

NORFOLK LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF 93rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NORFOLK LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION HELD AT WENSUM VALLEY GOLF CLUB ON MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2017

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

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

Present: Jo Ashmore, President, in the chair, Sam Martin, County Captain, Helen Ayres, Honorary Treasurer, Margaret Watson, Honorary Secretary and 131 members representing 22 affiliated clubs.

Before Item 1, Jo 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 26 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 21st November 2016 had been circulated.

Adoption of the Minutes.

Proposed by Ann Fletcher (Ryston Park)

Seconded by Di Daniels (Barnham Broom)

The Minutes were approved and signed by the President.

3. Matters arising other than those on the Agenda – None. .



4. Honorary Treasurers Report –Helen Ayres

President Jo, County Captain Sam, Members of the Executive, Ladies

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | At a recent Delegates meeting
I overheard a lady say
That our AGM reports were painful
To shorten them would make her day | 2 | Now this has been said many times
We've heard it all before
But it started me off thinking that
Her comments I mustn't ignore |
| 3 | To make the figures more interesting
I decided I'd try a rhyme
So I hope you're sitting comfortably
It'll take just a little more time | 4 | I'm the Ladies County Treasurer
Thanks to Margaret, Money Penny is my name
I've acquired a reputation
That I'm a really mean dame |
| 5 | In my view, this is most unfair
And I hope you will agree
That it is my job to control the costs
And today our coffee is free | 6 | Firstly I must thank Jan Knowler
For staying up all night
Checking our accounting records
And confirming that they're all right |
| 7 | Her statement forms part of the Detailed Accounts
For a copy please see me
But I'll comment now on the Abridged Accounts
Which should be on your knee | 8 | I will highlight items of interest
And hope you'll still be awake
To listen to the reports that follow
Which the stars of today will make |
| 9 | You'll see under this year's Income
That Affiliation Fees are down
We have 42 fewer ladies but
The number of juniors has grown | 10 | The contribution from Divisional Meetings
At over £2,000 is more
We benefitted from lower green fees
Thanks to Margaret's persuasive jaw |
| 11 | For the fifth year running our Championship
Has been sponsored by AKB
That's Anglia Kitchens & Bedrooms
Grateful thanks to them from me | 12 | Their commitment was for six years
Which means only one year more
We'll be looking for a new sponsor and
Would welcome suggestions from the floor |
| 13 | The AmAm made over £600
The Waltz returned a small loss
Contrary to what you're thinking
No – it didn't make me cross | 14 | Net raffle income from both these events
Is included in the figure shown here
I'll return to this subject later
When I hope to make it more clear |

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>15 Inter club competition fees were boosted
By the "jewel" in the crown
The new Diamond Knockout
Added income of £500</p> <p>17 We budgeted 3,000 for the Juniors
But they didn't need that amount
So we transferred the 2,000 they requested
And a surplus is shown in their accounts</p> <p>19 Our County colour coral
Was about to disappear
So we bought a stock of sweaters
To ensure the teams have gear</p> <p>21 Our thanks to Fosters – the solicitors
For sponsoring the wine of white and red
Which graced our raffle tables and
Went to the winners' heads</p> <p>23 The East Anglian Air Ambulance was chosen
And £416 has been sent
I had hoped the Duke of Cambridge
Would collect it before he went</p> <p>25 In 2016 England Golf sent us money
For Course Rating work done that year
But we paid the assessors' expenses
In this financial year</p> <p>27 The last item Miscellaneous
Is a trivial amount you'll say
It mostly relates to two horns to blow
When lightning is on its way</p> <p>29 Income compared with last year was lower
Our spending too was less
Thanks to all for good housekeeping
Which has contributed to our success</p> <p>31 That concludes my report today
And I'm sure you'll be delighted to know
That like AKB I'm in my 5th year
With only one more year to go</p> | <p>16 Our three County Teams' spending
Was within the budgets we set
All the Captains have done an excellent job
Keeping us out of debt</p> <p>18 As always I have to thank Shelagh
For keeping the Junior accounts so neat
I'm sure that Carol will report further
When she rises to her feet</p> <p>20 I just hope whoever stores them
Has a moth-free house – unlike mine
The multitude of moths under my roof
Would devour them in record time</p> <p>22 This year it was suggested
And the Executive agreed
To give half of all the raffle proceeds
To a local charity in need</p> <p>24 County Week was held at Hunstanton
Norfolk being this year's host
After England Golf's grant of 1500
It cost £266 at the coast</p> <p>26 I appreciate it looks as though it has cost us
But it doesn't come out of our pot
England Golf provide the funding
And we pay when we know who claims what</p> <p>28 I don't think you're going to believe me
And please don't take the hump
Whilst they bear no relation to Donald
The name of the horns is 'Trump'</p> <p>30 We end the year with 3,000 more
Than we had in the bank at the start
Thank you all for the contributions you've made
Everyone has played her part</p> <p>32 If anyone has any questions
About anything at all
Please don't hesitate to put your hand up now
Or see me at the back of the hall</p> |
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I would now like to propose the adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st October 2017.

Jo asked that the accounts be approved:

Proposed: Helen Ayres (County Treasurer)
Seconded: Jean Johnson (Hunstanton)
Agreement by show of hands

Jo thanked Helen for giving her report in such an entertaining fashion and for her hard work in keeping the finances in such good order... Thank you Helen

5. To receive Reports:

a) The County Captain – Sam Martin

County President Jo, Ladies of the County Executive, and Ladies

'Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown' observed Shakespeare and since accepting the invitation to become County Captain, I have considered it apposite. It is an honour to present my maiden report.

January to March witnessed our County teams' preparation with squad days, Pilates and play at Bawburgh Golf Club. This interaction proves an invaluable resource for team building, morale and motivation whether first, second or junior players focusing the mind towards the competition ahead. County 1 continued to hone their match performance against the Norfolk Senior Men at Great Yarmouth and Caister and two matches against the Hunstanton Men in April and June, to rehearse and survey the course. Coaching sessions with Ollie Barnes and Neil Lythgoe consolidated our practice and we looked towards the season ahead with anticipation.

Our golfing calendar galvanised into life with the County AMAM at Barnham Broom Golf Club in early May. President Jo Ashmore organised this event and eighteen teams, representing eleven clubs competed. All were matched with a County player or official acting as a pro, offering an opportunity for the County to liaise with the members and to meet new

friends. The winners were a combination of Royal Norwich, Fakenham and Barnham Broom including Jo. Note to myself the past two AMAM's have a winning team that includes the organiser. So begin training now or if in doubt man the halfway house!

This was swiftly followed by the Norfolk Ladies' County Championship at Royal Cromer and as always was a success thanks to our Executive team, competitors and spectators. A new champion emerged, local hero Amelia Williamson winning the Sumpter Challenge Cup after a hard fought battle against Amy Taylor. The Phillip-Oppenheim Team Trophy was won by Sian Fenn-Green and Abigail O'Riordan of Swaffham, the Hannaford 36 Hole Handicap Cup Beth Buckingham of Dereham and Lady Betty Trafford 36 Hole Scratch Cup Amelia Williamson. Again it was fantastic to welcome new competitors and to see our Juniors perform so well. Announcing the County Squad came next. Jo Ashmore, Ellie Brown [Barnham Broom], Amelia and Tracey Williamson [Royal Cromer], Jo Herd, Jasmine Campbell [Royal Norwich], Tiffany Mills [Ryston Park], Shelly Pleasance [Thetford], Amy Taylor [Bawburgh] and rookies Abigail O'Riordan [Swaffham] and Imogen Leeder [Dereham]. In my opinion the team was replete with talent, youth and experience that would arm Norfolk to take the initiative at Hunstanton.

Finally, the England Golf East Region County Match Week 2017 arrived and was hosted by Hunstanton Golf Club from the 18th to 23rd of June. We as the host county limbered up to compete against Suffolk, Cambs and Hunts, Hertfordshire, Essex and Bedfordshire to challenge for one of the six Doris Abraham Regional Trophies. Norfolk began their defence as East Region Champions 2016 against Hertfordshire and won the day 5/4. What a terrific start to our campaign. Tuesday Norfolk played Essex and won 51/2 to 21/2. Wednesday we halved with Suffolk. I was unconcerned by this result as last year we squeezed a win from them to journey to the County Finals at Waterlooville, Portsmouth. Amy and Amelia ventured to the Henry Cooper Junior Masters at Nizels Golf Club, a World Amateur Golf Ranking Tournament used for Gt. Britain and Ireland team selection, for the rest of the week. Thursday Norfolk played Bedfordshire and we faced our first defeat 5/4. However, this was no deterrent to our game plan and Friday we played Cambs and Hunts and won 51/2 to 21/2. Words cannot express how proud I was of the team who all performed their very best whenever I asked them, represented our County with distinction and our overall third position was commendable. Suffolk won the spoils and we wished them well on their travels to Felixstowe Ferry for the Finals. It is refreshing that one of the old guard counties succeeded again, especially as Essex and Hertfordshire have dominated the group since joining in 2007. I congratulate and thank our administrative team Nickie, Margaret, Helen McAllister, Helen Ayers and Margo on their professional approach, the caddies, CJO Carol, Tracey, President Jo, for their guidance and wisdom, the Executive members, referees and supporters who made the time to encourage and inspire. Your cards and good wishes really do have an effect and we all appreciate them greatly. Sunny Hunny it surely was most of the time with the added excitement of various wind directions and lightening, the course, club officials, members, Ladies' Captain Caroline and staff answered every demand. And who can forget George the catering manager. As always the inter-county camaraderie, good humour and friendship was evident and all of them praised our hospitality and organisation in the highest terms. My first County Match Week dispatched, job done. Or so I thought as every match, player position and selection decision actually lives with you post event and did I do enough? The jury is out on that one for me but it was a privilege to Captain Norfolk on home turf and see Norfolk in the spotlight.

Now to bring you up to date with what your Executive Committee has been doing during the year. We have been working hard on your behalf on:

- Keeping up with all the changes to golf as a sport, - considering the implications of new funding procedures -the introduction of a world wide handicapping system planned for 2020, exploration of the Incorporation of the Association, new management changes nationally at England Golf and Sport England, these being just a few of the challenges emerging for us in the Association to plan for, together with how they will impact on golf in our county. Helen Mac, Voting member will tell you more about them in her report.
- We have finalised our ongoing project of amending our Rules of the Association relating to Rule 5 Management of the Association. The details have been sent to all Ladies sections prior to our meeting today .The Executive committee have now agreed the amendment that is being recommended to you today for approval
- We have been checking our procedures and policies for Safeguarding and Health and Safety – the latter being prompted by the adverse weather conditions at Bawburgh Division 3 meeting this year. Changes have been made to ensure that we are complying with requirements of both.
- We continue to look at our Competition Offer to you and will be proposing some new ideas for your interest and feedback during the coming season. These will be furthered through the Delegates meetings and the Roadshows we have planned – so make sure that you get someone from your club to come along each time.
- We are ready to initiate a 'Getting to know you better' programme, to help us keep in touch with you, your thoughts and your needs throughout the year. And as some of you are aware I am on a personal mission to visit every Ladies' section to discuss what the County can do for you and answer any questions you may have personally. See you soon.

So you can see that there is a lot going in behind the scenes to make sure as an Association that we do our best for you and for golf in our county.

I shall now update you on the Seniors' results on behalf of Nicky Wylie.

Once again the Senior Team had a successful season both on and off the pitch but the weather did play its part. It started with losing a very close match against the Second team, followed by a cancelled match against Essex at Braintree, due to forecast torrential rain luckily called off before we travelled.! We achieved a good half against Herts, a count back win against Cambs and Hunts as match was abandoned due to a wash out, but we finally got a win against Suffolk at Halesworth Golf Club.

We welcomed new players to our ranks Karen Young, Kath Malvern and Janet Lavin. The Senior's' would like to thank both King's Lynn Golf Club and Thetford Golf Club for hosting our home games. Finally, Nicky would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Ladies who played for the Senior Team this year.

I opened with Shakespeare and I close with Keats, as the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' is upon us and the road to Suffolk and Woodbridge for County Match Week 2018 has already begun. I congratulate Julie and County 2 for their efforts during County Finals Day, just missing out to Essex and wish Julie well after captaining the team for the past two years, in her retirement. I extend congratulations to Carol for leading our junior girls' so enthusiastically and well done at Junior County Match Week finishing third. I must congratulate our President Jo for winning the Seniors Championship. And of course sincerely commend all of you on your club, county and national achievements. We may be facing 'the maturing sun' of season's end but boy what a summer we have had.

Jo thanked Sam for a great report and for her hard work in her first year as County Captain. It has been another wonderful year and we are all proud of the girls who represent us so well. We wish you every success in 2018.

b) Second Team Captain – Julie Carpenter

Another good year. Unfortunately not quite as good as last year but close.

Our first match was against Essex at Canon's Brook Golf Club. We had a great start to the day winning all three doubles matches. Unfortunately the singles in the afternoon didn't go quite as well and we ended up losing the match 6-3 which was a shame. We then played Cambs & Hunts at Thetford winning 7.5-1.5, followed by Bedfordshire at Swaffham where we won 7-2.

Finals day was held at Brampton Golf Club and we had all to play for. We needed to win all three games against Essex to turn around the previous match result and maintain good results against Cambs & Hunts and Bedfordshire. On the day we won five matches, halved two and lost two which was a great effort and gave us the best overall game difference. However, we didn't manage all three against Essex which meant that they won overall. I couldn't have asked more from our players as they battled hard and gave their all but it wasn't to be this year.

I'd like to thank Vanessa and Megan Mann, Clare Anderson, Beth Buckingham, Sian Fenn-Green, Chloe Gibbs, Hope Neild, Abigail O'Riordan, Chloe Rowsell and Jess Rutherford for their hard work, commitment and good fun that they have provided this year.

I'd also like to thank the Norfolk Ladies Seniors and Royal Norwich & Eaton for the practice matches which give me a chance to see who play well together. Also, Thetford and Swaffham for being great hosts for our matches, the parents of the junior players who ferry them about and make sure they arrive with all their gear and everyone who has come along to support us.

I've had a great two years as second team captain, thoroughly enjoyed it thanks to the great team spirit that we have as a County. Thank you for your support

We are well on target to assess all courses before the worldwide handicap system planned for 2020 arrives on our doorstep.

As always, please feel free to contact Nickie or me with any queries. Our details can be found on the County Website

Jo thanked Sue and Nickie for their work and for keeping us all informed with Handicap news and Scratch Score Assessment developments.

c) County Junior Organiser – Carol Delf - Promising growth & Individual Successes

2017 – A year for promising growth for our future teams, coupled with individual successes in competitions inside and outside the County!

This year started well with a win in a new event – The Winstanley Trophy – a matchplay competition involving the Norfolk Senior men, Norfolk Junior boys and the Norfolk girls. The County 2 team, for up and coming players had mixed fortunes – a win against Suffolk, a half with Beds and a narrow loss to Cambs & Hunts. Our County 1 team played the most prestigious team event of the year – the JCMD at Colne Valley in Essex. The girls began with a slow start in the opening matches against Essex (losing 5/1) and Herts (losing 4/2), however they rallied to win the next three matches convincingly. Suffolk won (6/0), Cambs and Hunts (5 1/2 -1/2) and Beds (4/2). Overall Norfolk came 3rd. A pleasing result with special congratulations to the four rookies – Hope Neild, Eve Neild, Immy Leeder and Maisie Farrelly who played alongside our seasoned players Chloe Rowsell, Jasmine Campbell, Chloe Gibbs and Megan Mann. Finally special congratulations to the 10 Junior Girl players who were selected and played for the Ladies County 1 & County II teams. At the end of this season we are very sorry to see two of our senior players move out of the Junior ranks

- Jasmine Campbell – a formidable matchplayer, losing only 1 game in the 4 JCMD's she played in. She is now a regular member of the Ladies First Team.
- Ellie Brown – Past Junior Captain – now playing off scratch and pursuing her career as Assistant Professional at Barnham Broom

Looking at our Individual successes

A considerable number of Junior Girls have once again competed and enjoyed success in County, Schools, Regional and National events. This we always encourage. A few highlights of the season

- The Junior girls champion Amy Taylor (Bawburgh) Gross 75 one over par
- The Birdie Champion for up and coming players – Nellie Ong

- Norfolk Ladies Champion Amelia Williamson. Runner Up Amy Taylor – 8 girls qualified
- SE Schools Champion Amy Taylor
- National Schools Champion Amelia Williamson
- English Girls Championship at Littlestone, U14/16 Championship at Blackmore – 7 girls played – all creditable performances
- Abraham Trophy for the most improved golf Regional player – Hope Neild
- Girls LGU Championship strokeplay. Amelia and Amy played well in this very strong field. Amelia qualified for the matchplay
- Our Norfolk Order of Merit for County competitions was awarded to Polly Norman, winner of our Spring meeting – 3 points in front of Poppy Beales, winner of our Autumn meeting and Fowler Trophy
- The Brancaster Shield for County, Regional and National events this year is awarded to Amelia Williamson 1871 points, with Runner Up Amy Taylor 1369. The points won is a clear indicator of their successes

Promising growth

The promising growth I have mentioned in my title is evident in several guises – one of which is the Handicap Challenge. The Handicap Challenge records the girls' handicaps during the playing season and continues to be a very effective indicator of performance improvement – for example, four girls have gained a handicap to enter the Bronze division and a further four have entered the Silver division. The Handicap Challenge also measures the rate of progress of the girls over the playing season. Double figure reductions continue to be the norm to contend for the annual awards. The Winner of the Handicap Challenge – Polly Norman 28 – 16 = 12 shot reduction and a Hole in One at the Autumn meeting, closely followed by Poppy Beales 28 – 17 = 11 shot reduction. Equally noteworthy and promising in Division 4, Chloe Tabard aged 10 moved from 31-21 = 10 shot reduction and in Division 3 Eve Neild aged 13 moved from 21-11 = also a 10 shot reduction.

Once again our County competitions continue to be well supported and provide a first step to those learning to play with and without a handicap. The emphasis is on fun, enjoyment and encouragement. Should you have any girls at your club, please encourage them to come along to any of our events. It is a great opportunity to play with other girls, meet new friends and join our pathway for development – all of our current elite group followed this route. We welcome all to our forthcoming Santa Special on Sunday December 3rd. Santa hats, Santa prizes, Santa decorations and Tracey's own speciality Master Chef Cup cakes – all fun.

Regional and National

There is a full, established pathway from the Entry level Academy, Norfolk competitions, County teams, regional and national competitions through to selection for regional and national coaching squads and ultimately the honour of playing for England. It is heartening to see and very encouraging for the future that we have girls on every step of the pathway. Chloe Gibbs and Eve Neild have just been selected for the U16 Girls Regional Coaching squad Abigail O'Riordan has another year in the U18 Regional coaching squad – her handicap reduced from 5 to 2. Amy Taylor has just completed her training in the U16 Regional squad and now plays off scratch. Ellie Brown has now completed her training in the U18 Regional squad and also plays off scratch. Amelia Williamson has had another exceptional year in the National squad. She has competed in Girls and Ladies Championships all over Great Britain. Amelia was selected to play for England in the European Girls Team Championships in Finland. The England team was 3rd and Amelia was 3rd individually – an excellent performance. She was selected to play for the Home Internationals but unfortunately had to withdraw through illness. One of her most notable successes was that she won the inaugural Gold Rose Bowl at Roehampton Ladies Open. This is a new women's trophy given by England Golf Ambassador and Olympic Champion, Justin Rose. She has been a superb Junior Captain and excellent role model for our up and coming players and fully committed to the County.

Development Programme

There are changing and challenging times ahead and it is of vital importance that we keep focussing on our up and coming players. Work is in hand to ensure a smooth pathway from the England Golf Initiative "Girls Golf Rocks" into our Talent programme and competitions. Needless to say all of this costs money. England Golf is in cut back mode and revising their funding for the talent programme. We do appreciate the generous support from clubs, donations and raffles and the significant contributions from the Norfolk Lady Vets and the Ladies of Royal West Norfolk. I must also acknowledge the impressive voluntary assistance with the coaching, development programme and our competitions.

Conclusion

The Junior committee is always looking at new ways to inspire, motivate and develop young girls by putting on attractive, yet fun training, coaching and competitions. We need to continue to capture their imagination! The success we currently enjoy has been built up over several years through our continual networking with club professionals, clubs and most importantly parents. The Junior committee is the backbone of our network. I want to thank the members of the Junior committee for their unstinting support, drive and enthusiasm. I must also thank Lady President Jo for her enthusiastic support and encouragement during her Presidency. I cannot finish without a special mention of County Captain Sam and Past County Captain Tracey for their continued support of the Junior Girls.

Jo congratulated and thanked Carol for her continued support and the fantastic work that she and the Junior committee do. It has been another great year and the Juniors go from strength to strength – all down to Carol and her team

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

Nickie reports that it has been a slow year for course rating with only 3 courses (Sprowston, Bawburgh and Fakenham) being completed and 1 (Royal Cromer) in progress. This is because clubs have not been able to produce an up to date course measurement certificate that is needed before the assessment can be done. 60% of courses have been done and hopefully we can make up ground in 2018.

Handicap Advisor

2017 has been a relatively quiet year on the handicapping front. In January England Golf made the decision to invoke Clause 8.12 of the CONGU Unified Handicapping System which states that the player must:.....

Provide to his/her *Home Club* information regarding scores in *Non-Qualifying* competitions. This is to include Open competitions at Away clubs. In addition, where a club arranges an event, England Golf requests that the organizing Club advises the players' home club of the top five places (optional).

Looking ahead to 2018.....

Changes to the CONGU UHS have been announced. In view of the proposed introduction of the World Handicap System (WHS) these have been kept to a minimum and take into account some of the options likely to be adopted in the WHS. The principal of which is to encourage players to submit more scores to their handicap record.

Briefly, the main changes, which come into effect on 1st January 2018 are:.....

Retirement of Club & Disability Handicaps – These have been removed and replaced by a new Category 5 for Men and Category 6 for both Men and Women, providing a 54 handicap for all golfers.

Supplementary Scores – an unlimited number of score submissions per year will be allowed and they will not be restricted to one per week. However, the restriction on Category 1 players will remain in place.

Mixed Tee Competitions – Reinforcement of the Single CSS adjustment calculation. To provide a more equitable CSS value when one set of tees has a very low number of players.

9 Hole Competitions – The introduction of 9-hole Medal Competitions and 9-hole Open Competitions. For handicap purposes, the 9-hole Medal scores will be converted to Stableford and will appear as Stableford on the player's handicap record.

There will be no new hard copy of the CONGU manual, but an updated online version will be available on the CONGU website, where a full summary of the changes will also be posted.

We will be holding a meeting for Handicap Secretaries in the New Year. Provision date Friday 26th January 2018. I will email Handicap Secretary's to confirm.

e) England Golf County Voting member & East Region Committee Representative –Helen McAllister

Salutations!

Two key points

1. The Voting member is the COUNTY – voting members Representatives are exactly that – appointed representatives of the Association with responsibilities and duties
2. My role as Voting member is to ensure the good transfer of information between England Golf and county and clubs (hence the Delegates meetings which I chair). The role also carries the authority to vote at England Golf meetings.

I attended the England Golf AGM in 2017, two General meetings and an England Golf Regional meeting.

Summary

A recommendation from the Board will be voted on at the AGM, that Mrs. Jenny Clink be President of England Golf for 2019

- Two Independent Directors – Martha Brass and Michael Park have been recruited as per the requirement under the Code for Sports Governance.
- The 5 year Plan initially focused on 'more members' and most of you will be familiar with Get into Golf, Girls Golf Rocks and many more initiatives to encourage more participation.
- Participation data indicated that over the first two quarters of the year we have seen growth in the number of people playing golf.
- Data shows the number of Independent golfers in the region is 1.6 million, playing twice a month. EG think that this is important for golf going forward.
- England Golf received £8.480 million from Sport England
- Sport England funding is conditional on compliance with their Code for Sports Governance. Some of the requirements mean amendments to the Articles of Association and these are presented separately to the General meeting. England Golf was already in strong place governance wise and was compliant with the vast majority of the criteria. The other requirements have been managed by the Board to ensure that the Sport England funding continues and that the organization achieves excellent governance. England Golf's compliance with the Code for Sports Governance was of course a major discussion item at General meetings.
- England Golf are developing a governance code for clubs and counties and are encouraging the creation of merged county bodies responsible for all golf and have a target of 50% of counties being merged by 2021.
- England Golf have also engaged with several counties regarding Incorporation, with each of BB&O and our men's Norfolk County Golf Union taking that step in 2017. Other county bodies are considering this.
- Derbyshire merged with effect from 1st November 2017 which brings the number of merged counties to 4. Wiltshire, Hertfordshire and Devon have each obtained the indicative support of their clubs, and delegates are now taking the final legal steps to hopefully merge by January or April 2018. Several others are engaging with England Golf around merger.

Jo thanked Helen for her report and for having attended so many England Golf meetings on our behalf, having come back with a wealth of knowledge and observations to enhance the county. Jo expressed gratitude for all the hard work that Helen does, with such boundless energy.

6. NLCGA Rules Amendment 2017

Lady President Jo introduced the item

You will all have had details of the proposed changes for 2017 that were sent to your Clubs, with the Agenda for today and the Minutes from 2016, but you will also have found copies on your seats this morning. I will now hand over to Helen McAllister to explain them to you before we ask for your approval.

Helen put the proposed changes in the context of the changes the Executive committee have been working on for a number of years to ensure that our rules reflect the changes in golf as a sport and are fit for purpose in response to the national guidelines on the governance of the sport. It was explained that designating the posts of Handicap Advisor and Scratch Score Assessor as that of a County Official would not disenfranchise anyone nor result in a loss of expertise available to the Executive committee as the posts are non voting posts, and there will be structures in place to enable effective communication with the Executive Committee to access areas of particular expertise and advice when necessary. The post holders will retain their membership of the Delegates sub committee, where they have the opportunity to work directly with club members on specific matters relating to their specialism.

Shelagh Rump expressed her concern that the proposed changes did not reflect the value or status of the post holders, and asked if it meant that in future any Club queries regarding handicaps would not be handled by the post holder. Helen assured Shelagh that this would not be the case and clubs should continue to refer such matters directly to the postholder.

Voting : Against: 7 For: 92 **Motion carried**

7. To elect the County President, Heather Keeble. Proposed by the Executive Committee and seconded by Jo Ashmore

Jo paid tribute to Heather, presented her with her badge of office and recommended her appointment to the membership. Heather thanked Jo for her kind words and support and expressed her pleasure at the honour of being appointed to the prestigious position in the County and will do her best to maintain the high standard of Jo who has preceded her.

The members gave Unanimous approval for the appointment of Heather Keeble as County President

Jo presented Heather with her badge of Office and invited her to join the top table.

Heather paid tribute to Jo

Jo – it's a privilege to say thank you for your two wonderful years as President. You have qualities and skills too numerous to mention and you have brought them all to the role. Your love of Norfolk golf shines through – there is never a need to use your surname – a testament to your warm personality and the esteem and love in which you are held. Your achievements in golf speak for themselves – success at all levels, from Club to Internationals – you brought your experience gained to the role as President – there to support, always ready to offer advice and guidance and always give with a smile and a hug when needed. We must also thank Dave for letting us share you, and for his supporting you for the last two years. I have to comment on your golf too during your periods of office – Senior Champion for 2 years, Carrick Cup and Young Cup winner, County Foursomes Scratch winner for 2 years, County AmAm winner and representing the County at County Match week. Thank you for everything you do for golf in Norfolk. It is a pleasure to present you with this memento and your Past President's badge

Jo's thank you

I have had a fantastic two years, seen some great golf, superb matches and met some wonderful people.

Firstly I want to thank the Executive Committee for making my term of office so special, thank you for your guidance and understanding.

To the Sub-Committees who work so hard for Norfolk Golf and who are the envy of other Counties.

I just want to side step and thank Nickie Clarke and Shelagh Rump, Nickie for doing the slide show again this year I think it is a great addition to the A.G.M. and give you a chance to see what has happened over the last year. Thank you Nickie.

To Shelagh who works so hard in the background and does the Press Cutting Books which are outside the door we have cuttings from the 1930's to the present day and Shelagh collates all of these every year if you get the chance to have a look at them they are well worth a read. Thank you Shelagh.

To my Husband Dave who has a lot to put up with lets face it, but always supports me in everything I do, takes me everywhere and cooks my tea when I have been gone all day, even when I wake him up at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning when I cant sleep and ask him if he would like a cup of tea off he goes and makes me one I have to thank him for his patience and understanding and loving sport as much as I do.

And lastly to all of you for your kindness and generosity you have shown me over the years I am truly grateful.

It has been a great Honour and Privilege to have been your County President.

8. To elect the County Vice Captain Sue Heeles. Proposed by the Executive Committee and seconded by Sam Martin

It is my pleasure to invite Sue Heeles to become my County vice-captain for 2018. Sue has played golf for thirty years, was County Junior Organizer and Chairman of the Junior Committee. She patiently caddied for her daughter Rebecca at County Match Week for seven years so is familiar with County competition. Sue holds the County at heart and I welcome her to the role and am confident she will do her very best to support me and you.

The members gave unanimous approval to the appointment of Sue Heeles as County Vice Captain.

Sue accepted the position as Vice Captain and committed herself to work hard for the benefit of the County

9. To elect the Assistant Secretary, Margo Horsburgh. Proposed by the Executive Committee and seconded by Margaret Watson

Margaret paid tribute to Margo and recommended her appointment unreservedly as Ladies County Secretary.

The members gave unanimous approval for Margo Horsburgh's appointment as County Secretary. Margaret presented Margo with her badge of Office. Margo paid tribute to Margaret for her service to the County.

Jo thanked Margaret for her work on behalf of the Association and presented her with a gift. Margaret thanked everyone for their support over the last 6 years in post and sang goodbye 

10. To elect the County II Captain

Vanessa Mann (Barnham Broom) – Proposed by the Executive Committee. Seconded by Julie Carpenter.

Julie recommended Vanessa's appointment following a successful period as a member of County II team over the last two years. Vanessa has demonstrated the organisational and leadership skills necessary to make a success of the post. Vanessa thanked Julie for her nomination and gave her commitment to the work involved and her desire to follow the example of leadership from Julie

11. To elect one Executive committee members

There are two candidates for election:

Liz Dann – Wensum Valley Golf Club

Proposed by Sue Hill Club – Dunston Hall
Seconded by Sarah Bland Club – Wensum Valley

Chris Watson – Mundesley Golf club

Proposed by: P.A.Jackman Club: Mundesley
Seconded by: Beryl Nash Club : Mundesley

Vote: Liz Dann was elected as the member of the Executive

12. To re-elect the executive Committee members

To be elected en bloc

Proposed : Julie Carpenter (Dunston Hall)

Seconded: Helen Marsters (Kings Lynn)

Elected by a unanimous show of hands

Jo informed the members that two valued members of the Executive were finishing their term of office today – Jane Bizley and Tracey Williamson- and thanked them for their contribution. Tracey was not able to be present but Jo presented Jane with a small token of appreciation for their service to the Association.

13. Gillieson Cup Draw 2018 (Teams only)

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

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

Carrick Draw 2017

Took place at the last Competitions Sub Committee meeting and the draw will be sent out to clubs and put on the website shortly.

Presentation of Trophies 2016 and Chairman of Competitions report

President Jo, County Captain Sam, Ladies of the Executive Committee and fellow members of the Association.... I'd like to begin with thanks to all those members of the Association who have made 2017 a successful season by supporting well established competitions and embracing new ones with enthusiasm. These thanks also extend to organisers, without whose enthusiasm and efficiency no competition would run. We welcomed a new organiser, Mary Tuddenham and said goodbye to Jan Knowler and Deirdre Cave long serving organisers of the foursomes competition.

Thanks also to the hosting clubs, referees and all other supporters, particularly County Captain Sammy Martin who attended every competition and a special mention to Feltwell Golf Club hosting a County competition for the first time with a lovely warm welcome to all.

The 2017 season has been busy, with an extra competition and here a worthy mention for the Diamond Knockout, a new competition really well supported by you all proving there's golfing life in us oldies yet and not only that but embracing a new format too! Well done organiser Liz Dann and all involved.

Those members who played in the Waltz will remember a visit from a silent and stationary Queen but still dutifully observed by an interesting variety of curtsies.

Inter Club and Scratch Leagues have also had their share of excitements. Results so close in some Leagues that the tied rule had to be applied and right up to the last match the unique possibility of a five way tie in Division 4. Those involved will be pleased to know we have changed the tied rules to make them simpler and fairer... watch out for these changes in 2018.

Also in 2018 another competition. In response to suggestions by members we are hoping to run a short season Winter League for those who enjoy competitive golf all year. Look for details in the New Year when we will test the water for support of this competition.

I have now completed my first year in this role and it has been a real eye opener as to how much work goes on to ensure the smooth running of competitions for you all.

My thanks to the many who have helped me survive and perhaps we can show our appreciation of all those thanked here by a round of applause.

Winners 2017

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

Inter Club League Winners

Division 1 – Barnham Broom
Division 2 – Bawburgh
Division 3 – Dereham
Division 4 – Sheringham
Division 5 – Barnham Broom 2
Division 6 – Hunstanton 2

Scratch League Winners

Division 1 – Royal Norwich
Division 2 – Ryston Park
Division 3 – Kings Lynn
Division 4 – Royal West Norfolk

Marion Scott Slaver

Presented to the winner of the Division 2 or Division 3 with the lowest nett score to the course par. This year presented to Phillipa Bond of Bawburgh.

Seniors Championship

Making its debut in this presentation, and quite rightly so, is the Seniors Championship, a relatively new competition. This year played at Great Yarmouth and Caister and won again by our County President Jo Ashmore of Barnham Broom. Congratulations to Jo

Carrick Cup

The final played this year at Sheringham was an outstanding competition played at the highest level. The winners Tracy and Amelia Williamson being pushed all the way by the runners up – Barnham Broom – Jo Ashmore and Ellie Brown. Congratulations to Royal Cromer.

Diamond Knockout

What a great first year for this new competition. The final played at Wensum Valley and the deserved winners over runners up Bawburgh was Mundesley. Good to see a different name winning a championship. Congratulations to Mundesley

Gillieson

What an exciting final this was, played this year at Thetford. Many congratulations to Swaffham winning this competition for the very first time and congratulations also to Bawburgh runners up for making it a well fought worthy final for this prestigious competition.

Congratulations to Swaffham

Order of Merit

The Order of Merit is presented to the member who has achieved the highest number of points for performance in Country, National, Regional and County competitions and it will come as no surprise to you that the winner is Amelia Williamson of Royal Cromer.

Congratulations to Amelia

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 Order of Merit and the Sumpter Cup is our worthy County Champion Amelia Williamson of Royal Cromer.

Congratulations to Amelia

This concludes the presentations to the winners for 2017 and it just remains for me to say thank you for taking part and I look forward to seeing you in County competitions in 2018

Jo thanked Sue for her report and for having done a great job in her first and having dealt so well with everything that had been thrown at her.

15. Any other business

- Carol Wilson (Costessey Park) asked if it was possible for the Association to organise some level of discount for entry into County competitions held at their respective HOME club.

Margaret Watson replied on behalf of the Association

There are 2 competitions where we pay a fee per player to the host Club that include a meal after play

- The County Captain's AmAm
- The County President's Waltz
-

The per player fee is agreed with the Host Club when booking to serve as cover for their costs of a green fee element and a meal element.

For example -

One of the events this year, that I mentioned earlier – the Entry fee to the competition was £30 a head. We paid £25 of that to the host club as the agreed cost of them hosting the day.

It is entirely up to the Host club how much, or if at all, they choose to reimburse HOME club players for their determined **green fee element. As a County we have no control over that decision.**

The advice therefore is for Home club members wishing to play in any of those events, to clarify beforehand how or if, any reimbursement is to be made.

One thing that **we** can do is to advise the HOSTING club of the option that they have of making any reimbursement to their HOME players if they enter.

Lady President Jo Ashmore closed the meeting at 12.16

16. Date of Next Meeting : Monday 26th November 2018 – Wensum Valley 10.00am

