



# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

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## County Captain's Report 2021

When I took over as County Captain last October, we were all hoping that we were coming to the end of all the Covid restrictions, and 2021 would be 'back to normal'. That hope did not last very long, and my first few months were spent cancelling most of the events and competitions that had been scheduled for winter 2020 and spring 2021.

Like many of you, I spent several months being able to go and walk with friends on the course but swinging a club or hitting a ball was far too risky! We all became experts in zooming and I spent lots of time talking to a screen and just hoping that someone (anyone!) was listening at the other end.

We have a great County Executive Committee who all worked extremely hard to keep us all up to date with the latest regulations and kept updating all the competitions so that we were ready to roll as soon as we were allowed back golfing.

We have been meeting by zoom since March 2020, but I am pleased to report that we had our first face to face meeting last month. We have agreed that zoom is still very useful, and we will continue to hold around half of our exec meetings by zoom in future to save both time and money.

I would like to thank Lynda, Fiona, Jackie M, Jackie E, Carolyn, Susanna and Delyth for all their hard work on exec this year. Also many thanks to Glenise and Heather, who help Jackie M with competitions and to Wendy, Brenda and Cecilia who help Delyth with the juniors.

Special mention to Christine Bishop, who is retiring after 11 years as County Handicap and Rules Advisor. Christine has visited most of your clubs to give rules and handicap talks and we have all learnt from her expertise. This year she has guided us through the move to WHS. Christine is remaining as Regional Handicap Advisor, so we are not completely losing her knowledge.

Susanna Mitterer is retiring as Seniors Captain but will remain on executive as England Golf Voting Member.

We would normally be electing a new County President this year. Lynda Hilton was elected as President at the October 2019 AGM and was looking forward to attending lots of events over her term of office. With all the Covid cancellations since early 2020, Lynda has been unable to enjoy her term as President, so I am very pleased that Lynda has agreed to continue as County President for another two years.

The County Lunch was cancelled in spring this year. I had hoped that we would be able to rearrange the lunch this autumn, but we just ran out of possible dates. We will be arranging a 2022 County Lunch next spring, so I hope that many of you will be able to come along.

The Vice Captain's meeting is normally held in spring, when most Vice Captains are at the beginning of their term of office but was postponed this year. We eventually held the meeting in late July and it was great to see so many attendees. I hope everyone found the meeting useful.

The first two Delegates meetings this year, in February and June, were held by zoom, but we were able to hold the September meeting face to face. It was so nice to see everyone at the meeting and we held some useful round table discussions in small groups and Christine came along to answer questions on everyone's favourite topic (WHS). We have one more meeting this year, on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Beaconsfield.

Next year we plan to hold all the Delegates meetings face to face and will reintroduce Tony's coaching session before the meetings.

Club Delegates are very important to County, as they are one of the main ways that club members can find out what is happening at County. Every club member pays an affiliation fee to county (£8.00 per person from November 2021) and we use this money to support, nurture and promote successful women's and girls' golf at all levels, from the complete beginner to our first team players at national level. We are very keen to provide events and competitions for everyone, but we need our Delegates to promote our activities. We provide an induction pack for delegates to help them in their role.

Unfortunately three of our main events have been cancelled this year – the Seniors Spring Meeting and Summer Meeting were casualties of Covid, but the Seniors Autumn Meeting had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers, which was very disappointing.

We are planning to run a full schedule of events in 2022 and a fixture list will be available early in the new year. Let's just hope that we are able to live with Covid and there are no more restrictions or closure over the winter.

My charity is Carers Bucks and I was hoping to raise funds for a cause that is probably close to many of us. Unfortunately the cancellation of events meant that county fundraising has been severely curtailed this year, so I am working on how to make up some of the shortfall in 2022.

All the Executive Committee have written reports about their particular area, so I will try not to repeat any of their news, only to say that I have attended lots of competitions and matches this summer and seen some great golf and, most importantly, lots of girls and ladies enjoying their golf and catching up with friends.

I invited 25 players to our winter elite training, as we have so many low handicap players but, due to Covid, we only managed one winter training session at a sunny and (fairly) warm Oxfordshire GC.

County Match Week at Northampton GC was a great experience. Special thanks to Helen Mines, house mother, kit manager and caddy master, who came along and made sure we all arrived at the right place at the right time wearing the right kit! Thanks also to Lynda Hilton for all her help and Tony Bowers for all his advice and expertise. We had an excellent 3 days and won all 5 of our matches, with a fabulous record of 21½ games won out of 25. There is a full report and photos on the web site.

National Finals were held at Denham. The standard of golf was extremely high, with lots of girls and ladies who represent England (and Wales) playing for the various counties. We started slowly with a loss to Yorkshire, probably one of the pre-tournament favourites, and then had a tough second day losing very close matches to both Surrey and Somerset. On the final day we had a great win against Hertfordshire and finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall, losing out to Yorkshire on countback. Again there is a full report and photos on the web site. Roisin Scanlon was awarded her first team colours at the end of Nationals, with a fabulous record of played 7 matches, won 6 over the two events at Northampton and Denham.

We had 14 girls and ladies who played at County Match Week and/or National Finals. Of these, 9 are still juniors, aged between 12 and 17. The 5 adults have all come through the county junior

ranks and 4 of them are still at university. Six of the 14 were rookies, but most of the others are now very experienced county players having represented county for a number of years. The mixture of rookies and experience worked very well, with the 'old girls' passing on all their experience to the 'new girls'. We are so fortunate that the foresight of those involved in setting up all the junior pathways over the last 10 to 15 years means that we are now reaping all the benefits of their effort.

We held the seniors and juniors county championships at The Buckinghamshire and were very well looked after at both events. It was baking hot at the end of July for the seniors, and wet and miserable at the beginning of August for the juniors – a typical English summer!

The main county championships was held at Denham. The course was in excellent condition but played very long as it was very wet and windy. Lily Robinson set a course record in the qualifying event. Well done to Daisy Kennedy who won the championship. Daisy has had a very difficult couple of years after some major health issues and it is great to see her back playing top level golf. I must also mention Alice Kozlowski who won the Baxter Bowl (shared with Lily Robinson this year) for the best intermediate (aged 18 – 24) in the qualifying competition, this means that Alice has won this competition every year she has been eligible.

I must also mention Stoke Park, which has closed for major refurbishment. I hope that all the Stoke Park ladies have managed to find new clubs to play their golf, and I'm sure they will be warmly welcomed at their new club.

I started with some thanks and I would like to end with some thanks:

- to all the clubs that give us the use of their courses and their facilities whether for Executive or Delegates meetings, training sessions, an individual match or a large competition and to the Ladies' Captains who support our events on their premises and provide starters and ball spotters; special mention to Harleyford for again hosting our AGM.
- to Tony who is a fantastic County coach, equally happy coaching the younger intermediate golfers, the (generally) older delegates, and the main County teams, and for his support during County and National Finals week in particular
- to all the parents, friends and members who provide transport, caddy for daughters or friends, attend prize-givings and generally support our members
- to you the BCLGA members who come to our meetings, support our competitions and our teams: (they really appreciate the good luck cards).

Janet Beal

BCLGA County Captain 2020 - 2022

9<sup>th</sup> October 2021