

BEDFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

www.blcga.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING
held at
ASPLEY GUISE & WOBURN SANDS GOLF CLUB
on
Monday 12TH March 2007 at 1.00pm

The County Captain welcomed everyone to the meeting and as there were several new County Delegates, Jos asked each lady to introduce herself.

THOSE PRESENT

C Goldsmith (President), A Shuter (Vice President), J Faris (Captain), L May (Vice Captain), K Harris (Secretary), A Taylor (Treasurer), P Collin (County Junior Organiser), E James (Senior's Captain), M Seabrook (Immediate Past Captain), A Shirville (Past Captains' Captain), M Watchorn (Handicap Adviser), C Nulty (Midland Delegate), M Frost (Assistant Handicap Advisor), W Albone (SB), S Eastley (BM), T Hind (B), N Jackson (M), B Kewell (C), M Knaggs (AG), Z Nicholl (LB), H Nolan (B&Co), M Oldfield (Wy), C Pike (PP), M Reddington (Til), N Shane (Ca), S Showan (JOG), A Stroomer (MP) and A Whitehouse (DD).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

G Smith (Acting Competition Secretary), A Corke (JOG), A Healey (The B), C King (Ch) and E Mackirdy (Mow).

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (04 Dec 2006)**

These were proposed as a true record by Margaret Seabrook and seconded by Zan Nicholl. The County Captain signed the minutes of the September and December meetings.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Sylvia Eastley (BM) asked if the format of the County games would be changed as minuted in December's AOB?

Jos explained that this had still not been completely resolved and would be further discussed at the Executive meeting next week with proposals being put to the July Meeting.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Invitation to a County Consultation Day (see AOB)
2. Requests for use of buggies in County Events from Mrs V Jones and Mrs G Thornton
3. ELGA/EGU Golf Development in Bedfordshire – March 2007
4. ELGA letter reference vacancy for a Part Time Training Officer
5. County Delegates have been sent an email with the updated Rules & Guidelines for County Shield Matches. All Lady Captains to be made aware of these before their first Shield Match.

Handouts to be collected and signed for after the meeting include AGM Minutes, List of Executive Committee, List of all Club Committees.
The 'yellow' County Booklets are in the foyer for collection.
Ann Taylor has County Course Cards and will hold a stock of spare 'yellow' County Booklets.

www.englishladiesgolf.org please see this web site for all up to date information from ELGA.

5. **MIDLAND DELEGATE'S REPORT** (Kitty Nulty)

Kitty attended the ELGA Midlands divisional meeting at EDGBASTON on Monday 26th February 2007. Jill Latch chaired this meeting in her new role as Chairman of ELGA Midlands committee.

The treasurer's report confirmed as surplus in 2006 of £1202 with a cash balance of £19,653. Mrs J. Marks is the new treasurer for the Midlands and the firm of Thompson Wright has been appointed as auditors.

ELGA AND LGU REPORT

Mrs Diane Bailey continues as President of ELGA and Mrs Sarah Millar is the new Chairman. Mrs Ruth Whitehead has been appointed Vice Chairman.

New members on the Executive include Mrs Sue Timberlake representing the Midlands. Sally Goulds continues on the Rules and Regulations committee newly joined by Sue Timberlake. Anne Andrews is Chairman of the Championship and Venues Committee and also part of the Accommodation Working Group for the new Offices. ELGA will be moving but still in Birmingham and this should be finalised shortly.

MODERNISATION REVIEW.

The number of delegates who attended the November seminars was lower than those who attended the initial workshops. Divisional and county consultation dates are taking place in March at which various proposals will be put forward. It was considered better to wait until delegates had been on the seminar than to discuss what was being proposed.

USGA RATING 943 courses have been issued with their certificates and there has been no change in the SS of 44%. CONGU has decided to reject Slope, however ELGA together with the other Ladies Home Countries will continue to fight to have the mechanics of it written in the handicapping system for 2008 so that when all the courses are rated, England could have the option to use Slope if they wished.

HANDICAPS A handicap seminar for Area Authorities was held in September at which proposed changes to the CONGU book for 2008 were outlined. It is hoped the book will be clearer and easier to read. Handicap allowances in the CONGU book will become mandatory in 2008.

COUNTY TREASURER AND COUNTY SECRETARY'S meeting will be set up this year. Date to be advised.

COMPETITION REVIEW

Midland Division events for 2007 were reviewed. South Beds are hosting the Coronation Foursomes Regional Final on 14th August. and The Bedfordshire are hosting the MIDLANDS AGM.

As many entries as possible are requested for the Midland Foursomes at Cotgrave Place Nottinghamshire, Tuesday 24th April.

2009 EVENTS

Bedfordshire to host the Midland Girls Championship in 2009. No details as yet.

JUNIOR MATCHPLAY FINALS

Norfolk were unhappy that only 3 teams took part in the Junior matchplay finals at JOG instead of 4. It was stated that if the Welsh teams were not going to participate then a different formula needed to be found to enable a 4 team final to take place. Running a stableford for the team sitting out was not deemed the best format. A possible solution would be to rearrange County areas. I have brought back some suggestions for our Junior organiser to give an opinion on.

NOMINATIONS FOR HON. SECRETARY'S JOB VACANCY.

2 nominations have been received.

The Chairman, Jill Latch ended by congratulating Holly Aitcheson on winning the Portuguese Open on her first outing in an international event. Congratulations were also included in the ELGA report.

Next Midlands Meeting: 18th June 2007.

S Showan asked about the 'Slope'. This is an additional rating of a course used in Scotland, USA, Europe and other parts of the world but not as yet in England.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT** (Ann Taylor)

£3954.00 has been received so far for subscriptions. The following clubs have not yet sent theirs: Aylesbury Vale, Beds & County, Dunstable Downs, John O'Gaunt, Millbrook, Stockwood Park and Tilsworth.

Course Cards requested so far total £514.00

The current and deposit accounts hold healthy balances.

Chris Jeffs the past auditor sent a thank you letter, which was read out at the meeting.

7. **COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT** (Jos Faris)

It is with sadness that Jos reported the death of our BLCGA Competition Secretary Carol Batchelor. Carol was ill from the beginning of her Captaincy, but was nevertheless always willing to be of help as Competition Secretary and insisted that she would manage to undertake her many duties. Many of her golfing friends and BLCGA members attended her funeral and on behalf of BLCGA, Jos sent a card and donation to her nominated charity. She will be missed by her many golfing friends in the county. A minute's silence in remembrance of Carol was observed.

Team Training. 2006-7

We have now had 3 practice matches with 18 – 24 ladies attending putting coaching with Paul Ashwell, psychology with Maurice Campbell and video lessons with David Armour. All of those involved in the Team Training programme this year have been very enthusiastic. Jos is much impressed by the effect that Paul Ashwell had resulting in many inches being removed from the length of putters!! Jos is thinking of having a sweep as to the total length removed from putters at her Funday in September.

Please remind all your ladies to come and watch at the County Championship at Dunstable Downs and support at County Week at Royal Norwich.

Jos was delighted to announce that Holly Aitchison of the Bedfordshire won the Portuguese Ladies Amateur Championship. Holly Aitchison and Laura Collin travelled to Portugal and both qualified for the matchplay stage. Unfortunately, Laura developed a neck problem and was forced to withdraw but Holly defeated stiff competition from Europe to win the competition. Well done to both Holly and Laura who have been working very hard to achieve success at this level.

Gill Smith has been kind enough to agree to be our acting Competition Secretary and has already managed to get most things up to date. We are grateful to Gill for agreeing to help as her knowledge of how everything is done in BLCGA has made it much easier in this transitional period.

Yellow County Booklet- due to various problems this is about a month behind and is available for collection today. The Bronze Meeting entry date has therefore been extended. County Delegates were also informed of the delay last week and a copy of the entry forms for the Bronze and Silver meeting were emailed to them and also put on the website. You will see that September is a very busy month in the fixture list but please make an effort to get the Ladies at your club to enter these competitions and watch out for the FundDay and Mixed Foursomes Entry Forms – new 18 Hole format. These entry forms will shortly be emailed to representatives and be put on the website www.blcga.co.uk.

8. **VICE CAPTAIN'S REPORT** (Lesley May)

The 2nd team are starting the season with a very optimistic and positive outlook. We are starting off with a new fixture, this Saturday, against the County Juniors and our next one will be against the Seniors at The Bedfordshire, although Lesley thinks Elaine has been quietly manipulating the dates on this one as it is going to take place just after all the Juniors, which might be playing, are back at school!

Lesley is anxious to learn of anyone new who has joined the County with a handicap of 13 or less, or of anyone whose handicap has come down. She will be writing to the Club Delegates to ask if they would supply this information.

The 2nd team is a very good place to learn about County golf and to take part. It is important to give everyone a chance to play and meet other players from different clubs and counties and to join in our enthusiastic team.

9. **COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT** (Gill Smith)

In Gill's absence Jos reminded all County Delegates to encourage ladies to complete their entry forms for the Spring Meetings and return them as soon as possible.

10. **HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT** (Margaret Watchorn)

There are no changes to the CONGU Handicap System for 2007/8. All clubs are reminded that they should have carried out an Annual Review of Handicaps at the end of January 2007. Adjustments can be made using the General Play guidelines.

All Clubs must offer their members the opportunity to submit Supplementary Scores during 2007.

At the last meeting Margaret asked for the following information:-
How many lady members have you got with handicaps at your Club?
How many ladies qualified to submit Supplementary Scores in 2006?
How many **actually** submitted Supplementary Scores during 2006?
How many ladies qualify to submit Supplementary Scores in 2007?

Margaret thanked the following clubs who had sent that information to her – The Griffin now Caddington, Mowsbury, Dunstable Downs, Beadlow Manor, Bedford & County, Pavenham Park, Wyboston Lakes, The Bedford and John O'Gaunt. Those clubs who have not yet replied are asked to send the information by March 31st. Margaret will ask for a further update after 30th September 2007.

A reminder of Margaret's e-mail watchornbedford@aol.com

Margaret also informed the meeting that as Pat Lugsdin had moved the County will be requiring a new Course Assessor Team Leader. This team is responsible for measuring the course and approximately 4 more courses will be assessed in 2007. The club involved will receive a letter requesting certain information before the course is measured and then the team takes the measurements once this information has been received. The Team Leader's role is an administrative one and training will be given. County Delegates are asked to speak to their clubs to see if there is someone who is willing to take up this role. Please speak to Margaret Watchorn, Cicely Goldsmith, Gill Smith or Joss Binks, who are the other team members, for any information.

11. **JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT** (Paula Collin)

Following on from our sports psychology session, physiotherapist Sally Olney came to talk to the girls in the beginning of January. 10 girls attended and advice was given on stretching, flexibility and core stability. The girls also had an opportunity to participate. Sally very generously gave her time free of charge.

Coaching has also been taking place with sessions being held at Bedfordshire GC with David Armor and at Beadlow Manor with Paul Simpson.

8 girls with handicaps from 6 to 20 were invited to Bedfordshire GC for 2 3 hour sessions covering short game, putting and course management.

11 girls were invited to Beadlow Manor handicaps range from 22 to 44. These are our improvers and we hope to select as many girls as possible to play in the 2nd junior team. 3 sessions have been arranged. Paula thanked Gill Westgate for her help with this group.

Thanks to David Armor who has coached the junior girls for several years. Paula wished him good luck at his new golf club.

Our first match is against Cambs/Hunts at Millbrook GC on Sunday 15th April.

Paula was invited to attend the Junior AGM at JOG GC and said a few words about the role of the county. It was great to see so many of the girls winning trophies and more gaining handicaps.

She also attended an area CJO meeting at Bury St Edmunds. This is a great opportunity to meet the other junior organisers to exchange ideas and discuss any problems. We were able to finalise the plans for the 2nd team.

Paula has been updating her records on how many girls there are in the county and thanks all the ladies who replied promptly with this information. Please could Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands and Bedfordshire GC let me have the details of girls at their clubs. If Paula does not know who the girls, are she cannot make sure they receive details of events being held. According to ELGA figures there are 63 girls in Bedfordshire, 20 now have handicaps of 36 and under. We still have a way to go. Do you know the girls in your club? Have you arranged to play a few holes with them? Could you organise a little get together?

On Sat 17th the Junior squad will be in action against County 2nd ladies, all the girls playing are looking forward to this immensely.

Paula reminded the meeting that she will end her term of office at the AGM and it would be nice to have the next CJO working with her through the summer ready to take over in November. Once again the County Delegates were asked to talk to their club members to see if there is a lady (or ladies) willing to take over this important role.

12. **SENIORS' CAPTAIN'S REPORT** (Elaine James)

Elaine thinks she has now received most, if not all the subscriptions for the year, but ladies can join later on if they wish when they reach the required age.

She has put in the plastic folders for club distribution, to those clubs with present senior members, the details for the 2000 trophy competition and another form for seniors with handicaps of 18 and over, to put their names on if they would like to be considered for the Seniors' County Match against Northamptonshire on 9th August.

Please could Elaine have the form returned to her by 1st July so that she can sort a team out.

13. **PAST CAPTAINS' CAPTAIN'S REPORT** (Alison Shirville)

Alison began her report as she had previously at this time of the year, by remarking yet again that she has had to chase numerous clubs to give up their list of Past Captains by

February 1st. This is a time consuming exercise.

There are no members from Colmworth & North Beds, Mount Pleasant, Stockwood Park and Colworth, but it is great pleasure to welcome The Millbrook with 7 members. Some clubs have still not replied to Alison's request for a list of players for this year's matches, so County Delegates from The Bedfordshire, The Bedford and Chalgrave Manor are asked to chase their Lady Captains for this information to be sent to her as soon as possible.

The first match will be against the Mens' Past Captains at Aylesbury Vale, always an enjoyable fixture.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Kathy Harris reported that she, Lesley and Kitty had attended an ELGA Consultation Day, which presented their recommendations and proposed changes for the organisation. **Ros Weston will give a presentation to Bedfordshire and a meeting has been arranged on Wednesday April 25th at Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands GC. It is imperative that a member from each golf club attends this meeting therefore if the County Delegate is unable to attend she must ask someone in her place.**

Kathy will distribute a précis of the slide presentation to all the County Delegates but urged them to look at the ELGA web site www.englishladiesgolf.org and select 'ELGA Modernisation Review' from the left-hand side of the page. From the next page select 'Summary Regional Workshops' from the pink panel on the right-hand side. This document will give a fuller background as to why the meeting in April is required.

Nora Shane reported to the meeting that The Griffin Golf Club would now be known as Caddington Golf Club.

Cynthia Pike asked if it was possible to change the names of entrants for the KO 4's. It was agreed that it was OK and to let Gill Smith have the details.

15. **DATE & VENUE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next committee meeting will be held at Pavenham Park GC at 1.00pm on Monday 2nd July 2007.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 14.30pm. Jos thanked Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands Golf Club for their hospitality.

Signed _____

Date _____