



***WORCESTERSHIRE & HEREFORDSHIRE***  
***LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION***

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017**



# **WORCESTERSHIRE & HEREFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION**

The Annual General Meeting will take place at Kidderminster Golf Club  
on Tuesday 23rd October 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

## **AGENDA**

1. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES
2. APOLOGIES
3. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. CAPTAIN'S REPORT
6. 2nd TEAM CAPTAIN'S REPORT
7. JUNIOR REPORT
8. SECRETARY'S REPORT
9. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT
10. TREASURER'S REPORT
11. ENGLAND GOLF REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT
12. COUNTY WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT
13. HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT
14. ADOPTION OF REPORTS
15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
16. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES TO JUNIORS
17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at Kidderminster Golf Club.

Lyn Robinson – Hon. Secretary (lynandade@gmail.com)

# WORCESTERSHIRE & HEREFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT KINGS NORTON GOLF CLUB ON MONDAY 16th OCTOBER 2017

The meeting was held at Kings Norton on Monday 16th October 2017 with 89 members present.

The President, Mrs Yvonne Foley (hereinafter called "The Chairman") welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. She extended a warm welcome to Honorary Life Members and Life Vice Presidents, as well as the Lady President of Kings Norton, Mary Moore, and Lady Captain, Margaret Stiles.

The Chairman requested that all present sign the Attendance Book. She also advised that, when giving reports and addressing the meeting, speakers should start with "Madam Chairman, Ladies".

The Chairman was pleased to announce there were no bereavements to report.

The Chairman was pleased to report on Regional and National Golfing successes achieved by our members:-

- Emily Furniss (Gaudet Luce) qualified for the Lee Westwood Tour National Finals in October 2016 at Close House, Newcastle. Emily was Runner up in the Girls U21 category. Emily has qualified for the 2017 Finals, which will be held later this month at Gainsborough. Megan Evans, one of our girls, has also qualified for the 2017 Finals.
- Again in October, Constance Brooks (Gaudet Luce) and Aimee Field (Halesowen) both qualified to play in the 24th Andalucian Junior Tour of Spain, sponsored by the Daily Express. This was a 7 day tour, playing on 4 different courses, with a final round at Finca Cortesin for those making the cut. Unfortunately Constance did not make the cut for the final round, and Aimee made the cut but did not make the prizes. A great experience for them both.
- Lucy Walton (The Worcestershire) qualified for the Faldo Wales Championships by winning the Ludlow Scratch Open. The championships were held at Pyle and Kenfig, and she finished 2nd in the U21 category and a very creditable 4th overall, amongst an international field. Lucy also entered the R&A Girls British Open at Enville in August. This event attracts the 144 best girl golfers from across the world, and their handicaps are 0.9 or better. This was the first time Lucy's handicap was low enough, and is the last time as she is now no longer a junior. An achievement nevertheless.
- In March, Emily Furniss secured a place on the England Golf Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence in Golf. This is a 2 year course for talented young golfers.
- Lucy Buckley (Bromsgrove) is one of two girls selected as an England Golf Success Story by the EWGA Trust in their scheme to support beginner golfers.
- In April, at the Midland U16 Girls Open Amateur Strokeplay Championships, played at Hawkstone Park, 3 girls represented the County – Constance Brooks and Kirsten Porte (Gaudet Luce) and Rosanna Halls (Cleobury Mortimer). Constance tied for 9th place.
- The Independent Schools Association Golf Championships were held at South Staffs in June, with competitors coming from far and wide. Lili-Rose Hunt (Droitwich) won the Girls Championships with 42 points.

- In the NASUWT English Schools U16 National Championships held at Walsall, Rosanna Halls (Cleobury Mortimer) came a very creditable 7th.
- Rosanna also was the winner of the open age nett competition in the Four Counties Schools Championships held at Arscott.
- In the Midlands South Girls Championships, played at Robin Hood at the end of August, Megan Langford (Moseley) was placed 2nd in the handicap event with 35 points. Megan Evans (Gaudet Luce) was 3rd best gross in the U18 category, and Grace Bowen (The Worcestershire) was 3rd best nett in the U18 category. W&H entered 2 teams of 3 players in each, and were placed 2nd and 4th.
- Two girls took part in the North of England U14/U16 Open Amateur Strokeplay Championships, played at Pannal. Rosanna Halls (Cleobury Mortimer) came 3rd in the U14 category, and Kirsten Porte (Gaudet Luce) came 4th also in the U14.
- In the North of England U14 Junior Open Championships, held in County Durham, Kirsten Porte and Constance Brooks (both Gaudet Luce) took part. After 3 rounds of strokeplay, Kirsten won best nett. Constance and Kirsten joined Hannah Golding (Brocton Hall) to enter the team event, and together they won the best nett.
- Lili-Rose Hunt (Droitwich) qualified for the UK Kids Golf Invitational Grand Final and won! This now gives her automatic entry into the World Championships at Pinehurst, USA, the European Championships at St Andrews, and the Australian Open!! She is 11 years of age! Lili-Rose's dad, Paul, is anticipating a lottery win.
- Lili-Rose also secured 3rd place in the National Final of the PING sponsored American Golf Junior Championships, held at Gainsborough. This event attracts some of the best junior golfers in the UK and Ireland. This championship will be shown on Sky Sports in October.
- The Abraham Trophy was played for at Blackmoor in Hampshire, and this year, 3 girls represented the County. These were Lucy Buckley (Bromsgrove), Lili-Rose Hunt (Droitwich) and Kacey Haynes (Gaudet Luce). In a field of 22 girls, challenging for the title of 'most improved' girl golfer in England, Lili-Rose came 2nd, carding a nett 68. Kacey, who was an Area Final winner and awarded a silver salver for being the most improved girl golfer in 5 counties, tied for 8th, and Lucy tied for 15th.
- In the Midland Champion of Champions played at Coventry in September, Kacey Haynes (Gaudet Luce) represented the County in the U16 event and finished 3rd in this category, and 6th overall.
- The Midlands South Regional 4 Ball Betterball was hosted by The Buckinghamshire. The winners were Sarah Cranton (Stourbridge) and Anna Rock (Kidderminster), with a gross 74, taking the silverware from 4 other pairings on the same score. Sarah and Anna won this event in 2016 at Blackwell.
- In the PING Plate, with a field of 50 pairs, the following clubs were successful. Droitwich, represented by Mary Lightfoot and Mary Steventon, finished 10th, and Bromsgrove, represented by Gail Henderson-Hewitt and Anne Stevens, finished 8th.
- In the PING Final, the qualifiers with 46 points or above, the County had 2 clubs playing; Lynne Jones and Joanne McGhee from Hollywood, and they finished 35th, and Pam Leyton and Jane Swan from Burghill Valley finished 9th. A very impressive showing from our County. Well done ladies.
- The Charles Heeley Challenge Bowl was held at Redditch this year, and Sharon Cartwright (Kidderminster) was Runner-up.

- In the England Golf Gold Medal Finals, this event is now sponsored by Bridgestone and the 10 best players from each of the 6 regions play for the Bridgestone Chase Your Dream Trophy at Woodhall Spa. Two players from our County qualified for the national final, Lucy Walton (The Worcestershire) and Lyn Sheldon (Redditch).
- The Inter-County Scratch League. The winners of Division 1 and the League are Kidderminster. Redditch won Division 4 and will be promoted.
- In the English Girls U18 Championships, held at Littlestone in Kent, atrocious weather hampered play and the event was reduced to 54 holes. Emily Furniss (Gaudet Luce) and Millie Birch (Redditch) represented the County, but Emily withdrew after the 1st round, and Millie unfortunately did not make the cut.
- In the English Girls U14/U16, played at Blackmoor in Hampshire, the County fielded 6 girls. Due to weather, this event was reduced to 54 holes. Five of the girls missed the cut, but Constance Brooks finished tied 8th in the U14 category – very commendable given the conditions. She was the 2nd highest placed English girl.
- In the West Midlands Junior Golf League, The Peter Skidmore Trophy for the best net was won by Lili-Rose Hunt (Droitwich). Lili-Rose equalled the best gross, but this trophy, The Bob Osborn Trophy, was awarded to Emily Furniss (Gaudet Luce). This event was played at Dudley.
- England Golf Regional Coaching Assessment Weekend took place at the beginning of September. Four girls from our County have been successful in achieving places in the U16 West Midlands Coaching Squad. These very happy girls are Constance Brooks, Kirsten Porte and Lauren Sharp (all Gaudet Luce) and Rosanna Halls (Cleobury Mortimer). The squad only comprises 6 girls in total. In the U18 category for the West Midlands, Emily Furniss (Gaudet Luce) has achieved a place. This squad comprises 8 in total, the other 7 being boys.
- The Midlands South Junior Team Finals were played at Harleyford in Buckinghamshire. The W&H team of 6 juniors competed against Buckinghamshire in the Scratch Final, and in a tight finish, W&H girls prevailed and won the trophy.
- The Bicester Cup is a new event for Midlands South Juniors, and will be competed for by the 6 counties in our region at Bicester each year. Each county sends 6 Juniors, with 4 best scores to count. Again, W&H were on form and won the trophy.

Congratulations to all the winners and those who took part in regional or national events, and if not recorded above, please accept our apologies. It is obvious from the above that the Juniors in W&H are going from strength to strength and thanks are extended to all the members of the Junior Committee under the Chairmanship of Jenny Hartley, and all the parents and helpers who come along to coaching sessions, matches and events. The talent demonstrated above all stems from the County Development Centres and the coaching programme being taught by the professionals, helped by the CDC Lady Managers. It seems to be a system that works for W&H, with the quality of the juniors being the envy of many counties. It's not all golf – there has to be an element of fun and enjoyment, and this is evident when you see the juniors in action, loving what they do and the success it brings.

The Chairman thanked Kings Norton for use of the course for the AGM Greensomes Competition, and for use of the clubhouse facilities for County meetings over the past year. Thanks were also extended to Droitwich for hosting junior meetings, to Gaudet Luce, Bromsgrove and to Worcester G & CC where meetings were also held.

## 1. Presentation of Trophies

The Chairman introduced Mary Moore, Lady President of Kings Norton. Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting. The results of the morning's 9 hole Greensomes competition were as follows:

Best Gross	Biddy Denton & Netty Kitson	Stourbridge	15 pts Back 1
Best Nett	Philippa Daniel & Trudi Humphries	Droitwich	20 pts Back 6
Second Nett	Joy Mutton & Elaine Ostroumoff	Redditch	20 pts
Third Nett	Elizabeth Johnstone & Claire Painter	Kidderminster	19 pts

The Chairman gave thanks to the competition starter, Ken Foley, who stepped in at the last minute to help out.

The presentation of trophies for County competitions then took place. Presentations to junior competition winners would be made at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman then formally opened the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Worcestershire & Herefordshire Ladies County Golf Association (WHLCGA). Members were reminded that only Club Delegates were eligible to vote.

## 2. Apologies

31 apologies were received and accepted en bloc.

## 3. Minutes of the Last AGM

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th October 2016 had been circulated. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Helen Olds (Worcester G&CC) and seconded by Angela Taylor (Redditch). The Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

## 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## 5. Captain's Report

The County Captain, Sue Birch, began her report by thanking the many clubs for their donations to the junior fund which had exceeded £2500 so far this year. Members were assured that the money is put to good use and helps the Association to develop a wide pool of young girl golfers for the future health and sustainability of its clubs and for the future success of the County teams.

### 1st Team

All the matches had been reported in full earlier in the year at meetings and on the website.

### 1st Team v Gloucestershire at The Herefordshire

This match was played in glorious weather against the 2016 winners of County Finals. Two of the morning foursomes were won by the partnerships of Karen & Hayley and of Lucy & Laura. Singles matches were halved with good wins from Sarah Cranton, Anna Rock and Constance Brooks. The match was halved.

### 1st Team v Staffordshire at South Staffs

A breezy day greeted players at South Staffs. The foursomes were halved with Alice & Constance Brooks and Lucy Walton & Ciara Kelly winning their matches. In the singles there was a huge 9&7 win for young Constance Brooks. In windy conditions and on the slippery greens, Lucy, Ciara and Alice brought in wins. The result was a halved match.

**Gentlemen of The Worcestershire.** Unfortunately this annual match had to be cancelled due to a diary clash, but the County remain very keen to ensure the fixture continues.

### **1st Team v Leicestershire at Kirby Muxloe**

This was a bright sunny day. Aimee Field (back in action from injury) played with Sarah Cranton and they won. Anna & Hayley halved their match. Karen & Sarah Nicklin were narrowly beaten on 18th when the opposition almost had a hole in one. Laura Yapp then provided fresh legs for the singles. Karen had a strong win 6&5 and Hayley delivered half a point too. But the stronger team won on their home track. Match Lost to Leicestershire 6-3.

### **County Championships**

This event was held at Kidderminster. The club was congratulated on presenting a worthy course in fine condition and for giving great support on all fronts. After the 36-hole qualifying event, the knockout rounds began with 12 players, 9 of whom were juniors. Hayley Noel, Rosanna Halls, Charlotte Campbell and Caitlin McNeil won their first round matches. In the quarterfinals, #1 seed Lucy Walton won 2&1 against Hayley Noel. Rosanna Halls played against Ciara Kelly and battled until the 22nd hole before succumbing to Ciara's experience. Constance Brooks (#3) won against Charlotte Campbell and Karen knocked out Caitlin McNeil. In the semi-finals, Lucy Walton played against her close friend Ciara Kelly, winning 4&3. Constance Brooks took on Karen and the fearless 13 year old forged ahead deposing the previous champion 5&3. The final was between 2 juniors, Lucy Walton (The Worcestershire) and Constance Brooks (Gaudet Luce). All were impressed with Lucy's length off the tee and her deadly approach shots. Constance kept her head, made few mistakes and battled hard but Lucy triumphed to win 4&3 and became 2017 County Champion (for the third time!). The match was played in perfect conditions and was well supported. The Captain thanked the supporters and referees Brenda Binnie and Ros Weston.

### **The County Match Week (CMW) squad was announced as follows:**

Alice Brooks, Sarah Cranton, Aimee Field, Karen Greenfield, Ciara Kelly, Sarah Nicklin, Hayley Noel, Anna Rock, Lucy Walton, Laura Yapp, To those 10 established players were added 2 rookies: Constance Brooks (Gaudet Luce) and Caitlin McNeil (Burghill Valley), both aged 13. In the build up to County Match Week, the team had skills practice with Alison Nicholas at Kings Norton. Alison brought her Solheim Cup experience and she worked with small groups to motivate and inspire the squad. During the CMW practice round she helped the girls with course management and Alison was thanked for her help and support.

**CMW 2017** W&H were hosts this year to CMW held at Kings Norton. There was a great deal of preparatory work over many months and tribute was paid to the energetic and highly motivated Organising Team made up of Yvonne Foley (County President), Valerie Evans (County Vets Captain), Lyn Robinson (2nd Team Captain), Ros Weston (Chief Referee), Jill Yates and Sarah Nicklin (Vice Captain). On behalf of the County each of them was thanked for the many hours of work, their meticulous preparation, tireless commitment and a job very well done. W&H can feel rightly proud.

**Practice day - Sunday June 25th** The teams of Midlands South Region arrived and after their practice rounds, the Team Photographs were taken by Steve Bennett and his wife Louise (Stourbridge), followed by the Welcome Dinner.

### **Day 1 against Berkshire**

W&H fielded a strong and experienced team to play Berkshire. Karen & Sarah had a win but the other 2 matches were both lost on the 18th. In the afternoon Sarah Cranton had a 7&5 win. Ciara secured another win on 18th and Laura Yapp brought in a hard fought half. Overall, 5 of the 9 games went all the way to the 18th hole but **W&H lost so narrowly 5 games to 4**

### **Day 2 against Warwickshire**

The foursomes were spectacular. Lucy Walton & Ciara Kelly won every hole to notch up a 10&8 win. This was followed by a 6&4 win by the Karen - Sarah partnership. Sarah Cranton, paired with 'rookie' Constance, brought in a 2&1 win so W&H were 3-0 up. The afternoon was more even. Hayley halved, Ciara won against Lisa Barton and dependable anchor-man Laura conquered Liz Haycock, Warwickshire's County Champion. *W&H won 5 ½ games to 3 ½*

### **Day 3 against Buckinghamshire**

This was a crucial match, as thus far Buckinghamshire were unbeaten. The foursomes were evenly matched with just the narrowest of losses on 18th for Lucy and Ciara, a loss for Sarah Cranton & Anna but a win for Karen & Sarah Nicklin. At lunch W&H were 2-1 down and the strongest players had to go out in the singles. Anna secured a fantastic half in her match after being 4 down on 11th. Lucy's 7&6 win was followed by a win for Ciara and another for Laura 5&4. *W&H halved the match*

### **Day 4 against Northamptonshire**

W&H set forth to bring in 3 wins from the foursomes including an impressive 8&6 victory for Sarah Cranton & Anna. Alice Brooks joined us after her last 'A' level exam and played in the singles. Anna brought in another comfortable win, as did Aimee. Laura, the anchor-man, won again against the Northants captain. *W&H won 6 games to 3*

### **Day 5 against Oxfordshire**

The outcome of the tournament rested with other teams. W&H won all their morning foursomes with Sarah Cranton & Aimee winning 8&7. W&H secured another 4 wins from the afternoon singles. Hayley had a big 7&5 win. Both rookies won their matches, Constance 5&4 and Caitlin 4&3. Laura Yapp completed her unbeaten record for the week by winning on the 18th. To complete the 'CMW initiation' for the rookies, they were persuaded to throw themselves into the pond by the green on 7th Red. The rookies emerged freezing cold, covered in mud and weed but laughing helplessly - as were all the onlookers. *W&H won 7 games to 2*

Buckinghamshire were the overall winners of CMW and qualified for County Finals at Felixstowe Ferry, where Yorkshire won overall and Bucks were placed 6th by halving just one match and losing the other 4.

The Captain thanked the many helpers from all over the County (58 caddies, 50 flag marshals & spotters, 10 scoreboard monitors and the 4 referees). Thanks were extended to Margaret Stiles (Lady Captain of Kings Norton) for her personal assistance and help corralling the 5 hostesses from the club who supported visiting teams. Jan Mitchell & Margaret Jelfs provided all the floral table decorations making the ballroom look welcoming and they arranged a fabulous centre piece arrangement. Sue also thanked W&H supporters who came in their droves from clubs all over W&H.

We look ahead to CMW at Denham in Buckinghamshire in 2018 when a revised format 3 day format will be tried.

**Mary Turner Bowl.** This was the final match fixture of 2017 and it was played at Blackwell. This is a 4BBB triangular clash between Staffordshire, Warwickshire and W&H with 12 players from each county. Blackwell's course was in great condition and the clubhouse was beautifully presented with Lady Captain Judith Lee on hand to help. W&H were again runners-up, outplayed by fabulous scoring from Staffordshire.

As her term of office was now over, Sue said she had enjoyed serving as the County Captain which had been an honour and great privilege. She thanked all the players who had represented the County in 1st team matches. Their talent and enthusiasm, support and commitment was greatly appreciated. The age range of the 1st team spans almost 4 decades. Senior players embraced and encouraged newer players and all gel together and play great golf to the highest standards of etiquette and sportsmanship.

Sue had received the warmest of welcomes at every club visited across the County in the past 2 years. No request had been denied and doors had fallen open. Everywhere had been so helpful to the County which had been very touching and this was greatly valued and all the new friendships made were appreciated. The Executive Committees had been wonderful and supportive and she was grateful for their knowledge and dedication including the Junior Committee, who work very hard indeed. Lastly, thanks were given to the 2 Presidents (Sylvia Laws last year and Yvonne this year) both of whom had been a great personal support and trusty confidant, offering wise counsel whenever needed.

## **6. 2nd Team Captain's Report**

The first event for the 2nd Team in 2017 was the pre-season training at Kings Norton. Eight ladies attended the day and set off in two fourballs to play 9 holes on the yellow course. Kevin Hayward, the KNGC Pro, shared his time between the two groups to give advice and to see how good the team was. After the 9 holes, Kevin gave a quick lesson on lining up for shots. It was well received and all went away having learnt how important the routine of lining up for each shot is.

Sunday 2nd April saw the annual County match between the 2nd Team & Juniors versus the County Vets at The Worcestershire. The games progressed well with the scores see-sawing between the teams. The Vets took the first game 2&1 but the 2nd's & Juniors won the remaining games to win 5-1, although 4 of the matches were very close, finishing on the 18th hole. The Vets certainly gave a really good performance and were unlucky not to have secured more of the games. A big thank you to the Vets and their Captain, Val Evans, for making the day so successful.

The first match of the season was a friendly versus Staffordshire at Penn, Staffs. After fantastic weather at the weekend prior to this match, 8:00am on Wednesday 12th April was a stark contrast. It was overcast, windy and cold at the start and those who wore shorts soon put waterproof trousers on. In the morning session, as there were only 7 players for the match (usually 8 in the team), play was 3 x foursomes. All were close games but going to lunch the result was 2 ½ to ½ down. The afternoon singles started in sunshine although the wind was still a cold blow. It was a better result, winning the singles 4-3. This gave a final match score of a win to Staffs 5 ½ to 4 ½. Well done to Millie Birch and Kacey Haynes for playing well in their 2nd Team debut.

The next match was also a friendly versus Gloucestershire at The Herefordshire. This was a joint 1st and 2nd Team fixture and was the first time this format, had been tried. Unfortunately, Gloucestershire could not field two full teams. So, they turned out a full 1st Team and a reduced 2nd but the 2nd Team match was well contested. W&H won the foursomes morning games 2-1 and halved the afternoon singles games 2-2, resulting in an overall win for the match 4-3.

The first league match took place on 2nd June against Northamptonshire at The Vale. It was a fantastic match between the two teams. However, W&H went down 2 ½ to ½ after the morning foursomes, but had a brilliant fight back in the afternoon, winning the singles 4-2 giving an overall match result of a draw. Katie Brown played for the team after a few years out, winning her singles game 3&1 and Naomi fought hard winning the game on the 18th.

The last match of the season was against Warwickshire at Ladbrook Park, knowing a win of 8-1 was necessary to have a chance to play in the League final. It was another close match, but the score line needed was not achieved and another drawn match was the result. This match was

played two days after the County Match Week, but that wasn't a problem for Caitlin McNeil and Constance Brooks, who after a long, tiring CMW, still came out and performed well in this match. Constance won her singles 7&6 with Caitlin winning 2 up.

Thanks were given to all of the players for turning out to play with great spirit and to County President Yvonne and County Captain Sue for coming to all the matches and giving great support. The team really appreciated the support given.

## **7. Junior Team Manager's Report**

Anne Solloway, Junior Team Manager, stated that a report had already been given, not only the County but also the National achievements of the County Junior girls. They had had a most successful year in the inter-county matches, winning the friendly matches v Gloucestershire and Staffordshire and the first league match v Warwickshire. Since then, in late July, the league match v Northamptonshire was played at Gaudet Luce, with W&H winning the match 7-5, and the scratch team winning 5-1 taking them through to the League final. The final friendly match v Shropshire, played at Stourbridge in August, again saw the girls winning in style, retaining The Jessica Smith Trophy for another year.

The Midlands South League final was played on September 10th at Harleyford in Buckinghamshire. The girls had a tough match playing against Buckinghamshire team, but W&H prevailed and won the Final Cup on countback of holes. The winning team were Lucy Walton (The Worcestershire), Rosanna Halls (Cleobury Mortimer), Emily Furniss, Constance Brooks, Kirsten Porte (all Gaudet Luce) and Caitlin McNeil (Burghill Valley).

The Midlands South Team Championship (Bicester Cup) is played between the 6 Midlands South counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire & Herefordshire. Each county selects just six players in different handicap groupings; the most difficult group for W & H to fill was the 30-36 one because of the excellent handicap reductions this year. The resulting team was Kirsten Porte (Gaudet Luce), Lauren Sharp (Droitwich), Grace Bowen (The Worcestershire), Megan Langford (Moseley), Isabelle Badger (Halesowen) and Niamh Chambers (Dudley) and they won the Bicester Cup with the best four stableford scores which totalled 150.

W&H are very fortunate to have such a talented enthusiastic group of young lady golfers, who have supportive parents, with the County Development Centres and the dedication of each CDC manager to help the girls' progress.

Anne gave thanks to the County President Yvonne, County Captain Sue and all the Junior Committee members with thanks also to the two Junior Captains, Lucy Walton and Emily Furniss for making 2017 a most successful year.

## **8. Secretary's Report**

Sandie Martin, Secretary, gave her report. During the year the usual Secretary duties advising Delegates and Executives of meetings, collating reports and circulating minutes were carried out. In addition, the Delegates were advised of County activities and reminders of forthcoming County competitions. Newsletters and communications from England Golf were circulated to member clubs.

There are currently 9 Life Vice Presidents and 4 Honorary Life Members. The total membership stands at 2,014, which includes 8 Individual Members, unfortunately, down on last year. There are currently 43 Affiliated Clubs, of which three have currently zero lady members. Burlish Park, Cadmore Lodge and Habberley have disbanded and Perdiswell has amalgamated with Ravenmeadow. Club attendance at the meetings during the year averaged 27, slightly down on the previous year (28).

## 9. Competition Secretary's Report

Wendy Ray, Competition Secretary, gave her report, starting with the year's competition results.

TROPHY	WINNER	CLUB
Barbara Chamberlain	Julia Chambers	The Abbey
Grace Boulton	Constance Brooks	Gaudet Luce
County Champion	Lucy Walton	The Worcestershire
County Champion Runner Up	Constance Brooks	Gaudet Luce
Jessica Smith Cup	Rosanna Halls	Cleobury Mortimer
Kate Brinton	Lucy Walton	The Worcestershire
Dorothy Crooke & Silver Coronation Medal	Clare Bunn	The Vale
Mary Hampson & Bronze Coronation Medal	Sandra Hinton	Kidderminster
Vida Kirk	Jayne Freeman	Redditch
County Foursomes	Philippa Daniel & Trudi Humphries	Droitwich
Centenary Cup	Jane Collins, Jackie Price, Paulette Scholes	Burghill Valley
The Quaiche	Carol Hall	Hagley
Team Championship (Gross)	Karen Greenfield, Lesley Fox, Sarah Nicklin, Claire Painter	Kidderminster
Team Championship (Nett)	Jayne Freeman, Millie Birch, Angela Taylor, Jeanette Palmer	Redditch

Winners of non-qualifying competitions were as follows:

COMPETITION	WINNER	CLUB
Winter Greensomes (2016)	Candice Jones & Val Evans	Droitwich
Spring Greensomes	Faith Wilson & Jo Merrison	Wharton Park
Spring 3 Ball Alliance	Lesley Ford, Gail Mead, Hazel Burchill	Redditch
County 3 Ball Alliance	Pauline Wetton, Jenny Bennett, Coral Handley	Bransford
AGM Greensomes	Philippa Daniel & Trudi Humphries	Droitwich

98 Players from 25 clubs had taken part in the Team Championship.

60 Players from 20 clubs had taken part in the Centenary Cup.

In the other competitions 643 players from 37 Clubs participated which is an increase on the previous year.

The raffles in aid of the Junior Development Fund raised £744.60 (Winter Greensomes, Spring Greensomes, Spring 3 Ball Alliance, County 3 Ball Alliance and Team Championship).

Team competitions such as greensomes and alliances were very well supported but numbers were down for the individual qualifying competitions. County Competition entry fees are at a competitive price to play other courses and Delegates were urged to encourage members to enter events.

The Winter Greensomes will take place at Bromsgrove on Monday 6th November. Wendy thanked the County Captain for updating the website. She thanked Judy Taylor (Assistant Competition Secretary) and the ladies who had given time to help on the desk. Thanks were also extended to the Lady Captains and Delegates for their hospitality and support when hosting competitions their clubs.

## **10. Treasurer's Report**

Karen Greenfield (Hon. Treasurer) reported on the 2016/17 Association accounts and Junior accounts. Mr John Holt of Kidderminster was thanked for auditing the accounts free of charge.

A healthy balance sheet position had been maintained, even though a loss was again incurred for the year. Despite membership numbers being down for the year, income remained consistent with the previous year. The competition entrance fees showed an encouraging increase. Expenditure had been tightly monitored and a decrease in overall costs has been achieved. However, a noticeable item was the increase in computer costs as a new laptop had been purchased and the cost had been absorbed in the current year. The Delegates / Executive golf day had not taken place due to Kings Norton hosting the County Match Week, so no additional costs were incurred. Even though W&H hosted CMW with added administration costs, the overall costs were down, mainly due to travel expenses not being claimed by the players. Welfare training course costs had increased due to the legal requirement to ensure all officers are adequately qualified to meet EG requirements.

Junior accounts showed a considerable deficit for the year. The donations showed a healthy increase and thanks were given to the clubs and individuals who have made donations. Encouragingly, more girls had entered England events, so there had been significant increases in costs for uniforms and travel.

## **11. England Golf and Golf Development Group Report 2017**

Marian Rae concluded her term of office as President and handed over to Mr John Williams with Mr Desmond Duffy appointed as President Elect. Gloucestershire's Jenny Clink has accepted the nomination to become President Elect of England Golf for 2018 with a view to becoming President in 2019.

The Board of England Golf has appointed its first independent directors, Martha Brass and Michael Pask. They will join Nic Coward, who was appointed as first independent Chairman earlier this year. Martha Brass has held many top-level roles in media businesses, most recently as Chief Executive Officer, International Operations, of the Endemol Shine Group.

It has been agreed that the affiliation fees for 2018 will remain at their current rate; however, it is possible that a rise may be considered in 2019.

The merger between the LGU and R&A took place and the LGU is now a subsidiary of the R&A. Margaret Berriman is the England Golf appointment to the Board with Pat Crowson and Judy Walker on committee.

The new strategic plan for golf - Growing the Game of Golf in England 2017 – 2021 was launched this summer (red book).

Its aim is to be customer focused and has 6 key aims:

- Stronger Counties and Clubs
- Excellent Governance
- Improved Image and promoting the benefits of the sport
- More members and players
- Outstanding Championships and Events
- Winning Golfers

The PGA has withdrawn from the England Golf Partnership; this now means that funding from Sport England comes directly to England Golf. With all the funding come conditions including compliance with the recently launched Code for Sport Governance. This will affect the size of the Board and its gender mix. The Board should have no more than 12 members (currently 15), and a gender representation of 30% with 25% independence on the Board. At November's meeting, there will be a vote and the County Executive is likely to vote in favour of the proposals. The proposal to work with insurance company Towergate has been withdrawn due to lack of progress.

Changes to the CONGU UHS System have recently been announced. These have been kept to a minimum in view of the proposed introduction of the World Handicap System (WHS) and take into account some of the options likely to be adopted. Players are encouraged to submit more scores for their handicap record.

England Golf have audited some clubs and counties to check that the membership lists and affiliation fees match. The majority of Clubs should be encouraged to clean up their CDH lists and to maintain lists of membership categories to help with affiliation fees.

VAT exemption on affiliation fees will be withdrawn from April 2018 after which 20% VAT will be payable by clubs that were previously exempt.

All EG competition results are on-line. Yorkshire were County Champions with Gloucestershire runners up.

The EG Championship panel have proposed some changes: that the Women's match play event should be discontinued to be replaced by the English Amateur Championship. This will be 36 holes stroke play followed by match play for the top ladies. It will be played in May 2019 at Saunton avoiding a clash with home internationals.

EG are considering making the Boys and Girls Championship 'closed' due to oversubscribed events.

### **County Development Group**

The funding from Sport England has reduced to £8.48M (from £13M). This comprised £5.95M for the "core market" which is the work the Club Support Officers (CSO's) do, retaining people who already exercise and play and £2.25M for the Talent Pathway.

Priorities for the Club Support Network are:

- Business growth, Shorter formats of the game, Female resilience, Disability sport, Activity for the over 55s and Volunteer development.

There are now 35 full time CSO's employed by EG and Laura Yapp is the Worcestershire CSO, under the supervision of Gavin Anderson. A survey will be conducted shortly to see if clubs are happy with the new CSO network. The reduction in National funding has meant a loss of funding across all sports for the 14+ age juniors. EG have been trying to help counties manage the fund loss and to change their pathways for junior development. Work is ongoing to assess the impact of this but W&H is in a strong position, having such a thriving Academy programme.

The County Development Group have not met as such this year and there will be a review of how the work previously undertaken by the group and now undertaken by EG will be carried forward to ensure that clubs are supported to grow the game.

## **12. County Welfare Officer's Report**

Netty Kitson, County Welfare Officer, reported that a Safeguarding Course ('Time to Listen') promoted by the Compliance Dept of England Golf was held in January at Kings Norton. There were 35 attendees, which included Club Welfare Officers (CWO's), club secretaries, pro's, junior organisers, County Captains and Development Officers from W&H, Shropshire and Leicestershire. The course presenter, James May, was exceptionally knowledgeable and the case scenarios were enlightening. Positive feedback was received. Most Worcestershire clubs have CWO's and Herefordshire also had an attendee. Not all clubs have junior members so this was taken into consideration. Netty thanked Mark Laing for his support and encouragement and to Kings Norton for providing the venue.

All clubs were attempting to address the importance and significance of Child Protection in safeguarding junior members. At the July Delegates meeting, the importance of the CWO role had been emphasised and they should ensure all juniors were adequately informed and knew to whom issues should be reported. All coaches, pros and junior organisers should be aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. In the event of concerns, the first point of contact would be the County Welfare Officer, or, in urgent cases, the England Golf Compliance Dept.

Throughout the year there was always the opportunity for members of club Junior Committees and /or newly appointed CWO's to attend safeguarding courses. Applications to be made directly via myself or our newly appointed CSO, Laura Yapp, email: L.Yapp@englandgolf.org All clubs were reminded to forward names of any newly appointed CWO's and/or notification of any contact changes to Netty direct at annettekitson@gmail.com or on her mobile 07813 184001.

## **13. Handicap Adviser's Report**

Jayne Freeman, Handicap Advisor, presented her report.

The system of recording Non Qualifying Scores was brought in at the beginning of the year, where golfers were required to report back to their clubs if they had returned a score which put them in the top 5 places of that non qualifying competition. The clubs holding the competitions were requested to return data to the club that the player was a member of if they were in the top 5, however this was a request and not mandatory.

England Golf continue to rate all the courses in England under the USGA Course Rating System. All clubs will be rated in the next few years and then every 10 years following the initial rate, unless changes have been made to the course, such as new holes or an increase in length. The World Handicapping System is due to be in situ by 1st Jan 2020. The maximum handicap will move to 54 from 1st January 2018 and this will be a 'competition handicap'. Everyone will be given a unique global ID number and card. Professional golfers will be given handicaps.

Dr Margaret Davies had retired from course rating. The County would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years. Linda McKeown continues as a course-rater and thanks were given to Linda and her colleagues for their work. Jayne also thanked Wendy Ray for her advice and support during the year.

## **14. Adoption of Reports**

Ros Jones of Moseley proposed the adoption of the reports en bloc. Val Evans of Droitwich seconded the proposal and Delegates voted unanimously in favour of the adoption of reports.

## 15. Election of Officers

The Hon. Sec. announced the nominations for new officers for 2017/18.

Office	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Term
Captain	Sarah Nicklin	Sue Birch	Ros Weston	2 years
Vice-Captain	Sue Birch	Sarah Nicklin	Yvonne Foley	1 year
England Golf Rep.	Lyn Robinson	Janice Kerr	Biddy Denton	3 years
2nd Team Captain	Naomi Austin	Lyn Robinson	Wendy Ray	2 years
Chairman	Dorothy McKie	Sarah Nicklin	Claire Painter	2 years
Secretary	Lyn Robinson	Sandie Martin	Jan Ward	2 years

The Captain, Sue Birch, introduced the proposed Captain, Sarah Nicklin from Kidderminster where she had been club champion many times and all this whilst working full time at The Carpet Factory in Kidderminster.

Sarah had a lengthy County playing involvement and an outstanding list of golfing achievements. She started as a girl in 1977 and in her teenage years she notched up an impressive list of achievements and titles.

- She was County School Girls Champion in 1981, 2 & 3 and County Junior Champion in 1983
- She was Midlands Girls Champion and Midlands School Girls Champion in 1983.
- Sarah held the position of Captain of England Schools in 1984

Sarah studied in USA at Florida State University and was ranked #1 player 3 years running. From there she won the 'Future Pro Tournament' in Pennsylvania 1988 (and was only the second amateur to do so.) She then played on The Future Pros Tour USA in 1990. Sarah joined the Ladies European Tour from 1991-1995, and she also played on both the Asian and Australian Tours.

Sarah retired from professional golf and after regaining amateur status in 2000, she again played County golf where she is a more than competent 1st Team player. She won the County Championship 5 times in 1983, 1984, 2000, 2004 and 2013. Her credentials for the role were outstanding and Sarah is an inspiration to the teams.

Outgoing England Golf Representative, Janice Kerr, introduced the proposed England Golf Representative, Lyn Robinson. The job of EG Representative was a very busy one as there is always a lot of work to be done away from the meetings and it was important to have someone who understood the game of golf. Lyn has had a fantastic two years as 2nd Team Captain and Janice said she was pleased to put her name forward.

Outgoing 2nd Team Captain, Lyn Robinson, proposed Naomi Austin as her successor. Naomi was a secondary school science teacher at Colmers. She trained the girls' rounders and football teams, ran the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and was Head of Wolf House. Naomi played at North Worcestershire for 11 years until it closed down. This coincided with moving to Cheltenham, so she joined Cotswold Hills in Gloucestershire 2 years ago but pays her affiliation fees to Worcestershire & Herefordshire which is where her loyalty lies. Naomi appreciated the support and encouragement she was given by the County as a junior and 2nd Team member and she wants to give something back to the County.

The outgoing Secretary, Sandie Martin, introduced the proposed Secretary, Lyn Robinson. Lyn joined The Vale in 2000 and became Lady Captain in 2013. For the last 2 years, Lyn has been the County 2nd Team Captain, having played for the team for the past 4 years and she plays off 7. Lyn was introduced to golf in Australia where she played women's soccer for 20 years, for both the Junior County in the UK and for Victoria State in Australia. She served on the County Junior Committee for 3 years, being Secretary in 2017 and ran the County Junior Championships in 2015 & 16. In addition, in 2016 she was the Caddy Master for the CMW at Temple, and was a key member of the Tournament Office at CMW this year. With her vast experience, she will make an excellent Secretary.

Captain, Sarah Nicklin was asked to introduce the new Chairman, Dorothy McKie. Dorothy was no stranger to the County as she held this position a few years ago. After retiring from this post she then took office at Kidderminster running the administration of the club. She is now looking forward to returning to work on the County Executive.

The Chairman called upon Iris Corfield (The Herefordshire) to propose the formal election en bloc of the nominated officers, and Sandra Passey (Redditch) to second the proposal. Delegates voted unanimously in favour of the election en bloc of the nominated officers.

The past Captain, Sue, presented the Captain's badge to Sarah. Sarah replied to say she was very honoured to be wearing the badge and she would do her best to become a good captain. Captain Sarah then presented Vice-Captain Sue with her badge.

As the new 2nd Team Captain was not present, her badge would be presented at a later date.

The Hon. Secretary announced the list of officers who would continue into their next year of office:

Office	Nominee
President	Yvonne Foley
Competition Secretary	Wendy Ray
Assistant Competition Secretary	Judy Taylor
Handicap Adviser	Jayne Freeman
Assistant Handicap Adviser & Junior Representative	Ros Jones

The Hon. Secretary read out the officers standing for re-election for a further term:

Office	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Honorary Treasurer	Karen Greenfield	Sue Harris	Judy Taylor
Fixtures Secretary	Sally Smith	Jill Yates	Cath Francis
County Liaison Officer	Sue Harris	Sarah Cranton	Anne Solloway

Julie Currie of Cleobury Mortimer proposed, and Biddy Denton of Stourbridge seconded the re-election en bloc for a further term of office. Delegates voted unanimously to re-elect these officers.

The Chairman reported the following officers retired at this AGM: Chairman Sue Mawby, England Golf Representative Janice Kerr and Secretary Sandie Martin. She thanked them for their hard work and commitment and said they would be sorely missed.

The President, Yvonne, continued by thanking the Junior Committee, without whom the County would not be as successful as it was. Jenny Hartley, Lyn Robinson, Anne Solloway, Ros Jones, Sally Dare, Joyce Duncan, Helen Lane, Su Amphlett, Jane Nicklin and Jan Ward have supported the girls all the year round in all weathers. She also gave thanks to Sally Smith, Fixtures Secretary for obtaining the courses and to Wendy and Judy who run the events so successfully. Yvonne asked the Delegates to promote the County competitions and emphasised that the County should take precedence over County Vets and club days.

## 16. Presentation of Trophies to Juniors

Junior prize-winners joined the meeting and were presented with their trophies.

**17. Any Other Business**

Sarah Nicklin, Captain, announced the dates for the Delegates meetings in 2018. These would take place as follows:

- Thursday 18th January 2018 at 2pm, WG&CC
- Thursday 12th April 2018 at 2pm, Kidderminster
- Thursday 19th July 2018 at 2pm, Kidderminster
- Tuesday 23rd October 2018 2pm, Kidderminster (AGM)

Helen Olds (WG&CC) advised of their Annual Charity Bridge Drive on 13th November at WG&CC, the proceeds of which would be shared between their Lady Captain’s Charity and the County Juniors.

The Hon. Secretary advised of an error in the 2018 Fixtures List. The County Championships and the Grace Boulton Salver would be played at Moseley and not Kidderminster.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that subscriptions for 2018 will remain at £6.00 per lady member, however, given the loss incurred for the second consecutive year, the committee will be discussing the accounts at the next meeting. Continued accounting losses are not sustainable and all possible accountable options will be discussed.

Angela Taylor (Redditch) gave thanks and praise for the presentation of winners’ certificates.

**18. Date & Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 18th January 2018 at 2pm to be held at Worcester Golf & Country Club.

The President thanked the retirees for their commitment and hard work and floral tubs were presented to them.

Biddy Denton (Stourbridge) gave thanks on behalf of the members, to the committee for all their hard work over the year, especially to Yvonne.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 4.10pm.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

## 2018 County Match Results

### W&H 1st team results

W&H v Gloucestershire (Cleeve Cloud GC)	Match halved
W&H v Leicestershire (Kidderminster GC)	Match halved
W&H v Staffordshire (Kidderminster GC)	Match won 8-4
Gentlemen of The Worcestershire GC	Match lost 3-1
<b>CMW (held at Denham GC, Buckinghamshire)</b>	
W&H v Buckinghamshire	Match lost 4-1
W&H v Warwickshire	Match lost 3-2
W&H v Berkshire	Match won 3 ½ - 1 ½
W&H v Oxfordshire	Match lost 3-2
W&H v Northamptonshire	Match lost 3-2
<i>(Winners of Midlands South CMW 2018 – Buckinghamshire)</i>	

### W&H 2nd Team results

W&H 2nd & Juniors v County Vets (Sapey GC)	Match cancelled
W&H 2nd v Staffs (Worcester G&CC)	Match lost 5 ½ - 3 ½
W&H 2nd v Gloucestershire (Rodway Hill GC)	Match halved
W&H 2nd v Northants (Northampton GC)	Match won 5 ½ - 3 ½
W&H 2nd v Warwickshire (The Vale)	Match won 5-4
Midlands South 2nd Team Final v Buckinghamshire at Oxford Golf Club	Match lost 6-3

### Junior Team Results

Juniors v Gloucestershire (Stinchcombe Hill GC)	Match won 5-3
Juniors v Northants (Northampton GC)	Match halved
Juniors v Staffordshire (Penn GC)	Match won 8-4
Juniors v Warwickshire (Hollywood GC)	Match won 7-5
Juniors v Shropshire (Worfield GC)	Match won 8-2
<i>(W&amp;H team retained The Jessica Smith Trophy)</i>	
Juniors Midlands South Region Bicester Cup	W&H 3rd

