



# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

DELEGATES' MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 2021  
11.30 - 13.00

<b>PRESENT:</b> Janet Beal (JB)	Captain
Lynda Hilton (LH)	President
Fiona Robb (FR)	Hon Secretary
Carolyn Rivett (CR)	Hon Treasurer
Lois Shoosmith	Seniors Captain
Karen Scott (KS)	Handicap Advisor
Delyth Barnett (DB)	County Junior Organiser
Via Zoom:	
Jackie Maher (JM)	Competition Secretary
Susanna Mitterer (SM)	England Golf Representative

### **Affiliated Club**

### **Delegate/Representative**

Beaconsfield	Sue Schmidt and Ingrid Creighton
Burnham Beeches	Jackie Maher, Margaret Stevens & Agnieszka Bzinkowska
Chartridge Park	Christine Davies
Chesham & Ley Hill	Irene Crook & Rosemayre Barry
Denham	Dot Kelleher
Ellesborough	Marilyn Plummer
Flackwell Heath	Marie Winning
Gerrards Cross	Pamela King
Harewood Downs	Gill Outram
Hazlemere	Alison Cadwell & Karen Scott
Harleyford	Gill Redman & Helen Gyselynck
Huntswood	Sue Withey & Diana Forman
Lambourne	Norma Lee
Oakland Park	Lynda Hilton & Anne Shaw
Princes Risborough	Sue Pomeroy
Stowe	Sandra Siggers & Melanie Mounsdon
Weston Turville	Anita Parker & Yvonne Black
Wexham Park	Debbie Quigley & Nishele Short
Whiteleaf	Tricia Fisher
Woburn	Jenny Gibson & Alison Kavanagh

1. Janet welcomed all the Delegates and Club Representatives to only the second Delegates' Face to Face Meeting in 2021. Lots to talk about for next year. 30 ladies attending.
2. **APOLOGIES:**  
 Debbie Parrish - Beaconsfield  
 Jennifer Aitken - Datchet  
 Sandra Eland - Chesham & Ley Hill  
 Helen Pettifer - Denham  
 Gilly Brewer - Harewood Downs  
 June Winter - Ellesborough  
 Liz Harris-Ulph, Carole Fello, Diane Hofman - Buckingham  
 Susan Light - Flackwell Heath  
 Rachel Mistri - Chartridge  
 Caroline Bond - Thorney Park  
 Janet Crookes - Wycombe Heights  
 Jackie Edwards - 2nd Team Coach  
 Tony Bowers - County Coach
3. **Minutes of Meetings on 9 June 2021 and 15 September 2021:**  
 It was reported there were no outstanding actions on either of the two sets of Minutes so the County Captain signed them off.
4. **Matters Arising - held over to 2 December 2021 Meeting:**  
 See Item 3 above.
5. **BCLGA COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS FOR 2022:**  
 JB pointed out the A3-size or A4 Posters advertising all the Events and Competitions for 2022 for individuals at your respective clubs. Delegates asked to take a poster and put it up on your Noticeboards to advertise and to get things moving for next year. This year we had fairly poor attendance at the county competitions so would like to improve that for next year. Really good competitions; most of them are for everyone with all handicaps; several are team competitions and some County Championships as well.  
 Additionally there was a second sheet/List of 2022 Club Competitions for Delegates to promote at their clubs to encourage their clubs to enter the club competitions.

Margaret Stevens, Burnham Beeches asked for clarification that the County Lunch was being held on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at Beaconsfield, not 7 March as noted in the recent County Newsletter. JB thanked Margaret for spotting the mistake.

### **Handicap Limits for Scratch Leagues:**

JB indicated when we changed to WHS we had to decide what the handicap splits would be between Silver and Bronze. We asked England Golf for advice and they said decide yourselves. We went for 18.4/18.5 which is where we thought the average club would be, to make it 20 and 21 course handicaps. There have been a few queries as most other countries have gone with 20.4 and 20.5 handicap index so should change to the higher handicap index or stay as we are?

In our tables please take 10 minutes to discuss amongst yourselves, then 1 person report back to the rest of the room.

One lady (possibly Karen Scott?) asked would that affect the Challenge Cup and Rosebowl competitions as well? JB confirmed that if we decide to change the Scratch Leagues handicap split then we should change the Challenge Cup and Rosebowl Competitions as well so that we are consistent with our Silver and Bronze splits.

Additional question what happens if we enter a competition and your handicap changes? JB confirmed that you enter the Cup with your handicap based as it is on the closing date of the competition. If your handicap changes then you play off your current handicap index. So if it goes down you play off the lower one; if it goes up you get your extra shot(s).

So thats the first decision to make so we can move forward for next year.

The second decision regards the Bucks Shield; again with WHS we put the maximum handicap limit as 24.0. Some clubs have said that means a playing handicap of 30 at my course; so by not doing anything we have raised the handicap index to 30, and some people have said its too high. If we lower it, some clubs have said they will have difficulty raising a team and therefore not entering the competition.

Each table then had table discussions for 15 mins on the two points above, followed by reports backs.

First table Irene Crook Chesham & Lay Hill: we agreed with raising the handicap split to max of 20.4 for Silver and 20.5+ for Bronze leagues.

With regards to Bucks Shield we had a difference of opinion; an handicap index of 24 can result in a course handicap of 30 which is too big. But the other side if we don't leave at 24 then some clubs would not be able to enter as they can't field a team. You have to have a course handicap.

Second table: we should know how many clubs enter the Bucks should and look at their course ratings. Look at playing no higher than a course handicap of 24, which would be a lower handicap index..

JB, so leave the Handicaps 18.4/18.5 as is for Silver and Bronze split but reduce the Bucks Shield handicap, but where to?

Third Table: Helen Gyselynck Harleyford: we did some figures on the Bucks Shield looking at the various handicap indexes. Looked at handicap 20, so for Chartridge that came up as a playing handicap of 20, for Hazlemere that was 22, Harleyford 23 and the Dukes at Woburn 25. Then thought that would reduce the fields as some clubs wouldn't be able to field a team at that level.

So we looked at 22 and for Chartridge that came up as a playing handicap of 22, Hazlemere 24, and the Dukes 27. These were pretty close to where we were before, so concluded that a handicap of 22 is right handicap index for Bucks Shield.

We didn't really discuss the handicap split for Silver and Bronze.

Hazlemere's course rating at 123 is a little below the general average of 125 for most clubs, so a handicap limit of 20 is too low, but 24 is too high.

Fourth Table: Delyth Barnett Ellesborough: we had similar discussions but didn't give much thought to the first question and concentrated on the second question of the Bucks Shield. On our table we were conscious of the difference in clubs if we reduce the handicap too low, and not being able to join in. We had considered reducing the handicap limit to 22 or 21 and the impact of that on clubs to field a team. We had raised a question can you play if your handicap index is more than the limit. JB confirmed you can play if your handicap index is higher but you would have to play off the maximum handicap index allowed, and therefore the player would lose some shots. Some players have different mindsets when playing in matchplay competitions vs stroke play competitions.

Pamela King Gerrards Cross: we are quite biased as we were in the Bucks Shield Final this year. We did similar calculations as Table 3 (Harleyford) and looked at internal handicap limits for our own competitions. When playing off 95% in stroke play it is a different environment to matchplay which takes account of course rating and playing handicap, where the handicap difference can be exaggerated and too large, so that is where the rationale of moving from 24 down to 22 handicap limit is coming from.

Fifth Table: Gill Outram Harewood Downs we discussed the Silver and Bronze split, and how it relates to the Challenge Cup and we concluded it should stay as is. Our rationale was that the better bronze players wouldn't get a chance to play, they would lose out as they would not get chosen against the higher handicap Silver players in the Silver League. So we felt the handicap split as is, is correct.

The Bucks Shield handicap we felt was too high at 24; we felt you needed a handicap limit that generally converted to a playing handicap of 24, so with an average course rating of 125 that would generally mean a handicap index of 22.

JB thanked everyone for their input and feedback. She felt she was hearing that we don't want to change for next year and then have to change again the following year; so the general consensus was to leave the Silver/Bronze splits at 18.4/18.5 as is. For the Bucks Shield reduce the maximum handicap index limit to 22; a small reduction but not give so many shots so that most clubs should still be able to play as they have in the past.

JB asked for a show of hands on agreement to leave the Silver/Bronze split as 18.4/18.5: 16 ladies voted for leaving as is, and 4 voted for raising the the handicap limit to 20.4/20.5.

Then for the Bucks Shield - should it be reduced? The majority voted with a show of hands to reduce it. JB suggested that maximum handicap index of 22 seems a good option to try for next year - it carried by a show of hands.

JB asked if it should go lower to 21. Average slope rating in England is 125; so 22 at slope rating of 125 equates to 24.4.

Show of hands for handicap index max of 21 - 4 ladies voted, and for handicap index max of 22 - 27 ladies voted. Carried for a mxmimim handicap of 22.

### **Silver Scratch League:**

JM reported that two clubs had entered for 2021 but then withdraw during the competition; due to ladies moving clubs, management of Silver Scratch and Bucks Shield matches ending up on the same day and not having enough ladies to play. JM thought we might loose a few more teams next year. It will cause the same reaction this year because of Covid when we lost teams. Some clubs were upset they were not promoted this year, or demoted when clubs thought they shouldn't be. We are trying to find out how many clubs can put forward teams especially for the Silver Scratch. Some larger clubs have put in a second/B team to keep the competition going with the number of divisions; would other larger clubs put in a B team to keep the competition going with the number of divisions it has. Smaller clubs could consider a combined team with another club. We may end up loosing another Division in Silver.

JB we run the Leagues for you the Clubs to play in, so please encourage your clubs to enter and play in the Leagues.

JM indicated that the 4th Div in Silver League ladies typically played with Handicap Indexes up to 18. The opportunity is there for the higher Silver group ladies to play in the scratch competition. Don't be put off by the fact that it is scratch. One of the B Teams will be promoted next year; their lowest handicaps were 12/13 Handicap indexes. JB: in Div 1, they are mainly single figure handicappers, but in other Divisions there are opportunities for higher Silver handicappers to play. She also mentioned that you can enter two teams in each of the leagues: Silver, Bronze and Winter League, if you can get enough ladies to play. LH: most of the ladies in Silver League are Handicap Index of 18 and below.

**Seniors Competitions:**

Lois Shoosmith, new Seniors's Captain, introduced herself. Three competitions for club for club members and the Seniors' Scratch League matches:

The Spring Meeting at Buckingham Golf Club on 26 April - two divisions: Vets for over 65's, and Div for over 50's. Please encourage your members to play and support the Spring Meeting.

The Autumn Meeting on 30 September at South Bucks Golf Centre (old Farnham Park Golf Club). LS reported she had played there in November and it is a beautiful course, flat but challenging; an ideal course for both the Seniors and Vets.

The Seniors Championship on 21 July at Harleyford. We are very grateful to Harleyford for agreeing to host the Seniors Championship at a favourable rate. The tee-times start at 12.30.

LS asked if anyone had ideas for what we could do for the Seniors, please contact her. DB suggested that sometimes costs of these events put ladies off. LS responded that we go with begging caps to try and keep the costs down as low as possible. We have to pay green fees for these events, whereas Ladies Opens do not have green fees included in the cost of entry. It is the same problem for the Past Captains Society; we have to pay a green fee.

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**HANDICAPS UPDATE:**

Karen Scott introduced herself, having taken over as Handicaps Advisor from Christine Bishop at the recent AGM.

We are all new to WHS since November last year, it has been a rocky start due to lockdown. We are going through the first cycle so we are still educating ourselves with the new system, and England Golf are still changing things as we go along. I want to bring to your attention things that are happening or due to happen.

**Annual Handicap Review**

The Annual Handicap Review should be conducted by clubs between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> December. On the England Golf platform a report is produced of players that should be considered for a review. Each flagged player should be considered individually.

<https://www.englandgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Handicap-Review-Guidance-2021.pdf>

If anyone is not flagged on the report, and questions their handicap index, the general advise is they should go out and play general rounds and put in their cards for handicap purposes, and this should adjust the handicap index naturally. If someone doesn't play a lot of handicap qualifiers this can cause the handicap index being too high or too low.

At her club 2 people were flagged on the report, their records and situation were reviewed by the Handicaps Committee and it was agreed no action needed to be taken. The report does the special calculations and therefore you don't need to go looking for people to review; the report does it for you.

Margaret Stevens Burnham Beeches: queried 2 ladies had two figures too high scores and didn't make sense. KS indicated you need to go EG platform to look at their playing records. You can go to your club and get them to bring up your record, or you can use the my EG App and look up your own record. You can see the line with last 20 cards with the 8 counting scores. Someone at your club (the Club Pro or Handicaps Secretary) can go onto the EG Platform for you and look at your playing record for you. You can see how many qualifiers you have played in in the last year. If someone is not doing many qualifiers, then you would not necessarily make a change to their handicap index. They need to put more cards in.

KS reminded everyone this is the first time going through this new WHS process based on reports so it is still a learning exercise for everyone. She also indicated on the main England Golf Website there are information on all these items.

### **Winter Golf**

Now that we are in Winter and if it is a normal day's golf with no competition variation to the competition, then comp should still be a qualifier. Rules say if it is an 18 hole Stableford, then it should be a qualifier. If ladies complain about playing qualifiers in the winter, then you need to change the rules of that competition to stop it being a qualifier by dictating the number of clubs allowed, gimmes, fun game.

KS gave an example of Hazlemere had a December Stableford yesterday and 3 greens were on temporaries, therefore it could not be a qualifier, therefore KS had to change the rules of that competition on the computer that morning and make it a non-qualifier.

Qualifying competitions and general play rounds can only be played if there are no more than 2 temporary greens on an 18 hole round or no more than 1 on a 9 hole round.

The course should not be altered by more than 100 yards by the use of winter mats.

Preferred lies can be used on closely mown areas from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> April. Please look at the link on EG website for more information:

[https://www.Englandgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/winter\\_golf\\_check-list\\_291021.pdf](https://www.Englandgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/winter_golf_check-list_291021.pdf)

Question: if in the Summer you play only 12 holes and then go off the course injured because you have hurt your knee, the system gives you net Pars for the rest of the round. Why does this not happen in the Winter? KS was not sure. You are still playing the holes, so that would be a net par, but if you pick up on a hole you get net double bogeys. A lady mentioned you can put in a ns for a hole. KS you can't decide to not play certain holes. KS mentioned that at Hazlemere using Club V1, if you put in a 0 for a hole, the system asks you did you play the hole or not finished the hole.

At Club level you need to think about competitions, you can't decide at a whim on the day to change the normal 18 holes from a competition/qualifier.



### **Qualifying Competitions:**

Players are often less keen to play qualifying competitions in the winter. If the competition is a normal 18 hole or 9 hole round with no variations then it should still be organised as a qualifying competition. Fun competitions can be organised that make them non qualifying such as the use of mulligans, gimmies, restricted clubs or team games.

### **General Play Rounds**

You can do this at any time of the year but the same rules apply about temporary greens.

Any casual rounds/general play rounds (called supplementary cards in the past) you need to pre-register beforehand to allow the scorecard for handicap purposes. You can't take a good round scorecard and ask it to count for handicap purposes after the round - you must pre-register first.

Players should pre-register for these by using the Club software or the myEg app, scores must be recorded after the round. Only very exceptional circumstances should lead to 'good scores' that have not been pre-registered being considered by the handicap committee. Reviews of rounds by Handicap Committee should be exceptional and not another way of putting cards in.

### **Unsatisfied Score Intents:**

All general play rounds should be pre-registered using the golf club software or via the myEG app. Any general play or competition rounds that do not have a score submitted in a timely fashion will be subject to an automated penalty score applied by England Golf, this = Course Rating + Course Handicap.

KS reported that this week some ladies had a message from EG on unsatisfied scores intent or a nil return because they had not put in their scores before the competition was closed. If you have a nil return on your record for a competition, or you have signed up for a general play round and not put the score in, you have a unsatisfied score intent or nil return on your record. If you sign-up/pre-register for a competition qualifier or general play and not put the score in, EG have now introduced Penalty Scores. The penalty scores start on 1 December but they are backdated for cards from 1 November. There will be a penalty score on their record; which is worked out from the course rating (your card) plus your course handicap.

KS gave an example: at Hazlemere the course rating is 70.7 and KS's course handicap is 19, and KS went out and scored about a gross 90., but did not put her score in after the round. If a penalty score was applied for a nil return, her handicap index would have been lower for the good round when looking at her 8 out of 20 scores. It is an automated function from EG, and they will inform you via email if a penalty score will be applied if you don't put your score in on time. A club/handicap committee could remove the penalty score from an individual's record, if there were valid reasons for the score not being entered on time. Sometimes things happen with the computer when inputting your scores, and the score does not show on your record, EG then send you an email about having a penalty score. You can ask for this to be reviewed by the Club/Handicap Committee and if a valid, the penalty score can be removed. On most occasions, your handicap will probably be lowered. All members who registered for the MyEg App will have received an email on this subject.

In a Medal, it shows as an NR if you blob a hole, if you have picked up. You need to encourage ladies to put all their scores in, even if they have had bad rounds, otherwise you will get a unsatisfied score intent and possibly lead to penalty scores. You can put in an NR for a hole, the computer will register the hole as blobbed and if you look at the MyEg App it refers to the adjusted gross for that hole. 1 NR does not cancel out your round for handicap purposes but you will be out of the competition though. So put all your scores in for the holes you completed and put in you picked up on other holes not completed.

### **MyEG App:**

Please encourage members to download this, it is a great tool for members to follow their handicap index changes. It can also be used to enter General Play rounds at away courses. In order to use this members need to create an account on the England Golf website, using their membership number (CDH number). These details are then used to log onto the myEG app. Using the MyEg App to look at your Handicap record of the last 20 rounds and the 8 green circled/counting scores. By using the App it helps people know what their handicap index is and what's happening to their counting scores. You can see if a round went in correctly. Your club can help sort any queries using the EG platform to answer your questions rather than Club V1 or IG which only shows what happens on the day.

Gill Redman, Harleyford: asked about Hard Cap and Soft Cap on Handicaps; when doing the annual review will Hard Cap and Soft Caps apply as well? KS responded yes.

KS we have a rolling 365 days and in the last 365 days you have a low index which you can see on the EG website. KS's was 17.2 on 4 Jan 2021 and then we got locked down for 3 months; that was her lowest index in the last 365 days. There are hard caps to slow down and prevent a player's handicap going up by more than 5 shots no matter how poorly they play.

JB in the situation where a player reaches their hard cap then the committee needs to refer it to the Regional Handicap Advisor.

KS there is no time limit regarding scores, its lifelong, it does not expire.

A committee can define the minimum number of qualifier competitions eg. 3 as part of the terms of the competition.

KS I have a new email address should anyone want to ask questions...  
[handicaps@bclga.org.uk](mailto:handicaps@bclga.org.uk)

This is the first year of WHS and EG and members are getting used to the new system and how it works, so they will be looking at the process to make adjustments/improvements in time.

## 7 **DELEGATES MEETINGS IN 2022:**

JB Delegates meetings for next year: most dates are sorted out and go on the website:

Thursday 7 April Chartridge Park - venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 22 June venue to be confirmed - possibly Buckingham

Wednesday 14 September at Harleyford

Wednesday 30 November at Weston Turville

JB asked if delegates wished to defer the late November meeting to January 2023. It was agreed to go ahead with 30 November.

It was raised about venues with suitable rooms. Would delegates consider Buckingham and would they travel to Buckingham; those in the meeting were happy to travel to Buckingham.

**Post Meeting Note: All the dates are on the County Website and the venues are now all confirmed including Chartridge Park and Buckingham.**

## 8 **BCLGA CENTENARY 2023:**

JB We need to start the planning in 2022 for the Centenary in 2023.

We would be grateful if delegates would get involved and be part of the special sub-committee that we will set up for the Centenary events?

Also are there any members of clubs who have had a long history with the County? Possibly some of the more senior ladies who might help be able to help with stories and photos in the past of the County.

If anyone can help with ideas, nformation, stories, photos, or wishes to be get involved/help the sub-committee please drop Fiona an email on: [secretary@bclga.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bclga.org.uk).

One idea has been put forward to do a Centenary Gala Day, as we did back in 2019.

9      **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Nothing raised.

JB thanked everyone for attending; wished them a safe journey home, and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

**10.      DATE OF NEXT MEETING:      7 April 2022 at Chartridge Park**

Signed .....

Date .....