

NORFOLK LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF 95TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NORFOLK LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION HELD AT WENSUM VALLEY GOLF CLUB ON MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2019

The President, Heather Keeble, took the chair and opened the meeting with a welcome to all present. The President asked the members to stand for a minute's silence in memory of family, friends and colleagues whom you may have lost during the past year.

Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for the support given to the County Association.

Present: Heather Keeble, President, in the chair, Sue Heeles, County Captain, Helen Ayres, Honorary Treasurer, Margo Horsburgh, Honorary Secretary and 118 members representing 26 affiliated clubs.

Before Item 1, Heather asked all the members of the top table to stand so she could introduce them to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – Apologies were received from 27 members from 16 clubs.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk Ladies' County Golf Association held on 20th November 2018 had been circulated.

Adoption of the Minutes

Heather stated that there was a correction to the minutes with regard to Item 4, Treasurer's Report, as follows: "The reply to Marilyn Barter's question was answered by Helen Ayres." Proposed by Jane Bizley (Dereham), seconded by Margaret Fisher (Eaton), agreement by a show of hands. The Minutes were approved and signed by the President.

3. Matters arising other than those on the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Honorary Treasurers Report – Helen Ayres

President Heather, County Captain Sue, Members of the Executive, Ladies

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | When Beryl Nash gave me a five pence piece
She found at last year's AGM
I should have known it was going to be a lucky year
Thanks Beryl – you're a gem | 2 | I dream of numbers night and day
Thinking of a different way
To report on what's gone on this year
To keep you interested and full of cheer |
| 3 | I was surprised to hear last year
Complaints that my report was too brief
So be prepared for an epic
And no doubt you'll all give me grief | 4 | Many ladies have persuaded me
To report again in rhyme
It hadn't been my intention
As preparation takes more time |
| 5 | However, by popular demand here's a poem
In my own inimitable style
Please shuffle around now and get comfortable
We could be here for a while | 6 | Eight scintillating pages of accounts are available
Showing how our money comes and goes
If you'd like some bedtime reading
Please collect a copy before the close |
| 7 | It's the short, two-sided, abridged version You should
have found on your seat
Which is easier to follow in the time I'm allowed
To stand here on my feet | 8 | Before I progress to the figures
On your behalf I must thank Jan
Between Bridge and Golf she checks the books
Meticulously - as only Jan can |
| 9 | At the start of each year I prepare a budget
For the Executive's approval – or not
It may be tweaked in places
When they think I've lost the plot | 10 | This year I'd budgeted to break even
Which gave me quite a fright
And a lot of worry
And many a sleepless night |
| 11 | I emailed Shelagh Rump last week
At about 4 when I couldn't sleep
She replied some hours later saying
You obviously don't count sheep! | 12 | Whilst mentioning Shelagh I'd like to thank her
For looking after the Junior accounts with care
Her comment at my reporting in verse again
Was that she'd be hiding under her chair |

- 13 Now to the Accounts:
I must just remind you
That the income shown of £23,580 is nett.
Including the Juniors, our total income was £63,514
Total expenditure £61,739
Producing the surplus shown of £1,775.
- 14 The first item under Income is Affiliation Fees
Compared with last year over £1,000 less
Which is due to real-time collection
Not falling membership, I guess
- 15 Last year fees were £2,000 more
Than the preceding year, you may remember
So take the average of two years
To arrive at a more accurate number
- 16 When real-time collection was first mentioned
Oh - it wouldn't be a problem, I said
I have to admit that I've eaten my words
As every month's collection I dread
- 17 Last February I took over the collection
Of the ladies' England Golf fees from the men
And have paid fees of over £13,000
To England Golf since then
- 18 Divisional Meetings benefitted
From more entries and low facility fees
Contributing over £2,700 to income
Our Organisers certainly know how to please
- 19 I must now thank the sponsors of the
County Championship for their generous support
Swannington Windows and our President
£600 to our income they brought
- 20 The AmAm as always was successful
We enjoyed courtesy of our President's course
Over £800 was raised after expenses
And I hope everyone avoided Thetford's gorse
- 21 Despite a 25% increase in green fees
The Waltz this year rocked and rolled
Income was only slightly down
Thanks to all the raffle tickets sold
- 22 I can't stress enough how grateful we are
To the two sponsors of our raffle wine
And all who purchased tickets to win
The 82 bottles of fine wine
- 23 So, thank you Richard Tidy of St James
The Partnership who manages your wealth
And for the 4th year running Fosters Solicitors
With their £450 sponsorship our account was in
better health
- 24 If ever you're in need of help think of Fosters
Who will advise legally on any matter
And if you're lucky enough to win the lottery
I'm sure Richard would welcome a natter
- 25 England Golf paid us £1,300 for Course Rating
To settle the assessors' expenses this year
Only £800 was claimed up to October
Leaving £500 - and 53p - to carry forward to next year
- 26 A full Income & Expenditure Account of the Juniors
Is included in the Detailed Accounts
The one-page abridged version
Shows only the total amounts
- 27 I've already said a few words about the Juniors
And I know Carol will shortly read Sherrell's report
But once again a special thank you
To the ladies of Royal West Norfolk for their support
- 28 And to all those clubs in the County
Who have raised funds or made a donation
We are extremely grateful
- 29 The surplus made at the Regional Competition –
The Regional Final of the Australian Spoons
An outstanding £1,744 exceeded all expectations
And I was over the moon
- 30 Had we had to pay a green fee per player
This surplus could well have been wiped out
But Thetford came up trumps again
Charging only a nominal amount
- 31 Most of the £234 in Donations
Relate to Finals Week expenses paid out last year
Which some very generous individuals
Returned to boost our income this year
- 32 TURNING NOW TO EXPENSES:
The costs of our County 1st team
Were over £3,000 less than the year before
In spite of again reaching Finals Week
For the third year out of the last four
- 33 Thank you, Sue, for all your good housekeeping
And for keeping a close eye on each pound
I'm just sorry you didn't win the trophy you deserved
In the final round
- 34 Similarly, the County 2nd team
Spent much less than I thought they would
Costs were £500 down on last year
Thanks to Vanessa for being so good
- 35 Our support for the Juniors was £3,000
And we purchased a Coach's Putting Kit
To teach the girls how always
Their ball in the hole to hit
- 36 Spending on Inter Club Competitions
Is about half what we budgeted to pay
The Gillieson final being rained off when scheduled
Postponed until a November day

37 Improvements to the design of our website
Were quite costly as you will see
It's now easier for us to navigate
I'm sure you will agree

38 Committee Meetings including the AGM
Increase in cost every year
And additional meetings on world handicapping
Contributed to spending more this year

39 In summary, my breakeven budget
Turned into a surplus of nearly £1,800
Thanks to the unexpected profit on the Australian
Spoons
And the five pence Beryl Nash found on the
ground

Helen stated that this concluded her report and asked if there were any questions. If there are no questions, I would like to propose the adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st October 2019.

Helen proposed the adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st October 2019 Heather then asked that the accounts be approved.

Proposed: Helen Ayres (County Treasurer), seconded Di Daniels (Barnham Broom), agreement by show of hands.

Heather thanked Helen for all her work this year and for keeping our spending within budget. She also thanked her for the presenting her report in such an entertaining way – stating that we all looked forward to her poem each year - shall we call you the Pam Ayres of Norfolk?

5. To receive Reports of The Executive Committee and County Officials:

a) The County Captain – Sue Heeles

County President Heather, County Executive, Ladies.

I was under no illusion when I stood here last year and took over the role of your County Captain that I faced a huge task to emulate the success of Sammy in 2018. Norfolk were no longer there to make up the numbers and the pressure was on to win County Match Week and go through to the National Finals again and with this in mind we set about our winter training wishing to concentrate on, what we thought, were our weaknesses at the National Finals in Devon the previous year.

We worked on our core strength in Pilates with Fiona Spencer at Royal Norwich and our short game with Tony Varney at Mattishall.

The coming together of the established players with some new faces and a few of the up and coming juniors continued the great team spirit we enjoyed the previous year.

The team had practice matches against the County Senior Men at Great Yarmouth & Caister and the Hunstanton men where the team enjoyed the opportunity to try new partnerships and fish and chips but where the result was not as important as the experience gained. Which actually meant we lost these two matches but who's counting!!

In May the Ladies' Championship at Hunstanton produced some magnificent golf. With Amelia Williamson studying in the States and unable to defend her title there was everything to play for. The first day's stroke play produced some excellent scores with Ryston Park's Tiffany Mills winning with a 2nd round sub-par score. The match play stages didn't disappoint and gave those present a wonderful opportunity to watch golf at its best highlighted by a final between Swaffham's Abigail O'Riordan and Karen Young from Eaton with Abigail winning on the 18th to claim her first title, a round that included two eagles!

We then had the unenviable task of selecting the team who would represent us at County Match Week. With a few obstacles in the way such as exams, work and overseas studies we settled on our team of Amelia Williamson (Royal Cromer), Amy Taylor (Bawburgh) Chloe Gibbs and Jo Herd (Royal Norwich), Tiffany Mills (Ryston Park), Abigail O'Riordan (Swaffham), Chloe Rowswell (Eaton) and we welcomed back Karen Young (also of Eaton). A strong team we felt had every chance of winning the title.

We had our final practice match against the County Boys which gave the opportunity for all the team, with the exception of Amelia who was competing away, to come together and finalise our foursomes' partnerships.

In June we travelled to County Match Week at Aspley Guise in Bedfordshire with great confidence and our opening match against the old enemy Suffolk did not disappoint with an inspiring 6-3 win. We followed this up with victories against Cambs & Hunts, Bedfordshire and Essex before entering the final day undefeated. Although it sounded as though we had it in the bag Herts had found a run of form and had other ideas and a good win for them against us would see them win the East Region title and snatch victory from us. The team were determined not to lose at the last hurdle and on the day, although we suffered a narrow 5-4 defeat, we had amassed enough points earlier in the week to win the title and qualify. Through all the stress of the last day one of my lasting memories will be placing Carol Delf and Sammy, neither of whom had a clue how to tweet for all the supporters back home, in strategic positions around the course with instructions to text me as the matches passed them so I could tweet the latest scores. Everything went fine until I got different results on the same hole from the same match so apologies if the scoring went a little mad on the last day!

And so, in September off to Delamere Forest in Cheshire we went. My fact-finding trip 3 weeks prior gave an insight into the warm welcome and the test of golf we would face. With Amelia and Amy back in the States we invited juniors Hope and Eve Neild to join the team.

We started our week against the previous year's champions Gloucestershire and the team gave a good account of themselves before going down 6-3. Hope and Eve playing together in the morning foursomes recorded a fine win on their debut but although we went into the afternoon leading 2-1, we were unable to overcome the strong singles challenge from the Gloucestershire players.

The rest of the week followed a very similar pattern. We played well in all of our matches but there was always that little something that stopped us from crossing the line. We competed well in every game and I feel we were unlucky to finish bottom of the table, a result not helped by the dead rubbers played on the last day leading to some somewhat unexpected results.

Again, we have identified our weaknesses and strengths and have taken away what we think we need to work on to compete at this level. We will be working hard over the winter to improve – in fact training has already started in specific areas.

My sincere thanks to all the players who represented Norfolk at East Region Match Week and the National Finals. My thanks too to all the caddies, spectators and the good wishes and cards received from clubs and individuals. They really do mean a lot to us. We know it is not always possible to come and support in person but knowing you are thinking of us is really inspiring. I hope the Twitter feed made you feel part of the action.

Away from the County team my congratulations to Karen Young on winning the East Region Seniors' Championship and to Chrissie Owens for finishing as runner up. Also, to Tiffany Mills and Ann Fletcher who finished joint 3rd in the East Region Foursomes. Next year the East Region Ladies Championships will be held at Bawburgh here in Norfolk so it would be great to see a good entry from within the county.

I cannot close without giving special mention to Amelia Williamson. Amelia was undefeated at County Match Week for the 2nd year running winning all nine of her matches. She has had a wonderful season both in the USA and back here in the UK where she was joint winner of the Astor Salver in Berkshire, she represented the English Women at the Chiberta Grand Prix in France where she finished three under to win with a 65 in the final round and she played in the Home Internationals at Downfield which England won. She came 3rd in the Pleasington Putter with her lowest ever round of eight under and came 7th in the Dutch Junior Open. These are just a few of her achievements, there are many more and we are very lucky to have Amelia as part of our county team. I only wish I could have got her back to the UK for Delamere.

.....and now a few thank yous and special mentions.

Thanks to Heather for her guidance and for always being there when I needed a wise head to turn to. Congratulations to Sherrell in her first year as County Junior Organiser and to Vanessa on leading the County 2nd team and to giving a good account of themselves in the Finals Day at Barnham Broom. We look forward to the new format in 2020 bringing it in line with County I and the County Juniors. Also, to Nicky Wylie for managing the Senior Ladies' team. Thanks to Helen/Moneypenny for giving me the budget to allow us to compete at Regional and National level – I will be coming to see you soon with my begging bowl.

I also thank Margo, Sammy, Sue and the rest of the Executive Committee for their unrelenting support. I would also like to thank Chrissie for our new website and keeping us updated with the latest news.

It has been a great team effort in 2019 and I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart. I hope we can carry this forward into 2020.

Thank you.

Heather thanked Sue for her very comprehensive report. Stating that she had had a wonderfully successful year, led the teams with commitment, energy, attention to detail and above all a passion to succeed. Congratulations on winning East Region County Match Week - what a nail-biting last hour we had - and a fine performance at the National Finals.

b) Second Team Captain – Vanessa Mann

Before I start, I would just like to congratulate Sue on another very successful season and wish her all the best for next year.

The County II Team have had a very good season again, winning 2 out of 3 of their matches against Essex, Bedfordshire and Cambs & Hunts.

Finals' Day was held in Norfolk this year at Barnham Broom GC on August 30th. The team did their very best on the day, winning the most games out of all the teams but it wasn't quite enough to beat the overall winners Essex, with Norfolk coming 2nd

Representing the 2nd team were:

Eve & Hope Neild, Sammy Martin and Jules Hutchinson from **Royal Norwich**, Sian Fenn-Green from **Swaffham**, Clare Anderson from **Costessey Park**, Beth Buckingham and Maisie Farrelly from **Dereham**, Jess Rutherford from **Gt Yarmouth & Caister**, Debbie Pollard-Barnes from **Eaton** and lastly Vanessa Mann from **Barnham Broom**.

The format for our matches next year is changing and they will follow the same format as the 1st team, in that the teams come together at one venue and play against each other over 2 days. This makes for a very thrilling couple of days rather than spreading the competition over the whole of the summer.

We have some exciting times ahead as we have a group of very talented youngsters coming up the ranks who will certainly strengthen our teams next year.

I would just like to say a big thank you to all the County ladies who have helped me over the last two years. I've really enjoyed being Captain of the 2nd team, we have a fantastic bunch of ladies who have a great team spirit, will always try their best and most of all they really enjoy golf!

Heather thanked Vanessa her report, you've led the 2nd Team with energy, passion and drive to win - you've come so close to winning the Cup - format prevented it.

We thank you for the commitment you've given to the County and the 2nd Team throughout your term of office, you have been a great Captain, we wish you every success for the future. Please accept this gift in recognition of your service to the County and the 2nd Team.

Heather then made a presentation of gift to Vanessa.

c) County Seniors' Captain – Nicky Wylie

Another successful year in which 16 Ladies from 7 different clubs played over 5 matches.

We continue to welcome new faces to our squad which numbers over 35 players. New faces this year included Tanya McGregor from Royal Norwich GC and Debbie Pollard-Barnes from Eaton GC.

We played five matches all scratch singles.

Herts at Thetford won 4-3

Cambs & Hunts at Sheringham lost 3-2 (one member of the team forgot to turn out hence only 5 matches)

Essex at Chigwell won 4-3

Suffolk at Aldeburgh won 4-3

County 2 at Royal Norwich won 4.5-2.5

Finally, I would like to thank both Thetford and Sheringham for hosting our matches it is very much appreciated by all team members.

Heather thanked Nicky for her report.

d) County Junior Organiser – Sherrell Chuter (read by Carol Delf)

The Norfolk talent pathway along with excellent coaching has resulted in some fabulous golf and the development of our juniors.

A group of our Juniors have received excellent coaching from Paul Ashwell at St. Ives. His manner and experience are second to none and the information gleaned from him is invaluable in match play. Paul encouraged the girls to do meaningful practice throughout their season.

Well done to Chloe Gibbs and Eve Neild of Royal Norwich who were selected last year and again this year, to receive England Golf coaching. Both players were involved in beating all the other golf Academies when they met up to play during the year. Well done also to Chloe Tarbard and Nellie Ong who have been successful in their applications for 2020 England Golf Coaching and will join the other two players at Stoke-by-Nayland. Hopefully their skill level and management of their game will become stronger.

Eve Neild has played some excellent golf this year and her 3rd place at Fulford (being the top English U16 player to finish) was a highlight. Eve is the Norfolk Schools' Champion and she also qualified for the Abraham Trophy as a Regional Winner.

In our Spring Event, Ruby Patterson took the honours at Royal Norwich. In the Junior Championship at Middleton Hall, Hope Neild became our Norfolk Champion. Maisie Farrelly from Dereham won the Fowler Trophy with old girl from last year, Immy Leeder. The Young Cup was won by Lilia Copeman and her partner Jo from Bawburgh at Dereham. In the Autumn meeting at Gt. Yarmouth and Caister, Rebecca Chesterman took the title.

Junior County Match Days at Wensum Valley in August pitched us against some of the Regions best players. Our girls produced some impressive golf and our Runner Up spot behind Herts, was well deserved. Many thanks to Nickie Clarke, the Junior Committee and Wensum Valley Golf Club for a superbly organised event, doing Norfolk proud. Next year's venue is Ufford Park in Suffolk and our girls, I am sure, will do us proud and push for that top spot! We have played a few friendlies where players have continued to hone their games, use the new rules and learn correct golf etiquette. Thanks go to Royal West Norfolk, Eaton and Feltwell for challenging our girls to a match on their courses. This gives valuable playing experience to our Juniors.

Our Winter Training with Tony Varney at Mattishall Golf Club was popular and well supported in all weathers over four sessions, averaging over 20 players at each. We learnt about appropriate food for sport, how to keep hydrated and some appropriate stretches to use. This year we hope to learn appropriate Pilates exercises for our core that can help improve distance in your play. The main message from Tony is that in all that you do, it is important that you practice whenever you can in your busy schedules. It will be exciting to see the new developments planned for Mattishall in the future. Special congratulations to Chloe Gibbs and Eve Neild who were called up to play for England against Ireland at Hunstanton. A very special day for them both and what an experience!

Many thanks to Hope Neild, our Junior Captain, who has led by example this year. She is a talented player who has encouraged all those around her. Her enthusiasm, patience and drive to do well has been infectious.

Heather thanked Carol for giving Sherrell 's report.

The report highlights the continued growth we have at grass roots level, it's been a great year for the Juniors, they go from strength to strength. They had a great week at their East Region Junior County Match Days, it's a pleasure to see their talent and the development of their team spirit, our future looks in safe hands.

e) Handicapping & Scratch Score Assessment – Sue Allen & Nickie Clarke

There were no changes to the handicap rules this year which was good news – knowing that the new modernized RULES OF GOLF would take a while to settle in. There was a lot to learn, but with the style of the new rule books (plenty of diagrams) and lots of information available from ENGLAND GOLF and THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT, everyone seemed to get to grips with them quite quickly.

As for the new WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM, the start date for Great Britain and Northern Ireland has now been confirmed as 2nd November 2020.

Other areas in the world will be implementing the system before that date. January will see Argentina, Australia, Canada, South Africa and the USA using it, with Portugal following on in the summer.

We didn't hold our Handicap Secretary's meeting this year because of the revised WHS launch date, instead I offered to visit golf clubs to give an informal talk about the new system and how it will affect all of us as golfers, not going into too much detail, just giving an overview of what we, as individuals will need to do going forward. Several clubs did take up the offer and in fact some of those didn't restrict the audience to Ladies so we had quite a few men joining us too. Judging by the feedback, I think it was quite helpful. If any clubs would like me to go along and give the talk please give me a call or send an email and we can arrange something to suit your needs.

The main EDUCATION MEETING for the WHS is booked for 18th February 2020 and all Norfolk clubs are encouraged to send three people to this one. Booking into it should be done via the ENGLAND GOLF website – under the heading 'WORKSHOPS'. The meeting will be held at ROYAL NORWICH. The presentation is to be made by myself and Kevin Joy (Norfolk County Golf Union Handicap Adviser) with England Golf's East Region Adviser, Janice Hazledine assisting us.

Preparation for the WHS should already be underway at Club Level

This won't be of interest to everyone here but if you help with the administration of handicapping at your club you may wish to check on the following:-

- I've already mentioned the Educational Workshop – very important – please ensure attendance.
- Also important is that Clubs have completed their handicap database cleansing. This is to remove non-members from the system and to remove any "Pending" statuses, and to ensure all playing members have ONE **and only ONE** active CDH number.

To assist with this, Documents can be Downloaded from the EG website:

CDH User Guide – guidance for using the CDH

CDH Cleansing - information on cleansing of Handicap Database

- Ensure all handicap reviews are completed prior to 1st March 2020
- Encourage and promote the returning and recording of all scores (qualifying competitions and non-qualifying) plus supplementary scores.
- Ensure rules on scorecards have been reviewed and space available to record slope and rating values
- Check if your club has reviewed all their terms of competition, communicating changes to members.
- Be sure your club has a HANDICAP COMMITTEE – a minimum of three people is required who will support WHS compliance at club level.

Further Information

There is a lot of information out there. You can visit websites:

Websites: englandgolf.org randa.org WHS.com

As always, you can contact me, my details are on the NLCGA website (norfolkladiesgolf.co.uk) but don't forget; your first port of call for queries should always be your club handicap secretary who, more often than not, will be able to sort any problems.

Finally, I'd like to thank Nickie Clark for all her help and support during the time that I have been Handicap Adviser. Nickie has also been a great help to me when we've held handicap secretary meetings. I shall miss her when she moves on.

Heather thanked Sue for her comprehensive report and for keeping our handicaps in order. This coming year will be busy with the introduction of the World Handicap system and we wish you every success.

f) Scratch Score Assessor's Report:

In 2015 counties were tasked with rating all courses by 2019 in readiness for the WHS as it is the rating process that produces the slope value. This meant we have been rating six or seven a year since that time but have now completed them all. Clubs will be issued with their Slope certificates next spring. It is our intention to start rating clubs for the next cycle in 2020 rather than wait for the cycle to end in 2025. If we wait until then the team members will have lost their knowledge and maybe given up. We will only be rating three courses a year to stretch the cycle over 10 years and will begin with clubs rated in 2015.

Just an interesting piece of history.

The first course rating system in the world was developed along with a handicapping system by the Ladies' Golf Union in about 1900. The History of Golf says "Their biggest achievement was the gradual establishment of a national system of handicapping and no doubt it was uphill work at the start in 1893 but within 10 years the LGU had done what the men had signally failed to do, established a system of handicapping that was reasonably reliable from club to club"

As this is my last Course Rating report, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed being the SSA these past 20 years, interacting with clubs when they need advice on a course adjustment or a new set of tees as well meeting lots of very nice people. It is a most interesting area to be involved in.

I am delighted that Julie has agreed to take over the mantle and wish her the very best.

Heather thanked Nickie for her report stating that it had been a busy time for her and her team with the forthcoming introduction of the WHS. This is Nickie's last report as our SSA and we thank you for everything you have done as our SSA over the last 20 years. More later.

g) England Golf County Voting Member & East Region Committee Representative – Alex Mournian

I think it's fair to say that in the current climate of Golf the pace of change has stepped up a gear. Many clubs are adopting gender neutral tees, mixed tee competitions, online booking - the list is endless or so it would seem at the present time. I'm sure we will look back and ask what all the fuss was about! Or maybe not, for those that like the way it was always done!!

And so that's where I fit in with YOU the golfer, the club member, as the East Region and EG voting Member for NLCGA I have a rather daunting and yet defining role as your spokesperson, to bring the information back to you, so please come along to the Delegates' Meetings and let myself and the County Executive know what is happening in your clubs and what changes you would like to see and in return I will endeavour to let you know what is happening in the Region, which direction England Golf is heading and what subjects are either happening or on the horizon. Which brings me to England Golf and the headline topics that have featured over the past 12 months:

Back in March myself and Margo attended a workshop and one of the major commitments from EG was to make savings in the budget of £456K, this included reducing the budget for 'Get in to Golf', the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and the grant to the Golf Foundation. They also pledged not to increase the number of staff at Woodhall Spa over the coming two years, in order to make savings so Finance and spending have featured high on their priorities this year.

There was a review of the Club Support Network which has subsequently resulted in the number of Regions being reduced from 8 to 5 and the number of Club Support Officers being reduced from 35 to 20. Currently the Club Support Officer (CSO) for our Region is Jordan Dymond and his details are available on the EG website should you wish to contact him.

On 1 July EG launched the Personal Liability Insurance Policy as part of the EG affiliation fee for all golf club members. I'm sure by now you will have activated your policy, if not it can still be done on the EG website, it provides each affiliated member £10 million personal liability insurance.

WHS is well on the way with workshops already in full swing in other Counties and planned here for February 2020 at Royal Norwich GC and already covered in depth by Sue Allen in her report.

The end of September saw the announcement that the EG Chief Executive Nick Pink was standing down - his last day was 17 October after which time Richard Flint will take on the role of Executive Director until a new CEO is appointed. It was hoped that an announcement would be made in November, but as we are now at the 25 Nov and no announcement has been made....so hopefully not long now. In fact, the job is still being advertised on the EG website so if you fancy a challenge the job details are on the website!

Topics covered for discussion in September's General Meeting at Woodhall Spa which was very kindly covered by Margo, as I was fortunate enough to be a volunteer at the Solheim Cup at Glen Eagles... and didn't the European Team do well! - included Safeguarding and Club Affiliation, both these subjects are on the Agenda for December's EG General Meeting so I will have more detail at the Delegates' Meeting in March, but it's fair to say that EG are working hard with partners to protect young people and adults at risk and the ambition is to ensure that affiliated Golf clubs obtain the SafeGolf Accreditation, some County bodies are already working towards obtaining this and the Club Support Officers have the guidance to help Clubs achieve this, but I will have more information for you following the 10th/11th December meeting.

Affiliation Fees to EG will increase to £9.50 for 2020 and one of the main drivers for this increase was to protect the U14 funding. When the vote was made at the Spring General Meeting at Woodhall Spa to approve the increase in affiliation fee it was unanimously agreed that strong foundations were key to the development of County Teams and subsequently National Teams. To start early and nurture talent was key and I think you only have to look at our County Teams, the young talent that we have and the success they have achieved this year is phenomenal, so I hope you feel that the increase is a worthwhile one and it is fair to say that your support is highly valued by the Teams that represent us as a County and that come from your clubs. Well Done Norfolk for making the County Finals.

Finally, to close, EG is dedicated to the continued investment in the game and the affiliation fee goes a long way to help provide that, investing in Talent Pathways, Support Networks, Coaching and Tournaments. Ongoing programmes include Get into Golf which was as a direct response to club feedback, to assist in marketing Golf and Golf clubs to new members. Girls Golf Rocks which underpins the Golf Foundation and has seen an increase in popularity of the sport amongst girls, I know it is true at my home club and I hope that is a reflection across the County, well done Sherrell and your team of volunteers.

I will be available after the AGM should anyone have any burning issues they wish to discuss and, in the meantime, I look forward to seeing as many representatives as possible at the Delegates' Meeting in March.

Heather thanked Alex for her report and hoped she had enjoyed her first year as it is challenging understanding the workings of England Golf. Our thanks for Chairing our Delegates' Meetings which play a key role in the communication with our members and have great value as a means of two-way exchange of information.

6. To elect the County Vice Captain, Sharon Black. Proposed by the Executive Committee and seconded by Sue Heeles

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Sharon Black as my County Vice Captain for 2020.

Sharon is a member of Dunston Hall and has been playing golf for 20 years following her retirement from National League hockey with Harleston Magpies.

She was Ladies' Captain of Dunston Hall in 2016 and has captained a winning Gillieson team three times in the last nine years.

Sharon has represented Norfolk at all levels (1st, 2nd and Seniors) – she didn't quite qualify for the juniors!

She was County II Captain in 2011-2013 and continued the bleeding of juniors into the county team, integrating them with the more established players. As part of this role she served on the Executive Committee for two years.

I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending Sharon to you and I am certain she will serve me well as my Vice Captain next year and as your County Captain in the years following.

The members gave unanimous approval for the appointment of Sharon Black as County Vice Captain.

Sharon stated that it was a great honour to be appointed County Vice Captain of the Norfolk Ladies' County Golf Association and hoped to be able to carry on with the development of the Association. She was looking forward to the challenge of being able to progress ladies' golf in Norfolk even further.

7. To Elect the County 2nd Team Captain – Clare Anderson (Costessey Park) – proposed by the Executive Committee and seconded by Vanessa Mann

Vanessa Mann said it gave her great pleasure to second the nomination of Clare Anderson to the position of County 2nd Team Captain and felt that she would be a good asset to the Association in this position. Clare has been involved with the County for a number of years.

The members gave unanimous approval for the appointment of Clare Anderson as County 2nd Team Captain.

Clare stated that it was an honour to be appointed as County 2nd Team Captain stating that she had played for the 2nd Team for over five years. She had been looking forward to representing Costessey Park as the County 2nd Team Captain but would now be a member of Wensum Valley and thanked their ladies' section for welcoming Costessey Park members to their fold.

8. To Elect Executive Committee Members – Denise Whiting (Feltwell) – proposed by Sammy Martin (Royal Norwich) and seconded by Sara Bland (Wensum Valley) and Chrissie Owens (Dunston Hall) – proposed by Sue Hill (Dunston Hall) and seconded by Heather Keeble (Thetford)

The members gave Unanimous agreement to these appointments by a show of hands.

9. To Confirm the Executive Committee Members

The Executive Committee Members of County President Heather Keeble, Honorary Secretary Margo Horsburgh, Honorary Treasurer Helen Ayres, County Captain Sue Heeles, County Junior Organiser Sherrell Chuter, England Golf Voting Member and East Region Representative Alex Mournian, Committee Member Liz Dann.

The members gave unanimous agreement to these appointments by a show of hands.

10. To Confirm the Handicap Adviser, Scratch Score Assessor and Senior Team Organiser

The Handicap Adviser Sue Allen, Scratch Score Assessor Julie Carpenter and Senior Team Organiser Nicky Wylie were re-elected en bloc and confirmed by a unanimous show of hands.

11. To Vote on the Proposal by the Executive Committee to increase the per capita fee by £1.00 to £8.50 effective 1st January 2021

Heather asked Helen to give the background for the proposal to increase the affiliation fee.

I have been County Treasurer for the last seven years and everyone who knows me will tell you that as a Yorkshire lady I will do anything to avoid paying more than is necessary for anything. (*I've learnt that from my husband too.*) Nor will I ask anyone to pay more unless I think it is necessary.

I appreciate that members will be surprised to see a proposal to increase the per capita fee when our accounts show a surplus this year and substantial reserves but it has always been our policy to try to maintain this fund to meet exceptional expenses, for example Finals' Week which our successful County 1st team has reached in three out of the last four years. This week comes at a price and can cost us anything from £6,500 to £8,500 depending on where it is held. Obviously in the south or on the coast (as last year) is going to be more expensive than in the north or locally.

We have been fortunate to receive a grant from England Golf towards the cost of Finals' Week but this may not always be the case. Just as businesses cut back, England Golf have been doing the same as Alex mentioned in her report. They have reduced the Talent Pathway funding from over £4,000 for our Juniors annually over a number of years and, if we want the success our Juniors have achieved in recent years to continue, this funding has to be replaced.

Since taking office I and the Executive have made considerable savings in the general expenses of running the County, for example the preparation of accounts and audit – previously costing us £800-900 a year (could be over £1,000 today) now around £200-£250, insurance down from almost £1,000 to less than £500, as well as savings on county cards and the Association becoming almost paper free. We have enjoyed low facility fees and green fees in the recent past but we are expecting these to increase considerably in the next couple of years. In fact, the green fee we have had to agree for the County Foursomes in 2020 is £20 per person - double the amount we have been paying. Unfortunately, we have no control over these fees as all clubs are under pressure to increase green fee income.

The Executive, Captains, Officials, Organisers and volunteers work very hard to keep our costs to a minimum. However, I doubt that there is room for making further savings.

We are, therefore, reliant on the per capita affiliation fee income to meet our annual expense programme which includes financing our three County teams and Juniors. Last year the cost of financing the teams and supporting the Juniors was over £18,000 and this year just under £15,000 which, added to our general expenses, makes the last two years' annual costs £24,000 and £22,000 respectively.

It doesn't take a mathematical genius to work out that, with affiliation fee income at the current level hovering around £14-£16,000, it wouldn't take long before our reserves would be substantially depleted.

And we shouldn't be having to rely on those ladies who enter competitions and buy raffle tickets to make up any shortfall in income.

An increase in the per capita fee paid by 1,700-1,800 members is much fairer in our view.

It is seven years since the per capita fee was increased by £1 to £7.50 in 2012. The proposal today, if agreed, will increase the per capita fee by £1 from January 2021, 9 years after the last increase, and equates to less than 2p per week. I have no hesitation, therefore, in asking you to support the Executive's proposal to increase the per capita fee to £8.50 with effect from 1st January 2021. Could I have a seconder please.

The proposal was seconded by Trish Watson of Dunston Hall and was approved by a show of hands from the members present.

12. Gillieson Cup Draw for 2020 (Teams Only)

The Home and Away draw had already been undertaken by the Competitions' Sub Committee. The clubs were drawn at the meeting.

13. Chairman of Competitions Report and Presentation of Trophies – Sue Hill

President Heather, County Captain Sue, Ladies of the Executive Committee and fellow members of the Association

What a great year for all our competitions. Nearly all have been well supported with record numbers for the AmAm and Waltz. The Seniors have also maintained their high turnout.

Thanks to all our Organisers, without their careful preparation and encouragement no competition would run. Thanks also to all the hosting clubs and their members who help run our competitions and to referees, supporters, family members.

Inter Club, Scratch and now Winter Leagues have also had a good year. The Winter League run as a pilot last year has now become a fully-fledged member with three new clubs entering enabling another division - look out for a finals event in March next year.

Sadly, as I'm sure many of you will be aware, we have lost Costessey from our leagues, but we welcome Bawburgh second team.

Some statistics – a total of 419 ladies played in the inter club leagues with a largest squad of 29 and the smallest an astonishing nine! Some 70 ladies improved their handicaps during the course of the year.

The Winter League had 77 ladies playing.

We have investigated the possibility of neutral grounds for the Gillieson but clubs decided the current arrangements should remain. We are trialing set dates for the Carrick Cup. Changes to the Competition structures are also in the early stages of discussion hopefully will be in place for the 2022 season.

My thanks to the many who have helped to make this year a success and perhaps we can show our appreciation of all those with a round of applause.

Winners 2019

Before we begin a reminder to all trophy winners to stay at the end for photographs.

Inter Club League Winners

- Division 1 – Bawburgh
- Division 2 – Eaton 1
- Division 3 – Dunston Hall 1
- Division 4 – Royal Cromer 2
- Division 5 – Hunstanton 2
- Division 6 – Fakenham

Scratch League Winners

- Division 1 – Ryston Park
- Division 2 – Eaton 1
- Division 3 – Thetford
- Division 4 – Dereham

Congratulations to all the teams for their efforts this year.

Marion Scott Salver

Presented to the winner of the Division 3 or Division 4 with the highest number of Stableford points. This year presented to Janis Riches of Wensum Valley with a score of 36 points. Congratulations to Janis.

Seniors Championship Salver

Another large field competed at Royal Cromer. A new winner this year – Tracey Williamson winning on her home course. Congratulations to Tracey

Carrick Cup

This year contested by Royal Cromer and Barnham Broom on the Wensum course under difficult conditions - heavy showers of rain kept us all under the umbrellas with victory going to Royal Cromer. Congratulations to Tracy Williamson and Sue Roe.

Diamond Knockout

Another great year for this popular competition. The two teams competing in the final have a great record in this competition. Mundesley first holders of the Cup and last year's runners up Eaton. With Eaton winners this year. Congratulations to Eaton

Gillieson Cup

An unusual experience this year with a postponement!! The match finally took place at Thetford between Royal West Norfolk and Dereham with Dereham winning after some well fought matches. Congratulations to Dereham Golf Club.

The Sumpter Cup – Ladies' County Champion

The Sumpter Cup is presented to the Ladies' County Champion on the final day of competition and it is appropriate to make this the final presentation today. Winning the Sumpter Cup for the first time after a stunning final against Karen Young - Abigail O'Riordan. Congratulations to Abigail O'Riordan.

This concludes the presentations to the winners for 2019 and it just remains for me to say thank you for all your help and support over the past three years.

Heather thanked Sue for her report stating that it had been another busy year for our competitions. She thanked her for making sure they ran smoothly and for dealing with numerous queries promptly and efficiently.

This year we have two committee members finishing their term of office - Sue Hill and Lesley Bingle

She thanked Sue for her commitment, contribution and support she has given the County during her term of office, Sue has been Chair of the Executive and Competitions and has done a super job in both those roles. Sue approaches all she does with energy, passion and vigour. Speedy is a word that comes to mind - never is a moment wasted in our meetings - surely we have the shortest meetings ever.

Please accept this gift as a token of our appreciation.

Presentation to Lesley

Heather stated that Lesley had been a valued member of the Executive and the Junior Committee and thanked her for her contribution to the County during her term of office, particularly her work on our Safeguarding Policy.

Please accept this gift as a token of our appreciation.

We are losing one of our Competition Organisers this year - Chris Watson.

Chris has been the Organiser for Division 2 as well as the County Medal and Brister Salver. Chris - you have organised the competitions superbly and with great efficiency and I am sure everyone would like to thank you for your contribution to the County over the last five years.

Please accept this gift as a token of our appreciation

14. Any Other business

There was nothing to discuss under Any Other Business.

15. Honorary Membership of the Norfolk Ladies' County Golf Association to Nickie Clarke

Heather stated it gave her great pleasure to propose that Nickie Clarke be conferred with Honorary Membership of the Norfolk Ladies' County Golf Association in recognition for all that she had done, not only for the Association, but ladies' golf in general. She had been involved at all levels with, amongst others, being an executive member of ELGA, and had the honour of captaining England in 2000, 2001 and 2002. She asked for approval of the proposal by a show of hands and this was carried unanimously. Heather then presented Nickie with a gift as a token of our appreciation.

Nickie thanked Heather and all those present stating that it was a great honour and privilege to be chosen as the first ever lady to be given Honorary Membership of the Norfolk Ladies' County Golf Association. She had enjoyed being part of the committees that had helped to shape the future of women's golf in England and felt that the Association was in good hands for the future. Although she was moving out of the area to be closer to her family her heart would always be in Norfolk.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 23rd November 2020 at 10.00 am at Wensum Valley Golf Club.

The Ladies' President Heather Keeble closed the meeting at 11.40 am and thanked the members for attending.