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# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

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DELEGATES' MEETING MINUTES

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WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2021  
11.00 - 13.00

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<b>PRESENT:</b> Janet Beal (JB)	Captain
Lynda Hilton (LH)	President
Fiona Robb (FR)	Hon Secretary
Carolyn Rivett (CR)	Hon Treasurer
Jackie Maher (JM)	Competition Secretary
Jackie Edwards (JE)	2nd Team Captain
Christine Bishop (CB)	Handicap Advisor

### **Affiliated Club**

### **Delegate/Representative**

Beaconsfield	Sue Schmidt
Buckingham	Elizabeth Harris-Ulph
Burnham Beeches	Jackie Maher
Chartridge Park	Christine Davies
Chesham & Ley Hill	Sandra Eland
Chesham & Ley Hill	Rosemayre Barry
Denham	Dot Kelleher
Ellesborough	Marilyn Plummer
Flackwell Heath	Susan Light
Gerrards Cross	Debbie Veys
Harewood Downs	Gilly Brewer
Hazlemere	Alison Cadwell
Harleyford	Gill Redman
Oakland Park	Lynda Hilton
Stowe	Sandra Siggers
Weston Turville	Anita Parker
Wexham park	Debbie Quigley
Whiteleaf	Tricia Fisher
Whiteleaf	Gill Baxter
Woburn	Sally-Anne Wright
Wycombe Heights	Margaret Devlin

1. Fiona welcomed all the Delegates/Club Representatives to first Delegates' Face to Face Meeting in 2021. Fiona then handed the meeting over to Janet.

2. **APOLOGIES:**

Gill Leach - Beaconsfield

Jennifer Aitken - Datchet

Lynn Dickeson - Farnham Park

Rowan Revell - Huntswood

Norma Lee - Lambourne

Beryl Austin - Princes Risborough

Anne Worby - Stoke Park

Caroline Bond - Thorney Park

Karen Scott - Hazlemere

Delyth Barnett - County Junior Organiser

Susanna Mitterer - Seniors' Captain and England Golf Representative

Tony Bowers - County Coach

3. **Minutes of Meeting on 9 June 2021 - held over to 2 December 2021 Meeting**

4. **Matters Arising - held over to 2 December 2021 Meeting**

5. **WHS PRESENTATION - Christine Bishop**

Topics presented:

- Pros and Cons
- Handicap on Scorecard
- Entry limits on Competitions
- Acceptable scores for Handicaps
- The effects of Caps
- Resources
- Q&A

**Slide: Pros and Cons:**

**Pros:** easier to return score; can put a score in anytime you want rather than just Medals and Stablefords; fairer system, in that some courses due to slope rating, you may get more shots, and on some courses you may lose 1 or 2 shots. Handicaps are updated immediately, on MyEG Golf App next day after PCC adjustment; on EG App you can see your personal information regarding trends in your golf which is very positive.

**Cons:** Confusing with Handicap Index,, Course Handicap and Playing Handicap. Clubs should put up information to help individuals work out their handicaps; Handicap allowances not popular but is same as before WHS as the 95% was built into tables, it is more transparent now. England Golf and CONGU did not want the percentages included in the course tables. Other countries have the percentages combined within the course tables, so we have to live with it for the time being.

The stroke allowance calculations are too complex however there are resources to help work out. The last score returned is not reflected in the new handicap index. In 18 months time there will be less fluctuations happening as the handicap system has not flattened out yet due to Covid issues. To get a more reflective handicap encourage everyone to put more scores in as soon as possible.

**Slide: Handicap on Scorecard:**

Your course handicap must be put on the scorecard otherwise you could be disqualified as rule of golf. It is players responsibility to put your course handicap on scorecard.

Q - JE: has never seen CH on scorecards? Will there be rules labelled/detailed on the scorecards? CB responded it is the players responsibility to add the CH on your scorecard.

CB players may find that they think they have played to handicap by scoring 36 points in a Stableford competition but when the results are published it only shows them scoring 35 – this will be because the results are calculated using Playing Handicap so some players will lose a shot or two.

Q - Gill Redman: at Harleyford they book in on a computer and their Pro says don't worry about the playing handicap as the computer does the calculation for you?

CB: you still need to put course handicap on scorecards and just use the course handicap when playing your round.

Q - JE: you must get the right gross score on the card.

CB: gross score is right but in SF's you can pick up if you can't score.

Q - Christine Davies: do you pick up to course handicap, not handicap index?

CB: It depends on whether it is normal stroke play or MSF (maximum score format). In a conventional medal, play out the hole. In an MSF Medal pick up after you have reached the MSF score, however for handicap purposes continue playing on. In a conventional medal if you pick up you will be disqualified from the medal but you can still play for handicap purposes.

JM remarked at Burnham Beeches their scores are entered electronically on a computer, no scorecards are physically put in.

Q: Susan Light (SL): most handicaps have gone up by a large amount?

CB: Not for everyone. It depends on the handicap category. Clubs with a large amount of ladies in the old Category 4 and 5 will notice significant increases mainly because the higher the slope of the course, the more difficult the bogey golfer finds it so they need more shots.

Q - SL: What about the 95% rule?

CB: the 95% rule is to provide equity across the field. Majority of players in a comp are in the higher handicaps and therefore likely to shoot a better score, there is more of an opportunity for them to score well. Lower number of low handicap players in a comp and they don't get as much opportunity to score well under the 95% rule.

**Slide: Defining Handicap Limits in Competitions:**

Clubs have 3 options; England Golf reworked this for the new WHS System. CB to send FR options to send to delegates.

**No Handicap entry limits:**

- Allow all players to play
- Divisions are recommended (suggest you look at where the ladies in your club fall)

CB/FR

**Set Handicap entry limits:**

- Must set handicap limits, stated in terms of the competition; written down entry criteria/trophy/time on countback so that everyone knows where they are.
- Strongly recommended any limit set using Handicap Index.

**Specified Limits:**

- Allow everyone to enter
- Eligibility for the main prize may be limited to a maximum (or minimum handicap index allowance).

CB suggested terms of competition include using a fully developed handicap ie 20 scores to see a reflective handicap index. Also anything particular to the competition and general terms such as a use of a caddy being allowed; juniors allowed to enter the competition etc.

**Slide: Example Terms of Competition:**

CB put up a slide with an example of the Terms of Competition. Example to enter a specific competition in the old days needed 3 qualifying acceptable scores in the last year.

Q: In the Bucks Shield the handicap index limit is 24, so the course handicap can be 26?

JE: some clubs don't make it clear what the handicap limit is for a comp

CB: most clubs are reverting to Handicap index

JB: indicated that he Handicap Index has decimal points ie HI limit 18.4.

Q - Gill Redman: if you have entered a competition 2 to 3 months earlier, or even the beginning of a year, your handicap index will have changed what happens when you go over or under the handicap limit for that competition?

CB: It is up to the Committee in Charge of the Competition to set the entry criteria and what happens if a handicap index subsequently changes to outside of the stated range.

Gilly Brewer: Harewood Downs use Course Handicap for comps.

CB: For internal competitions it will make little difference if the entry criteria is HI or CH but for external competitions this should be HI.

**Slide: Terms of Competition - Summary:**

Clubs and/or Sections may:

- May set handicap limits on entry to competitions
- May create divisions for prize allocation
- May set limits on who can win trophy and major competitions
- Can require players to have returned a specific number of acceptable scores each year to be eligible to win the competition

**Slide: Acceptable Scores for Handicap:**

CB recommended use of the EG App or follow what your club system says to do.

You must comply with Rule 2 of the WHS Rules of Handicapping: by pre-registering your intent; player must be in the company of another player; play on a measured course; using authorised format of play (individual formats only ie single strokeplay, medals or stable fords). You are not allowed to use social golf scorecards for handicap purposes as you could be getting reads from other players; team or matchplay scores are not allowed. In the USA and Australia they use gimmies, as most likely score used. England are not allowing us to do that from matchplay or team games.

Q: in 2-Ball Friendly, one player gets an amazing score can they put the card in under the rules of golf if not pre-registered?

CB: Not directly but the player can ask for the score to be considered in any review.

Committees have authority to accept some scores, even if not pre-registered. Refer to Page 29 of the Rules of Handicapping - roll-ups are considered as pre-registered as a regular format of play. You can give your scorecard into Committee to consider: 1 score may be used in an annual Handicap Review; if there is a trend of submitting scores via this route, it may not be acceptable. It is down to individual circumstances.

LH: if you play in a 2-ball friendly you can you submit a score?

CB: Page 26 Rules of Handicapping - if you play in the company of 1 other person who's acts as a marker. In a Father and son situation, father acts as a caddy who is being aggressive, you can't stop everyone having a caddy but you could say parent cannot be a caddy or say in the terms of the competition no parent marks the junior's card.

JE: remarked that if a person makes an infraction on the rules, then the rules get changed for everyone.

CB: say it is a blanket rule for everyone.

Q: 3 ladies in our club have dementia but wish to keep playing?

CB: England golf have a disability paper on this subject . CB will send paper to FR to distribute to the Delegates.

CB/FR

Q: Can you ask for an extra scorecard to be considered for HC purposes?

CB: It is up to your local Committee to make an assessment but really you should pre-register intent to submit a card for HC purposes. Pre-registration is down to local clubs; clubs have different ways of pre-registering - check with your club. If using the EG App there is a time delay on it; pre-register before you go out to play your round; if playing 9 holes the score cannot be entered till 1.5 hrs after pre-registering then you can enter the score on the App for that round. EG App uses geo-location to select the correct course. However, do how your home club tells you to submit a card when not playing at your home course.

For HC purposes, if playing only a 9 hole comp, then all 9 holes need to be started. If playing an 18 hole comp then at least a minimum 10 holes need to be played for an acceptable score for HC purposes and then it is scaled up for the 18 holes.

Q: how are the scores factored up for 18 holes?

CB: If the number of holes played is at least 10 holes, it is scaled up by taking the Nett Par plus one additional shot for the first hole not played. If at least 14 holes are played then add the Nett par. The computer software at use in the club will work it out for you as it will ask if the hole was started or not started.

Q - Gill Leach: What happens if you are taken ill on the course?

CB: it will take score if 10 holes are completed. If players are feeling unwell on 9th, come off the course after the 9th, don't play the 10th, and it won't count for HC purposes. If you play the 10th and then come off the course, it will count for HC purposes. CB to send FR WHS Flowchart for 18 hole scores. The flowchart indicates what to do if a player doesn't complete their round. The chart gives valid and invalid reasons for not completing a round. If a player stops for an invalid reason, a penalty could be applied.

Q: What are the penalties?

CB: It depends on the actual situation. It is difficult to determine if a player is manipulating their HC, it could lead to disciplinary action.

**Slide: Soft Caps:**

Caps suppress the upward movement of the HI. This player's HI is currently 16.2 but an analysis of her best 8/20 shows that this should be 16.5. Why? Every time a score is returned, it is compared against the player's Low Handicap Index (LHI). The LHI is only generated when the player has 20 scores in her record.

When a calculated Handicap Index INCREASE is greater than 3.0 strokes, the value above 3.0 strokes is restricted to 50% of the increase.

CB showed a worked example on the slide showing where the soft cap had suppressed the player's HI..

Q: Gill Baxter: has the soft cap been triggered nationally as they have 8 on soft cap and 3 on hard cap?

CB: Generally, clubs are reporting that one or two players may trigger the soft cap but it is not widely known. Clubs with a high number of declining golfers will notice more soft and hard cap triggers.

**Slide: Resources Available:**

CB indicate there are a number of helpful resources available:

- Mixed Tee Calculator Version 10 on the CONGU website - a comprehensive tool.
- Guidance to the Rules of Handicapping as applied within GB & I - on the CONGU website - applies to England only. Ireland, Scotland and Wales have different rules. This document is not published, it is only available electronically on-line.
- Rules of Handicapping - available on the England Golf website.
- WHS Portal User Guide - on the England Golf website. Karen Scott will be taking over as BCLGA Handicap Advisor from Christine after the AGM at the end of October.

**Slide: Latest Updates:**

Christine will send out the latest September 2021 England Golf updates to everyone which include:

- Exceptional Score Reductions,
- Acceptable Score Submissions,
- Guidance Notes Hole not played etc,
- Winter Golf Checklist.

All these documents were sent to clubs in September, and CB will post them on the BCLGA website in the Handicaps Section.

Q: Gill Redman: does England Golf have the Slope Rating Charts for different courses available on-line?

CB: On the the England Golf website you can find the USGA Slope Tables for all other clubs. You can look up individual courses slope tables.

Q: Sandra Siggers asked for the explanation of the 95% rule.

CB: indicated she would send out again "Is it Fair" Handout.

Q: Gilly Brewer: do other clubs use Divisions?

CB: yes, most clubs do use Divisions, and depending on their demographics of the club they set up appropriate divisions.

CB

**6. BCLGA COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS FOR 2022:**

JB explained that again in 2021 a number of competitions had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions, and a number were cancelled due to lack on entries. So for the next session she wanted the Tables to chat amongst their table group for 20 minutes and then report back to the whole room on the following:

County would like to know what competitions to run in 2022: club-based knockouts, knockouts as teams or individuals, serious or fun comps, how to run the comps with or without food included?

JB said we had tried the Par 3 Comp but there were minimal numbers. Higher HC ladies might want to do this comp, The Rosebowl knockout was set up for the higher handicap, bronze ladies - initially it was well supported but in recent years it is the same 12 ladies that play in it - perhaps we should consider running it as a pairs comp?

Should we target specific handicap levels?

Rosebowl: brought in a few years ago and aimed at higher handicaps. Challenge Cup open to lower handicaps. Ladies with low handicaps not liking to be drawn against high handicapper with lots of shots and vice versa higher handicaps not likely to want to play against a low handicap as they feel intimidated and anxious; need to look at the stats.

The Rosebowl started well but has dwindled over the last few years, maybe due to lack of promotion and advertising, ladies not sure about the Rosebowl. Promotion by County and Delegates - Entry Fee £15.

Par 3 Comp: Gail Sharp brought idea in after balloting all the clubs and the feedback was the clubs would like to do. don't think we should stop this comp. Suggest giving another 12-18 months to get interest up again. There are lots of comps for Silver players but it is hard work to do them. Higher handicaps like team events - more team oriented ie 3-ball alliance.



Ladies are not sure when the Finals are going to be and therefore difficulty in planning for holidays etc. Jackie Maher writes to the semi-finalists of the various County comps to find the best possible date for the finals to be played. As an example, she gave the Champion of Champions Final where it is two school girls to play the final and can't do the mixed Finals Day for the Rosebowl and Challenge Cup.

The Spring and Autumn Meetings are good comps so perhaps County should stick with them for another year to see if we get better interest once things settle down properly. Clubs are still trying to catch up with their own internal comps due to Covid restrictions so therefore there has been too much competitive golf this year to fit in, this might explain why the Autumn Meeting had a lack of entries.

Also with restrictions for social gatherings etc at clubhouses due to Covid until mid-season, the ladies had a lack of social, face to face meetings to be able to talk about external comps including County comps etc. Ladies not aware to look for the County Comps advertised in the website in the Whats on Section / Competitions. There have been no FTF Delegates Meeting until now. The perception is that there is a good variety of County comps.

New golfers not entering county Comps as it is a bit intimidating for them; they are nervous to taking the first steps. Where are the notices of the comps put up in clubs? There does not appear to be anything driving ladies to enter the comps. Visibility for individual golfers not too centric.

Cost of County Comps: some are very good value for a more prestigious club like the Buckinghamshire with the round and meal included. It depends on the type of comp if food is included. It can be a very long day if food included and you have to wait for all the players to come in before you sit down for a meal together. It can depend on when the tee times are, if food included and prize giving afterwards.

Perhaps it would be best to wait another year before making changes so that we can have more FTF meetings and delegates meetings to generate interest in the County Comps. Wait a bit longer for things to really get back to normal as before Covid.

JB then thanked all the table groups for their feedback and it will help the Exec in thinking about next year's programme.

JM then mentioned the Winter Foursomes - entries close today, 15 September. Inter-club Foursomes have received 12 entries to-date , 2 more clubs added today. Usually we have 16 clubs enter - closing date is 20 September. JB suggested if a club wants to enter, but cant sort our team members, enter the comp and give the names in at a later date.

**7. AGM AT HARLEYFORD:**

JB indicated that the annual would take as place as normal at Harleyford Golf Club on Wednesday, 27 October at 2.00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

None raised.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday, 2 December at Beaconsfield.**

Signed .....

Date .....