

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

CENTENARY YEAR  
1923 - 2023

100  
YEARS



Celebrating **100 years** of supporting  
Women and Girls Golf in Buckinghamshire

## Captain's Report AGM 2023

I can't believe it's already 12 months since I first took office in October last year. What a wonderfully busy and exciting year it has been. It was and is a great honour to be your Captain, but particularly so during our Centenary Year! Whilst we have created quite a bit of extra work for ourselves, I hope you agree with me that we found a wonderfully diverse and inclusive way to celebrate 100 years of developing Women's and Girls' Golf in Buckinghamshire. I would like to thank Lynda, Fiona, Jackie, Lois, Alison, Delyth & Katie for all their hard work throughout the year. However, there are a number of members who work behind the scenes, supporting the Executive, whether this is running specific competitions, sorting out our new website and IT infrastructure, organising our county lunch, being House mum, refereeing at our events, advising on rules and handicaps or supporting our Juniors. I would like to thank Rosemary De Lacy, Heather Pentney, Gill Redman, Cecilia Williams, Wendy Egan, Helen Mines, Ruth Lambert, Kadda Mohamed, Karen Scott, Janet Beal and Pam Munday-Cripps. We would not function without you!

A special mention must go to Fiona Robb, our Honorary Secretary who is retiring this year after 3 years on the Executive. Having worked in close partnership with Fiona this past year, I must say that her attention to detail, time management and level of dedication to the committee and her support to me personally is unrivalled and I am extremely grateful for your dedication and hard work!

A great 'thank you' also to Lois Shoosmith, our outgoing Seniors Captain who is retiring after two years on the Executive Committee. I have had the privilege to spend quite a bit of time with Lois travelling to our Senior's matches, playing with her in our friendlies and most recently travelling to the Seniors Team Championship and benefiting from your support during the County Finals. I thoroughly enjoyed your company and the many stories from your extensive globetrotting! I have gained a wonderful friend and am grateful for your camaraderie.

### Our Centenary Programme

To start off our Centenary year, we issued the Centenary edition of the County booklet which was welcomed by many! Our celebrations started with our County Lunch at Woburn Golf club attended by over 80 Ladies and dignitaries from both England Golf and the BB&O. We then held a very successful Golf Gala Day at Harleyford in July and our inaugural Centenary Trophy at Woburn Golf Club in August. I am delighted that this 4BBB competition will continue into the future and look forward to having many pairs from all our golf clubs represented at this event going forward.

### Our Meetings

I enjoyed attending the Vice Captain's meeting in April and all the Delegates Meetings throughout the year. I think the combination of Face to Face meetings, complemented by Zoom calls over the winter months has worked well and we will continue with this multi-media format throughout this winter period. We discussed, workshopped and shared knowledge on a vast range of strategic topics, from the Women in Golf Charter, to the changes required by the implementation of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policies and most recently, the Respect in Golf campaign. We created, implemented and shared the results of both a Golf Club as well as a Members Survey and we are looking forward to continuing the ongoing dialogue with you all as we are heading into a competition review programme.

## County Championship / Spring Meeting

Flackwell Heath hosted this year's County Championship, incorporating the Spring Meeting and Intermediate Championship. An eventful day with torrential rain, hail storms and partially flooded greens and fairways in the afternoon for those players who braved it out for 36 holes, testing even the best of them. We witnessed a magnificent new course record of 69, set by Ella Butteriss (Beaconsfield) followed by a 70 in the inclement weather in the afternoon, which was the best overall gross score. The 18 holes Nett prize went to Jackie Taylor (Wexham Park), and the Intermediate Championship to Megan Dennis (Woburn) with a gross score of 140. Saturday afternoon and Sunday saw some closely fought matches in both the Gross and Nett match-play competition. The Inaugural Handicap Championship Final was played by Claudia Weston (Gerrards Cross) and Shannon Holt (Flackwell Heath) and was decided on the 19<sup>th</sup> hole in favour of Shannon in front of her home supporters. She received the wonderful new Siler Plate donated by Lynda Hilton, our President.

The Gross match-play final was between Ella Butteriss (Beaconsfield) and Megan Dennis (Woburn) and also finished on the 19<sup>th</sup> hole when Ella holed yet another birdie. Between the two, there were no less than 13 birdies. Spectators young and old just watched in awe! Congratulations to all our Champions and participants.

## County Match Week

10 players represented Buckinghamshire at CMW 2023:

Ella Butteriss (Beaconsfield), Georgia Lloyd (Buckingham), Megan Dennis (Woburn), Alice Kozlowski (Ellesborough), Olivia Lee (Gerrards Cross), Lulu Leetham (Buckingham), Ellie Lichtenhein (The Buckinghamshire), Grace Rigby-Walden (Gerrards Cross), Lily Robinson (Buckingham), Roisin Scanlon (Woburn).

We were greeted by a sun-drenched links style course that presented in excellent condition.

A mixture of white/yellow and red tees provided a good challenge combining drivable short holes with those requiring strategic placing off the tee and allowing for the occasional use of 'boom-boom' driver for maximum distance.

We started the week with two convincing 5:0 victories over Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Tuesday morning brought thunderstorms and flooding but the green staff worked tirelessly to enable us to start with just a 15 minute delay. Our morning match versus Warwickshire was nip and tuck for a while before we managed to turn around a few crucial matches to win 4:1. The afternoon match was also a great test, but our Women & Girls pulled through for another convincing 4:1 victory over Northamptonshire.

That left us with 8 points from 4 matches, with Worcestershire & Herefordshire (W&H) just 1 point behind. So it was still all to play for on Wednesday morning - with Bucks requiring at least a halved match to win for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in a row.

For a long while all the matches flowed between 1up/All Square/1 down, but then W&H got the upper hand in our first two Foursomes winning 2&1 and 5&4 respectively. This left us with no other option than to bring in the three Singles Matches for an outright victory. Megan Dennis had been in control of her match pretty much from the start but only ever 1 or 2up. She held her nerve and when she teed it up on 18<sup>th</sup> tee she was 1 up with 1 to go. Meanwhile Olivia Lee had edged ahead in the middle match and won her match 3&2. That left Ella Butteriss under pressure to bring in her increasing lead in the anchor game and she finished with a solid par on 17<sup>th</sup> green to win 3&2 over Olivia Williams. Megan duly holed her par putt on 18 to with by 2up and thus securing the outright victory for Buckinghamshire.

We are all absolutely delighted that the Doris Abraham Trophy is coming home again!

A HUGE thank you to all our spectators, supporters and caddies, too many to name them all here. It was wonderful to see the fairways lined by red shirts!

And, of course, a massive Thank you to Tony Bowers, County Coach, Lynda Hilton, President and Helen Mines, House Mum for their unwavering support and counsel.

## National Finals

The following team represented Buckinghamshire at the Women's County National Finals from 21-24<sup>th</sup> September at Kings Lynn Golf Club:

Ella Butteriss (Beaconsfield), Megan Dennis (Woburn), Lulu Leetham (Buckingham), Lily Robinson (Buckingham), Alice Kozlowski (Ellesborough), Demi Maxey (Abbey Hill), Georgia Lloyd (Buckingham), Rachel MacKinlay (Harewood Downs), Ellie Lichtenhein (The Buckinghamshire), Emily Gilmour (Beaconsfield).

We got off to a wonderful start against Lincolnshire on Friday morning. Despite losing the first Foursomes match 4&3 we pulled through and won all four other matches to achieve a 4:1 victory. Megan Dennis leading out the Singles matches showed her superior qualities in beating Ellie Haughton 6&4 and Ella Butteriss also dominated against Courtney Martland winning 6&5. Ellie Lichtenhein continued her good form displayed all season by delivering her first Singles point against Nel McDougall. This excellent start to our Finals matches settled the nerves and strengthened the team spirit and confidence levels.

Friday afternoon saw us facing the mighty Yorkshire in a thrilling match up and again we came out victorious, defeating this strong County 4:1. I was so proud of Rookie Demi Maxey who, together with Rachel MacKinlay beat their opponents 4&3 on her debut in the County First Team.

Saturday morning started with a much anticipated showdown against the defending Champions, Essex. We only lost 1 Foursomes match and Megan Dennis pulled off the biggest win of the day with a 7&5 defeat of Katy Yates.

The afternoon saw us matched up with Dorset the only other County who hadn't lost a match at this point. The matches ebbed and flowed and at the beginning it looked very likely that we might face our first defeat. But then the news spread through the team that both Megan and Ella were leading their Singles matches yet again, delivering a 9&& defeat of Sienna Birch and 6&5 defeat of Chloe Haesler respectively. Alice lost her Singles and Lily & Rachel had also lost their Foursomes at this point. Lulu & Ellie were 2 up with 3 to play but lost 16 and 17 to go all square. Our nerves were jingling at this point and as their Captain I could barely get myself to watch. Two good drives down the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway left Dorset to play into the green first. They duffed their shot and Lulu promptly delivered a wonderful shot into the back of the green. Dorset then had another bad chip onto the front of the green before Ellie trundled her putt down to the hole and the match was conceded by Dorset (we won 1 up), thus giving us an overall 3:2 victory.

Being the only County undefeated after 4 matches, Buckinghamshire topped the League Table with 8 points and our nearest rivals were on 5 points each. We therefore knew on Saturday afternoon as matches came to a conclusion that we could no longer be beaten and would walk away with the Trophy. Whilst we did have very brief celebrations at this point we gathered around shortly after to discuss the strategy for the final match on Sunday. We were determined to show up again in full strength on the final day and not unduly influence the outcome of the event for other counties who were still very much playing for positions.

We pulled off another 4:1 victory on Sunday versus Surrey with both Ella Butteriss and Megan Dennis completing their 5 wins out of 5 singles matches. Emily Gilmour, one of our two rookies, got her first outing in the Foursomes alongside Lulu Leetham but sadly they lost their match narrowly 3&2.

Being presented with the Trophy during the prize giving ceremony brought tears to my eyes as I introduced the individual team members and gave thanks to all the organisers, helpers, volunteers and our fabulous backroom team, headed up by Tony Bowers, our County Coach, Lynda Hilton, County President and Helen Mines, House Mum. I am so very grateful to all the supporters who came to Kings Lynn to line the fairways in the red jumpers, the parents and caddies and all those executive members before me who had the foresight to invest in our junior development pathway and coaching programme which brought us to this point. To walk away with the Trophy in our Centenary year is doubly special and we will be talking about the excitement and celebrations for many more years to come. I couldn't be prouder of the 10 young women and girls who literally performed at the very best of their abilities and displayed great team spirit, drive and determination over the 4 days of fierce competition. RESPECT to you all!

## **Grants Scheme**

A total of 6 Golf Clubs benefited from the new BCLGA iGolf Grants scheme launched earlier this year: Burnham Beeches, Chesham & Leyhill, Ellesborough, Harleyford, Wexham Park and Whiteleaf have all received up to £500 of grants dedicated to the recruitment & development of girls & women's golf initiatives. We are looking forward to receiving the first photos and reports from the golf clubs as the season draws to a close.

## **Website**

Our new IG supported website and competitions software is still being developed and we are hopeful that we will be able to launch an improved IT infrastructure at the end of October. We will be able to offer online competition entry, online payment and many other new features benefitting both members and executive officers alike.

## **BB&O Collaboration**

Delyth will soon announce the Launch of a Juniors Order of Merit incorporating 10 Junior Opens across the BB&O region and our Junior County Championship. We collaborating with the 2 other Women's Association and the Men's BB&O to foster the further integration and competitiveness of our junior development pathways. A cash prize of £100 will be donated jointly by the 3 counties and promotional marketing materials will be kindly paid for by the BB&O.

## **Dogs For Good**

Finally, Caddie, our County sponsored dog, has arrived at John & Linda Grist (my neighbours), just 8 weeks old and a small but super cute bundle of joy! He will be socialised by Linda & John for the next 14-16 months before he will go into 'adult dog training school' to be fully trained as a dog for the disabled. Thanks to your generosity we have already raised a staggering £4,293.50 for my chosen charity this year.

I am very much looking forward to seeing Caddie grow and develop and learn new skills over the coming months. I am very hopeful that you will get to meet him early next year when he is old enough to walk along some of our fairways during county competitions. Photos of this cutest of puppies can be found on our Facebook page!

## **End of Season Thank You's**

Thank you to all the Bucks golf clubs for providing us use of their courses and their facilities for training, Executive and Delegate meeting, individual matches or large competitions and to all the Lady Captain's and Committee members for their support during our events on their premises. A special thank you, as always, to Harleyford for hosting our AGM.

Thank you also to Tony Bowers, our County coach, all the parents and friends and members who provide transport, caddy and/or line the fairways in their red jumpers to support our teams / individual players at the various competitions throughout the year.

A very special heartfelt thank you must go to Lynda Hilton, our outgoing President who is retiring after 4 years in the position. Lynda you have been an absolute marvel and your unwavering support and dedication to the County, our junior, senior and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> team is wonderful. You have travelled for many miles up and down the country and even before and after your knee operation when you were hampered by mobility issues you still managed to turn up at all our events and line the fairways in your buggy.

Our incoming President will be Maura Spencer and I am looking forward to having Maura Spencer re-joining the Executive!

Susanna Mitterer

County Captain