



# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

DELEGATES' MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2022  
11.30 - 13.30

**PRESENT:**

Janet Beal (JB)	County Captain
Lynda Hilton (LH)	President
Carolyn Rivett (CR)	Hon Treasurer
Fiona Robb (FR)	Hon Secretary
Jackie Edwards (JE)	2nd Team Captain
Jackie Maher (JM)	Competitions Secretary
Lois Shoosmith (LS)	Seniors Captain
Delyth Barnett (DB)	County Junior Organiser

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

Beaconsfield	Debbie Parrish
Buckingham	Sue Moore
Burnham Beeches	Jackie Maher
Chartridge Park	Christine Davies, Jane Osborne, Trish Morrisby
Chesham & Ley Hill	Irene Crook & Rosemayre Barry
Ellesborough	Marilyn Plummer
Farnham Park	Annie Slattery
Harewood Downs	Gilly Brewer
Hazlemere	Alison Cadwell & Karen Scott
Harleyford	Sara Lumley
Lambourne	Norma Lee
Oakland Park	Lynda Hilton
Princes Risborough	Sue Pomeroy
Weston Turville	Dawn Baldwin
Wexham Park	Debbie Quigley
Whiteleaf	Tricia Fisher

<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 all the Delegates and Club Representatives to the first Delegates' Meeting of 2022, and she hoped everyone enjoyed the coaching session with Tony Bowers, the County Coach before the meeting. 20 ladies attending.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES:</b></p> <p>Margaret Pitman - Chiltern Forest  Jennifer Aitken - Datchet  Dot Kelleher - Denham  Sue Light - Flackwell Heath  Pamela King - Gerrards Cross  Gill Redman - Harleyford  Sandra Siggers - Stowe  Caroline Bond - Thorney Park  Anita Parker &amp; Lesley Hastings - Weston Turville  Anne Chaplin - Whiteleaf  Alison Kavanagh - Woburn  Janet Crookes - Wycombe Heights  Susanna Mitterer - England Golf Voting Member</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2021:</b></p> <p>It was reported the Minutes had been on the website; there were no outstanding actions on Minutes so the County Captain signed them off.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING:</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>BCLGA CENTENARY 2023:</b></p> <p>Bucks County will celebrate their Centenary in 2023 as well as Surrey, Berkshire and Oxfordshire Counties.</p> <p>We have set up a Centenary committee to look at various events for next year. Looking at possibly holding another Gala Day, as we did in 2019, which was very popular. We are in initial discussions with Gerrards Cross to host the day, and hope to get this confirmed in the next two months. Time frame: June/July. As soon as we get the date confirmed we will inform the clubs so that they can lock the date in the diaries for 2023 and hope the clubs will avoid holding any of their big events on the same day.</p> <p>The Exec have been having discussions on what other special events could take place; for one-off events or start something in the Centenary ie. County Team vs an England Golf Team; 1st Team have a Centenary Match against Berkshire and Oxfordshire; an Inter-club Match not just the 1st Teams. We need to involve everybody, not just the 1st Team.</p> <p>KS: aim for the Centenary is to be as inclusive as possible.</p>	

An idea for a new event was an Inter-club Competition, not as the current inter-club foursomes which tends to be for the lower handicap players, but as a 4-Ball Betterball with a club sending 2 pairs; or it could a singles event. LH: suggested could it be like the Summer Meeting as a team event, but the ladies don't need to be from the same club, but make up teams.

JB: important to get club members involved in the Centenary events.

Table discussions followed for 10 mins:

JB's table discussion: Suggestions for Gala Day: have lady pros give coaching sessions, massage sessions like a Spa Day; sports physio to show how to warm up/ sessions. It was golfing stuff, but no playing of golf on the Gala day. In 2019 a charge of £10 per person towards the cost paid by County for the hire of Gerrards Cross Clubhouse for the day. Sue Pomeroy asked about Sponsorship like Callaway or Daily Sports, and they give a percentage of their takings on the day. Other golf attire companies such as Swing out Sister, Surprise Shop, or a clothing company that sells multi-brands. New golfing store in Bletchley might be interested. The 2019 Gala Day ran from late morning to early evening, 7pm. Other events such as new trophy event started for the Centenary as a Greensomes which is easier and more inclusive. Each club runs a competition with the winning pair going on to represent their club in a final later in the year, at silver and bronze levels. Each club would need to give over a date to run the the qualifying event earlier in the year. Would need to find a club to host the Final last the end of the year. Question raised about who would pair for the entry fee, the players themselves, or their club for the pair that gets to the Final as that club's representatives.

Jackie Maher's Table Report back:

For the Inter-county Match with the BB&O have 2 ladies, 2 senior ladies and 2 juniors in each team to be more inclusive.

For the Centenary Trophy competition run as a team event, have the best 2 out of 3 scores count, to encourage more high handicappers to enter/join a team. Clubs can enter as many teams as they like, but the club is told they have at least 1 place held for each club, so there is a space for each club, and then if there are places left the bigger clubs could then enter more teams.

Sue Moore's Table report back:

For the Centenary Trophy, getting teams together can be a problem and getting people to mix with other clubs to form a team also, so the suggestion is you sign up as an individual and the teams are then drawn, so you get the ladies to really mix up.

When thinking about encouraging the high handicappers to play, they enter as a single or you enter as a pair (ie a mate) so you mix the ladies up. You play in a Waltz,

or a 4-BBB as a team of 4 individuals or 2 pairs, who are from different clubs and therefore mixing people up.

#### **Janet Beal's Table Report back:**

Jane Osborne reported a good idea to have a Centenary tournament but rather than have different clubs play together in the main event, we have a prior event at each club such as a greensomes where you mix a high handicapper with a low handicapper, and therefore encourage new ladies or nervous high handicap ladies to play with a low handicapper in the greensomes event at your club, then the winning pair go on to represent their club at a Final to play off against other qualified pairs from other clubs in a drawn competition for the Trophy.

JB thanked the tables for their input, and indicated there is enthusiasm for another Gala Day and for a Centenary competition.

JB indicated that Jackie Maher has been working hard on collating the past history for the BCLGA and for the Honours Board which will eventually be a document on the website. JM indicated that FR had written out to all the clubs in January asking for a volunteer from each club to help in this endeavour; sadly not all clubs responded. JM asked the ladies attending the meeting to check with her if their club had responded with a volunteer to help with the history of their clubs. If there was a little old lady who might remember stuff at their club from years ago, please get in touch to Jackie.

JB: we are trying to get the Honours Board for the website, but we are also trying to find information on the girls and ladies who played for the County and who now makes a living in golf as a pro or a club pro who is teaching, or who work in the golf industry.

If you know anyone in your club who can help please get in contact with Jackie Maher or Fiona and we can put in touch with the Centenary Committee. If you have any old archives at your respective clubs, please contact Jackie M. Some Clubs have already had their Centenary and may have a Centenary Book which may have some helpful information for JM.

#### **6 RATIFICATION OF VICE CAPTAIN:**

JB reported that at the AGM in October last year we did not have anyone standing as Vice Captain. Susanna Mitterer has now come forward to stand as Vice Captain, and will be Captain next year, so we need to ratify her appointment as Vice Captain with a show of hands from the Delegates that they are happy with this appointment. Susanna is currently the England Golf Voting Member on the Executive Committee. She has been a past 1st Team County Player, and was Seniors' Captain prior to Lois.

Appointment approved by unanimous show of hands.

## **7 VACANCIES ON THE BCLGA:**

There are 4 vacancies coming up for the AGM in October are:

### **Executive Vacancies:**

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Rivett will have done 5 years in October so need a new Treasurer which has a 3 year term of office but with an option to extend up to 2 years. The person does not need to be an accountant but needs to have an understanding of accounts. Please contact Carolyn if you are interested or know someone who may be interested in this role.

**2nd Team Captain:** Jackie Edwards is going to be concentrating on her degree so will be standing down in October. The person does not need to play in the 2nd Team but good at organising the 2nd Team. So we need a new 2nd Team Captain. The 2nd Team is good fun as it includes some of the seniors, previous 1st team players and some of the new players starting in County Matches. JE indicated that it is good fun as you get to know the people in County, and it is not an issue if you are a non-playing captain. You get a lot of support from the team members.

### **Non-Executive Vacancies:**

**County Welfare Officer:** Cathy Armstrong from Ellesborough, the incoming-Club Captain is stepping down in October as the County Welfare Officer. Generally there is very little to do in this role but you need someone there in case there are any welfare issues.

**Competitions Assistant:** Glenise Marfell from Gerrards Cross will be giving up in October. This role helps Jackie Maher in running the Bucks Shield and the Inter-Club Foursomes competitions. Run 2 competitions a year, not a huge amount of work but a nice role to get involved with County.

JB: if you know people in your clubs who perhaps have just finished on your club committee and would like to get involved in organising golf at County level please get them to get in touch. You get to work with a nice group of ladies on the Exec and meeting lots of people like the Delegates.

## **8 DELEGATES MEETINGS IN 2022 AND DELEGATE'S ROLE:**

Next Delegates Meeting on 22 June at Buckingham starting with the Coaching Session with Tony Bowers at 10.00 - 11.15 am, followed by the Meeting at 11.30 am

Followed by 14 September at Harleyford with the same format as 22 June.

The AGM will be at Harleyford on 26 October at 2.00 pm.

JB: we understand that Buckingham is a little further to travel to but I am sure you can find a friend to travel with to Buckingham. Unfortunately Buckinghamshire is a long, thin County and we can't do anything about that.

We do have a Delegates Meeting scheduled for 30 November; are the Delegates happy with that date, move it December or January or have it as a Zoom Meeting rather than a face-to-face meeting, or not have it at all? We had talked about it at the last meeting and the decision was made to keep it to November before people got too busy for Christmas.

The decision was to keep it as a FTF meeting at Weston Turville on 30 November as planned but with no coaching session as it could be too cold/wet, just the meeting itself.

JB: we would like to get an understanding on how the Delegates Role works for you, share any tips for new delegates to the role; on how you actually pass information on? The Delegates role is the County Exec's link into the clubs, your club, and sometimes we feel that Club Members just don't know what is happening at County; maybe the ladies at your respective clubs are not interested; how do you pass the information on to your members and some members say that County is not for me. County try their best for the members.

A member commented we had the new Delegate Pack from 2 years ago. FR sends out to each new Delegate, however it was not on the Website. FR will also send out Link to all the Delegates and Ladies Captains each year as a reminder of the role of the Delegate.

Action: Since the Meeting FR has posted on the Website under Association Business.

Table discussions for 10-15 mins.

JB's table discussion: Norma Lee Lambourne indicated that some Ladies at her club don't go upstairs to the Ladies Locker Room anymore, so don't see notices etc.

Jane Osborne at Chartridge Park emails everything out to their ladies and also uses a What's App group as well, even if a notice goes up in the Locker room. Trish Morrisby at Chartridge Park feeds back to the Ladies Committee.

Sue Pomeroy Princes Risborough indicated that some ladies feel that County is only for elite ladies with a handicap of 10 or lower. She asked if a County Exec member could come on a Wednesday morning and join/play with the ladies in a 4-ball and stop for lunch and coffee, and meet the ladies at Princes Risborough and walk the talk! County to show their faces and be seen as normal ladies. JB very happy to go to Princes Risborough - good idea.

Gilly Brewer Harewood Downs indicated that some ladies are just not interested in County. In other sports, County means top end sports level. Gilly also mentioned that the County Captain Monthly Newsletter from the Club Systems opt-in goes to the Lady Captain and she in turn sends it on to their members.

Sue Moore's Table:

Communication, communication, communication is key. Our club is typical with 25 notice boards but now we are starting to use different means of communications such as What's App Groups to pass on information; using emails on Club V1, but also should we have a Delegates' Whats App group to pass on information and keep everyone involved, especially for newer people. County is not elitist; it is not just for the lower handicappers, and we should communicate that. KS suggested that should be one of our aims for the Centenary going forward, rebranding on the back of the Centenary.

JB: need to make sure we change the perception that we are here for all ladies, not just the low handicaps.

Jackie Maher's Table:

Agree with what has been said about County but don't rely on emails, you need to talk to people.

JB asked Sue Pomeroy to explain her suggestion about County Exec members playing at different clubs with the ladies on the ladies mornings and then joining the ladies for lunch and coffee, a chat and walking the talk!! County being seen at the clubs.

LH: all County communications go to Ladies Captains and Delegates to then share with their members. JB indicated that the Exec do assume/ expect that the LC and/ or Delegate shares the information with their members.

JB: a great idea Sue, so if any clubs would like a County Exec member to come and play with the ladies and stop for lunch or coffee afterwards for a chat, then please send an invite and dates to Fiona and she will organise with the Exec members.

FR indicated that because of GDPR regulations, she emails out to Ladies Captains and Delegates on a blanket list using blind copy so that she does not share everyone's email addresses. JE: individuals need to authorise their email address to be used for County communications, and you have a tick on record that you are authorising County to use your email address then that is sufficient to meet GDPR regulations. You need to be aware of this for your own clubs and communication purposes. The authorisation is the key.

JB indicated we at County should send a note out to say are you happy to share your information with other delegates. Sue Moore: the delegates don't have to share and that is OK to say no. FR indicated that the one exception is the Ladies Vice Captains as we do give the LVC's a list of all the LVC's email addresses, so that they are able to contact each other to arrange friendly matches. LS suggested that



if you enter a knockout you are agreeing to allow your email address to be shared with other people. Sue Moore asked then why don't we share more info then.

JB thanked everyone for these useful discussions and feedback. She was aware about County being seen as elitist and perception must be changed. Gilly Brewer said to be able to change perceptions, one of the difficulties is using the name County as that infers elite sports people. JB: it's historic and will be a slow process to change the perception. So come and play in the Seniors Spring Meeting at Buckingham on 26 April and you will see the competition is open to everyone over 50 years old, and not elite golfers. Go and play in the Spring Meeting, meet some very nice ladies and you will see other ladies with high handicaps, have a good time and then go back to your clubs and say what a great time you and not for elite golfers, but for everyone. The Seniors Spring Meeting (Buckingham) entry closes on Sunday 10 April - entry fee is £55. LS finds filling in entry forms on the website can be difficult so you can send the entry form via post but pay for the comp via bank transfer, or fill-in the form and take a photo of the completed form and email that in.

## 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

**Jane Osborne Chartridge Park:** Question, are other clubs finding it difficult to get sufficient numbers to make up teams for all matches? A Delegate (possibly Marilyn Plummer?) mentioned signing up for match's on ClubV1 to say you are available, but only the organiser gets to see who has signed up as opposed to the old way of a sign-up sheet in the Ladies locker room. KS: that's the mechanics of signing-up, not the problem of getting enough ladies to sign-up and play in the matches. Jane was asking if other clubs were finding the same problem? FR mentioned that Buckingham has a problem getting ladies to sign up for the friendly matches. Jane also mentioned that county was looking for more players for the Seniors Spring Meeting. Jane, has cutting the handicaps for some competitions made it more difficult for clubs? JB: look at the December 2021 Delegates Meeting Minutes and that explains the decisions made regarding handicaps for competitions etc. KS indicated she was aware of some clubs capping handicaps at 36 for friendly matches. KS had spoken with Trish Morrisby about how do clubs incorporate handicaps of up to 54, and she had emailed the clubs in their group of friendly matches and suggested capping the handicaps at 36. Trish asked the opinion of her opposite numbers, and the results came that that the majority said cap at 36 handicap for the friendlies. Trish also asked experienced golfers at Chartridge, and their opinion was it should still be capped at 36. KS indicated that 36 is an arbitrary number now, there is no jurisdiction from County;; WHS goes up to a handicap of 54, and England Golf Regional Medal can be played up to a Handicap of 54. England Golf want to go that route to be more inclusive. KS suggested that if you cap handicaps at 36 it makes the situation worse to get a team. KS asked did the Delegates know what percentage of players across the county had handicaps of 36 or above - answer was one quarter to one fifth. So if you were to cap handicaps at 36 you would be excluding up to one quarter of your players in friendlies. Of course you can have a higher handicap but play at handicap 36. She

saw the friendly matches as the breeding ground for new players to learn and progress onto leagues etc.

JE suggested you can look at WHS for other clubs that have the same type of profile that would match with your own club.,and find clubs with the same preponderance of say ladies with handicaps over 36. However that does mean changing to different clubs for your friendly matches, rather than sticking to the historical matches. WHS can help in this regard to creating a better golfing environment. Trish Morrisby thought it was a well established format and therefore discussed this with the circle of clubs for their matches; high handicaps are welcome to join the friendlies but how do other clubs manage that because it is daunting if a 15 handicapper has to play against a 45 handicapper. LH: it is coming back to elitism again.

Handicaps are there to allow you to play against anyone, however elite golfers do not like playing against high handicappers but statistics show that elite golfers will win those matches 90% of the time because the low handicapper is consistent and better golfers. If we as a County want to get over this elitist stigma we therefore need to open every competition to 54 Handicappers. Jane Osborne indicated that friendlies are a lovely way to start off and learn about matchplay. Trish said this was why she sent the email out to the circle of 7 clubs, but still the consensus was to cap the friendlies at 36.

Sue Pomeroy Whiteleaf came to the last meeting at Beaconsfield where handicaps were discussed specifically for Bucks Shield and League matches and she and others at her table came away disheartened being high handicappers.

KS: different clubs have different sized ladies sections ie large or small sections. For the smaller clubs who do not enter the Bucks Shield or Silver leagues as they don't have the amount of low handicappers to play for their club; friendly matches are a great way to go out and meet different ladies and play golf at different clubs.

Sue Moore Buckingham: surely teams can agree on handicaps limits match by match? and that is what Trish Morrisby did. Lots of table discussions continued.

JB indicated that at the June Delegates Meeting we want to discuss handicap limits and for Delegates to share how they do it at your clubs so we all know what people are doing; an idea of what sorts of ranges of handicaps they have at their club; give us an idea of where people are and where we should be aiming ie. if most of the ladies are in handicaps of 25 - 45 range, shouldn't we be having something for them?

JB responded to slope ratings and the difference between Oakland Park slope rating at 109 (lowest in County) and Beaconsfield at 142 (highest in County). Using JB's handicap index of 17.1, at Oakland Park JB gets 16 shots, but at Beaconsfield she gets 21 shots, a difference of 5 shots over the two courses, and thats why it is making such a big difference.

KS: read out the 3 main WHS objectives from the forward of The Rules of Handicapping Booklet, which then led KS to say County should have a clear Mission Statement on inclusivity.

JB: at the next Exec Meeting in May we are going to be looking at the R&A Women in Golf Charter so County can sign up to that Charter. The Charter does have a

Mission Statement. County are planning to sign up to The Charter in the summer and clubs can also sign up to The Women in Golf Charter and the idea is to encourage as many clubs to sign up to encouraging women in golf, making it all inclusive, across all handicaps from low to high handicaps.

**Gilly Brewer, Harewood Downs:** a technical question related to Nil Returns when you don't put a score card in. It is an English Golf requirement; you are obliged too. KS: it yet should come through as a penalty score if you don't enter your score. In the Winter season if you play qualifiers, they are stablefords, but in Medal season play, the way the computer works out is it is still basically a stableford score still but that hole will be capped, example in Spring Meeting KS got an 8 on the Par 3 third, and it was capped as a six, so no points for a six. You might have had a few bad holes but in terms of your handicap it will still work it out as a capped number but they are obliged as once you have signed up for a general play round or entered a competition to enter your score, it should technically be a penalty score applied to their record if they don't submit a score.

GB :so its automatic if you don't enter your score. KS: it should be depends on how the software deals with it.

JE: if you registered, you are registering your intent to play. KS: you are doing that by entering the competition. JE: so you enter the competition, and it goes in the system, the system will automatically say a nil return equals a penalty. KS: Basically the culture should be you have entered that competition, please enter your score.

GB: this is a completed card, but they don't like the score so they don't put it in because they don't want to be bothered. KS: If the person dealing with the competition can find those scores they have every right to put those scores in. You need to put the score in, you can't just run away. Jane Osborne: you have to put your score in within a certain proximity of the course? KS: it depends on how your club software is set up for competitions. What is the penalty? KS: a penalty score is actually better than if you just play the competition because of the way they work it out, is by saying then your handicap will be lower than your playing ability and so therefore you are not going to win anything if your handicap is too low for you. For general play rounds, it has to be at the course, you have to allow 2hrs between start and finish to stop somebody thinking I have played really well today so will enter my card. The ethos is, if you have signed in you need to put your scorecard in.

Penalty scores are better than you would have played, so you could have a handicap that you can't play too, and therefore can't win a competition with a having a lower handicap due to penalty scores.

The person dealing with competitions at your club can remove penalty scores if there has been a software problem with entering your score, or the EG App won't allow you to enter your score for a competition. Please work the your club people to sort the problem for you.

Sue Pomeroy; we have gone to other clubs to play, and we have struggled to get our cards entered even though we have registered to play onto their system. KS: don't even attempt that; do it through the myEG App or you could take the card back to your club, and the person with the access to England Golf can put the scorecard in for you. I wouldn't attempt to use someone else's software. Best way to do it is use the MyEG App, sign in for your intent and put your score in as you go round or at the end. When you do a round through England Golf, an Attester as

they call it, has to approve that round, but somebody that you are playing with will also have to look at England Golf (your marker) will get a message. The word marker is very confusing on EG as when you set it up on EG, it says select marker, it doesn't mean the person you are playing with, it means means red, yellow or white course. The Attester is your marker of your scorecard. You can't use the MyEG App for your competitions at your own club; only when you are playing away from home, but you can use it at your own club for general play rounds. When using Club V1, they don't actually ask you for the Attester and Marker, whereas EG do insist on it. And sometimes penalty scores happen because you have been out to another course, you've done your card, you've sent the message through to the Attester and they don't approve it, and then it sits there on the record as a unsatisfied score intent. So all those things can be undone or sorted by the person at your club who has access to England Golf to remove penalty scores, add in penalty scores or adjust scores. (It could be the Pro Shop or Handicap person). Mistakes can happen but they can be sorted out. It is all about education and informing people, and working with them.

**Jackie Maher:**

We have two competitions to advertise: the County Championship for handicap index of 22 or below. Also the Par 3 Competition at Wycombe Heights (very few entries for the Par 3 so wonder if there is appetite for it?) closing date 27 April. The Par 3 is a non-qualifier as the course is not rated, and it is open to handicaps of up to 54.

**Janet Beal:**

**Girls Golf Rocks:** an initiative being run by England Golf for a number of years to get more girls playing golf. This year Burnham Beeches, Ellesborough and Buckingham are running Girls Golf Rocks sessions, so if you know of any girls who don't play golf at present but are interested in possibly playing golf. England Golf Website has information about the initiative, the clubs and how you can book free taster sessions, and then you can sign-up for the coaching sessions ( 1 hr per week for 6 weeks).

**Delyth Barnett:**

Par 3's Comps, we could do with some more helpers/walkers for the Par 3 Comps. If you have girls who have started golf ie if they want to play, have had some lessons and have a bit of an idea but no handicap, it is an ideal way to get started. There are girls with no handicaps, going up to 40 handicap, and no age cap; its about being able to manage playing. It's about having fun; there are different levels with gold, silver and bronze badges; to start with there are no rules but getting them started and interested in golf. Then feeding the girls into the main 9-hole competition and a handicap. It's all about encouragement and having fun. We really could do with some more helpers for this. We meet the 1st Sunday at 10.30 in every month at either Wycombe Heights, Abbey Hill or Wexham. 1st May is the next one at Abbey Hill. If you can help please contact Delyth. Generally you will get the girls in the Par 3's for up to 18 months then they move on to join a club.

**10      DATE OF NEXT EXEC MEETING:**

22 June at Buckingham Golf Club with the Coaching session at 10.00 am the meeting at 11.30 am.

Signed.....

Date.....