



CHESHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held at

Vicars Cross Golf Club, Chester

on Monday, 10th November 2014 at 11.00 a.m.

Present:- Mrs Pauline Clegg (Captain) in the Chair, President Mrs Lis Wilson and 126 ladies.

The Secretary introduced the Lady Captain of Vicars Cross Golf Club, **Mrs Kathryn Shaw**, who welcomed the President, the Captain and Vice-Captain and all the ladies and wished them an enjoyable day.

The Captain welcomed everyone, asked them if they had all signed in and asked the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

Notice: The Notice convening the meeting was read.

1. Apologies had been received from:

Vice President Mrs Pauline Frazer, Past Captains: Wendy Taylor, Sue Graveley, Julia Leary, Di Weston and seven others.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

There were no matters arising last year and, as the Minutes had been on the web, with copies available at the meeting, the Minutes were taken as read. All the reports for the AGM 2013 were presented by the appropriate Officers and there was nothing to report in Any Other Business.

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes

The Minutes were signed by the Captain

4. Treasurer's Report: Mrs Rhona Bowler

Good Morning everyone

As Treasurer of CCLGA I am here to present the County's financial performance for the year ended 31 July 2014

In last year's report after a second year of losses (albeit small) I explained my intended strategy to return the CCLGA's financial performance to a surplus generating position, to strengthen the financial strength and longevity of the CCLGA and to better support its future development and new initiatives.

For that purpose we increased the annual levy from £4 to £5 from January 2014. We also took further steps to maintain our expenditure within our means, making savings where we could. One of these savings is being able to change the venue of the AGM and so I would like to thank Vicars Cross Golf Club for being our host today.

So I am very pleased to report that in the year ended 31 July 2014 we generated a surplus of £11,702. The main contributing factors were:-

- 1) An increase in club affiliation fees by just under £3,600 (14%) – this reflects the increase in levy but is countered by the continuing trend of a fall in lady golfers – falling by 6% on 2013 levels to just under 5,900 golfers.
- 2) Savings of around £2,400 on competition green fees and CMW costs – whilst expenditure on green fees/CMW is dependent on the clubs selected that year, I would like to thank clubs for either providing the course at courtesy or at a reduced rate. A special thanks to Hazel Grove for not charging for our disappointing cancellation due to lack of sufficient entries
- 3) Savings of £1,091 or 15% on our general running costs and other overheads.
- 4) Receipt of a £3,942 training grant in conjunction received in conjunction with the Cheshire Union from the Sport England Junior Player Pathway funding programme

We were able to find funds to replace some uniform for both the main teams and Juniors. and finally write off any old uniform and a small residue of memorabilia stocks. County Match Week costs in June 2014 were lower than previous year at just under £6,000 (£7,538 in 2013), and whilst those costs can vary significantly dependent on location and type of accommodation available, I would thank the Captains and team for being mindful of costs.

I would also like to thank all those who generously sent donations for the Junior Section, totalling £1,742. This is always a very welcome support to one of our main objectives of encouraging new golfers and helping to develop the players of the future.

Such a surplus now puts us in much better standing for the challenges that remain ahead such as

- a) Continual trend for falling player numbers and resulting falls in levy
- b) Our future initiatives to support the objectives of the CCLGA
- c) Training programme funding whilst seeking what funds we can from external sources

d) Hosting 2015 County Match Week at Sandiway, albeit we will be keeping a tight rein on costs

The accounts for the year ended July 2014 have been audited satisfactorily, and I would like to thank Micaela Waterhouse ACMA for carrying out that work. I would propose that Micaela Waterhouse ACMA be appointed auditor for the year ended 31 July 2015 financial statements.

Now, turning to the current financial year - we start with a much stronger financial foundation with £36,876 in reserves. These will support our plans and challenges for the coming year, including to

- a) Modernise and develop our communication strategy to more effectively reach out to support clubs and to encourage lady golfers, such as a new website where we can move CCLGA information and competition booking to online
- b) Further development of our junior golf activities
- c) Coaching and training programmes

I would once again ask for your support to actively promote at your clubs our 2015 competition programme, which I believe is still very good value for money at some excellent venues. It's an opportunity to showcase our county and as I can personally testify they are very enjoyable to play in and are not just for the low handicap golfer !!

Finally, I can confirm that the levy for 2015 is to remain unchanged at £5 per player, and these are due by 31 January 2015. Letters were distributed at the October delegates meeting, and I will be issuing them out again to clubs by the New Year. Please encourage club administration teams to make prompt payment, preferably by electronic payment which is cheaper for both parties.

To conclude, thank you again for the Executive's support in keeping a close check on our costs and for your support in donations and competition entries. I am looking forward to the year ahead as we take CCLGA forward.

Thank you for your attention

Rhona Bowler CCLGA Treasurer

There were no questions and The Captain called upon Mrs Barbara Baird of Vicars Cross GC to propose the adoption of the Accounts, seconded by Mrs Sylvia Hamilton Lady Captain, Stockport GC.

The Captain asked for a show of hands for the adoption of the accounts. These were duly adopted.

5. To elect the Auditor, Michaela Waterhouse ACMA

The Captain asked for a show of hands and The Auditor, **Michaela Waterhouse ACMA** was duly elected.

6. Captain's Annual Report: Mrs Pauline Clegg

County President, County Vice Presidents, Past Presidents, Captains, Honorary Members and Ladies.

I would like to begin by saying what a wonderful year I have had. I was extremely nervous about taking on this role but would like to thank the Past Captains for giving me the opportunity. I have met so many old and new friends and will always have a lot of good memories from my year.

To start the year off, I attended the Manchester & District Ladies Golf Associations AGM where I was presented with a cheque for £400. I was also invited to lunch in November by the Manchester & District Past Lady Captains Society where I received another cheque for £310. Both cheques are for

helping our Juniors. We have also received donations from ladies and clubs throughout the year for the girls and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all. We have some very promising Juniors and with your help we are able to support them as much as possible.

I have also attended several England Golf meetings. England Golf are working hard on the Strategic Plan which is aimed at trying to halt the decline of people who are members of Golf Clubs. Thank you to Carole Legge and Sue Wilson who are our representatives. They keep us informed about what is going on and I am sure they will pass this on to you in their Reports.

We have once again been able to give coaching and training sessions to our A and B squads throughout the winter and also the Junior beginners during the summer. I would like to thank the coaches, Judy Statham, Danny Haughian, Maureen Madill, Mike Kanski, and Chris Whiteley. Sharon Healey, our Training Officer, has organised these and I would like to thank her and all the other ladies for giving their time to assist.

The A team matches against Derbyshire, The Senior Ladies, The Wilmslow Men, The Cheshire Union and The Delamere Men were all played in a very competitive but friendly spirit and I am pleased to say we only lost our match against Delamere. There was also some excellent golf played in the B team matches against Lancashire, Yorkshire, North Wales Counties, The Senior Ladies and the Juniors. Thank you to Marian Scowcroft our Vice Captain for arranging and running these.

The President, Lis, Immediate Past Captain, Luci, Vice Captain, Marian and the 2 selectors, Barbara Laird and Jeanne Bell have kept me company during the training and matches and I would like to thank them for all their help and support. Jeanne is retiring as a selector this year. She will be missed as she is an extremely good golfer and has a wealth of experience but I am pleased to say that Liz Turner, also from Royal Liverpool has agreed to take on the role and will be an excellent replacement.

Cheshire and Delamere Forest Golf Club hosted the first Delamere Comboy Scratch Trophy on the last Sunday in March. It was a great success due to all the hard work done by Jackie Hesketh who ran it. Thank you to Hilary McNeil and Sue Graveley for their part in setting it up and Delamere for agreeing to host it. Gemma Clews (a Delamere member) won and Poppy Finlay, another Cheshire player, came second. Poppy produced a new course record of 66 in her morning round. The sun shone and all competitors enjoyed the course saying they would be back next year. It couldn't have been a better start for this competition.

The County meetings were all played in rain free and mainly sunny weather and were enjoyed by those who entered. Unfortunately 2 of these had to be cancelled due to lack of entries, the Bronze 3 ball Stableford and the Greensome Stableford. Next year we will be opening up the 3 ball Stableford to all handicaps and the Greensome Stableford will be a 4 ball better ball competition. The Business Ladies competition only had a small entry but we are running it again in the hope that more people will be aware of it and enter. Please remember these competitions are run for all county members and not just those with low handicaps. There are some lovely trophies to be played for. I would like to thank all the clubs who have hosted the competitions for making us feel so welcome.

Cheshire hosted the Northern Foursomes this year at Ringway Golf Club. I am sure Sue Wilson will report on this but I would like to say a big thank you to her and all who helped to make it the success that it was. It was an added bonus having an all Cheshire final.

The County Championship was held at Wilmslow. The final was between Emma Goddard from RLLGC and Bel Wardle from Prestbury GC with Emma once again winning and so becoming Champion for the second year running. The Sir William Bailey Cup was won by Cath Rawthore from Sale GC when she beat Barbara Jamieson from Heswall GC. Cath also had a hole in one and the Club presented her

with 2 125th anniversary wine glasses. Wendy Taylor and Lesley Brown acted as referees for which I am very grateful.

I must thank Wilmslows Captain Phil Barber, The Lady Captain, Jane Birkett and all the members for their support during the Championship and throughout the whole of my year. Thanks also to Laura McNair, Jackie Hesketh and all their helpers for running the competition.

Following the Presentation, the Team was announced for CMW. This was Jae Bower, Prestbury, Abbie Cowlard, Stockport, Steff Farrar, Sandiway, Poppy Finlay, Vicars Cross, Emma Goddard, Royal Liverpool, Luci Jamieson, Heswall, Charlotte Leathem, Styal, Hannah Li and Bel Wardle, both from Prestbury. The reserve was Gill Mellor also from Prestbury.

County Match Week was held in Northumberland. We had 3 new team members, all of who are Juniors, Bel Wardle, Luci Jamieson and Hannah Li. Several of our team were not with us on the first day and we were drawn against Yorkshire (the holders) so they were certainly thrown in at the deep end. This did not phase them in the slightest and I am very proud of the way they played and conducted themselves the entire week. Bel had a incredible week and I was delighted to be able to present her with her County Colours – quite an achievement in one week. Unfortunately we lost to Yorkshire but that was to be our only loss. At the end of the week Yorkshire were the victors once again. Second place couldn't have been closer. We were tied on matches so it came down to games – we lost by half a point and came third. As far as I am concerned this was a great result for such a young and inexperienced team and Yorkshire had better watch out next year when Sandiway will be hosting the event. Thank you to Lis, Luci and Marian for all your help and support and to the trolley pullers and spectators who made the long journey over to Northumberland. On the Thursday night we were woken up by the fire alarm at 3.30am and had to make our way to the car park – not what any of us needed at the end of such a busy week but we were kept amused as one of the gentlemen guests didn't seem to think he had time to put his trousers on and stood proudly at the entrance to the hotel in his boxer shorts.

There have been some very good successes by our members this year and I would like to mention them. As already stated Gemma Clews won the Delamere Comboy Scratch Trophy but she also won the Pleasington Putter and tied for 3rd place in the Welsh Championship with Emma Goddard. Emma was also 3rd in the Pleasington Putter, 2nd in the Birkdale Scratch Trophy and is now the holder of the course record at Royal Liverpool where she scored 66 in their Autumn Meeting. Gemma was chosen to play in the Home Internationals at Aberdovey GC where after an extremely close final day England were the victors. Emma was 1st Reserve. Bronte Law was once again a member of the Curtis Cup Team and also won the English Womens Close Amateur Championship. Bronte, Gemma and Emma have all been included on the England Squad. Charlotte Leathem won the Whittington Trophy. The Seniors have also had many achievements with Cath Rawthore winning the English Seniors Open Amateur Stroke Play and the British Seniors Championships. She was also a member of the winning European Seniors Team. The Northern Seniors Championship was won by Sue Dye who beat Caroline Berry in the Final. Sale Golf Club have battled their way to the Semi Final of the Mail on Sunday which is to be played at the El Rompido course in Spain on the 16th November. The team members are Hilary Tarleton, Moira Forster, Julie Matthews, Sue Barratt and Caroline Croxton the reserve is Sophie Casey. Cath Rawthore has also played her part in the team. Good luck girls. The Juniors have had their successes to but I will leave that for Maria, our Junior Organiser to report on. Congratulations to them all. Congratulations also to Maria. It is her first year as Junior Organiser. She has had a lot to learn and has done a fantastic job.

The Elisabeth Wilson shield was again Royal Liverpool against Sandiway. This year Royal Liverpool were the victors. There was some excellent golf played on what was a windy and occasionally showery day. Thanks to Stockport Golf Club hosting. I know Lis was very pleased that it could be played at her home club while she was President.

The East/West Shield Finals were between Tytherington and Wallasey for the A Team and Hale and Royal Liverpool for the B Team. Tytherington beat Wallasey and Royal Liverpool beat Hale. Heswall hosted the event and I would like to thank them for their hospitality.

Now to my committee. Firstly those who are retiring:- County President Lis, and Immediate Past Captain Luci. I have been so fortunate to have had their company and guidance and have a lot of happy memories of the times we have spent together. Jackie Hesketh, competitions secretary and Frances Gell, fixtures secretary. Thank you for all the work you have done and Karen Lindsay, our Secretary who has not had a easy time this year but we wish you well in the future. My thanks also go to Pam Gardiner who has produced the beautiful year books that you can see at the back of the room. To the ladies who are staying including Pam Draper who continues to keep our website up to date, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed working with you all. You have done your jobs with great efficiency and it is much appreciated.

Finally to Marian who is to be your next Captain. I wish you all the very best for your year in office. You have a great committee behind you and our new President Ruth will, I am sure be a rock to you, as Lis was to me.

At this point I would like to present Lis, on behalf of Luci and myself, a small token of our appreciation for all the support and guidance we have received over the last 2 years.

Thank you Ladies for coming today and I wish you all a very happy and successful 2015.

There was a presentation of a gift from the Captain and Ex Captain to the President who thanked them.

The Secretary called on the County Champion, Emma Goddard, Royal Liverpool Golf Club, to propose the vote of thanks to the Captain. Catherine Rawthore, Sale GC, winner of the Sir William Bayley Cup had sent her apologies so it was seconded by Sophie Casey.

President, Vice Presidents, Captain, Past Captains, Honoured guests, ladies:

It gives me great pleasure to propose this vote of thanks to the Captain. I can't believe how quickly this year has gone, it feels like only yesterday I was getting announced on the tee as defending champion at Wilmslow.

County match week was another great experience, we came oh so close to beating Yorkshire to that top spot. Despite our 3am fire alarm on the last morning - were there some sights I'll never forget. But I know next year with home advantage will be our year.

Without the support of Captain Pauline and her team we wouldn't have achieved the results we have, both as individuals and as a team. It's been an honour for each and every one of us to play for you and we wish you the very best in the future.

To Liz for all your support you have given us over the past 2 years, thank you, we are all now experts when it comes to bird watching.

I just want to end by wishing Marian, Ruth and her team good luck for next season.

8. Presentation of the County Trophies.

Doris Chambers Salver - Denise Peake, Wychwood Park GC

Westminster Shield (Silver) - Bromborough GC

Westminster Shield (Bronze)	-	Bramhall GC
Margaret Sangster Salver	-	Liz Ruscoe, Vicars Cross GC
Centenary Rose Bowl	-	Vale Royal Abbey GC
Doris Chambers Trophy	-	Sue Barratt and Sophie Casey, Sale GC
Mary Owen Salver	-	Denise Burchall and Anne O'Neil, Sandiway GC

Presentation of Scratch League Shields:

Division 1	-	Royal Liverpool GC
Division 2	-	Warrington GC
Division 3	-	Crewe GC
Division 4	-	Delamere Forest GC

Presentation of the Elisabeth Wilson Shield

The Captain presented the Shield to **Royal Liverpool GC** and thanked Sally Brown for refurbishing the trophies.

9. England Golf (Northern Regional) Reports

Mrs Carole Legge:

Golf faces some serious challenges due to the current economy & lifestyle changes. Membership is in decline, not quite free fall but according to England Golf for every 78 people who take up the game 86 leave.

Golf is the 5th largest participation sport in England with approximately 675,000 members belonging to one of the 1950 golf clubs. The number of independent golfers is one million plus and EG is attempting to see how they can affiliate these players.

Sport England, who are proving grants to England Golf (£13,000,000 for 2014-2017) want to increase participation of golfers playing at least once a week to 910,000 by March 2017, the number is estimated at 710,000 as of July 2014. That is currently an extremely tough target to hit but if England Golf want to maintain the grants they must meet the targets which have been set.

A great deal of work has been undertaken by Counties (both Unions & Associations) County Golf Partnerships & many others in conjunction with England Golf to formulate a strategic plan to meet targets. This plan was approved by a majority vote at a meeting in July at Woodhall Spa & has recently been launched at county level. The document "Raising our game" can be found on the England Golf website

At a general meeting in July there was unanimous approval for EG to support the Golf Foundation fund over a 3 year period by donating £150, 000 at the rate of £50,000 per year. It was stressed that clubs contribution to the Golf Foundation are greatly appreciated so please carry on supporting them via your own annual club competitions.

Currently EG receive £5 million pounds in affiliation fees and £2 million pounds from sponsorship. EG claimed that with membership declining their ability to carry out Special Projects would be limited and therefore proposed an increase of £1 in subscriptions from 2016. This was hotly contested but unfortunately was approved in a very close vote. There are currently no plans to increase the fee again before 2020.

England Golf would like all golfers to sign up to the Handicap & Benefits Programme, currently approximately 150,000 people have signed up. How many of you in this room have heard of this initiative? How many of you have signed up? Why should you sign up? View handicaps online, monthly newsletter, automatic entry into monthly prize draw, discounted products & services. It doesn't cost you anything, it is free. All I ask you to do is look online and give it a try. For those of you still resisting computers & I know there are some of you out there I have asked EG how they plan to accommodate you. Don't have an answer just now but will continue to pursue the matter.

At a recent meeting in Warrington, England Golf suggested that all Counties should have their own strategic plan. In order to facilitate this Associations, Unions & County Golf Partnerships will need to work together & agree responsibilities for key areas. Many of these areas are already covered & in Cheshire have been for 100 years but by working together in this way we may be able to identify areas where we require additional help & support, even funding from England Golf. In some counties the Associations & Unions are already completely integrated. I personally feel that it will be sometime, if ever, before that happens in Cheshire but the R & A have admitted women, so you never know, watch this space. England Golf have stated that it is not their intention to force us to merge but sharing resources and benefitting from best practices must be a way of optimising our individual strengths and providing greater support to our members.

Course rating is still a hot topic. The target of 200 courses per year seems unachievable with the current process & the number of trained assessors. It is possible that in the future there may be a priority list drawn up in conjunction with the Counties but I do not yet have any details on this. In Cheshire approximately 70 courses have been rated, it is a long drawn out process but we are in good hands with Lis Wilson & Ruth Whitehead being actively involved with training raters.

EG claim to have 70 handicap queries per day! They have set up a system which should redirect initial queries to the County. I am confident that all Cheshire ladies handicap secretaries would initially contact our advisors, Wendy Taylor & Wendy Sim in the first instance.

Next general meeting at Woodhall Spa is 19th November. As the financial year end has now been changed to December, to coincide with collection of affiliation fees, the AGM will be held in Leicester on April 16th and will be followed by a County Conference on 17th April.

Believe me there is a lot going on & some progress is being made but as has been said before most of the changes resulting from Strategic Plan recommendations will depend on the co-operation of our clubs.

Mrs Sue Wilson: Northern Counties Report 2014 AGM

Ladies

The 2014 season has seen some amazing golf in the Northern counties. At the January Delegates meeting I appealed to you to rustle up support for the

Northern Foursomes to be held at Ringway GC in April.

Well the result was that the competition was oversubscribed with entries from all the six northern counties which was great and I had a long list of reserves but as the opening day drew close, cancellations started coming in and by the Sunday, two days before the start of the competition I was down to my sixth reserves. These were two of our county juniors, Isabel Wardle of Prestbury GC and Emma McBurney of RLLGC. They had just got back on the Sunday from playing in a tournament up in Scotland and proceeded to knock out all their opponents through all five rounds to the final, where they beat the Ringway pairing of Marjorie Griffiths and Judith Wainwright. The weather held all week and shows what strength Cheshire has in its juniors and senior ladies.

The Stableford foursomes on the Wednesday was won by S. Woodcock and Ann Ankers from Haydock Park GC on countback from Carole Legge and Jackie Roper of Cheshire with 37 points.

The Stableford Team Event on the Thursday was won by D, Campbell, A. Smith, L. Faulkner and S. Loy of Warrinton GC with 63 points.

Altogether it was a great week for Cheshire players.

The next event for the Northern Region was County Match Week hosted by Northumberland this year and played at the Northumberland GC. At the end of the week Cheshire, Yorkshire and Lancashire were tied, all having lost one match. So it was down to the number of games within the matches each county had won. Yorkshire had 34, Lancashire 30.5 and Cheshire 30 so we were narrowly beaten into 3^d place by a halved game by Lancashire.

The Australian Spoons regional competition hosted by Lancashire was played at Swinton Park GC on 8th July and won by Celia Fowler and Pat Benson of Harrogate GC. Two ladies from Naunton Downs GC in Gloucestershire, Carol Park and Clare Spiller, were the winners of the national final at Belton Woods GC in Lincolnshire. They had won their club round 3 times in the past 4 years but never progressed beyond the regional stage until this year.

Durham hosted the Northern Ladies Close Championship at Eaglescliffe GC in July and the Millenium Bowl was won by Megan Clarke of Cleckheaton GC, Yorkshire beating Samantha Taylor of Tynemouth GC 4/3 in the final.

Cumbria hosted the Northern Girls' Close Championships at Ulverston GC in August. The Clement Bowl, awarded to the Girls' Champion and open to all players was won by Holly Morgan of Yorkshire with a gross score for 2 rounds of 150, beating Jessica Hall of Durham with a better 2nd round. The best net was won by Charlotte Heath of Yorkshire -gross 170, nett L44.

The Chairman's trophy, for over 15s-under L8s, was won by Holly Morgan again.

The Kilburn Trophy for over 13s and under 15 was won by Jessica Hall but the best nett was awarded to Hannah Li of Cheshire, gross L60 nett 150.

County Finals were held at Belton Park GC with Yorkshire representing the Northern Region. Hampshire were the winning county, with Hertfordshire narrowly beating Yorkshire into 3rd place.

And so we look ahead to 2015.

Cheshire are hosting County Match Week at Sandiway GC from June 22nd to the 26th. We look forward to welcoming the county squads from Northumberland, Cumbria, Durham, Yorkshire and Lancashire to our home territory and hope to see some great matches.

It requires a lot of help from the Cheshire clubs and we will be letting you know how you can get involved early in the new year. We will require 72 trolley pullers each day so please put June 22nd in your diaries and keep that week free to come and help or watch some amazing golf played by the best lady golfers the North has to see.

Thank You

10. Junior Organiser's Report:

Mrs Maria Hudson

County President, County Captain, ladies, it is my pleasure to present the Junior Report for 2014.

Junior girls Competitions

The first competition held at Alderley Edge GC was the Spring Stableford in conjunction with the Doreen Turner Trophy. The winner was **Rayhannah Saboonpaz** of VX GC and the runner up was **Bel Wardle** of Prestbury GC.

The Mixed Team competition was held at Eastham Lodge GC and was won by **Louise, Jacob and Michael McLoughlin** of Bromborough GC.

The Rabbits Jamboree for girls without handicaps was held in May at Fore Golf Chester. The winner of the Cheshire Cat was **Sophie Lee** (VX GC) & the putting prize was won by **Zoe Hatcher** (Sutton Hall GC) – both girls now have progressed to full handicaps.

The Junior Championships were held at VX GC and the winner was **Bel Wardle** of Prestbury, the runner up was **Rian Moores** of Warrington. The U 16 trophy was also won by **Bel Wardle** and the U14 trophy was won by Luci Jamieson of Heswall GC and the winner of the Handicap Trophy was **Louise McLoughlin** of Bromborough GC

The Stella Watson Trophy was held at Ashton on Mersey GC and the winner was **Rian Moores** (Warrington GC), runner up **Victoria Turner** (Sandiway GC)

The Wheatsheaf Trophy was held at Antrobus GC and the winners were **Kate Lancaster and Anne White** of DFGC, runners up were **Hannah Baird & Barbara Baird** of Vicars Cross

The competitions have been organised and administered by a number of people this year and so I would like to thank Maggie Beadle, Sally Brown and Marian Scowcroft for their help. Next year Sally Brown will be Competition Organiser.

The Northern Girls Jamboree was held on Aug 6th and 7th at Durham City GC - County Captain, County Vice-Captain and I accompanied the team. The first day was reduced to a nine-hole competition as it poured with rain but the second day was fine and the girls did well finishing 3rd overall. As usual they were good fun to be with although we nearly lost two of them on the first night when their car was diverted onto the M1 on the way to the hotel and they couldn't get off! My thanks go to Pauline and Marian for their company and support.

The following week The Northern Girls Championship was held at Ulverston GC. **Hannah Li** of Prestbury won the best net in her category (Over 13 under 16) and **Bel Wardle** of Prestbury won the best afternoon gross of 73.

Match Report: In our Annual Junior County matches we won 2, halved 2 and 1 was cancelled due to the weather, although we lost two of the friendly matches and the third was cancelled. I would like to thank Chris Furzer, Dilys Peake and Marian Scowcroft for their help in arranging the matches. Next year former County Captain Luci Foster will be Match Organiser with help from Abby Baker.

Our thanks go to all of those clubs who have given us courtesy of their courses for all the junior competitions and matches. It is greatly appreciated.

My grateful thanks also go to all of the clubs and Organisations who have made donations to the junior funds – we really do appreciate it.

Coaching

Beginners' coaching was once again held at Portal & Adlington and my thanks go to those ladies who gave up their Saturday mornings to help at these sessions.

The coaching for 2015 is currently under review as England Golf has adopted a new approach to coaching with an emphasis on performance rather than participation. Each County has to have a Talent Pathway showing a clear developmental pathway through from beginners to elite squad players for all girls (and boys) under 18 years. The previously separate funding for U14s and 14-18 year olds will be merged.

We are having a Presentation evening for the junior girls, their parents and the coaches on 13th November and there will be a further Presentation in the New Year for beginner girls and their parents to explain more about the Talent Pathway and coaching for 2015.

Prize Presentation

The Annual Prizegiving Presentation and 9 hole competition was held at Portal in October. The most improved golfer in Silver Division for the second year running was **Bel Wardle of Prestbury GC** who reduced her handicap from 5 to 1 and in the Bronze Division it was **Lauren Jones** of Mellor & Townscliffe GC who reduced from 29 to 11. The winner of the order of merit was **Rian Moores** of Warrington GC.

Our new Junior Captain was announced – **Bel Wardle of Prestbury** and we wish her a happy and successful year.

Bel along with three other Cheshire girls **Lucy Jamieson** (Heswall) **Freya Johnson** (RLGC) and **Hannah Li** (Prestbury) have all been selected to participate in England Golf North West Training programme and I would like to congratulate them all.

This was my first year as junior Organiser and it had been both interesting and challenging!

We have some very talented junior girls in Cheshire and I hope that once our coaching programme becomes more consistent we can encourage more girls to start to play and go on to participate in matches and competitions and hopefully progress through to play for the County and beyond.

Thank you ladies

11. Training Officer's Report

Mrs Sharon Healey had sent her apologies so **Mrs Luci Foster** read her report:

A SQUAD TRAINING

Portal

Chris Whitely held fitness sessions for both A & B Squad members. These covered all aspects of fitness and nutrition.

Formby Hall

As this previously proved very popular, the girl's were given the opportunity to attend Formby Hall for putting analysis and a green reading session.

Mike Kanski provided an additional putting analysis session for the 3 newest members to the squad, who hadn't been previously.

Clays Golf Centre

Maureen Madill provided a group discussion on "How to prepare for a practice round" and how to formulate a regular practice routine.

This was followed by short game practice in the afternoon.

Maureen also attended an A team match at Chevin, Derby, so she could see the girl's in action and then provided critique on their performance.

Maureen also came to CMW to walk the course on the Saturday and for the practice round on the Sunday. This proved invaluable to the girl's as they felt much more prepared.

B SQUAD TRAINING

The majority of the under 14's plus some B squad members were successful in joining the Academy coaching programme. So as to ensure we kept in contact with these girl's we provided a fitness session (as mentioned above) and 2 short game sessions with Judy Statham at Portal.

JUNIOR BIRDIE SQUAD

Beginners' coaching was held at Portal with Judy Statham, and Adlington with Danny Haughian in May and June.

Focus was on the basics of golf and they played the Par 3 course and had an introduction to course management. These were well-attended and some good potential identified.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the players, the coaches, officials and all helpers who very kindly gave their time during the year. Their assistance was very much appreciated and proved invaluable.

12. Office of President - Mrs Ruth Whitehead (Delamere Forest GC) proposed by President 2014 Mrs Lis Wilson (Stockport GC)

It gives me great pleasure to introduce your President for the next two years. Ruth Whitehead. Over very many years Ruth has made a significant contribution to County, Northern and National golf. It can't really be condensed into a few words today and I could keep you all here a long time if I was to go into detail of all that Ruth has achieved and contributed over many years.

As a player Ruth played for the County and the Senior County team, winning the Seniors Championship and representing the North in the Jamboree.

She has been County Captain, Seniors Captain and Northern Vets Captain.

Ruth was on the ELGA executive and became chairman of the EWGA operational Board before the merger. She ran the U15/13 tournaments for England for a number of years

Something that many people will not know is that Ruth kept the County Record book for 33 years from 1975, a work of art and well worth looking at.

Ruth is a qualified referee and will often be seen in a buggy at national and county events. She is also a USGA Course rater.

You will glean from this that her credentials are outstanding and she will bring all her knowledge and experience to benefit the county once again as she takes up the office of President

The Past President then thanked everyone for all their hard work during the year. She said what a great pleasure it had been.

The President, Mrs Ruth Whitehead replied:

President Lis, Vice Presidents, Past Presidents, County Captain, Captains, Ladies.

Thank you very much Lis for those kind words. I feel honoured to have been asked to be County President by the Past Presidents. They have all set a very high standard to follow, and I shall do my best to maintain this tradition.

I have been fortunate enough throughout my golfing life of over fifty years to have been given many opportunities, not only playing the game, but following this by going into the committee structure at both County and national level. This has been very interesting, sometimes stressful and demanding but always rewarding. I along with yourselves have witnessed many changes but we should not forget we play golf for fun, friendship and enjoyment.

My first loyalties and love have always been to the clubs where I have been privileged to be a member and to the County of Cheshire, and I look forward to repaying their confidence and loyalty to me over the next two years.

I should like to wish Marian and Paula a happy and successful term of office and I shall do my best to support them. Thank you as well to the members of Delamere and friends who have come to support Marian and myself today.

Finally, once again thank you to the past Presidents for their trust. As I said earlier I feel very honoured.

13. Election of Officers for 2014/2015:

Captain: - Mrs Marian Scowcroft (Delamere Forest GC)

Proposed by Mrs Luci Foster, Seconded by Mrs Pauline Clegg

Vice Captain: - Miss Paula Latham (Caldy GC)

Proposed by Mrs Pauline Clegg, Seconded by Mrs Luci Foster

Officers proposed by the Executive Committee:

The nominations for the positions of Hon. Secretary, Fixture Secretary and Competition Secretary (West) were not received before the due date so the ladies will be co-opted at the next Executive Meeting and brought before you at the AGM in 2015.

Hon. treasurer - Mrs Rhona Bowler (Portal Premier GC)

Hon. Secretary - Mrs Penny Hall (Caldy GC) - to be co-opted

Hon. Competition Secretaries:

East: Mrs Laura McNair (Prestbury GC)

West: Mrs Jean Payne (Upton-By-Chester GC) - to be co-opted

Hon. Fixture Secretary:

Mrs Hazel Dooley (The Wilmslow GC) to be co-opted

Junior Organiser - Mrs Maria Hudson (Delamere Forest GC)

County Training Officer - Mrs Sharon Healey (Warrington GC)

England Golf (Northern Regional) Representatives:

Mrs Sue Wilson (Sandiway GC)

Mrs Carole Legge (Portal PremierGC)

The Captain asked for a show of hands for election of the proposed Officers and they were duly elected.

The Captain invited the President Ruth and the Vice Captain Paula to join her at the top table.

14. Retiring Officers of the Executive Committee:

Mrs Pam Gardner, Mrs Frances Gell and Mrs Jackie Hesketh

The Secretary read the nominations for the Executive Committee

We have vacancies but again ladies are to be co-opted at the next Executive Meeting.

North East Cheshire: One vacancy for three years.

Mid Cheshire: Mrs Maureen Nicholson (The Wilmslow GC) to be co-opted

West Cheshire: One vacancy for three years.

15. Vote of Thanks to the Officers:

Mrs Sybra Eardley gave a vote of thanks to the retiring officials and retiring members of the Executive Committee on behalf of Mrs Jane Birkett, Lady Captain The Wilmslow Golf Club. Seconded by Mrs Jenny Mathews, Lady Captain, Delamere Forest Golf Club.

The Captain thanked them both for their kind words.

16. Any Other Business

As there was no other business Pauline Clegg presented the incoming Captain Marian Scowcroft with her Brooch and accepted her Past Captain's badge from Luci Foster. Lis Wilson and President Ruth Whitehead exchanged badges and Marian Scowcroft presented Paula Latham with the Vice Captain's badge.

The incoming Captain, Mrs Marian Scowcroft:

County President, Vice President, Past Presidents, Captains, Honorary Members & Ladies,

I am delighted to be your County Captain for 2015.

2015 is a very important year for Ladies golf in Cheshire as the Northern Counties County Match Week is to be held at Sandiway Golf Club on the 22nd to 26th of June. We had a very good result this year at Northumberland and we are determined to better than that next year. I do hope you will all come along to support the County Team and watch some excellent golf.

Since I first joined the County Executive in 2008, my heart has been with the junior girls, but we are seeing a reduction in girls at Clubs throughout the County. It is necessary for us all to support the

girls at our clubs in developing their talent as well as encouraging others to take up this fantastic sport.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my friends from Runcorn Golf Club and Delamere Forest Golf Club who have come along today. It means so much to me to see you all here.

I look forward to meeting you all during the year and I wish you all Good Golf and Good Health. Have a safe journey home.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm

**The next Annual General Meeting will be held at Vicars Cross Golf Club on
Monday, 9th November 2015 at 11.00am**