

	<p>There are to be 4 workshops – each with a 4 minute time slot. Delegates will move from one topic to another.</p> <p>Workshop 1 - County II Team and its Captain – Julie Carpenter & Helen McAllister Helen interviewed Julie asking her questions about how she got involved in playing for the County II team initially and then progressing to becoming the Captain, as well as responsibilities of the post, positive benefits to Club members and team players.</p> <p>Workshop 2 – Who's in with the In Crowd? – Margaret Watson Margaret talked about the commonly held belief of a stereotypical County Committee member, how sometimes there is a misconception of 'Closed shop' – or that you have to be a good golfer. Margaret's experience has shown that these views are myths that in reality do not exist. All ladies are welcomed with their diverse views and opinions valued. The County Committee are united in their objective to provide and develop golfing opportunities for ladies of all ages, stages and abilities. Communication was targeted as a focus and delegates were asked for feedback on how well our communication system works. Delegates meetings have been valuable, as has the website, but comments were made about how it is difficult to find what you want quickly on the site. Margaret encouraged ladies to come and join the committee by applying for the current vacancies as we are all part of the In Crowd!!</p> <p>Workshop 3 - "All the game in half the time" – Golf Express – Karen Woodrow CDO One of the common responses I get when I talk to people interested in playing golf is <i>'I'd love to play but I just don't have the time'</i>. Having been a busy working mum I can sympathise with this response as it's only until recently, with my daughter departing to university, that my husband and I have had an opportunity to make more of our leisure time. In May of this year England Golf officially launched Golf Express; a campaign to encourage busy people to play golf. Under the slogan <i>'all the game in half the time'</i> it follows a successful trial in Staffordshire last summer to promote the 9 hole format of the game that golfers can conveniently fit in after work or at weekends. With ten 9- hole clubs in Norfolk and many of our 18 hole clubs having shorter hole loop opportunities, there is a great scope for clubs to promote and open up their facilities to new golfers and potential new members particularly at times when courses are quieter in the afternoons and evening. Whilst 9 hole golf may not be for the 'traditionalist' we do need to look to the future both in terms of the needs of new people coming into the game and also those who are coming to the end of their playing days and perhaps now struggle to play a full 18 holes. As I speak with clubs, membership retention is a very important issue. With club memberships tending to have an older demographic, supporting the older (stalwart) members, in terms of value for money and playing opportunities is becoming very important. I know that many clubs are now looking at providing shorter format opportunities and considering 9-hole memberships to encourage these members to keep playing for a few more years. So to conclude... With research suggesting that most people's leisure time is reducing and for many it can be as little as two hours per day, is now the time for golf to embrace a change? Is the promotion of golf in a shorter format an opportunity to attract more people to start playing, play more and keep playing? If your club would like to find out more about Golf Express please do get in contact, likewise if you are interested in knowing which clubs have already signed up to Golf Express and offer 9-hole golf green fees please go to www.golfexpress9.org</p> <p>Workshop 4 – From hard work to glory!! – Jo Ashmore County President Jo entertained her audience with tales from her experiences in golf, from the humble beginnings to the glory days of representing England Senior Ladies in an International match, and clinching the win for her team. Jo outlined the path that she took to achieve her goals and how worthwhile it is for everyone to aspire to play well and enjoy the game that we all love. Jo is a 'forever' sportswoman who never tires of training and preparation to achieve her ambitions. Bowlers at Fakenham had better look out as she has now taken up Green bowling !!</p>	
5	<p>Question & Answer Session Helen Gillings from Weston Park asked how the County can help in encouraging more women with young families to get into golf, as she felt that we are missing out on recruiting for the future. Ideas were explored including club 'crèches' and Limited hole play done on a relay basis with one lady dropping out each time to supervise a putting activity for the children. It was agreed that the initiative should come from clubs with help from the England Gold CDO (Karen Woodrow) who could help with any development at Club level.</p>	
6	<p>AOB Margaret reminded delegates of the vacancies open for election at the AGM.</p>	
	<p>Next Meeting : FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2017 – ROYAL NORWICH 10.00</p>	

Date:

Signed: