

**BEDFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION**

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MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

held at

**THE MILLBROOK GOLF CLUB**

on

Monday 4<sup>TH</sup> December 2006 at 1.00pm

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

**THOSE PRESENT**

C Goldsmith (President), A Shuter (Vice President), J Faris (Captain), C Batchelor (Competition Secretary), 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), W Albone (SB), A Corke (JOG), S Eastley (BM), T Hind (B), N Jackson (M), B Kewell (C), E Mackirdy (Mow), A O'Sullivan (DD), M Oldfield (Wy), C Pike (PP), N Shane (G) and G Westgate (B&Co).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

L May (Vice Captain), A Stroomer (MP), M Knaggs (AG) and Z Nicholl (LB).

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

One amendment:

P6 Senior Captain's Report Carol Clarke SB score should read 64 not 74.

These were proposed as a true record by Margaret Watchorn and seconded by Cynthia Pike. As the Secretary did not have the Minutes Book at the meeting they will be signed by the County Captain at the March Meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AGM (06.11.06)**

The use of funds as raised by Maureen Clarke will be discussed later in the Meeting.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Cicely read out a letter of thanks received from Gill Smith.

ELGA Memos (all info also on web site [www.englishladiesgolf.org](http://www.englishladiesgolf.org)):

1. Pauline Perla staying on as Chief Executive.
  2. 2007 Ladies Amateur Golf Circuit Calendar
  3. AGM Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Cicely and Margaret Watchorn attending – accounts on website
  4. Development for Juniors - ‘The Bunker’ web site at [www.englishgolfunion.org/juniorgolf](http://www.englishgolfunion.org/juniorgolf)
  5. ELGA/EGU Grants & funding information
  6. ELGA Trust information
  7. ELGA Team England Performance Squad lists (Katie Burman JOG on Futures List)
  8. ELGA/EGU Results for Bedfordshire of Club Membership Survey
- Nov 2006 ELGA & EGU participants of golf initiatives within Bedfordshire  
 If anyone would like copies of any of the above please contact Kathy.  
 Kathy also reminded Delegates to collect and sign for their club envelope and forms.

6. **MIDLAND DELEGATE’S REPORT** (Kitty Nulty)

There has not been a Midlands Meeting since the last County Meeting but Kitty reminded Delegates of the ELGA Trust envelope passed out at the AGM.

7. **TREASURER’S REPORT** (Ann Taylor)

Ann has now completed the new Bank Mandate forms and is a recognised signature for BLCGA. She has received the Insurance Invoice, which has increased by £19.00. Some of the ‘yellow book’ advertising monies have been received. She was pleased to announce that we are solvent.

8. **COUNTY CAPTAIN’S REPORT** (Jos Faris)

It is with sadness that Jos reported the death of Sue McCoy. Sue became ill a couple of months ago and sadly died just over a week ago. Her funeral last Thursday was attended by many of her golfing friends. Sue was always an enthusiastic member of the County. She was a member of Mowsbury Golf Club and Bedford & County Golf Club, she had been the Mowsbury Ladies Captain and BLCGA County Delegate. This year she had agreed to help as a Beginners Girls Co-ordinator. She will be missed by all who knew her.

The winners of our Sub Divisional Final at County Week- Cambs and Hunts- went on to win the Divisional Finals and played in the English County Finals in September at Copt Heath Golf Club where they came 3<sup>rd</sup>. The fact that we came such a close 2<sup>nd</sup> should reflect well for our Sub Division and Bedfordshire players in the future.

Matches and Team Training 2006-7

The Team Training Squad continues as a group of approximately 24 ladies, nearly all having single figure handicaps. In addition we have the “Improvers Group” - selected from ladies who have handicaps up to 12 /13 and have played in scratch teams matches.

For next year we will be concentrating on putting and psychology with sessions with Paul Ashwell and Maurice Campbell respectively. We also have several practice matches arranged during February and March. David Armour will continue to be involved with swing analysis video lessons and specific short game group lessons. We hope this will prepare us for next year and give us that edge we lacked on the final day at County Week.

All of those involved in the Team Training programme this year have been very enthusiastic and the standard of play is improving all the time. Calculations indicate that at least 2/3 of the squad have reduced their handicap this year and over 1/4 are Category 1 handicap – 0-5. We have also

had 3 new course records set this year. Heather Mutton- South Beds and Leighton Buzzard and Gill Westgate at Bedford and County.

At the end of October we played our return match against Nottinghamshire at Stanton on the Wolds G.C. The team for this match is made up from members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Team and Junior Team. All of the players enjoyed playing in this fixture at the end of the season but this year we lost 4:3.

County Mixed Foursomes – Millbrook 10th September. Millbrook was very welcoming and those who entered had an enjoyable day.

Our main Sponsor- Brian Handscombe of Handscombe Financial Planning Ltd presented the prizes and informed me that he intends to continue sponsoring BLCGA next year.

There was a disappointing entry for the county Mixed Foursomes- only 11 pairs and after much phoning Jos got the entry up to 22.

In 2007 the County Mixed will be played at The Bedford GC on 23rd September and she is intending to make this an 18 Hole Competition. All of you here today can tell others of this change and encourage them to play next year.

COUNTY CAPTAIN'S FUN(d)DAY 2007 - The proceeds of the Captain Fun(d)day together with the monies from our sponsors in the Yellow Booklet are the source of funding for our Team Training sessions.

In 2007 the Fun(d)day will be held at Bedford and County Golf Club on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. As in the past there will be a FUN Team of 4 format and Jos's club, Bedford and County, has been kind enough to grant courtesy of the course for the whole day. Please put this date in your diary now as she has lots of fun planned!!

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

There was no report.

10. **COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT** (Carol Batchelor)

Carol did not have very much to report, as this time of the year is fairly quiet and she suspects not very much golf is played.

However she reminded everyone that the events for next year MUST be supported better than they have been this year. We do not want the embarrassment of having to cancel events. This does not go down well with the Clubs we use and we do not want to put County events in jeopardy.

Carol again reminded Delegates to please collect their envelope before they go as they contain a letter to County Delegates, some entry forms for the Knockout foursomes and Flyers for all the main County events. Please make sure these are displayed as and when the time is appropriate. As in previous years the entry forms will be in the yellow book with the exception of the County Captain's Fun(d)day and the County Mixed foursomes. These will be sent to your clubs by the County Captain.

There are some additions and amendments to the Event Fixture List 2007 and these are contained in the letter to the County Delegates. Please make sure you add these to your list.

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

CONGU Booklet

On September 27<sup>th</sup> Martine Frost and Margaret attended the National Handicap Seminar in Birmingham.

The CONGU Booklet will be redesigned and reprinted for the beginning of the golfing year 2008. The new design will follow the same principals as the Decisions on the Rules of Golf.

There are no major changes to the current CONGU system of Handicapping proposed for 2008 – just tidying up obsolete references in the 2004 booklet.

The CONGU Rules and Booklet will be revised and reprinted every 4 years.

#### Supplementary Scores

Supplementary Scores must still be offered by all Clubs to their members during the golfing year 2007/2008. To date we have not been advised of any changes to the criteria for qualification for the coming year.

Delegates are asked to bring the following information to the County Meeting in March or send it to me via e-mail [watchornbedford@aol.com](mailto:watchornbedford@aol.com)

At the end of the golfing year 2006/2007 -

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?

#### 12. **JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT** (Paula Collin)

Paula has arranged most of our events for 2007. The Junior Championship will be held at Woburn Sands/Aspley Guise GC on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Our match against Cambs/Hunts has still to be arranged but she hopes to have that sorted soon. Coaching for 2007 is still to be arranged.

In 2007 the newly formed 2<sup>nd</sup> junior team will play matches against Suffolk, Cambs/Hunts and Norfolk. The format will be greensomes and Paula is delighted that we have managed to arrange them to be at the same time as the 1<sup>st</sup> junior team. We hope to have a trophy for the winners. The final matches for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> junior teams of the season will be at Swaffham GC on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. The girls really appreciate seeing as much support as possible.

Other counties award their girls who play in the junior teams county colours and Paula would very much like to do this with Bedfordshire girls. She would like to award badges to the girls. The format will be that the girls need to play 3 matches for the 1<sup>st</sup> junior team. Paula knows the girls would really appreciate their commitment being rewarded and they would be delighted to wear their badges with pride. She has asked Jos to put together some designs and costings for badges. The cost will be in the region of £240.00 for 100 badges, which would last for many years. Paula asked if the County would be prepared to meet the cost of this?

Our junior section is very successful, more girls have achieved handicaps, entries to competitions are increasing but costs are rising. Running a second team is an additional expense. Providing coaching is also very expensive. The juniors are the future of County golf with girls going on to compete not only at club and County but National level. Several girls are regularly part of the County ladies squads.

In 2006 donations were received from JOG and DD clubs. If your ladies section is having an event over the winter, please could you have raffle or similar, ask your lady captain even a small amount would be very much appreciated.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Paula arranged for a Sports Psychologist to talk to the girls. All who attended enjoyed a very enjoyable session. The girls would like to have a follow up session and she hopes to arrange this for early next year.

As mentioned at the AGM this is Paula's last year as Junior Organiser as she will be stepping down at the next AGM. We will be looking for a new Junior Organiser, please report this to your golf clubs. Paula would be very happy to talk to anyone about the role.

Margaret Oldfield (WL) asked what funding Paula received so that she could put a donation request to her Lady Captain & Committee. Paula explained that ELGA offer several grants and as last year she will apply for everything possible. However some grants are only to be used for specific purposes eg 'to support activities for junior girls in the early stages of their game' and the application for these have to be clearly identified and costed on the forms. The financial report presented at the AGM shows that we had just over £3000 in grants from ELGA but there is no guarantee we will have this amount in 2007. BLCGA donate £1.00 from each ladies subscription to the Junior Fund and this totalled £1280 in 2006. Costs for 2007 at this moment are approximately £2000 but there will be additional training and coaching costs to be considered. Paula did not want to increase the entry fees for juniors for 2007 competitions.

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

Since our last meeting, there is little to report. Elaine has completed and confirmed the dates for next year's fixtures, but the High Autumn has been removed from the calendar for 2007 after the problems this year, but will consider putting it back into 2008 with variations to its present format. She has circulated the majority of subscription forms by e-mail to County Delegates and is keeping the subscription to £1 again this year.

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

Alison reminded Delegates to make sure the 'Past Captains' subscription form is returned to her by 1<sup>st</sup> February at the latest.

15. **COUNTY COMPETITION RULES** (Inc Shield Matches)

Alison Corke (JOG) was the only Delegate with a response from the September Meeting and after much discussion the following proposal was agreed. Proposed by Alison Shirville and seconded by Carol Batchelor.

Where the course becomes unplayable during the match or the match has to be abandoned due to severe weather conditions and resumption of play or re-arrangement is not possible:

1. If a game in the match has played more than 9 holes the result of that game when play was abandoned will stand.
2. If a game in the match has played less than 9 holes it will be deemed a halved game.
3. If no games are played the match will be halved.

**Changing a pre-arranged match date-** All clubs have busy diaries and it would be difficult to change a pre-arranged date.

In extra ordinary circumstances a club may request a change but it would up to the home club to decide if this is possible and such a request would have to be made at least 2 months before the pre-arranged date.

In the event that a club cannot field a team they will forfeit the match.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Use of County Funds – at the AGM Maureen Clarke (South Beds) asked if overheads at County golf meetings could be taken out of funds as we have a healthy balance sheet and maybe this would help boost entry numbers?

Carol explained that the County events were self-funding i.e. no profits made and the only overheads were for the cost of the meal for the organiser/s and gratuities to the staff and club. All other money was used for prizes. After much discussion it was agreed that County events were excellent value for money and financing overheads from County funds would not help to increase entry numbers.

Carol recognised that the format of the games would help determine entry numbers and that 18 holes is a more favoured format as witnessed by the event at Beadlow Manor. The meeting to discuss 2008 fixtures planned for January will discuss this further but all Delegates are asked to pass ideas from their clubs to Carol – telephone or email.

Margaret Seabrook noted that it was necessary to maintain the healthy balance to ensure that we are adequately placed if and when we win County Week and therefore play in the Divisional Finals, as other counties had found that their Executive Committee subsidised these expenses.

Margaret also asked that the new County Treasurer ring fence the sponsorship monies from the 'Yellow Booklet' and the Captains 'Fun(d)day' to ensure that this is only used for County Squad Training.

County Course Card – The wording for the 2007 book with reference to the green fee will be amended to read 'at a reduced rate' as Wyboston Lakes will definitely be unable to offer a half price green fee. Course Card holders should note that all clubs should be contacted before booking to confirm course availability.

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

The next committee meeting will be held at Aspley Guise GC at 1.00pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

Other meeting dates for 2007 as follows:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Pavenham Park GC

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October The Griffin GC

AGM Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November Dunstable Downs GC

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December TBA

As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 14.50. Jos thanked Millbrook Golf Club for their hospitality.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_