

Nottinghamshire County Ladies Golf Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2014

10.30am Monday 24th November at Beeston Fields Golf Club

The President Mrs J Underwood took the Chair and convened the 106th Annual general meeting of the Association.

1. Apologies and attendance.
98 members attended .
Officers and council members Joan Underwood, Jane Fowler, Kathryn Horberry, Pam Loch, Helen Maber, Colette Newton, Hilary Horton, Sandra Beckett, Maureen Clarke and Lynn Buttery
Apologies were received from Pippa Handley, Christine Derbyshire, Wendy Scrooby (Norwood Park), Elsie Shanks, Wendy Roebuck, Jane Brewer, Sarah Rigby (Rufford), Helen Beeby (Oakmere Commanders), Sue Hutchinson (Kilton Forest)
2. Previous Minutes.
It was proposed by Lillian Richards and seconded by Bridget Patrick that the previous minutes were a true record of that meeting and were signed by the President.
3. Matters Arising.
There were no matters arising.
4. Captains report

Madam President, County Officials, Members and friends it gives me much pleasure to submit my report for the year.

County Waltz

Stanton on the Wolds Golf Club very kindly hosted the Waltz on 7th April.

A full field of 31 teams (93 competitors) took part with the winners being the team from the host Club of Lady Captain, Carol Hulme, Louise Spray and Jane Harby returning 64 points. The close runners up with 63 points were the team from Notts. Ladies of Colette Newton, Ann Harris and Hilary Horton. In third place were the team from Beeston Fields of Rosemary Skill, Alison Pithkelthy and Jenny Smith with 62 points.

As you all probably know the whole day is designed to raise funds to support the 1st and 2nd teams and thanks to the generosity of those taking part and kindly donating bottles for the raffle an amazing £1360 was raised.

Our thanks must be recorded to the Captain of Stanton Andrew Tutty and Lady Captain Carol Hulme for the very warm welcome extended to all of us on the day and also to Stanton members for allowing us to use their splendid course.

Next year's event is to be held on 20th April at Wollaton Park Golf Club so please make a note in your diary and support if you can.

Sheffield Union

This annual event is usually the curtain raiser to the season and was held on Tuesday, 10th April, at Coxmoor Golf Club. Both sides really look forward to the match and it is played in a marvellous but extremely competitive spirit. This year was no different. Coxmoor's Captain, Andy Chambers, took time off work to watch us all tee off and was back in the Clubhouse to hear the final result. I think he was just a little bit shocked at the noise levels, laughter and camaraderie between the sides in his words he had never experienced anything quite like it!

Notts. Ran out the winners 3 matches to 2. My thanks go to those that played – Emily Mae Hall, Caron Harrison, Pam Loch, Emma Howie, Colette Newton, Helen Maber, Kathryn Horberry, Jenny Batty, Rosemary Skill and me.

Mixed Am Am

This event which comprises a team of 4 – 2 ladies 2 men with the best ladies and best mens stableford score counting on each hole is organised and run by our Juniors. The Junior Girls organised by their Captain Sophie Newlove and Vice Captain Rhiannon Linacre worked hard on the day running the desk, organising a putting competition, cleaning clubs and running a raffle. They had two (somewhat rather officious) starters to see us all off on time.

The winners this year were David Tillcock, John Hewlett (Notts.) and Pauline Tillcock and Sharon Coyne (Notts. Ladies) with 82 points.

In 2nd place with 79 points were Sandy Loch(Notts.) Steve Burnside (Stanton) Pam Loch (Notts. Ladies) and Cathy Burnside (Stanton).

In 3rd place with 78 points were Michael Boulton, Michael Wilson, Helen Boulton and Yvonne Wilson all from Springwater.

The girls raised £830 for their junior funds - so thanks to them for their hard work and to everyone who played and supported.

County Championship and Spring Meeting

The Championship and Spring Meeting (a new 36 and 18 hole format) took place at Beeston Fields Golf Club 16th-18th May.

Defending champion Alex Peters hit the first shot to open the Championship on a glorious sun drenched Friday morning.

Some 24 players took part in the Championship playing 36 holes with the top 16 going through to the knock out stages over Saturday and Sunday.

In view of these numbers your Executive Committee has reviewed the structure of the Championship and an item appears elsewhere on the agenda concerning next year's qualifying numbers.

A similar number took part in a trial of the new format of the Spring Meeting playing 18 holes. There were many old and familiar faces playing in the Spring Meeting and all present felt it a huge success. This will be repeated in 2015.

The weather was wonderful and Beeston Fields was presented beautifully. Despite some tricky pin placements the scoring was excellent in both sections of the competition.

The matchplay stages started on Saturday morning with some good golf being played. In the first match out Alex Peters had a hole in one at the 3rd with a well struck 7 iron in her match against Lesley Morris.

The quarter finals followed on Saturday afternoon with Alex Peters, Rachel Boulton, Emily Mae Hall and Lianna Bailey all going through to Sunday morning semi finals.

The golf was a joy to watch with the ball striking being of excellent quality. The girls were making short work of the Par 5's but the course still provided a stern test for the players with a fair wind proving difficult at times.

The final on Sunday afternoon was played between Alex Peters and Lianna Bailey and what a feast we had. Alex opened birdie, birdie to go 2 up with Lianna's response on the next two holes birdie birdie so all square after 4.

The golf then settled down a little with Alex gaining wins at the long par 4 6th with a par and a further par on the 9th where Lianna drove her ball into the trees just narrowly failing to secure her par from just short of the green.

Holes continued to be halved in par until the 12th which Alex won by making par to Lianna's bogey. The players then continued halving holes with Alex eventually running out the winner at the 16th 3 and 2 which secured her hat trick of wins.

Full list of winners are:-

Coronation Foursomes

Some 48 pairings took part at Newark Golf Club. The winning pair with a rather magnificent 41 points were Alison Harrold and Bernie Barton from The Nottinghamshire.

2nd place went to A. Lindley and M. Burrows from Mapperley with 39 points.

Lynn Harris and Jenny Batty from Coxmoor finished 3rd with 37 points won on the back 9 from J. Richards and D. Sully from Stanton on the Wolds. Completing the prize winners in 5th spot were Lesley Morris and Carol Houghton from The Nottinghamshire.

County Week

The Midlands North Region Inter County Week was held at The Leicestershire Golf Club from 8th to 13th June.

The event started with a practice round on Sunday, 8th June and all went well. This was followed by the Welcome Party and Dinner. A good start to the week.

Day one saw Notts playing Shropshire. The morning foursomes seeing some good golf from Notts. Resulting in a two and a half to a half situation at lunchtime. A strong Notts line up went on in the afternoon to win five of the six single games. A good win and a good start seven and half to one and a half points.

Day two saw Sophie Newlove have to leave us for exams but Lianna Bailey came in. Against Leicestershire in the morning Notts proved too strong and secured all three points in the foursomes. Leicestershire fared a little better in the afternoon securing two and a half points but the match was beyond them and we won six and half to two and a half.

The course was in excellent condition and bathed in fabulous sunshine but playing tough with the greens being very slick – reportedly 12 on the stimp meter – but our girls coped well and against Derbyshire we went into the singles with a two to one lead. In the afternoon our girls were relentless and secured five and a half points out of the six on offer to beat our near neighbours seven and half to one and a half points. Excellent playing from all our girls but particularly worthy of mention being Lianna Bailey's play when securing her point. Lianna slotted in 5 birdies and an eagle (she did slip in one bogey) in her win over 11 holes.

Thursday was to prove to be the crunch game against old rivals Lincolnshire. For the first time we went two games to one down in the foursomes but still had all to play for in the afternoon singles. Golf of the highest calibre was played and almost had to be seen to be believed. With three holes left to play we had the upper hand but a spirited fight back from Lincs saw them force three games down the 18th. Alex Peters secured a great half point when having pulled her approach shot left of the 18th green she then went on to make a miraculous, in fact, almost unbelievable, up and down to get a half point. Jodie Peacock found the greenside bunker and failed to get up and down from what was an almost impossible position to lose her match. Lauren Spray having just birdied the par 3 17th with a fabulous tee shot then missed the tight 18th fairway and found herself in trees and just missed her par to lose her match. Lincolnshire ran out winners five and a half to three and half points.

Friday saw our girls take on Staffordshire and the morning foursomes went Notts way two games to one. In the afternoon singles we took four of the games to win six points to three.

Lincs went on to the beat Leicestershire and thus went through to the finals at Belton Park.

We had great team spirit all week and we were oh so close to going through.

We left The Leicestershire after an excellent week finally finishing in the runners up spot. It is perhaps very significant that whilst finishing an extremely creditable 2nd we felt quite disappointed.

I received many compliments about our team, their good manners, presentation and good golf. As Captain and as a County we should all be very proud of them.

We have a good squad of players going forward I know they can do well next year.

I want to record a big thank you to all my County colleagues for their invaluable help and support during County Week it wouldn't have happened without you.

Thank you again to all who came to support, sent cards and messages – it makes it so very special for the players and officials alike.

The Selection Committee decided not to take the full quota of 12 players this year as availability was better than in previous years so the County were represented by

Lianna Baliey, Rachel Boulton, Emma Howie, Rhiannon Linacre, Emma Newlove, Sophie Newlove, Jodie Peacock, Alex Peters and Lauren Spray.

My thanks go to all of them – it's an experience that will never be repeated but never forgotten.

Summer and Vets meeting

A field of 51 competitors took part at Worksop Golf Club on what proved to be a real test of golf with some extremely fast running greens and what I was told were wicked pin placements resulting in CSS going up to 77.

This was the first time that we had combined the summer meeting with the vets and the Clubhouse atmosphere was great with many old friendships being renewed with much laughter and merriment.

Good scores were returned with the eventual winners being

Summer meeting

Handicap Cup	S. Nickless Southwell 92-20=72
Scratch Cup	C. Wild Notts Ladies 81
Division 1 1 st	D. Rose Retford 89-16=73
Division 1 2 nd	M. Burrows Mapperley 91-14=77
Division 1 3 rd	C. Newton Notts Ladies 88-11=77
Bronze	E. Martin Southwell 102-23=79
Vets	
Scratch	C. Wild Notts Ladies 81
Challenge Cup	S. Nickless Southwell 92-20=72
Dorothy Payne Cup	P. Handley Wollaton Park 97-19=78

County Captain's Day

I was delighted to the response to this event. It was actually oversubscribed within 10 days of the form being released. Eventually 41 teams (164 competitors) took part on Monday 28th July at Coxmoor Golf Club. I was especially pleased that 22 Clubs were represented and that 11 Past County Captain's took part.

Scoring was fantastic with the winners being the team from Ruddington Grange of Sally McGarvey, Angela Picker, Wendy Kerry and Loraine Howd with 91 points.

In 2nd place with 89 points were the team of Joyce Hayward and Judy Wheatley Coxmoor, Gaynor Tunney Sherwood Forest and Jane Barrs Rushcliffe.

In 3rd spot with 88 points were the all Rushcliffe team of Tina Gillot, Chris Hodges, Jean Jolley and Janet Dolman.

Taking the final prize on 87 points on countback with a wonderful 49 points on the back 9 were the all Coxmoor team of Viv Radford, Chris Hargreaves, Janet Slater and Heidi Sweeney.

Due to very generous sponsorship from Sean Musson, Glenn Newton and John Fowler all par 3 holes had prizes for nearest the pin in both silver and bronze division. Thank you gentlemen.

Just a note here of special thanks to an old friend Andrew Tyler (Tybro Ltd) and this year Coxmoor's Vice Captain for yet again agreeing to sponsor golf balls for our 1st and 2nd teams for 2015. Andy has seen to this for us for the past three years - a most generous gesture.

My thanks to all of you who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets. We raised £2863 a fantastic achievement.

Thank you to all my helpers for making the day so very special.

Autumn meeting

A good field of over 50 competitors took part at Rushcliffe on 4th September.

The course was in very good condition but many competitors struggled to master the greens resulting in the CSS for the day increasing to 74 and ultimately ending up as a reductions only competition. So many congratulations to Karen Donnelly Ruddington Grange for returning an excellent 71.

The winners being

K. Horberry Coxmoor gross 82 Challenge Bowl 18 holes scratch

K. Donnelly Ruddington Grange 98-27=71 Challenge Bowl and Bronze medal 18 holes handicap

T. Gillot Rushcliffe 86-12=74 Silver Medal

S. Penfold Sherwood Forest 83+83=166 Cavendish Bentinck Challenge Cup best aggregate scratch at summer and autumn meetings

L. Morris The Nottinghamshire 77+74=151 nett Handicap Challenge Cup best aggregate handicap at summer and autumn meetings

Jubilee shield awarded to the club whose members return the 4 lowest nett scores The Nottinghamshire Total 310 – L. Morris, J. Rose, P. Grinter and B. Barton

Inter Club

The final of the mixed inter club took place at Stanton on the Wolds between Norwood and Wollaton Park. Norwood were represented by Grant Lee and Lynne Inham and Mark Todd and Amy Oxbury with Wollaton Park being represented by Neil and Leanne Martin and Gary Shepherd and Chris Parnham. Wollaton being the eventual winners – well done to them.

The final of the ladies inter club took place at Wollaton Park between Rushcliffe and Coxmoor. Rushcliffe represented by Janet Dolman and Jean Jolly and Tina Gillot and Sue Maine. Coxmoor represented by Kathryn Horberry and Janet Slater and Viv Radford and me. The eventual winners were Rushcliffe 2 up – well done to Rushcliffe.

Whilst our players continue to perform to the highest standards and to mention all achievements would probably take too long there are just a few things amongst many worthy of particular mention.

Neil and Leanne Martin (dad and daughter combination from Wollaton Park) reached the final of the Central England mixed foursomes at Woodhall Spa they didn't quite manage to capture the first prize but a great achievement nevertheless.

Emily Mae Hall won the Queen of Clubs at Horsley Lodge, Emma Newlove set a new course record of 68 here at Beeston, Rachel Boulton established a new course record at Springwater – breaking her own course record in doing so – and Lauren Spray achieved the wonderful status of “scratch” handicap – well done to you all.

I'm sure you will be interested to hear that Alex Peters has now decided to join the Professional ranks and we wish her all the best in that very exciting adventure.

We decided to cut down on the number of raffles held but of those that we did we raised £202 for Breast Cancer Care and £140 for Maggie's Centre at the City Hospital. Thank you to all who contributed I never cease to be amazed at your kindness and generosity.

We have been very privileged to play on some great golf courses this year all in fabulous condition and as you know we decided not to hold prize presentations at all events. Whilst I have written to thank those Clubs involved I feel that my thanks must be recorded to all the Clubs and their Members who have allowed us to use their courses this year. Also to those Secretaries/Managers for helping us organise our events, their greenkeepers for setting us such difficult but wonderful tasks and to the bar and catering personnel who help console us when we haven't quite performed as we would like.

Joyce our starter for many years has had some health issues over the past year or so but she was able to perform her starting duties for the championship – thank you Joyce it was great to see you.

A thank you to those Clubs who provided starters for us at Newark, Worksop and Rushcliffe.

Going Forward

During the past 12 months discussions have been held with the County Golf Partnership, PGA and Notts. Union. This led to the submission of bids for funding to England Golf to provide a pathway for junior golfers from raw beginners to elite. By working together we were successful in obtaining over £4,000 which is now in the process of being spent. Emma Howie our most efficient County Junior Coordinator will speak more of this.

Part of this planned approach has been to work together with the County Golf Partnership, the Union, the PGA. This joint approach has led to the encouragement of junior girls to play on the Nippers Tour. They can enter with or without handicaps from the age of 6 up to the age of 12. The Association has had representatives at all Nippers Tour events – which have to be seen to be believed. Clubs and bags are bigger than the players but they really do put their hearts and souls into it. They have a terrific time although I think they perhaps pay too much time eyeing up the prize table! I also was invited to the end of season mini Ryder Cup at Wollaton Park – even I got nervous!

A Junior Order of Merit for boys and girls has also been introduced. Six Club open events were identified as qualifying events with each player's best three results counting towards the OOM. I have attended most of these events and the winners were Girls Scratch, Charlotte Hazlewood (Notts. Ladies) and Girls Nett Georgia Viggers (Stanton on the Wolds). Well done to them both.

Similar events are planned for 2015.

Now my year is coming to an end I can admit that with all the structural management changes last year I did go into the job with a bit of fear and trepidation and I did experience one or two sleepless nights wondering if things would be alright. I needn't have worried the team around me have been absolutely marvellous. If I was carrying out personal appraisals of their performances they'd all get 10 out of 10 – everyone has performed exceptionally well and been prepared to carry out any job – whether it be in their job description or not – to assist and help each other – it's been a real team effort and I think we've even managed a bit of fun along the way – thank you everyone.

However, I do feel that I need to make mention of just a couple of people.

First of all Gillian. Gillian agreed last November to be our webmaster. We asked her if she would look at our web site – which was excellent when built but had become a little tired looking and with so much information a bit cluttered.

Gillian agreed and off she went. Well we didn't see her for a couple of months because she was busy rebuilding everything but my goodness when she returned what a fantastic job she'd done. It's modern, bright, interesting and informative I know many of you use it. So thank you Gillian for all your hard work in building it and in your ongoing commitment to maintain it.

I also want to say a thank you to Hilary Horton who has decided to stand down this year. Hilary has served the County very well. She was Vice Captain for two years; Captain for two years; Immediate Past Captain and this year Competitions Secretary. During this time she also took me under her wing and guided me through my induction phase; we had much fun along that way and have become good friends. Hilary as you might imagine isn't really retiring – not her style- she's moving on to hopefully become next week Captain of Notts. Ladies – Hilary we wish you well with that and thank you for everything you have done during your periods of office with the County.

I must also pay tribute to Joan, our President. Joan has been an inspiration – her knowledge and experience of County matters unsurpassed. She is truly committed to the County and whilst wishing to maintain traditions she has been prepared to work towards change in a very positive and supportive manner. She has been a “hands on” President; been by my side and undertaken any job asked of her. She has been a marvellous support to us all with her encouragement – thank you Madam President.

On a personal level I have felt privileged to have been County Captain – thank you Colette for inviting me to be your Vice Captain you have been an inspiration and a wonderful support to me.

Finally and I promise this is my final thank you – this goes to all of you. You have supported the County throughout and made it all worthwhile - I go away with many wonderful memories which I will treasure.

Turning now to Kathryn. Well what can I say. When I had the responsibility of choosing someone to be my Vice Captain I thought carefully about it and decided I needed someone who I could work with; who was an experienced and good golfer, who I could trust, and who would be loyal and honest with me. So really it could only be Kathryn. I've known Kathryn as a friend for over 30 years and throughout this time she has proved to be all of these things.

Just to put you in the picture I asked Kathryn in March if she would be my Vice Captain and in Kathryn's own way she took her time to consider and weigh up all the factors. In fact, it took her until the Championship in mid May to say yes. I knew, as with everything, she would have carefully considered and evaluated before jumping in and that once she had said yes she would be committed to the task. When she eventually put me out of my misery and said yes it was accompanied by “I don't do emails and I haven't got a computer”. Well in this short period of time she's got a mobile, a sat nav and a tablet. I think I have a reputation for emails but I'm afraid my emails pale into significance compared to Kathryn's.

In the run up to the AGM I had to ask all the officials if they were continuing in post. Kathryn responded to me by saying “I'm carrying on I'm hoping for promotion”. So now it's time for your promotion. You more than qualify for what for us is the top job - you are a superb golfer, you have a record second to none, you are a trusted, good and loyal friend and you have been alongside me throughout this past 3 years for which I'm grateful. You'll bring all those qualities to this office.

You are inheriting a great squad of players and I think a wonderful and fantastic support team I know you will do well.

Only one piece of advice from me – just enjoy your year.

So having said all of that I am delighted to propose Kathryn Horberry as County Captain for 2015.

5. Presentation of trophies for 2014 competitions.

The President thanked Lynn Buttery (General Secretary) for arranging for all of the trophies to be collected in, refurbished, cleaned and fully engraved. This was probably the first time all of the Association's trophies had been together and they made a splendid sight.

The Captain presented the trophies to all winners (details in Captain's report) and also to the clubs who had been successful in the Leagues and Inter Club competitions.

Results were given by the Competition Secretary Colette Newton along with dates for next year.

6. Vice Captains report

Madam president, madam captain, county officials, ladies

I have enjoyed being the captain of the ladies second team this year.

The second team play home and away matches against Leicestershire and Lincolnshire with the winners of this league playing a match against the winners of the league from the other half of the Midlands North region namely Derbyshire Staffordshire and Shropshire.

The first match was away to Lincolnshire at Sleaford golf club.

Lack of local knowledge proved a disadvantage as there were several dog-leg holes to negotiate. Lincolnshire won the match 8-1 but several games went to the last couple of holes.

The return match was played at Sherwood Forest golf club where we gained our revenge winning by 7.5 to 1.5.

All of our players remained unbeaten as Lincolnshire's only points were 3 halves and it took a birdie on the last hole by Lincolnshire in 2 games to hold our players to a half.

The first match against Leicestershire was played at Wollaton Park golf club.

This was a close match with Nottinghamshire winning 5.5 to 3.5.

The return match was played at Longcliffe golf club and our players had a great result winning 8-1 even though the course was new to several players.

Lincolnshire won their 2 matches against Leicestershire by 6.5 to 2.5 and 7-2.

This meant that in the league we tied with Lincolnshire as we had both won 3 matches but they finished top as they had won 23 games against Nottinghamshire's 22.

As a result Lincolnshire went through to the final at Stoke Rochford against Staffordshire who were the winners of the other league in the Midlands North region.

Lincolnshire won the final 6 - 3 which shows just how close we came to overall success.

The following players have represented the second team this season

Emily Cheshire, Esme Hamilton (making her début), Caron Harrison, Carol Houghton, Emma Howie, Emily Lyle, Laura Morris, Amy Oxbury (making her début), Glenys Priestley, Rosemary Skill, Andrea Stockdale.

I thank them for some exciting golf and the friendly spirit in which the matches were played.

I have seen their golf and confidence developing over the season and long may it continue.

I should like to thank my vice captain Pam for assisting me at all the matches and for obtaining the venues for next year.

Also thanks to our president Joan for her support at several of the matches and helping with the arrangements at the Wollaton Park venue.

Thank you to Sherwood Forest and Wollaton Park for hosting the matches - it is much appreciated.

Finally I wish Pam every success with the matches next year at Rushcliffe, Radcliffe on Trent, Stoke Rochford and Lingdale.

7. Treasurers report

It was proposed by Ali Boulby (Beeston Fields) and seconded by Pat Fountain (The Nottinghamshire) that the Treasurer's streamlined accounts report should be accepted. This was passed unanimously.

Proposal from Executive Committee

'The affiliation fee payable be increased to £5 applicable/payable from 2015'

Proposer Helen Maber

Secunder Jane Fowler

This was passed unanimously by the meeting.

8. Junior report

Junior Report to the AGM November 24th November 2014

Madam County President, County Captain, County Officers and Ladies. It is my pleasure to present the Junior Report for 2014

This has been a transitional year for the junior committee, running without a junior organiser and trying to keep the momentum going. When a replacement organiser was not forthcoming we remodelled the role from junior organiser to junior co-ordinator, who will remain the main point of contact for all the juniors and oversee the operation of the junior committee. I have agreed to take on this role and I will coordinate the remainder of the junior committee to share out the workload during the year. I'm also pleased to report the committee has been expanded with a new volunteer, Carol Houghton from The Nottinghamshire.

In addition this has been the first year that the Notts County Golf Partnership, Notts PGA, Notts Union and NCLGA have worked together under one umbrella "Nottinghamshire Golf". The idea to be more joined up for junior golf which allows us to share resources and make joint bids.

Coaching

During the last year monthly group coaching continued at Rufford, with pros John Vaughan and James Thompson, and at Riverside with Phil Edwards. Around 20 girls have attended these groups over the year. We stopped the coaching at Oakmere with Jamie Jarvis part way through this year as the numbers were dropping and it was also duplicating coaching that was being offered by the club.

Pre-season we also ran our usual team training session to focus our players on course management and short game. We also ran a workshop, partly funded by the County Golf Partnership (CGP), on Psychology and Nutrition, which was delivered by Katrina Douglas, a former professional who now does research into sports and nutrition. This was open to all the juniors aged 12 and upwards with a handicap, in addition to the county senior teams attending and some parents. The feedback we had for this was excellent, with parents reporting how "buzzing" the juniors were after the event.

Going forward with coaching over this winter we are merging our monthly coaching programme with the County Golf Partnership (CGP) coaching academy. The new programmes will be called the "Athlete Development Programme" and will be administrated by the CGP. There will be mixed sessions for 9-18 year olds in 7 locations around the county but also still the option of girls-only sessions at Rufford and The Nottinghamshire. This coaching will focus on technical skills development across the game, e.g. swing, short game and putting.

In addition to the Athlete Development Programme which is open to all girls, we will be running specific sessions for girls squad players in conjunction with the county boys squad, utilising a £4000 grant we received though the Nottinghamshire Golf umbrella. This series of winter coaching being launched this month will be based around topics other than their swing, e.g. psychology, preparing for a game, nutrition etc.

To compliment these as an Association we are aiming to issue coaching grants for selected girls to allow them to continue with one-to-one coaching from their established swing coach, rather than

session work with a county coach. These will be given to girls that meet criteria for their age group and will be selected in conjunction with the coaches.

Competitions

The Girls Championship was held at Retford Golf Club on 11th May when Lianna Bailey (Notts Ladies) became our new Girls' Champion. She also won the Open Scratch Salver. Charlotte Hazelwood (Notts Ladies) won the Handicap Cup, Under 14 scratch cup and the Bronze Division Scratch Cup. Annabel Bailey (Notts Ladies) won the Under 16 scratch cup. This year we also opened up the intermediate category to under 30s, aiming to provide a competition for a category we want to try and develop as a county. The inaugural winner was Lauren Spray from Stanton. Our sincere thanks go to Retford for hosting the Championship and to Belinda Briggs, representing the Lady Captain, who came to the prize presentation.

This year saw the introduction of the Junior Order of Merit and Rookies tour aimed at girls aged 13-18, which was organised under the umbrella of Nottinghamshire Golf. 6 events were held and 9 girls took part in the series. The gross winner was Charlotte Hazelwood, the nett winner was Georgia Viggers (Stanton). We are continuing them both in 2015 and aiming to build the numbers having learnt a few lessons from this year.

For the first time NCLGA promoted and supported the Nippers tour, which is open to all girls and boys under 12, and is run very successfully by the Notts Union. This was instead of us organising par 3 competitions for junior girls without handicaps like we had in previous years. A junior committee member attended each of the 6 tour events and the "Ryder cup" style finale to the series. There were around 12 girls who participated in the series, some of which were not known to the County Association so it was a good opportunity to find more girls playing golf. We feel this has worked well and next year we are aiming to support this further by providing additional prizes for the girls and provide some funding towards Nippers coaching which will benefit girls under 12.

This year the Jubilee Trophy was not run but a decision has been made to re-launch the competition in 2015 with a new format to only involve the junior girls. It will be a team event where the more experienced girls will have the opportunity to mentor younger or less experienced girls, in addition to having an individual event for the experienced players (along the lines of a Pro-Am)

The Mixed AmAm was held in April 2014 with the kind support of Wollaton Park. This is the one competition where the girls do not play but instead organise the day and raise funds for their section.

It was a fantastic day and we were so proud of the juniors who gave their time to run the day under the excellent leadership of our Junior Captain Sophie Newlove and Vice-Captain Rhiannon Linacre. The girls managed to raise a fabulous £830 for the junior section. Thanks also go to Pippa Handley for support with the event.

At this point I would also like to give a big thank you to clubs and individuals who have kindly sent donations for the Junior Funds during the year; your generosity allows the Junior Committee to continue to arrange events and coaching for the girls. Spondon Trophies Inter Club Competition gave NCLGA a donation of £910 for the juniors in Oct 2014 from this year's competition. Please can I encourage as many clubs as possible to enter 1 or more teams next year - ladies have a great time and they raise funds for the juniors!

Matches

In the Midland North Region (MNR) Scratch League, Notts won four matches and lost narrowly away to Derbyshire. This resulted in us winning the league for the fourth year in a row.

During the year Esme Hamilton (Notts Ladies) was awarded her Junior County Colours and Lianna Bailey had her first hole in one while playing the match against Lincolnshire at Hollinwell, on the 5th hole.

The 2nd Team league matches have continued to be disappointing for our Nottinghamshire girls, as many counties are only able to bring maybe 1 or 2 girls out of the 4 they should bring. This continues to be a concern and something we intend to raise at the midlands junior organisers meeting later this week.

Fortunately we do have three friendly matches for girls of 12+ handicaps which are very useful to introduce them to county teams. This year's friendly match v Mapperley Ladies was won by the girls. We are very grateful to the support of Christine Preston and the Mapperley Ladies for this fixture.

The girls also played Yorkshire at Newark and lost this match to a very strong county. The match against Warwickshire was actually set up for Bronze division players and we had 5 rookies in the team of 6 and won the match. Overall we have had 6 new girls playing in matches this season, so it is encouraging to see the younger ones coming through.

Notts Juniors continue to be successful within the MNR and some of this seems to be because we have a good depth to our junior squad compared to the other counties. This is a credit to all the hard work delivered in previous years by NCLGA and junior organisers, and something I hope we can continue.

Successes

This morning I would also like to give you a few highlights of the girls' many successes at regional and national level, but do have a look at the Junior Girls Certificates on display board where you can see more of what has been going on.

Lianna Bailey - Won the St Andrews Junior Open, The Midlands U18 girls' Champion of Champions and was invited by England Golf to play a Ladies European Tour Access tournament.

Annabel Bailey - was runner up at the English Girls Strokeplay Championships, The Midlands U16 girls' Champion of Champions and invited by England Golf to play in Ladies European Tour Access tournament. She has also been named in the England under 18s squad.

Charlotte Hazelwood – handicap reduced from 28 to 14 and won the Midlands Girls Championship Nett trophy.

Laura Abbott (Oakmere) - playing in many competitions over the season reduced her handicap from 28 to 12.

Lianna Bailey, Sophie Newlove (Beeston) and Rhiannon Linnacre (Coxmoor) played in both County and Girls' 1st teams and Esme Hamilton and Emily Lyle (Worksop) who played county ladies second team this year in addition to Girls' 1st Team.

The junior girls and their families attended the Junior Presentation Evening at Beeston on November 22nd when the girls celebrated their achievements for the year. Our current Junior Captain Sophie Newlove presented all the trophies and certificates the girls had achieved over the year.

Rhiannon Linnacre and Emma Anderson (Sherwood) were announced as Junior Captains for 2014-15. A slightly unusual situation in that Rhiannon is turning pro part way through the year so cannot complete the full year, therefore, Rhiannon will do Nov to April and Emma will take on the second half of the season. The Junior Vice-Captain for the whole year is Esme Hamilton.

Going forward

Next year we are losing Amie Whelan (Beeston), Megan McJanet (Coxmoor), and Lianna Bailey from the juniors as they all turned 18 this year. In addition we are sadly losing the rest of the Bailey girls (Eleanor, Jessica and Annabel) next season. Due to family circumstances they have had to move their home club to be nearer to their home in Leicestershire, so are no longer eligible to represent us. We thank all these girls for their commitment to Nottinghamshire over the years and hope we will see them back at our open championships next year in the junior or intermediate category!

Jane Fowler and I will continue to attend the "Nottinghamshire Golf" meetings. We are applying for another coaching grant this winter and will continue to build on the progress made this year with making junior golf more joined up.

Pam Loch will be attending the Midlands regional meeting of junior organisers and England Golf later this week to ensure we are in line with their strategy and up to date with opportunities for the Juniors.

And finally...

My thanks to all the junior committee who have made it a real team effort this year; a learning curve for all of us but everyone has pitched in!

I also can't miss this opportunity to say how proud I am of the junior girls, and how much I have enjoyed this year. It is a testament to how great they are, that I have agreed to take on the junior coordinator role!

Thank you for listening ladies. Emma Howie Junior Co-ordinator

9. Midland North Report

MNR REPORT NOVEMBER 2014

Madam President, Captain, Ladies,

It was a year ago, that I was asked to stand, so that you could all see who the new MNR rep was going to be. I still was not sure what I had taken on, only that Pippa had excellently executed the role for 4 years, and she said I would be fine, and that I would enjoy it, and so I trusted her. Since taking over the role, I have been asked by numerous people what it is that I actually do, so I thought I would just take a moment to explain.

Midlands North is made up of 6 counties, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire, and I am fortunate to work with and have the support of the representatives from those counties.

We have 2 main functions.

One is to be a link between our counties and England golf. We are called Voting members, and at our meetings are asked to vote on a variety of issues. As we are to represent the views of our county, we are always pre informed of these issues, and I am grateful for all the Council Members for pointing me in the right direction.

The second is to arrange a variety of competitions, which usually works out at one county doing one competition per year. My link to the Nottinghamshire clubs is via a representative from each club. This does not have to be the secretary, but just someone for me to use as a contact point. This amounts to little more than receiving the e newsletter, and at times other pieces of information. If you think that your club does not have such a person, or the information is going to the wrong person, then please let me know.

The competition organised by Nottinghamshire in 2014 was the Regional Final of the Australian Spoons. This was held at Wollaton Park in June. To say that we had such a good summer, we managed to pick a very wet day with the risk of thunder. Maureen Clark, our referee, turned up with her own klaxon, which managed to see off the thunder, and the day was enjoyed, despite the rain by 56 pairs of competitors. The winners were Susan Wenlock, and Suzanne Burgess from Kilworth Springs in Leicestershire, with 41 points. My thanks go to Pippa, and to the ladies of Wollaton who acted as starters, provided refreshments for the half way house, and made everyone feel welcome.

Nottinghamshire play host in 2015, to The Queen of Clubs Competition. This was won at Horsley Lodge last year by Emily Mae Hall from Notts Ladies. This year it is at Chilwell Manor Golf Club on Friday 17th July, and is for your club's current club champion. It is at the discretion of each club on how they achieve their club champion. Most have a club championship competition, but some arrive at their club champion by holding a knockout competition. In reality, the 2015 competition is for the lady who is the 2014 club champion. The entry forms are available on the England Golf website, and I have e mailed a copy to all my Midland North contacts at each club. The other competitions run by Midland North for next year are:- The foursomes competition at Burton on Trent on Monday 27th April, the Australian Spoons at Patsull Park on 1st June, Girls Championship at Ashby Decoy on 6th August, the County 2nd team at Cavendish on 22nd August, and County Match Week at Enville on the 28th June week.

As well as meeting every few months with my Midland North colleges, I have also attended 4 England Golf meetings this year. It has been a very busy year for England Golf, as it has seen the

launch of Raising Our Game, the Strategic Plan for England Golf from 2014 to 2017. There are 7 aims to the plan. These are to increase the number of people playing golf, and to reverse the decline in club membership. To support the clubs to attract and retain members, help develop talented golfers at every level and to provide excellent championships and competitions for golfers of all abilities. Improving the image of golf, and also improving governance are the last two aims. The money that England Golf receive from Sport England depends on the number people playing golf each week. Therefore we have to halt the decline in the number of people playing golf, and if our clubs are to survive, we have to get more people to become members of the clubs. To this end, three counties have been chosen to take part in a pilot study. The counties are Staffordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. In these counties the mens unions, ladies associations, PGA, county golf partnership, and golf club managers association, are all to work together to try and increase the membership in a targeted number of clubs, and increase the number of people playing golf at least once a week. If this is successful, then the lessons learned will be rolled out across the country.

Portas consultancy team, who are management consultants working in all areas of sport, are leading a review of the Governance of England Golf. They will be looking at everything, from the composition of the Board of Directors, the need of the sub committees, the use of volunteers, the affiliation fees, how to include the itinerent golfer etc. They are keen to canvas the views of all golfers, and I have an e mail address, should anyone feel like sending them their thoughts.

This year has been quite a steep learning curve for me, but it has been very interesting and I have learnt a lot. I hope I have served you all well, and look forward to my 2nd year as your MNR rep.

10. Election of Officers.

Captain Kathryn Horberry. Proposed Jane Fowler. Seconded Maureen Clarke.

Acceptance speech by the NCLGA Captain for 2015

Madam president, county officials, ladies

Thank you to Jane and Maureen for your kind words in proposing me for the role.

I never thought that I would be in this privileged role of captain.

It is one thing to play golf but another to have the confidence to be captain.

I have enjoyed being a Vice-Captain for the last 2 years and thank Colette and Jane for showing me how they have run things.

They are a hard act to follow but I know that I have the full support of my committee to help me. Everyone has performed admirably this year in roles which have been new to many of them, but we owe a huge thank you to Jane for taking control of the development and coordinating our ideas. At the same time she produced a splendid result with the county first team who narrowly missed getting through to the finals.

It gives me great pleasure to present you Jane with this gift and flowers on behalf of the association as a token of our appreciation for all the work you have done in your terms of office.

Some important fixtures for me next year are:-

the county first team jamboree matches at Enville Staffordshire practice day on Sunday 28th June with the matches against the other 5 counties in the Midlands North region being played over the next 5 days.

I realise this is a long way from Nottinghamshire but we would welcome any support.

There is sure to be some excellent golf to be seen.

If our team comes top of this division the all England county finals are being played at Frilford Heath golf club on 14th to 18th September.

To help fund these matches I am holding my Captain's day am-am competition at Coxmoor golf club on Monday 27th July. I look forward to seeing you there and also may I encourage you to enter the other county competitions - it is most enjoyable playing different courses and meeting different people.

Let's have a happy and successful year and I wish you all good golf in 2015.

It now gives me great pleasure to propose that my vice-captain Pam Loch is upgraded to the position of senior vice captain.

Pam has been tremendous with her support this year- attending all the first and second team matches, taking me to Enville to book the accommodation for next year, assisting on the junior committee. She is always willing to help whenever she can with and I look forward to continuing to work with her.

I now call on Hilary Horton to second the proposal.

The proposal was seconded and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Captain Kathryn Horberry took the chair and the meeting continued with the Election of Officers.

Assistant Vice Captain

Helen Maber Proposed by Pam Loch and seconded by Jenny Smith.

Treasurer

Helen Maber will remain in office. The Association asked for volunteers to take over as Treasurer after this year when Helen becomes Vice Captain.

Competition Secretary

Colette Newton Proposed Hilary Horton Seconded Audrey Blenock.

Assistant Competition Secretary

Jane Fowler Proposed Colette Newton. Seconded Sandra Beckett.

General Secretary Lynn Buttery will remain in office.

County Handicap Adviser Maureen Clarke will remain in office.

Midlands North Representative Sandra Beckett will remain in office.

Webmaster Gill Stump will remain in office.

County Junior co-ordinators Emma Howie assisted by Carol Houghton and Helen Boulton

11. County Handicap Advisers report.

Madam President, Madam Captain, Ladies

Annual Review of Handicaps

Your Club's Annual Review of handicaps must take place between 31 October and 1 March each year. If your Competition Scratch Scores are often Reduction Only it is advisable to carry out a more robust Annual Review, as it indicates that your members' handicaps are too low. Where Clubs are experiencing Reduction Only competitions, every time a Competition is played, England Golf are now arranging for a club to increase the handicaps of a majority of players within that club. This took place for the ladies at Serlby Park Golf Club in September and is happening more often around the country.

It is recommended that the Handicap Committee is comprised of a minimum of three persons preferably of both genders that are Members of the Club, as opposed to Secretaries, and Golf Professionals. If you play Non-Qualifying Competitions during the Winter, all the players must be informed before they play and handicaps cannot be altered as a result.

England Golf National Handicap Seminars

It is the intention of England Golf to hold Handicap Seminars in 2015 and it is hoped that all Club Handicap Secretaries will attend. This will give them the opportunity to ask questions and be advised of any changes that are likely to take place when the new CONGU Unified Handicapping manual is published in 2016.

Enquiries

Individual enquiries on handicaps should go to your Club's Handicap Secretary in the first instance, and, if they are unable to answer the queries, they will contact me, your County Handicap Adviser. If I am unable to answer I am able to check with the Regional Handicap Adviser that has been appointed, and then England Golf.

Thank you

Thank you to Serlby Park Golf Club for inviting me over to talk about Alternate Day Competitions, and the reasons behind England Golf recommending them. All Handicap Secretaries are welcome to contact me whenever they have a query on Handicaps or the Rules of Golf.

Thank you also if you took the trouble to fill in the Survey about Handicapping for England Golf.

Although the time for the prize draw is passed any player may complete the Survey, and I recommend you do so. It should highlight the problems players are experiencing with the CONGU UHS System. Thank you.

Maureen Clarke County Handicap Adviser

12. Interclub and League Results.

The 2014 Ladies Interclub competition was won by Rushcliffe, the runners up were Coxmoor.

Winners of the leagues for 2014

Silver Division

Group A. Beeston Fields

Group B. Trent Lock

Group C. Coxmoor

Group D. Serlby

Group E. Southwell

Group F. Norwood

Bronze Division

Group A. Retford

Group B. Beeston

Group C. Coxmoor

Group D. Wollaton

Group E. Brierley Forest

Group F. College pines

13. 2015 competitions.

Colette Newton announced that the new leagues for 2015 are on the website and we wish every club great success next year.

The dates for the County competitions next year will be on the website and also on the county card which will be available at the February council meeting for all club secretaries to take back to their members but those who would like to put them in their diaries early they are;

County Championship 15th to 17th May at Coxmoor G.C.

As it was a great success last year we intend to carry on with having the Spring meeting competition as a separate 18 hole competition but those that want to play in the championship will play 36 holes and also be included in the spring meeting as their morning round. After much discussion by the executive we have decided to make the qualifying for the match play of the championship 8 players instead of the usual 16. We have had very low entries for the championship over the last few years and this has meant that on occasions we have not had 16 qualifiers. Reducing the number to 8 will mean that you don't just automatically qualify if you enter the 36 hole competition, which will in turn we hope make the competition more competitive. This also means that we will not need to ask the club where the competition is being played to give us time on a Saturday morning as we will play the first 4 matches on the Saturday afternoon with the semis and final being as usual on the Sunday.

Coronation Foursomes 8th June at Oakmere Golf Club

Summer Meeting and Veterans Trophy 13th July at Sherwood Golf Club

County Captains Day 27th July at Coxmoor Golf Club

Autumn Meeting 10th September at Norwood Golf Club

We really hope that you and your club members will try and support these events this year. Our numbers were down again in 2014 and we would like to encourage you all whatever handicap you are to enter these events. We are a very friendly bunch and this is a great way to play on other courses in the county for much less than a green fee would be and also stand a chance of winning one of the beautiful county cups and also a nice prize!! So please ladies enter as many of the events as you can.

14. Secretary's notes.

The Secretary thanked everyone for their support throughout this year. The meeting discussed the county contact and calendar card. It was agreed that we would assess this every year but in general members felt that it was still widely used and valued.

The majority of events for 2015 were already on the calendar on the website and would be updated as they became available.

15. Any other Business

The Taskers trophy (previously the Sponden Trophy) which is open to the Over 50's had raised £910 which had been donated to the Notts Juniors. 19 teams entered in 2014 and it was felt that the funding was proportionate to the number of entries. The President requested that non-participating clubs would consider entering in the future.

It was agreed that the League trophies would continue to be returned and presented at the AGM.

A general concern was discussed with regard to the difficulties clubs are now having in finding members willing to be Lady Captain. The NCLGA do not require clubs to have Lady Captains to be members of the association.

The discussion touched on the declining number of members at golf clubs and people playing golf. We will continue to monitor and discuss this concern.

Interclub meals are supplied by the host club to the 2 competing teams plus the team captain. Traditionally the team captain is the Lady captain or her vice captain but it was agreed that the nominated representative from the club would be accepted as team captain for the day. So to summarise - for Interclub Ladies matches.

The host club will supply 10 meals i.e. 4 players from each club plus 1 team captain from each club.

The President thanked everyone for attending and for their input and closed the meeting at 12.45