockouts.

Dot Kelleher - Denham: do the same with a limit of 36 for trophies and board competitions but allow higher handicaps to enter stablefords, medals and 9-holes to be able to build up their handicaps. Club Championship is limited to 12 but there are seniors and handicap trophies as well.

Kirstie Fuller - Farnham Park: very quiet in competitions since covid. In eg. the club championships tend to get more of the top flight players (under 20) but no limit. We have friendlies with no limits, friendlies between clubs. No limits on competition entries.

Tricia Fisher Whiteleaf: we have a new ladies summer knockout with a handicap of 32.5 and above to encourage new ladies to enter.

Alec Camp - Ellesborough: the higher handicap ladies are encouraged to play. The knockouts have a HI of 30 however the low handicappers will play despite the shot difference.

JB: we need to encourage the high handicappers to play in the competitions for their handicaps.

JM: Burnham Beeches have Silver/Bronze/Copper ladies plus 9-holers. Silver limit is 18.4 HI, Bronze limit is 36, and Copper limits is up to 54. Some of the aged ladies move into Copper.

JB: Quite a few are doing 9-hole competitions. Some will run multiple competitions on the same round. FR: At Buckingham we run one division for a stableford or trophy

competition but Medals in 2 divisions - end of the year winners of the silver and bronze medals qualify to play in the medal winners trophy.

Alex Camp -Ellesborough: Trophies are run as 1 Division, but run a Stableford or Medal alongside the Trophy in divisions with prizes according to the numbers entered which allows everyone to join in.

FR: At Buckingham we run Monthly Medals in two divisions from March to October, and then the winners of the two divisions qualify to play in the Medal Winners Trophy at the end of October.

Jane Osborne - Chartridge Park: we tried 1 Division, not as much reaction as expected. Some low handicappers not very happy but generally went smoother than expected. If buying prizes you need to account for the number of entrants.

Allison Rennison - Woburn: has been looking at stats as to how prizes work out and in general more Silver players win the prizes. In the Knockouts the low handicappers are giving lots of shots.

Alex Camp: Ellesborough have a Golfer of the Year with accumulated points for winning competitions throughout the year. At present it is a high handicapper who tops the leaderboard.

JB: Beaconsfield results consist of 70 people in 2 Divisions. If 1 Division, the the winner would probably be a Bronze player but then the next few places are likely to be silver. It is up to clubs to do what suits your club. County Knockouts various restrictions to handicaps: Challenge Cup restricted HC; Rosebowl no restrictions for high handicappers; Summer Greensomes and Winter Foursomes - no restrictions.

JM: no high handicappers tend to enter the County Competitions even though we would welcome them.

JB - Thanked everyone for their input. Action we will document what we have found out as a help if clubs want to look at options.

## **5 BCLGA CENTENARY 2023:**

JB - At the moment hoping to run a Gala Day (not a golf day), probably a Tuesday in late July or early August 2023. The date to be finalised as soon as possible and let people know so it can be put into 2023 club diaries and be kept free from big events at local clubs so as not to clash with the Gala Day. Sue Moore - Buckingham asked what is Gala Day? Last held on 2019 and Debbie Quigley - Wexham Park described there were demonstrations/sessions ie. golf coaching ie chipping, putting, driving, events like sports massage, golf clothes sales, various demonstrations like the Air Ambulance. There will be options to book events/sessions in advance which will be managed eg. booking in advance. A timetable will be issued in advance together with the booking details.

There will be a Centenary Competition on the Marquess Course at Woburn on Wednesday 9th August 2023 (pairs betterball) - 2 pairs per club Entries will be balloted by club, if there are spaces left then we will open to additional pairs. We are looking for a cross section of players and handicaps from all the affiliated clubs. Susanna has negotiated a very preferential rate for playing the Marquess course and a meal afterwards.

LH: A question re Summer Meeting in July 2023 as was not able to hold one in at Oakland Park 2021 due to Covid restrictions, there is a worry that there won't be the interest with a Gala Day and the Centenary Competition in 2023. Can we hold it away from these dates, subject to time of year so we get good weather. Would Clubs support a Summer Meeting in early June 2023 as well as the Gala Day and the Centenary Trophy?

JB: Raised concern that Clubs are putting up prices this year, what do we think is a reasonable cost for County events given that we cannot run events at a loss. The summer meeting at Beaconsfield is £65 including 2 course meal, is that reasonable? - often depends on the course. Tends to be judged against opens which tend to be cheaper.

A suggestion is a light lunch/salad or sandwiches to cut costs, afternoon tea, or buy own food. Harwood Downs charged £70 for Past Captains Society which is considered very expensive. All felt that costs could be reduced by cutting back on the food.

Costs put ladies off but they do enjoy the social aspect of getting together, meeting other ladies from different clubs, playing at different courses and have a competition with prizes so needs to be balanced.

LH: indicated the Par 3 18-hole Competition at Wycombe Heights only had 12 entries, the weather was very wet but it was a very good competition which everyone enjoyed; there was a small salad with tea or coffee, and 2 prizes for gross and nett, but it ran at a loss due to the small number of entries. JM we look at the budget and work out what we can charge beforehand. We can't can run at a loss so they talked to the ladies about not running next year due to low support and everyone said you must run and that clubs would support it. Jane Osborn suggested that due to Covid the last 2 years ladies held over holidays to this year, so maybe next year it will be better supported as we get back to normal.

## 6 VACANCIES ON THE BCLGA:

**Treasurer:** We now have a candidate application.

**Second Team Captain:** not required to play in the team but to organise the team. There are 2 matches and the 2nd Team Final. A fun job.

**Inter-club Foursomes & Bucks Shield:** Glenise Marfell is standing down so Jackie needs a new assistant. Most of the work is done in the Autumn; setting up the competition entries at the beginning of the year, then taking the entries as they come in, and then setting up and attending the 2 events in the Autumn. For the Bucks Shield there is the updating of the website with results as the rounds are progressed through to the Final in the Autumn.

**County Welfare Officer:** preferably someone with social services or teaching background. Job does little, other than taking reports of incidents of welfare issues and progressing them. The Job Description is on the website. The role covers the County but each club has a Welfare Officer.

## 7 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023:

It was run at Ellesborough this year, who were fabulous hosts, but we only had 20 people playing for 16 spots with 4 who did not want to play at the weekend - so automatically in the final weekend. So should the way in which it is run be reviewed?

A suggestion is that rather than a 36 hole competition we run a Spring Meeting 18-hole Medal open to everyone and we put forward the top 8 scratch scores to the county championship and we also have a nett championship where the top 8 nett scores go through a handicap championship. So at the weekend there is matchplay for both scratch and nett. Note: This year the 16 that went through to the matchplay, the first round of the 8 matches was most one sided and although if playing off scratch there could be 15 shots difference between the players.

There would be prizes for scratch and handicap, divisions would depend on numbers.

JB and JM have been doing a lot of research recently and in the past the Spring Meeting was the one of the main events of the year, and could get as many as 50 entrants. JM would do a draw for the top 16 where the first placed player plays the 16th placed player and so on - this is very typical of draws.

No handicap limits to enter the Spring Meeting and if you have the numbers in the Medal Competition, you could have a Scratch and Nett Prize. A 36-hole medal competition on one day and depending on the course, some ladies would find that challenging. JM looked at this year's ladies and if it had been played as a Medal, then the same 8 ladies/scores would have gone through to the final this year.

JB asked the Delegates to go back to clubs and see what they think of the proposal, especially those who are like to enter it. JB will also write the the players who played this year in the matchplay to get their thoughts on the suggestion for next year.

FR: the Seniors County Championship is on the 21st July at Harleyford, due to close on 27th June. Suzanne has extended to 30th June as the entries are low. Please go back to clubs and see if there are any senior ladies who would like to play in the 18 hole medal competition. This includes a scratch winner and handicap winner. Limit of Handicap Index 24 for entry.

JB: indicated that all 3 County Scratch Champions (Women's, Junior's and Senior's) qualify to play in the National Finals at Woodhall Spa on the first weekend in September.

## **8 WOMEN IN GOLF CHARTER:**

England Golf's Matt Draper and Ben Martin (Regional Support Mgr) presented to the Executive Committee on 18 May about the Women in Golf Charter which was started by the R&A who want to get more women into golf and improve their position in golf. BCLGA are going to sign up to the Charter and help encourage clubs to sign up, we have some already signed up:

- Woburn currently working on a submission
- Ellesborough in early stages
- Gerards Cross to be discussed at Board level
- Lambourne will be looking at it
- Thorney Park will be dealt with by the Management Team
- Wycombe Heights not signed up yet
- Whiteleaf aware but not signed up, under discussion at ladies committee and board.
- Hazlemere downloaded the toolkit
- Princes Risborough signed up
- Chiltern Forest signed up

The Charter wants to get more women involved in/positions on the management teams/boards running clubs. Mary Hipperson - Ellesborough: indicated they have 3 lady members on the Board with an incoming lady Club Captain. FR: Buckingham have a lady Club Captain this year and appears to have gone down well. Sue Moore - Buckingham: it is mostly about who wants to take on those roles, no discrimination. Mary Hipperson: it is getting women to come forward to take on those club roles. Alex Camp: the Ladies run their section at Ellesborough but the men don't run their section it is run by the club instead.

Mary Hipperson: if we are going to raise women's roles it has to be at board-level. Clubs don't appreciate what the ladies can do at club level; we bring a different approach and perspective, and diversity. Ladies can influence. LH: this is not so easy at proprietary clubs as owner, general manager and employees run the clubs, not the members; they decide on the agenda, budget and how to run it. Members clubs are more likely to support having ladies in the management roles.

JB: we can ask Ben if there are any proprietary clubs signed up the the Charter.

Allison Rennison Woburn: at Woburn the members can influence as the proprietor values the members and their opinions. FR had an email from Jenny Gibson saying that Glenna Beasley and the management team are club to finalising their submission.

JB: suggested that any club wishing to consider signing up can contact Ben Martin at England Golf and he will be more than happy to help with advice etc. Also check with County how they are getting on with their signing up and submission to the Charter

JB: we have been contacted by BB&O to resume talks about a merger between the ladies associations and mens union. In the long term, this will probably happen - several counties have already merged and others are working towards merger. It is a bit more complicated for us - the men are merged as BB&O, but the ladies have three separate counties, so it would be a merger between the four bodies. We would certainly want to be signed up to WiG before any merger, and would want the merged body to sign up.

BB&O have produced a proposal document, and we will be meeting shortly with Berks and Oxon ladies to look at what the three ladies associations would want the merged body to look like. WE certainly do not want just a takeover. There are some advantages - BB&O have paid employees, they have more money available, they have offices and better technology. BB&O tend mainly to concentrate on the elite golfers whereas the ladies try to cater for all levels of lady golfers. It is probably 2 years away. If we merge we will want to keep our grass-roots golf going as well as elite golf.

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

JM: indicated that Heather Pentney who runs the knockouts is having minor problems with rules where ladies are complaining that they have not offered dates and are then surprised that they lose home advantage if they have not offered the opponent(s) a date within the offer deadline. Also they arrive and pay a green fee then realise afterwards they didn't have to pay. So people are not reading the competition rules when entering the competitions and playing their matches. The opponent(s) should agree prior to the match that if fees are chargeable and if so, they split them. The ladies should check with their club office as it is a County event that they should get courtesy of the course. Unfortunately there are some clubs who do charge a green fee.

Alex Camp asked for clarification on the numbers of combined wins required for Bucks Shield home and away matches is 7.5, not 8 (ie. 4 Home and 4 Away). JB: confirmed that the rules say it is 8 (ie. 7.5 won matches). JM will check up on the rules and clarify.

Alex also asked if the handicap limit for the Bucks Shield could be a course handicap of 24 and not a Handicap Index of 22, so players in a team are determined by their course handicap at each club?

Tricia Fisher asked how many clubs had not entered the Bucks Shield this year because of the Handicap Index being higher?

JB confirmed that 17 clubs had entered. JM remarked that there appears to be a migration of silver players moving to other clubs. Under the old handicap limit of 18.4 or under, you tended to have 6 - 8 ladies in that range at each club. Alex said it would be more complicated to using a course handicap rather than a handicap index.

JB then concluded the meeting and thanked all the ladies for coming and wished them a safe journey home.



- 10      DATE OF NEXT EXEC MEETING:**  
14 September at Harleyford Golf Club with the Coaching Session at 10.00 am  
followed by the meeting at 11.30 am.

Signed.....

Date.....