

# CHLCGA



Cambs & Hunts Ladies County Golf Association

## MINUTES of the 77th Annual General Meeting of the Cambs & Hunts Ladies' County Golf Association held at 1400hrs on Thursday 24 November 2016 at Gog Magog Golf Club

The President declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone present.

1. **PRESENT:** Jacquie Richardson (President), Di Nicolson (Treasurer), Val Musson (Hon Secretary), Sue Hill (Team Manager), Hazel Suswain (Vets Captain), Maureen Mansfield (Junior Organiser), Wendy Cox (Handicap Advisor), Trina Miller (Competition Secretary/East Region Delegate), Rosemary Rennie (Assistant Competition Secretary), Ina Hartley (Web Administrator) and representatives from the following clubs: Barkway, Bourn, Brampton Park, Ely City, Girton, Gog Magog, Lakeside Lodge, Newmarket Links, March, Old Nene, Ramsey, Royston, Saffron Walden, St Ives, St Neots and the Cambridgeshire.
2. **APOLOGIES RECEIVED:** Tina Broadley (SS Assessor), Cindy McIntyre (2nd Team Captain), Sue Akers (Barkway), Lesley Armstrong (Old Nene), Christine Baxter (Abbotsley), Sheena Belham (Ramsey), Belinda Borneo (Brampton Park), Dianna Clitheroe (Ramsey), Jane McGlashen (Brampton Park), Elaine Knobel Forbes (Heydon Grange), Sarah Greenall (Links), Lynn Lambert (Links), Shirley Longbottom (Cambridge Meridian), Mo Poole (Brampton Park), Helen Porter, Bertha Walters (St Neots)
3. The Secretary read the notice convening the Annual General Meeting and confirmed the number of members eligible to vote:
  - Total number present: 49
  - Number of voting members: 44
  - Number of proxy votes: 4
  - Number of non-voting members: 5
4. **MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2015**

The minutes of the 2016 AGM (previously circulated) were agreed as a true record by a clear two-thirds majority based on a show of voting slips (none against) and were duly signed as a correct record.

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

None

### 6. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### a. President 's Report (Jacquie Richardson)

It seems only a couple of months ago that we held our last AGM even though it is a year. As always the captains-vice captains meeting was our first function of the year and a time for them to meet the county officials and find out what we all do. This meeting provided new captains with the opportunity to meet their counterparts and exchange thoughts, fears and aspirations for the coming year. Unfortunately our new club house at Old Nene was not open for this event so we had to make do with the portacabin, however I am pleased to report that the new club house is now open and has received much positive feedback.

All members of the Executive Committee have, as always, put in a lot of hard work during the year to make sure that things run as smoothly as possible and they will each be presenting their reports. A number of the executive officers have just completed their first year in office and are all to be congratulated on their achievements during this year.

Trina Miller our County Competition secretary has done a fabulous job in ensuring all the events were very efficiently run. She has had a very steep learning curve to negotiate and has done so in style and worked well with the club delegates. Assistant Competition Secretary, Rosemary Rennie, has successfully organised the inter-club match play events, the scratch league and the scratch foursomes KO, and created a number of templates that I know will be very useful in the future.

I congratulate all the winners of all the County individual and team events.

Despite a “false start” we had a very good, but wet, county match week at Bishop Stortford, with a great team spirit and determination. I would like to thank Sue Hill, Marcella Tuttle and Sarah Greenall who, working together, managed to get the team to County Match Week. A lot of experience was gained from this year and I know the squad are looking forward to Hunstanton next year. Unfortunately Jane McGuffog resigned as Training Officer during the year and I would like to say thank you to Jane for all her hard work with the squad.

The County 2<sup>nd</sup> Team finals were held at Frinton Golf Club in late August and thanks go to Cindy McIntyre for her hard work organising and running the 2<sup>nd</sup> team matches. During this season Cindy has introduced some of the County Juniors into her team to add more depth to the squad, and this should provide the girls with good experience for the future.

This year it was Cambs & Hunts’ turn to host the Junior County Match Days, which we did at The Cambridgeshire. Maureen Mansfield, Rosemary Hay and Greta Barclay did an excellent job of organising this event and also The Cambridgeshire hotel staff were very good and appeared to enjoy having 60 young ladies staying. I have to say it is credit to all the Junior Organisers that the girls were very well behaved and the hotel management were very complimentary about the girls and the event. I know Maureen will be reporting on the result later so I won’t steal her thunder. My husband thoroughly enjoyed manning the competition office and I was very honoured to be part of the team, even if it was only a small part. We have lost four of our older juniors this year but based on what I have seen this year we have lots more coming up and this is a testament to the work of Maureen our County Junior Organiser and the Junior Committee, I would like to thank them all for all their hard work and dedication.

Hazel has managed her Vets well this year. The matches are always keenly contested and the priority is to enjoy the matches – which I know for sure everyone has, and they have all been played in great spirit. I was delighted to play in one of the matches and look forward to being picked again next year.

Wendy Cox our Handicap Advisor organises meetings for the club Handicap Advisors early in the year to discuss any changes that have been made to the handicap system. These meetings are always well attended and very useful for the club handicap secretaries. Wendy is always available to answer any queries we have on handicaps and has been supported by Deputy Handicap Adviser Elaine Cardwell. Wendy has also been instrumental in updating the handicap software on the county laptop.

Di Nicholson has taken on the role of our Treasurer this year and has been working very hard on the accounts and I know she will be making sure that we all keep to our budgets.

Val Musson has taken over from me as our County Secretary. She has been working behind the scenes to get up to speed with everything whilst making improvements to the way that things are done. Val is a very forward thinking individual and an excellent wordsmith and has already proved that she will be a great asset to the Association. Val has some great new initiatives that she is organising, and I will let her explain them to you. Well Done Val!

Our East Region Delegate, Trina Miller has had a busy time organising the Australian Spoons at Brampton Park and the comments received were very good so well done Trina. Trina also is our link with England Golf.

Tina Broadley our SS Assessor is working her way around the county with a team of helpers re-assessing our courses and is doing an excellent job.

Ina Hartley our website administrator has done a great job on the website, updating the photos and results. Ina is very quick at responding to reports on county events and putting the information on the site.

My thanks must also go to Greta Barclay our Press Officer. Greta continues to pop up at almost every event even if she isn't competing in the competition she still manages to find the time to get over to the said golf club and takes the photographs and then sends detailed reports to the local press and also for our website. Thank you Greta for all your time and support.

And finally I come to my Presidents Day, the highlight of my year. We once again had good weather, even though there was a talk of thunderstorms. The Old Nene staff and members were amazing and I couldn't have managed it without all their support. I never realised that so few ladies could bake so many cakes. I am a little concerned for 2018, because the team that I have played Presidents Day in for the last 8 years (and come nowhere) went on to win so I think I may be dropped!! My thanks also go to all the clubs who provided green fee vouchers and the club members who supplied all the items for the tombola and those that bought tickets to win them back again! Between us we raised just over £2300 which included a generous, but anonymous, donation of £100. This money will go towards the continued development of our Juniors.

So, that ends my report but I would like to say a special thank you to all the Executive Committee for all your support through what has been a slightly difficult year. You all work tirelessly, without pay and give up your time and dedication to make this county association a pleasure to be part of so that we can all enjoy our golf.

**b. Secretary's Report (Val Musson)**

I have now come to the end of my first full year in the role of secretary and it has been something of a learning curve, but despite this it has proved to be a very satisfying challenge. Jacquie has been excellent in providing support and keeping me on the straight and narrow

Over the course of the year we held four main committee meetings, a competition and finance committee meeting and obviously today's AGM. All of this has kept me busy, along with production of the Blue Book and fielding incoming communications and queries. I was also fortunate in being able to attend the England Golf Annual Conference for Secretaries, which was useful in terms of networking and developing an awareness of England Golf thinking.

In looking forward to the next twelve months, preparation of the 2017 blue book has started and will be ready in time for the Lady Captains/Vice captains meeting on Saturday 28 January 2017 at Old Nene and meeting dates have been set for the year. Please watch your email inbox –all meeting and fixture dates will be sent out electronically in the next few days. In addition to these routine activities, the committee have identified two key objectives for 2017:

- firstly we want to raise the profile of the County at club level and improve the way in which we communicate with grassroots members
- secondly we will be reviewing the range of competitions we run each year with the intention of increasing future levels of participation

As a first step in achieving these objectives, we are holding two interactive workshops in early December, which I will be leading. These are for the full executive committee – officials and club delegates, plus their deputies. We anticipate the competitions review process will extend over about six months, as further consultation will be required prior to implementation of any agreed changes in 2018. There will hopefully be other outputs that we can deliver much sooner.

Finally I would like to thank all the officers and club delegates for their input over the year and for their forbearance for any shortcomings on my part. I plan to do better next year. My thanks also go to Girton, the Cambridgeshire and the Gogs for allowing us to hold our meetings at their club. I look forward to a busy and exciting 2017.

**c. Team Manager's report (Sue Hill) – with additional input from Marcella Tuttle**

This season has been amazing! I think we have gone from doom and gloom to a very positive outlook. In April it seemed that we may not be able to send a representative team to county match week, but after a fast evolving series of events we had a team and a Captain to lead the matches at Bishops Stortford. Our thanks go to Marcella Tuttle and Sarah Greenall for their excellent work with the players and to members of the executive committee who provided administrative support.

The Executive Committee would like to change the constitution to have a captain and ask you to support this proposal. Assuming this constitutional change is agreed (agenda item 11) the Executive will, at the next meeting, co-opt a captain. Given that Marcella Tuttle has, in the interim, continued to build on the initiatives from earlier in the year, the Executive will be proposing that she is formally co-opted into the role of captain at the April meeting with formal election at the next AGM. She will be supported by Sarah Greenall as assistant captain.

In the coming year a County Squad Committee, consisting of the President, Captain, Second Team Captain, Junior Organiser and Assistant Captain, will work together to ensure that players in all our representative teams have appropriate support.

**Marcella Tuttle** went on to report on the 2016 County Match Week and activities since then.

My role started after the selection of the team at the County Championships when I arranged a team building BBQ for the squad at my house. County Match Week at Bishop's Stortford was inspirational for many players. Some players had the opportunity to play in the 1<sup>st</sup> team for the first time and very much enjoyed the experience. Of course the aim was to do our best but taking part was the priority. The team spirit and atmosphere amongst the team and officials was great. News of our achievements were communicated via Facebook and our county website on a daily basis and sometimes hourly! Everyone was very supportive, so many thanks to all those who either caddied, spectated, left comments of encouragement on Facebook or just 'liked' our Facebook posts.

Our next task after County Week was to work on building a squad for 2017. To that end we invited all ladies in the county with a handicap of 10 or less to participate in a workshop, give us their feedback and to declare their interest in playing county golf. We also invited other potential players. 57 responses to the invitation were received, with 37 players expressing an interest in playing county golf and 22 who opted to attend the workshop that took place at The Cambridgeshire in the middle of October. At the workshop I gave a presentation on '*Developing the county team: a discussion about the future*'. As many of the low handicappers are away at University, I decided to stream the presentation 'live' on Facebook Live and 8 more players tuned in via Facebook commenting furiously on-line during the presentation including Miranda Brain from Newcastle and Megan Taylor from the USA. Following the presentation we had an open discussion on the characteristics of a winning team and I emphasised the importance of '*getting yourself noticed*' by playing in our major county and East Region events. Suggestions made during the discussion included:

- foursomes practice – compete against each other and/or men's scratch teams
- winter Pilates
- social events to build team spirit such as Top Golf and bowling
- Aimpoint – a simple and non-technical method for reading greens
- short game coaching

- caddies to be pre-booked for County Week – recruit a caddie master
- encouraging more supporters at County Week

Interestingly many players thought that getting together socially would be more productive than playing golf

My task now is to work with Cindy McIntyre and Sarah Greenall, who will be my assistant, in order to come up with a plan incorporating the suggestions from the meeting. We have already met and are working on a Christmas social to start things off, although finding a date is a challenge. 2017 will be a very busy year for me as I will also be Lady Captain at Links, Newmarket. Nevertheless, with your support I am sure we can re-build a fighting, motivated and united team. Rome wasn't built in a day but Hunstanton here we come!

**d. 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captain's report (Cindy McIntyre) – presented by Val Musson**

My apologies for not being able to attend the meeting but my doctoral graduation ceremony clashes with the AGM. So I had the onerous decision to make as to whether to let all of you down, or Princess Anne.... well what can I say!

As you know, the last few years have been tough for our county teams with many first team players turning professional, and others selflessly reproducing what will hopefully be our future budding county golfers! It has meant that many of the eligible 2<sup>nd</sup> team players have moved up into the 1<sup>st</sup> team, which has created large holes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> team. As a result, I have moved some of our older juniors up into the 2<sup>nd</sup> team to hopefully prepare them for representing the county at 1<sup>st</sup> team level in the future. This is building upon a trend that the previous 2<sup>nd</sup> team captain Sharren Kjenstad started 3 years ago. We have both worked in conjunction with the Junior Organiser Maureen Mansfield to bring the most eligible juniors forward. The strategy has been working well and this year we were able to include Chloe Ashman and Ella Mason from Ely City, Lindie Tapping, Chalani Allen and Morgan Tritton from Gog Magog, and Emily Smith of Royston.

A few years ago at Bourn, where I play, we had an up and coming junior section, but it started to struggle when the junior organiser gave up the duty. We had a couple of girls that I had hoped would step up to the senior sides but they seemed to lose motivation at about the same time. It may be a coincidence at Bourn, but there appears to be a correlation between successful club junior sections and eligible county youngsters. We need more junior players and if any of you have any young people at your clubs that you think we may not know about, please let Maureen know. Similarly, if you know of any youngster who might like to be introduced to golf please encourage them, and talk to your professional to see if there are any club schemes that are running at your club.

We had 3 intercounty matches, and a finals day at the end of August. We played some good courses, and of note was Abridge GC in Essex, which is beautiful and certainly worth playing if you want to challenge yourselves. Although we did not win any of the matches before finals day, the standard of play from our players was definitely better this year than last, and we had, in the main, better results. Going into finals day at Frinton golf club, we had a really good chance of beating Bedfordshire to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place. We needed to win 2 of our matches to draw, and 3 to win. However, the standard of play on the day was very high, and, although our players were equal to it, we just didn't win any of our matches against Beds, losing by some very tight margins. A good example of this was Lindie Tapping who played the course to par, but could still only wrestle a half. Norfolk won overall but the result was 4<sup>th</sup> place for us, and we finished the day with a paddle in the sea right by the course to commiserate! However, I cannot fault the commitment of the girls and I want to thank them all for the effort they have put in this year. I think we are building a good team spirit again and although times are tough for our teams at the moment, we are enjoying the golf and representing our County with pride. I also want to thank Edie Douglas, Morgan Tritton and Gail Hurst who stepped in at the last minute when others had to pull out, and to Tina Broadley, Laura Todd, Darren Tritton and Tim Ashman who made the journey to come and support us at Frinton. It really makes a difference to team motivation when we have support.

Next year Cambs & Hunts are hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> team finals day. Brampton Park Golf Club have kindly agreed to allow us to host it at their lovely course, which I know will provide our opposition with a tough track to play, and hopefully give us a good chance of winning some of our matches. Please come along on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to support us, it really helps to see lots of blue on the course.

**e. Veterans' Captain report (Hazel Suswain)**

Our season started with a resounding loss to the County 2<sup>nd</sup> team in a practice match. The vets are hoping to be given additional shots next year to compensate for the age difference between the teams!. However, the results against other counties were much better, with 1 loss, 1 win and 3 drawn matches.

I would like to thank all those club delegates who completed team availability sheets. This year I had around 60 volunteers, although less than half of those came from the sheets. My experience has been that when I have approached players who have not signed up through this method, they have been delighted to have been asked and are keen to play. Sometimes players think they are not good enough to participate in county matches but the results this year prove this to be untrue. There have been a number of new scratch and handicap players this year who have been an asset to the team with most gaining valuable points for Cambs and Hunts. I am pleased to report that everyone who volunteered this year was given the opportunity to play if they were of a suitable handicap for the matches for which they were available. Most of the matches are played off scratch and it has been a challenge, at times, to find players for these matches. I have had to call on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team players a couple of times and I thank them for agreeing to play along with their other county commitments.

I do, however, believe we now have a talented pool of veterans, but new players are always very welcome. Please contact me through you delegate or directly.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in my first year in the role and I look forward to meeting more players in 2017.

**f. Junior Organiser's report (Maureen Mansfield)**

As I have previously reported on all our competitions and winners at our regular County meetings and Greta has kindly posted results on the website and in her newsletters, so I do not plan to go into great detail for every event.

We started off 2016 with two main events. In January we held the Parents' evening where we informed the parents of what we proposed for the girls during the year and in February it was our fun-packed afternoon of games, quizzes and, of course, a well-earned afternoon tea. Most of the girls come to this event and are put into teams of mixed ages and ability. It is very enjoyable to watch the girls from our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> teams helping the younger ones from the Development Squad.

We held our usual training weekend at Lakeside Lodge in March and 12 girls attended on both days. The aim is team bonding, as well as improving their fitness, short game skills and game awareness on the course. Apart from breaking for lunch they are fully involved from 9.30 to 4.30 pm each day. The weekend, as usual, was a great success. Our plan for this year is to hold a one-day session only, as we will be introducing several younger girls into this event.

Our Spring meeting again held at Lakeside Lodge and was attended by 37 girls. This was the largest number we have had attending this meeting and the good news was a proportion of this number was made up of girls who wish to try golf for the first time and those fairly new to golf. The majority of main squad girls were unable to attend because of important exams. Those girls who are able play do so either on the 18-hole course or the 9-hole course according to their ability. Apart from those playing the 18-hole course, the day starts off with coaching, chipping, putting and tri golf competitions before they go out on either of the other courses. The girls who were trying golf for the first time were very excited about going out on the par 3 course. Following lunch for all the girls and helpers we had the prize giving for each category. Ella Mason of Ely won the Lesley Ford Trophy and then it was Easter Eggs for everyone.

Unfortunately, our Junior Championship was cancelled in June because of bad weather and was rearranged for 1 August at Girton. Twenty-one girls took part in the various categories. The champion and winner of the scratch salver over 36 holes was Jade Guest with a gross 144. The handicap prize over 36 holes was Anna Guest with a nett 135. The Biddy Wade trophy was won by Olivia Dyson. My thanks go to all my Committee and Girton colleagues who helped the day run smoothly.

The Junior 2<sup>nd</sup> team played 3 matches. The match against Suffolk was played at Newton Green, which we lost 2-1 and the second was against Norfolk played at Bawburgh, which we also lost 3-1. The third match was against Bedfordshire at the Gogs and was halved. These matches do give the up and coming girls a chance to play match play against other counties. My thanks go to Chris Heath for organising these matches and for all the girls who played.

This year it was our turn to organise the East Region County Junior Match Days which was held at The Cambridgeshire, Bar Hill from Monday 15 to 17 August. We started planning quite early in the year and formed a small committee to run this event, namely Rosemary Hay, Greta Barclay, Jacque Richardson and myself. We met with the hotel events manager on a few occasions and took on our different roles to organise different sections to make sure it ran as smoothly as possible and we think it did. Although we all did our part, I feel I must mention Rosemary Hay for all her hard work in organising everything at the hotel, from the accommodation, food, golf, set up of the course, halfway house etc ... Her dedicated team of helpers, in the team colours of the county they were looking after, all did a fantastic job from early in the morning till everyone had departed in the evening. Our team of Jade Guest, Chloe Ashman, Chalani Allen, Emily Smith, Lindie Tapping, Ella Mason, Chloe Neal, and Morgan Tritton all played well against some very strong opposition and finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place – we were proud of them all and the team spirit was great both on and off the course. I would like to thank all my committee who helped out at the hotel and on the course, but also to all of you who came to support – this was much appreciated.

Norfolk, who had set their minds on achieving a double, as they had won County Match Week earlier in the year were the overall winners of this event. I am sure our turn will come sometime in the future, but since we have now lost four of our single figure handicappers from the junior section we need to start building up our main squad again.

We changed our monthly training sessions this year and in general it has worked very well for the Development Squad. However, because of exams some of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> team players were not able to commit until after the end of June, so our numbers were down and we ended up in combining all groups into one training session. On reflection, we feel that because of the difference in age and handicaps this did not work as well. We are still in the process of organising next year's training to take on a different format, which hopefully will prove beneficial to all.

Although, I do not usually single out any of my junior golfers, Jade Guest must be congratulated on what I believe is a first for Cambs & Hunts in winning both the Ladies and Junior Championships in one year and Jade is now down to scratch. It is also pleasing to note that some of our girls also represented the County in regional and national competitions.

Finally, I would like to thank my committee who all contribute in various ways. However, a special thank you goes to Rosemary Hay for running the Development Squad. This section continues to grow year on year, and the girls are so enthusiastic and particularly love the Junior tour events that Rosemary organises at various clubs. Her equipment check at training is a must, as they even remind her to do it! Greta is a stalwart, with her excellent photographs, producing her newsletters and newspaper reports, for all of us, helping on the junior committee and being a good mentor. I believe we are a great team and long may it continue for benefit our up and coming golfers.

Finally, if you know of any young girls who have joined your clubs please let me know, so we can invite them to come along to our training sessions and meet girls of similar ability and age.

**g. Competition Secretary report (Trina Miller)**

When I started this role last February I was on a very swift learning curve, so before I start my report on competitions I would like to offer a very big thank you to three people in particular: Fiona Whitney, who provided me with all the information I would need throughout the year, Jacquie, who like Fiona, was always on the end of an email or phone to answer my questions and thirdly Rosemary Rennie. She has given me great support this year and I could not have completed this role without her help. So thank you very much

Moving on to the competitions, I am not going to talk about individual events as the results and trophy winners will be announced later, but I will try to give a general impression of how these unfolded:

- The three Division meetings were reasonably well supported with an overall figure of 104 players taking part. All three presented different challenges for the players, Division 1 terrible weather, Division 2 a very wet start, although the sun did arrive and Division 3, the challenge being presented by the subtleties of the Saffron Walden course. All of these were taken on in good spirit.
- The County Championship did not attract a large field with everyone going through to Day 2. For the major County Championship this is not ideal and we will be looking at ways to encourage more players next year.
- The Foursomes Championship also had a disappointing field although the Autumn Foursomes did run with 22 pairs, which was good.
- The Vets and Official and Delegates events were generally well supported, but we would like to see more club delegates and their deputies taking part in the latter as it is a way of saying thank you for your hard work.
- The Mary Cole attracted 17 teams, which was excellent and resulted in a very close competition.

Working with the various host clubs this year has been a very positive experience with all being prepared to take on many of the responsibilities of running a county event. This willingness resulted in all the competitions being run very successfully with very little stress on the day.

The main challenge we face next year is to encourage more club members to take part in county competitions. We still need to work on changing the general perception surrounding these events and we will continue to work towards this end.

All venues and dates for the 2017 season have now been confirmed.

**h. Assistant Competition Secretary's report (Rosemary Rennie)**

This was my first year as Assistant County Competitions Secretary and I wish to thank Jacquie, the members of the Executive Committee and County Delegates for all their help, support, time, energy and encouragement without which the competitions would not have been as successful as they have been this year.

My thanks also, go to Links and Ramsey Golf Clubs for generously giving courtesy of their courses for the Grace Norman and Jean Wilkinson semi-finals and finals. Their club delegates were invaluable in helping to organise these events, as were all those who generously gave up their time to act as rules advisors, ball spotters and general helpers at each event. It was much appreciated.

19 clubs competed for the Grace Norman Trophy, 14 for the Jean Wilkinson Trophy and 13 for the Scratch League Trophy. Thank you to all players for competing in such good spirit and to all lady captains and scratch league captains for ensuring the competitions ran smoothly and to time. Congratulations to Saffron Walden who won the Grace Norman Trophy with Brampton Park runners-up, Ely City who won the Jean Wilkinson Trophy with Saffron Walden runners-up and Links who won the Scratch League.



Entries this year were down in the Scratch Foursomes Match Play competition with only 8 pairs taking part. Congratulations to Marcella Tuttle and Sarah Greenall from Links Golf Club for winning the 2016 trophy. Many thanks to all the clubs who gave courtesy of their courses for the home matches and to The Cambridgeshire Golf Club for hosting the final. Hopefully, more players can be encouraged to participate in future years.

I have really enjoyed my term of office this year and I will do my very best to ensure that everyone has a great year in 2017.

**i. Handicap Advisor report (Wendy Cox)**

2016 started with quite a few changes within the CONGU system. Elaine Cardwell and I travelled to Kings Norton Golf Club, Birmingham in the dark morning hours of January to attend a seminar held by England Golf regarding these changes to our handicap system. It was extremely informative and there was plenty of opportunity to ask questions.

We were able then to organise meetings with all the club handicap secretaries to go through each of the CONGU changes. These meetings were held in early March and were well attended.

Since then and as the year progressed there have been several queries which were resolved and the year, on balance, has run smoothly.

Elaine, as Deputy Handicap Advisor, has decided after many years of involvement to stand down from that post. I thank her sincerely for all her assistance in the couple of years that she has been deputy to my role. Finally I am pleased to tell you that Julie Aspinall from Ely City Golf Club has kindly agreed to take over the role of the Deputy County Handicap for the forthcoming year.

**j. Regional Delegate report (Trina Miller)**

Due to my commitments as Competition Secretary, I was unfortunately unable to attend the England Golf meetings as Regional Delegate. However there have not been any major changes at national level and there were no vital voting issues.

Cambs and Hunts was responsible for the running of the East Region Australian Spoons final this year and I was able to fulfil this part of my function as regional delegate. With excellent assistance from the Brampton Golf Club members, we held a very successful event, receiving many complimentary messages concerning hospitality, catering and condition of the course. Over 100 ladies took part, with the eventual winners coming from Diss GC – they went on the national final. I would like to think that Brampton Park did the county proud.

As I am to continue in the competition secretary role next year, I have decided to stand down from the role of regional delegate/EG voting member. I am however pleased to report that Sheila Withams from Lakeside Golf Club has accepted the nomination to be my successor. In anticipation of her nomination being approved, Sheila has already made contact with other East Region delegates. We can now confirm that Cambs & Hunts will be hosting the East Region Ladies' Championship. This is a 36 hole stroke play competition with an upper handicap limit of 16.4 and will be played on the Wandlebury Course at Gog Magog Golf Club on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Details and entry forms will be circulated to Club Delegates in due course. Please encourage participation in this and other regional events – the dates will be in the Blue Book and the relevant information will be circulated for each event.

**k. SS Assessor report (Tina Broadley) – presented by Val Musson**

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

This year we have successfully assessed the following courses: Gog Magog Old Course, Barkway, Nene Park – Thorpe Wood and Orton Meadows and Royston.

This leaves about 15 to 18 courses still to be assessed. We plan to assess at least 5 courses in 2017. At the moment March and Newmarket Links have been provisionally scheduled for assessment in April/May, but this will depend on the availability of the team at the time.

As previously reported we do need volunteers to help and if anybody is interested in helping and seeing how the process works, please contact me directly and I will contact you when dates have been confirmed.

#### **I. Web site administrator report (Ina Hartley)**

I am now well into my 5<sup>th</sup> year as website administrator and still enjoy this very interesting pastime. At my age I am reminded of the chorus of the Elton John song '*I'm still standing yeah yeah yeah*' – but running the website is something I can do sitting down in the comfort of my own home!

Over the last year I have changed the theme of the website to something a bit more modern and easier to customise. As with any IT system, frequent updates are the norm and have knock-on effects and sometimes conflicts can occur which need to be identified. I enjoy the challenge and now that golfing year 2016 is nearly over I am getting ready to start updating the website ready for 2017.

Now for some statistics: according to the website analytics there were over 24,000 visits between December 2015 and October 2016. Sadly only 5,000 of these can be attributed to visitors other than myself as web administrator. The majority of the views were UK based, but over 1,000 were from overseas. Whilst there is some evidence that county members are using the website, we do need to improve usage.

We now have a Twitter feed which is updated with all the latest news items. All you twitterers should be able to follow the page and receive the news items without having to go to the website.

I also post other interesting items – one of the more recent ones being '*Golf supports good health and wellbeing*'. According to a research project golf can help you live longer, cut the risk of many chronic diseases and improve your self-esteem. The rest of the article can be viewed on the October issue of England Golf Women's Newsletter. This monthly newsletter has been uploaded to the website since January 2015. It is always worth a read, as are the minutes from our meetings and Greta's County newsletters.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you find a problem with the website, wish to add a news item or make suggestions for enhancement. My details are on the Committee webpage.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts (Di Nicholson)**

The accounts were closed at the end of September 2016 and the year-end balance sheet for the ladies section was distributed with the agenda. A copy of the final junior section year-end balance sheet will be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.

The accounts show the following closing balances:

• Current Account	£15568.08
• Deposit Account	£15022.41
• Daphne Haddock Fund	£23,656.97
• Junior Account	£890.00

As you can see from these figures, the County remains in a strong financial position. Several points of clarification were sought from the floor, particularly in relation to the loss made on county competitions. It was confirmed that this loss is largely attributable to the disappointing level of entries and associated income. There is no intention to raise entry fees as we retain considerable cash assets; rather we will seek to increase levels of participation.

The number of affiliated members for this year was 1523, which represents a small increase on the previous year.

The accounts have been examined by our Accountant, Graham Adams, and found to be correct.

I would like to propose that these accounts are now adopted by the County. Proposal seconded by Lesley Clarke and approved by a clear two-thirds majority, based on a show of voting slips (none against).

I would also like to report that the executive committee has discussed and agreed to the introduction of on-line payment of entry fees in 2017. The option of cheque payment will still be available for those who do not wish to pay on-line. A simple identifying code for each event will be created – the blue book and entry form will be amended accordingly. The intention is to simplify the financial aspects of running competitions. Additionally prize vouchers will be bought by the Treasurer and sent to the relevant person before the competition date. It has also been agreed that entry forms can be submitted electronically with effect from 2017. These revised arrangements prompted a number of questions from the floor. The treasurer and Secretary assured members that full guidance notes would be provided.

**8 TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTANT FOR 2017**

The Treasurer proposed that Mr Graham Adams be appointed as auditor for 2017. Proposal seconded by Elaine Cardwell and approved by a clear two-thirds majority, based on a show of voting slips (none against).

**9. VOTE OF THANKS AND ADOPTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS (Sheila Withams)**

On behalf of the ladies of Cambs and Hunts Ladies' County Golf Association, I would like to extend our thanks to the Officers and Committee members for their work over the past year. We recognise that you give up a significant amount of personal time in order to work for the Association and we really appreciate everything you do. Thank you.

She then proposed that the officers' reports as presented should be accepted. Proposal seconded by Shelagh Byrne and approved by a clear two-thirds majority, based on a show of voting slips (none against).

**10. TO APPROVE AFFILIATION FEES FOR 2018 AT £8**

The Treasurer proposed that the 2018 affiliation fee remains at £8 per capita. Proposal seconded by Elaine Cardwell and approved by a clear majority, based on a show of voting slips (none against).

**11. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Secretary presented the proposed changes to the constitution, namely that:

- All references to Team Manager and Training Officer be removed and replaced with Captain
- Item 5b: the word 'elected' to be replaced by 'nominated'
- Item 7b: the County Squad Committee to be added; membership of the Selection Committee be amended as follows – Captain, Assistant Captain, 2nd Team Captain
- Item 8e: remove reference to a copy of the report of the Executive Committee
- Item 10c: the statement regarding the per capita levy (affiliation fees) be amended to read as follows: The annual mandatory per capita levy becomes due on affiliation and thereafter annually two months after commencement of the individual club's membership year. The Honorary Treasurer will make appropriate arrangements for the collection of these fees.

No specific issues were raised and the Secretary proposed that these changes be approved. Proposal seconded by Sheila Withams and approved by a clear two-thirds majority, based on a show of voting slips (none against).

## 12 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Secretary announced the following nominations for the Officers for 2017 and formally proposed their election to office:

President	Jacquie Richardson (Old Nene)	continuing in office
Secretary	Val Musson (Lakeside Lodge)	continuing in office
Treasurer	Diane Nicholson (Old Nene)	continuing in office
Captain	Vacant – co-option to be made at the April 2017 executive meeting	
2nd Team Captain	Cindy McIntyre (Bourn)	continuing in office
Veterans' Captain	Hazel Suswain (Ramsey)	continuing in office
Junior Organiser	Maureen Mansfield (Girton)	continuing in office
Competition Secretary	Trina Miller (Brampton Park)	continuing in office
Handicap Adviser	Wendy Cox (Lakeside Lodge)	continuing in office
East Region Delegate	Sheila Withams (Lakeside Lodge)	nominated by Executive Committee

Proposal seconded by Shelagh Byrne and approved by a clear two-thirds majority, based on a show of voting slips (none against).

### ***Non-Executive Officers (for information)***

Asst Competitions Secretary	Rosemary Rennie (The Cambridgeshire)
Deputy Handicap Adviser	Julie Aspinall (Ely City)
Press Officer	Greta Barclay (Ely City)
SS Assessor	Tina Broadley (Ely City)
Web Site Administrator	Ina Hartley (Ramsey)

## 13 ELECTION OF AFFILIATED CLUB DELEGATES TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Secretary confirmed a number of amendments to the list provided in the agenda, which now reads as follows:

<b>Club</b>	<b>DELEGATE</b>	<b>DEPUTY</b>
Abbotsley	Christine Baxter	
Barkway Park	Sue Akers	
Bourn	Paula Offer	
Brampton Park	Shirley Osborne	Jane McGlashan
Cambridge Meridian	To be confirmed	
Cromwell	Jan Osborne	
Ely City	Jill Gamlin	
Girton	Veronica McGrath	tbc
Gog Magog	Dubi Brain	Sheila Hayward

Heydon Grange	Elaine Knobel-Forbes	
Kingsway	No delegate	
Lakeside Lodge	Sheila Withams	
Links	Margaret Beckley	
March	Shona Kent	Margaret Butt
Old Nene	Lesley Clark	Anyta Francis
Ramsey	Judy Freeman	Diana Clitheroe
Royston	Pam Bonnett	
Saffron Walden	Vivienne Dondi	Lesley Hann
St Ives	Paula Ewing	Steff Allen
St Neots	Fiona Whitney	
The Cambridgeshire	Shelagh Byrne	Rosemary Rennie

The Secretary proposed that the above be duly elected to the Executive Committee. Seconded by Jaine Fieldhouse and approved by a clear two-thirds majority, based on a show of voting slips (none against).

#### 14 REPORT FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE DEVELOPMENT GROUP (Sheila Withams)

The Group has not met during 2016 and, until recently there has been little contact from the County Development Officer, Marc Smith. Initially Marc's working time was split between Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire but, in April, Marc became the full-time Development Officer for Cambridgeshire. In recent weeks he has provided two updates on the work he is doing within the County.

I have had two meetings with him recently as I was concerned about the absence of Development Group meetings and therefore the lack of contact between CHLCGA and the local representative of England Golf. Two initiatives have emerged:

##### **A proposal to hold a Cambridgeshire Golf Awards Evening.**

The President and I attended a meeting at Brampton GC with Marc Smith, two representatives from the Men's Union and a PGA rep. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Marc's proposal and to determine our views about its appropriateness. The proposal that we wish you to consider is, that in partnership with the men's union and the PGA, we hold a Cambridgeshire Golf Awards ceremony on an annual basis.

The outline plan is to distribute fliers and talk about the awards at the Captains and Vice Captains meeting in January and then formally launch the process at the April delegates meeting. Details of the categories and the timeframe will be provided at this stage. Nominations will be sought early October and the ceremony will be held in mid-late November. We anticipate that short listed nominees and their families and friends will be invited to the ceremony along with Club and County Officers. Sponsorship to support the event will be sought and a notable speaker will be invited. One issue that we need to consider is whether the event would be better on a weekend afternoon or a weekday or weekend evening.

##### **A proposal to hold a Ladies' Workshop in late February/early March 2017**

Marc suggests an evening event held somewhere central in the county inviting up to three attendees per club, primarily aimed at County Delegates, Lady Captains, Committee Members, PGA Pros and Secretaries/Managers. Marc's proposal for topic for the evening

is recruitment & retention. However, when the President and I discussed the proposal with him it was agreed that women and girls in golf would be a more appropriate topic, with the possibility of inviting Lauren Spray from England Golf to offer a national perspective followed by Marc providing a local focus. The target audience would be delegates, Officers and Captains/Vice-Captains. An alternative to this would be to invite Marc and colleagues to attend the new County Am-Am, providing the opportunity for them to meet participants and discuss issues relevant to individuals. This would appear to be a more relevant option.

More information on these two initiatives will be provided in due course.

## **15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **a. AGM start time**

Further to feedback received Jacquie Richardson asked if members would prefer to start the AGM earlier to facilitate travel home after the meeting. This suggestion was supported by the majority and it was therefore agreed that the 2017 AGM would commence at 1300 hrs.

### **b. Competitions**

Several issues relating to competitions were raised, namely that

- competitions need to be promoted more proactively
- 36 hole competitions are not universally popular
- The format of the Division 1 meeting requires clarification as the optional nature of the afternoon foursomes is not widely known

The Secretary confirmed that a review of competitions was being initiated and that other issues were likely to emerge at the planned workshops. All issues will be addressed as part of the review process and a report will be made at the April meeting.

The Secretary was also pleased to announce that, as a first step in a strategy to increase participation, a new competition will be introduced in 2017. This will be a **fourball team am-am and will be held early in the golfing season (late March/early April)**. A venue for this competition is currently being sought – it should be a course that has widespread appeal. She asked if any delegates thought their club might be willing to host this new event as we are open to offers. More Information will be made available in due course.

## **16 PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING OFFICERS**

The President paid tribute to our retiring officers, Elaine Cardwell (Assistant handicap Advisor), Sue Hill (team Manager) and Jane McGuffog (Training Officer). She thanked them each both personally and on behalf of the County for all the hard work during their term of office and presented them with a small gift.

## 17 PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES FOR 2016 SEASON

TROPHY	WINNERS	CLUB	
County Champion	Jade Guest	Gog Magog	
County Champion runner-up	Tabitha Brain	Gog Magog	
County Plate	Lucy Mills-Cripps	Ramsey	
County Plate runner-up	Sue Hill	Girton	
Allen Newport Trophy	Tabitha Brain	Gog Magog	
Scratch Bowl	Tabitha Brain	Gog Magog	
Hollands Cup (Foursomes Championship)	Tabitha Brain & Miranda Brain	Gog Magog	
Margery Newport Trophy (Div1)	Belinda Borneo	Brampton Park	
Audrey Nicole Cup (Division 2)	Katie Dixon	Brampton Park	
Long handicap Cup	Lesley Hann	Saffron Walden	
High Handicap Shield	Rosemary Lane	Gog Magog	
Nancie Carter Trophy	Sonia Hyvonen	Gog Magog	
Veterans' Cup	Rosemary Farrow	St Neots	
Senior Veterans' Cup	Rosemary Farrow	St Neots	
President's Salver	Sally Pinnock	Bourn	
Autumn Foursomes	Lesley Gilchrist & Helen Ambrose	Gog Magog	
Officials and Delegates Cup	Mo Poole	Brampton Park	
Grace Norman Trophy Winners	Saffron Walden		
Runners-up	Brampton Park		
Jean Wilkinson Trophy Winners	Ely City		
Runners-up	Saffron Walden		
Mary Cole Rose Bowl Winners	Newmarket Links		
Runners-up	The Cambridgeshire		
Scratch League Putter	Newmarket Links		
Scratch Foursomes Knockout	Marcella Tuttle & Sarah Greenall		Newmarket Links
<b>JUNIOR WINNERS</b>			
Junior champion	Jade Guest		Gog Magog
Junior handicap trophy	Anna Guest	Gog Magog	
Junior 18 hole stableford trophy	Jessica Hollingsworth	Girton	
Junior/Lady Greensomes	Jessica Hollingsworth & Ruth Ashman	Girton & Ely City	
Lesley Ford Trophy	Ella Mason	Ely City	
Alison Cunningham Trophy	Results awaited		
Biddy Wade Trophy	Olivia Dyson	Barkway	
Mansfield Trophy	Results awaited		
Adrienne's Trophy	Results awaited		

## 18 CLOSE OF MEETING

The President declared the meeting closed at 1600 hrs. and confirmed that the next AGM will be held on

**THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE GOG MAGOG GOLF CLUB STARTING AT 1300 HRS**

**Signed**

**Date**