

The 78th Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association was held at Kesgrave Community Hall on Saturday 8th January 2011 at 10.30am

Present:

Mrs Mary Wilderspin	Captain
Mrs Sheila Jarvis Vice	Captain & 2nd Team Captain
Miss Ann Graves	Handicap Adviser
Mrs Anne Archer	EWGA Representative
Mrs Sue Cook	Acting Hon Secretary
Mrs Kay Anderson	Junior Organiser
Mrs Maureen Lloyd	Senior Organiser
Mrs Sandra Ball	Championships Organiser
Miss Hermione Scrope	Hon Treasurer
Mrs Alison Nielsen	Cranworth Organiser
Mrs Cynthia Stewart	Centenary/Coronation Foursomes Organiser
Mrs Tina Daubney	Division Meetings Organiser
Mrs Jeanette Longman	Acting Minutes secretary
Mrs Wendy Wootton	Suffolk Golf Partnership
Mrs Jane Izod	Weston Organiser

Together with 108 Members

Ann Graves introduced herself and issued an apology on behalf of the President, Mrs Judy Hamshere who, unfortunately, was unable to be present. Ann read the President's Report as follows:

President's Report

Good morning and welcome to you all to the 78th AGM of the Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association.

We have lost a number of friends over the last year so I would like you to stand in their memory

These include past lady captains:

Angie Calthorpe from Waldringfield, Eleanor Bryant from Bury, Esme Ellis from Bungay, Betty Reeve and Steph Stirrat from Felixstowe

Presidents of clubs:

Bunty Eek from Bungay

Dinah Greaney from Gorleston, played for the second team.

And Betty Wilkins from Aldeburgh who was County Champion in 1950 and 58 and County Captain 1970/71.

At the AGM last year I said I was going to try to be more considerate and understanding. Well apart from a few hiccups I hope I haven't done too badly. I must admit slow play on a golf course does push me to the limit.

I have thoroughly enjoyed traveling the country and county watching golf and chatting to people.

It's been a privilege, so far, being President.

One of my first jobs was to travel to Felixstowe to see Mo Pearson, who had just retired from the job of County Secretary. I was going to persuade her to run another Suffolk Golf Day; but she offered straightaway. Thank you once again for all the paperwork and organisation. Ann Graves and some of the committee ran the day really well. It was very successful. The Suffolk Golf Partnership donated some prizes, together with Sabona.

The date this year is Monday August 22nd at Hintlesham - please support the day ladies. .

I would like to thank all the golf clubs which have hosted our competitions last year. One must remember that our facility fees hardly compare with societies, bearing in mind we do not all spend too much in the bar. We are mindful of clubs needing to keep their books balanced as we are. Some lady golfers do not realise the work involved in organising their own sections at clubs; let alone the county. I must thank the ladies committees, and particularly Lady captains, for hosting EWGA and county competitions this year. It is most appreciated.

Some of our ladies and girls have had a particularly good golfing year.

Bev Waspe and Jane Holley, from Stowmarket, won the area coronation foursomes at Stowmarket and had a great time AND played well at St Andrews. They came 5th overall; even though they had the second best score. They said they were looked after so well they didn't want to come home.

Mariette Robbertse and Melanie Lesser, from Bury St Edmunds, also qualified for the Ping 4 ball better ball competition; and were really unlucky to lose out on first place, on countback, in the Ping Plate in Lincolnshire.

The pairing of Ann Maskell and Anna Fairs, from Felixstowe, fought their way to the Finals weekend of the Daily Mail Foursomes at San Pierre. They won their match in the morning but lost in the afternoon.

Heidi, once again, has had a marvellous year. Kay will tell you all the details later. It included winning the Girls Championships at Felixstowe with a new course record of 66 and winning the US Junior Masters very recently.

I was thrilled to see two of our Juniors mentioned on the back page of the latest Ladies Links. Heidi with her ranking in the order of merit as Englands 7th girl and Alice Barlow playing 5 under her handicap at Newton Green. Well done.

In my travels I have bumped in to Judi Walker who was either in her referee armbands; chairing the East Delegates meetings or organising events. I know she is very busy with all the other committees she has to attend. Keep up the good work. I think she is even doing more mileage than me. As some of you know, The English Golf Union and the English Womens Golf Association are attempting a merger - more news of that in the EWGA report later.

Now for something entirely different - the 100 club. Sue Cook organised this, rather like everything else she does - extremely well and efficiently. The first draw (of the annual 4 draws) was carried out at the Delegates meeting in November - and to my surprise, the first ticket I picked out belonged to Anne Archer!!!! At least it wasn't mine.

Talking of money: I would like to thank Detmar Hackman of Sabona International for sponsorship this year.

In November our new Website went live, thanks to a lot of hard work, mainly from George Hazell. Without his knowledge of websites and IT expertise we would not have been able to set it up so well. EBE Limited were used as the web designers; they gave us very good service and continue to do so.

Julie Latimer Jones spent many hours putting data on to the site and even SHE has said she learnt a lot from her involvement. All this takes time - to which we thank both George and Julie. Julie continues to cover Ladies and girls golf in the Norfolk/ Suffolk Golfer magazine and is also one of our scratch score assessors (the other one is Sue Cook).

I do hope you will all add to the newpage on the website - we have suggested that Club Ladies choose one Lady as website liaison. Julie will collect all the news and with her ability with words will make even the mundane sound interesting. I must not forget Jeanette Longman who became involved with the new website recently. Not only has she helped out with taking County minutes, as we can see now, but she has agreed to be County Secretary this year and be one of the website assistant managers.

Tony Garnett continues to cover all the girls and ladies news in the East Anglian Daily Times.

The Governing Body was guided very ably through the year by Ann Graves, who was elected Chairman at the first Governing Body Meeting. There are quite a few of us around the table and we

have a lot of business to get through - so we need a strong chair. Thank you Ann.

As you probably know, we have had a lot of discussion about the county competitions. The Delegates meetings help the county committee a great deal in finding out all your ideas and moans. From the latter we have agreed, in the Cranworth, to have a 2 year trial with neutral courses. This was tried many years ago but we will try again to see if it is a workable format.

It was decided to split the Haskell and Stearn draws and, in so doing, allow the Haskell to be played on a mutually agreed date, up until the final. My plea is to all of you to make the Haskell the important competition that it is. Clubs tend to have trials for the Stearn and the Cranworth and assume that a pair will be found, at some time, for the Haskell. Be proud of your best pair, promote their names, put them up on the board. Please would all lady captains send their Haskell dates to the county secretary and organiser, so we know when they are being played.

When we looked at the Weston we felt we needed more time, and further discussion, to see what should be done following your input. We have brought back the semi final for the Weston trophy and will look into it more this year.

Please tell us how these changes are affecting you as the year progresses.

You will see later on that we have to say goodbye to some of our hard working committee and welcome some new faces. We do enjoy ourselves (well I at least do!) - even though we are busy. One of the reasons I am saying this is that we still do not have a Minutes Secretary, since Maggie Rudd left for New Zealand. For someone with Secretarial and basic IT skills, this job should not be too onerous. We will have to employ somebody if no one comes forward. I do not want to use county money for that, and I am sure you don't either. Please ask around your club members so that it doesn't come to that situation.

The Secretary read the notice to convene the meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Judy Hamshere (President), Cynthia Robinson (Competition Organiser), Claudia Long (Flempton), Tessa Summers (Aldeburgh), Angie Lewis (The Suffolk), Karen Perridge (Hintlesham) and Claire Wass (Woodbridge), together with 276 apologies from members and Clubs

2 Minutes of AGM 2010

There being no amendments, the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 23rd January 2010, which had been circulated to clubs and approved, were duly signed by Ann Graves as a true copy.

3 Matters Arising AGM 2010

There were no matters arising.

4 Reports and Accounts for 2009/2010

It was agreed that these be taken together and adopted en bloc

(a) County Captain's Report (including Competition Organisers Reports) – Mrs Mary Wilderspin

It has been an honour to be your captain for the past two years. I really don't know where the time has gone.

We had some excellent practice matches last year and I would like to thank the clubs who hosted them and the gentlemen who played against us.

The **County Championship** was held at Stowmarket and our thanks go to the club, the Lady Captain and all her helpers during the 3 days.

The Stroke play was won by Blaize Esmond with a gross score of 160 and the runner up was Sarah Howe with 161 only 1 shot behind.

Trudy Read won the net score with 146 and the runner up was Jo Jo Hamer Philip with 149.

In the Semi finals of the matchplay Charlie Damonsing played Lizzie Laflin and Lil James played Vicki Inglis.

Vicki and Lizzie got through to the final with Vicki winning the title.

Congratulations to them all.

County Week

County Week this year was very different from previous years.

Due to various circumstances 5 of our better players couldn't take part, so we took 3 players who had never played in County Week before and 4 who had only played once before.

On Sunday 13th June we went to West Herts Golf Club with a very excited and happy team. They all thought the course was excellent and looked forward to the challenge ahead.

The first day we played Bedfordshire, although we lost 8 and 1 - 7 out of the 9 matches went to either the 17th or 18th hole.

Day 2 we played Essex and lost 3 ½ to 5 ½

Day 3 & 4 we played Cambs & Hunts and Hertfordshire, losing both days.

On the last day we met Norfolk.

The morning foursomes finished all square but after some very exciting matches in the afternoon, Norfolk managed to gain an extra point with the overall result 5 : 4 to Norfolk.

I would like to thank both Judy and Sheila for helping me during the week, the ladies who came to support the team and the caddies who did such a brilliant job.

I must of course thank you the team for all your efforts. Everyone of you gained points during the week and although we didn't win I was really proud of you all, the way you tried and kept so cheerful even when games weren't going your way.

Our congratulations go to Hertfordshire who won County Week and then went on to win the County Finals.

Division Meetings

Division 4 was held at Haverhill. The winner was Victoria Clarke from The Suffolk and The Suffolk won the shield.

Angela Chapman from Newton Green won Division 3 which was held at Waldringfield. There was a tie for the Shield between Haverhill and Felixstowe.

Division 2 was held at Rushmere, Liffy Reeves from Bury St Edmunds won the scratch prize and the Shield was won by Woodbridge.

Division 1 was played at Bury St Edmunds and was won by Mariette Robbertse of Bury and the shield was won by Bury.

The Centenary Foursomes were played at Felixstowe Ferry and 28 pairs took part. The winners from Felixstowe were Maureen Pearson and Sylvia Studd.

Thirty eight pairs took part in the **Coronation Foursomes** which was held at Ipswich. The winners from Ipswich were Vicki Hunt and Kay Anderson.

Our thanks go to the clubs who hosted these competitions, the Lady Captains and the ladies who assisted in running them.

The Knockout Competitions

Weston

The final of the Weston was played at Flempton, Felixstowe won the trophy beating Aldeburgh. Hintlesham beat Newton Green for the Sue Birrell plate in Division 2

Cranworth

In the semi finals of the Cranworth Felixstowe beat Newton Green at Gorleston and Cretingham beat Woodbridge at Rushmere.

Felixstowe went on to win the Trophy.

Stearn

In the Stearn Semi Finals Felixstowe met Woodbridge at Aldeburgh and Gorleston met Stowmarket at Woodbridge, with Felixstowe and Gorleston going on to the Final

Felixstowe won the trophy.

Haskell

The Semi finals of the Haskell was between Ipswich and Felixstowe and Aldeburgh and Rushmere

In the final, played at Bury St Edmunds, Aldeburgh beat Ipswich.

Suffolk Golf Day

One hundred and four ladies took part in the Suffolk Golf Day at Hintlesham last year. We raised £1100 and our thanks go to Hintlesham for their hospitality, to Ann Graves for organising such a successful event and to all the ladies who played.

Governing Body

I have had a lot of support from all the ladies on the Governing Body this year. You have all worked extremely hard and I would like to say Thank you very much to all of you.

A special thank you goes to **Judy, our County President**, who has been very helpful and supportive for the last 12 months. Everything she does she does with a smile. Thank you Judy and we wish you a speedy recovery.

Thank you **Ann** for standing in Judy's shoes today and for chairing the GB meetings throughout the year

The ladies who are leaving the Governing Body

Jane Izod - Jane has been our Weston Organiser for the last 2 years. Thanks Jane for all your help, you have done an excellent job.

Cynthia Stewart - Cynthia has been on the GB for 3 years, for the last 2 years she has organised and run the Coronation & Centenary Foursomes and organised dates and venues for the Division meetings. You have been very enthusiastic and efficient, thank you Cynthia. You've done a great job.

Sue Cook - As we were unable to find a replacement for Mo, our previous secretary, Sue very kindly offered to take on the role. You really have done a splendid job Sue and put so much time and effort into it. Every time I switched my computer on there seemed to be E-mails from you. Thank you very much we really do appreciate all you have done.

That brings me to the end of my report. I would like to thank all of you for your support during my two years as captain and I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2011.

Ann Graves, on the President's behalf - Thank you for all you have done over the last 4 years on the Governing Body. You took on a huge commitment, **as I know**, as Vice Captain and Captain; certainly not an easy task. However, with experience, you have grown into your job and proved your capability. I have found it fun working with you during this last year.

(b) Second Team Captain's Report – Mrs Sheila Jarvis

The second team began 2010 with their annual match against the junior girls. This was held on April 11th at Fynn Valley Golf Club. The sun shone all day but the players had a very strong wind to contend with. Suffolk junior girls always field a very strong side and this year was no exception. We always try very hard to win this match as it is our first of the year – however, as usual, we were outplayed by our very talented youngsters and chalked up yet another defeat against the girls, losing by 2 ½ points to 3 ½.

Our first county match was against Norfolk at Rookery Park Golf Club on June 4th.

It was an absolutely perfect day for golf and the course was looking very good. Hopes were high at lunchtime as we came in with 2 out of the 3 foursomes going our way. With 6 singles in the afternoon, it all looked very promising. As each match finished, it soon became obvious that it wasn't going to be that easy. As it turned out we only had the one match that went our way, although one other went to the 18th and another finished on the 17th so we had made a valiant effort. Despite this the final result was Suffolk 3 – Norfolk 6.

For our second match on the 23rd June we were off to The Suffolk Golf Club to play against Essex. Essex have always proved to be a very strong side and it was no surprise to us to be 2 – 1 down after the morning foursomes. Nevertheless there were 6 singles to go for in the afternoon. Regrettably we found these just as difficult to win and it was not until the final two matches finished that we gained a point from each of them. Yet again it gave us a final result which was Suffolk 3 - Essex 6.

We travelled to Caddington Park for our third match and this was against Bedfordshire. I couldn't help but think that we didn't want to make it three losses in a row. I needn't have worried a bit though, with honours even after the morning games, both teams went out in the afternoon full of determination. Thankfully we were more determined than Beds and just nosed ahead by one point in the singles to bring in our first win of the year. The result of Suffolk 5 - Bedfordshire 4.

Two weeks later we were off to Diss Golf Club to play against Cambs & Hunts. Things were definitely on the up and we posted 2 ½ points to ½ in the morning.

Unfortunately it was a completely different story in the afternoon and we were only ahead in one match as the pairs came through at the 13th. Suffolk battled well over the closing holes and it became a real nail biter with the whole match resting on the final put of the final game on the eighteenth green. Things were at last going our way and the resulting half gave us the match. Again Suffolk 5 - Cambs & Hunts 4.

The last match took place on finals day which was held at Old Fold Manor Golf Club in Hertfordshire. We were playing the host club and despite being August 16th, supposedly our summer, a very cold wind blew and everyone had to put on an extra layer or two to keep warm. All the games were keenly contested and we came in with a lead of 2 – 1 after the morning foursomes. Very encouraged with their lead, the team went out in the afternoon and didn't disappoint. With birdies and pars the norm, the vital 3 points came our way and secured our third win of the year. Another result of Suffolk 5 - Herts. 4.

What a brilliant year this was for the second team, a great improvement on the previous year giving us three out of the five county matches.

The final overall result was:

1 st	Essex	4 points
2 nd	Norfolk	3 ½ points
3 rd	Suffolk	3 points
3 rd	Cambs & Hunts	3 points
5 th	Herts	1 point
6 th	Beds	½ point

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the courses that we used for our matches - Fynn Valley, Rookery Park, The Suffolk and Diss.

My thanks also go to Judy, our president, and to Mary, our 1st team captain, for their support throughout the year.

The team has achieved a great result for the year and I would like to thank all those who have taken part and played with such great enthusiasm and determination. It has been a pleasure to have been with you these last two years and I have enjoyed it immensely. Keep up the good work and good luck for 2011.

Ann Graves, on the President's behalf - Thank you Sheila. I always felt there was a wonderful atmosphere at all the matches which was in no small part to your efforts. I could see that you were enjoying yourself. I wish you all the very best for the next 2 years as captain.

(c) Junior Organiser's Report – Mrs Kay Anderson

2010 has been a year of change, and also of outstanding individual progress.

Regular events such as the April Texas Scramble, the Lady/Junior Foursomes and the Autumn meeting continued on the familiar pattern, but pressure of numbers in 2009 led to the 2010 Junior Championship being split between Felixstowe Ferry in May half term, and the High Handicap events held at St. Audry's in August. At Felixstowe, 17 girls played Medal or Stableford; Heidi Baek successfully defended the Moss Blundell trophy and again won the Daily Telegraph qualifier, reducing her handicap to +2.5 with a gross 66 on her home course. Eloise Aldous (Newton Green) won the Handicap Plate, and Melissa Schroeder (Rushmere) won the Stableford trophy. The top 8 players from the Championship were eligible for the Matchplay Championship, won by Sarah Howe (Ipswich) who beat Eloise Aldous in the final.

Fifteen girls played at St. Audry's, where we received a very warm welcome on our first visit to the club. Amy Bray (Diss) won the Birdie Cup. 24 girls played in the Autumn meeting, again held at Purdis; Blaize Esmond (Aldeburgh) won the scratch prize and Emily Rothwell (Woodbridge) the Handicap prize. It is worth noting that when this Autumn event was first played 5 years ago, only 4 girls could play on the main course, whereas now almost all have handicaps. In the Lady/Junior Foursomes, played at Waldringfield, the SVLGA trophies were won by the mother and daughter duo of Michelle Wilce (Fynn Valley) and Abbie Symonds (Ipswich), with 40 points, which we think is probably a record.

The Little League has not been played this year due to difficulties with player availability, but it is hoped that Newton Green will be challenged for the title in 2011.

The Girls 1st. team had useful practice matches against Ipswich Juniors and the SLCGA 2nd. team, and fared better in this year's county matches, beating Beds., and Herts., drawing with Norfolk, but losing narrowly to Essex and Camb.&Hunts., to finish 4th.out of 6, with Essex beating C+H to the title in a close match. Our Girls' 2nd. team had another splendid summer, however, losing only to a more experienced Essex side, and also beating Haverhill boys. Thanks go to Sheila Laws and Pam Ratford, the team managers for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

In the County Championship at Stowmarket, Blaize Esmond won the Strokeplay from Sarah Howe, with Jo-Jo Hamer-Philip (Aldeburgh) very close behind. There is now a healthy overlap between Girls' and Ladies' teams - Sarah and Blaize again played for the Ladies in County Week at West Herts., although Heidi and Jo-Jo were ruled out by public exam commitments. Charlotte Double (Seckford) and Charlotte Fawdry (Ipswich) were involved in Ladies' 2nd. team training and matches.

Five girls played in the English Girls Championships at Seacroft, where Heidi finished equal 3rd. She also came equal 9th.in the British Girls Championships at Royal Belfast.

Sarah Howe had an excellent 1st round in the English Women's Strokeplay and was unlucky to miss the cut.

Blaize Esmond won the scratch prize at the East Anglian Ladies Championship, on the day which saw Charlotte Double win the handicap prize; Charlotte also won the afternoon scratch prize at the East Junior Championship, in which Essex again figured very strongly.

EWGA no longer supports Birdie training in counties with an established County Golf Partnership, so in 2010 the Suffolk Golf Academy came into being, providing a comprehensive programme for girls and boys aged 9-15, with the proviso that at least 25% of the participants must be girls. Children were selected via Talent Days and on the recommendation of SLCGA and SGU; in the event more than 100 children have been involved at 3 centres. This has been a major advance, particularly in terms of the number of girls able to access this training, and it has contributed to some spectacular handicap reductions.

Sarah Howe and Blaize Esmond are taking part in the new Applied Award in Sporting Excellence programme for players aged 16+ who are still in full-time education, with handicaps of 6 or better; it will lead to an NVQ qualification. Sarah has also achieved the Level 1 PGA certificate for coaches.

Around 60 girls, in 4 groups, attended junior training from March to October, coached by Sarah Wilson at Bramford, and by Andrew Collison at Bungay, assisted by Junior Committee members and helpers. The Beginners group at Bramford will have space for new girls, as others move up, so if there are girls in your clubs who are interested, please let us know. Training is funded via grants from EWGA and the ELGA Trust, and from the girls' subscriptions, but for 2010 EWGA stipulated that 25% of the grant had to be used to promote golf for Women aged 18-40. This was not a popular move among the CJO's in the East Region, as it took money away from Junior development, but in the event Bramford GC and Felixstowe GC ran very successful sessions to enable us to fulfil the requirement, and we thank them for this help.

A further EWGA stipulation was that any event covered by their funding must take place at a Golfmark or Rangemark venue - we are fortunate to have a good number of such venues in Suffolk, but there are some local courses which are ideal, especially for the younger girls, that do not come into this category.

The Handicap Challenge again produced some outstanding statistics: 6 girls were awarded vouchers for a 30% reduction in handicap, including 2 who achieved 50% reductions, and 8 received certificates for achieving a full or junior handicap. It is encouraging that more clubs are using the junior handicap system as a stepping stone to a full handicap. In all 28 girls reduced their handicaps. Vouchers also went to the winners of the 4 sections in the Order of Merit - Sarah Howe, Melissa Schroeder, Charlotte Wells (Woodbridge) and Sarah-Jane Barker (Rookery Park). We would like to thank Sheila Laws for maintaining this order of merit.

Other noteworthy individual achievements in 2010 include Heidi Baek - winner of US Junior Masters in Florida, best qualifying girl for Telegraph Final in Abu Dhabi, 7th. in EWGA Girls order of merit, England Girls international caps, handicap now +3;

Sarah-Jane Barker - Ransomes Jacobsen Young Golfer Award;

Alice Barlow (Newton Green) - SCGP Academy Award for Progress, national coverage for winning Mabel Oliver Cup;

Holly Davies (Stowmarket) - SCGP Young Volunteer Award; Blaize Esmond - Suffolk Schools Champion;

Melissa Schroeder - Suffolk Schools U16 Champion, member of Rushmere team placed 3rd. out of 14 in Junior Home Nations Champs.;

Abbie Symonds - South Suffolk Schools Scratch trophy;

Charlie Woodage - raised £400 in a charity golf marathon;

and Holly Davies, Antonia Ridley and Eleanor Tindall were presented with the Laddie Lucas award at Wentworth for their work with the Girls Allowed project at Stowmarket GC. We would also not

want to forget Sheila Laws who won was awarded the Suffolk Golf Volunteer of the Year 2010 - Services to Golf/Lifetime Achievement.

We are most grateful for continuing support from SVLGA and from the ladies of Aldeburgh GC, and to Top That Publishing and individuals who have donated prizes, which are always welcome. We also rely greatly on the goodwill of clubs who accept our fixtures, and of the Lady Captains and members who give unfailing support with our events. To them, and to our junior coaches, we give our sincere thanks. Our extensive junior programme could not be delivered however without the commitment and support of the Junior Committee, to which we welcomed Sue Cook (Aldeburgh) and more recently Beverley Waspe (Stowmarket). Everyone contributes time, effort and ideas, so to them and our other helpers I extend most sincere thanks. We have again been fortunate to have County Captain Mary working with us, and taking a particular interest in the progress of the girls attending training at Bungay.

Congratulations to our Junior Captain, Sarah Howe, on a successful year, leading by example, and reducing her handicap to 3; her successor, Blaize Esmond, received her Junior Colours in 2009, and, like Sarah, plays for both the Ladies' and Girls' 1st. teams, and is also ambitious about her golf. We wish her a very successful year in 2011.

This is my 3rd. annual report, and I feel that much progress has been made in that time; a good working relationship has been established with the Suffolk Academy, to the benefit of our girls, we are adapting to the more competitive environment of the East region, and Suffolk girls have again shown that they are capable of making a wider impact beyond the County. It has been a real pleasure to work with the girls and the Junior committee, and with the Governing Body, and I am confident that we can continue to move forward in 2011.

Ann Graves, on the President's behalf - Kay, thank you for all the news. You have been very busy, as have the rest of the committee. You must be very proud of all the girls and their results this year. It is always good to see that Juniors are in the first and second teams and involved in joint training. At the same time you encourage all girls at all levels. I certainly enjoy being involved with all the girls and travelling around the country watching them.

(d) Senior Report – Mrs Maureen Lloyd

I enjoyed my first year as Senior Organiser very much. Suffolk Senior Ladies are a very friendly but competitive group, and all of our matches have been great fun with an excellent standard of golf.

We played our first match as always against the Suffolk County Senior men at Newton Green. As it was their “home” match, they deemed that we should play the match as 4BBB – off scratch. Sadly we all lost that day. I think next year, especially as we are the home side, we will be demanding a few shots, one way or another. Hopefully that might make a difference to the overall result. I would like to say thank you to the Lady Captain of Newton Green, who was there to greet us and made us all most welcome.

We met Norfolk at Gorleston. We played one and a half holes in the rain, then it turned out warm and sunny, with the usual “breeze” that you always expect on that course. The match result, 3 – 1 to Suffolk.

The match against Essex was played at Braintree. As you all well know, there are some very low handicap ladies in Essex and they once again fielded an extremely strong side. We lost 4 nil.

We travelled a bit further to Mowsbury Golf Club for our match against Beds. After their Captain sorted out a slight hiccup with the booking times, we all enjoyed the day. A win for Suffolk 2.1/2 - 1.1/2.

Purdis Heath, Ipswich was the venue for the match against Cambs & Hunts. We did have some rain during the match, but the course played well and resulted in another win for Suffolk 3 - 1.

Our last match was played against the Suffolk County Vets in the most appalling conditions – the rain came down throughout the whole match, in stair rods. I had the pleasure that day of playing with the County President and we had a most enjoyable day, despite the conditions. A win for the Seniors 2.1/2 - 1.1/2. Well done to all of those who braved the weather.

So we played six matches in all – won 4 and lost 2 – I think a most successful year.

Just before I took over this role from Judy Taylor, Hertfordshire had contacted the County to inform them of their efforts to instigate a proposal to change the way our Ladies Senior County Golf is currently played. They suggested that there could be a County Senior's League. For example, to be played in much the same way as the County 1st and 2nd Teams, which would mean teams playing singles matches against each other. Whereas now, in case some of you don't know, we play all of our games as 4BBB matches. Correspondence was exchanged between all the County Senior Ladies we currently play against, and the immediate reaction, including that of Suffolk Senior Ladies, was that we were not too happy about this recommendation, and would really prefer to continue to play as now, i.e., just on a friendly basis, and with no league. Most felt they had kind of "been there, worn the T-Shirt", and had in their younger days, played to a good standard of competitive golf when playing for 1st and 2nd teams, but were now happy just to play their competitive golf on a more relaxed "friendly" basis.

Having told you of this proposal, and for now, we carry on as we are, with all our friendly matches fixed for 2011 as in previous years. However, whatever the County Committee decide to do about this proposal in the future, I am sure they will be able to count on the continued support of the County's Senior Ladies.

Again, many thanks to all those ladies who played in matches this year. It has been a pleasure to organise Senior golf on your behalf.

Ann Graves, on the President's behalf - Thanks Maureen for your report. All the matches you organised were played in a relaxed but competitive manner and I am sure enjoyed by all. I was lucky enough you picked me for 2 games. Thanks very much.

(e) E.W.G.A. Report – Mrs Anne Archer

This has been my first year as the County's EWGA Representative and I would like to thank all the Delegates for giving so freely of their time and for their support and input at the 4-meetings held during 2010.

I hope we have covered our remit of acting as the conduit between the Clubs & EWGA. This has meant we have covered a wide range of subjects, from promoting initiatives to attract new lady golfers, where I must mention the strong lead given by Felixstowe, to Distance Measuring Devices (DMD's) and following our feedback we saw the re-structuring of certain county competitions, being the trial of neutral courses for the Cranworth, separating the Haskell & Stearn and playing a semi-final in the Weston. Our 100-Club has been launched – our thanks go to Sue Cook - and we hope that when entries re-open later this year there will be an even greater take-up of this opportunity.

At this point I would like to emphasise that all our discussions form a forum of debate and no formal decisions can be taken. We can only advise the relative bodies of the broader views throughout the county.

The Merger between the EGU & EWGA has still not materialised. Discussions will continue for at least the next 4/5 months and you will of course be kept informed.

I would like to thank Judy for her support and attendance.

Finally, can I suggest that you keep abreast of the Suffolk & EWGA Websites as these contain much useful information.

Ann Graves, on the President's behalf - Anne, thank you. Also many thanks for chairing all the delegates meetings this year. These meetings, as I said earlier, do give all clubs a direct involvement in County decisions.

The vast majority of Lady golfers are not what you might call interested in the workings of EWGA. Most just want to play their golf. We are lucky therefore that Anne spends a good deal of her time sifting through all the information and keeping us up to date.

(f) Competition Secretary' Report

This Report has already been covered in the County Captain's Report given by Mary.

(g) Treasurer's Report – Miss Hermione Scrope

I hope that you have all had a chance to have a look at the accounts, a copy of which has been sent to every club.

As you will see we have had a very good year. There are various reasons for this, the first of which is that this was the first year of the increased rate of subscriptions. We also had another Suffolk Golf day in August which raised over £1,000 thanks to the efforts of the organising Committee. This year we had more people playing in the county competitions which again boosted the funds.

On the expenditure side we managed to reduce the expenditure on the teams due to the lower cost of county week and the reduction in the amount of team coaching.

We launched the 100 Club during the year but the first draw did not take place until after the year end and so the effect of the 100 Club is not reflected in these accounts.

Although we have had a good year we should not be complacent and need to bear in mind the following. As you know County Cards are sold throughout the county and we receive a percentage of the profit on these sales. However, the sales of the cards have been dropping over the past few years and this trend looks like continuing.

The entries for the Knock Out Competitions is down for 2011. We are an aging population and this is reflected in both the number of subscriptions we receive and also the number of people playing in the competitions.

The accounts for the year have incorporated the accounts of the Juniors for the first time.

Ann Graves, on the President's behalf - Thank you Hermione very much for your report and your work with the finances. Thanks to you we are able to continue to hold the finance sub committee. You produce regular accounts to keep us up to speed with our budget and give sound advice to us all during the year. Hermione has also been involved with the setting up of the new website .

(g) Golf Development Report – Mrs Wendy Wootton

The Suffolk Golf Partnership has now been operating for nearly two years and with the hard work of our County Development Officer, Alastair Spink and the committee a great deal of progress has been made. GolfMark is a national scheme that identifies and recognises junior and beginner friendly golf facilities and to date there are 14 clubs who have achieved this accreditation, with 9 gaining the High Achiever award and a further 9 clubs are working towards their accreditation.

Any club affiliated to EGU or EWGA may apply to gain the GolfMark award and upon completion of the accreditation they will receive financial and ongoing support.

One Golfing Range has achieved RangeMark and it is felt that driving ranges are fundamental to golf development in England. They are an excellent starting point for the majority of newcomers and provide a variety of coaching and practice opportunities.

It is interesting to compare how successful Suffolk is regarding the GolfMark award, compared to other counties - Norfolk has 11 GolfMark clubs with 1 High Achiever. Essex has 11 GolfMark clubs with 4 High Achievers and Cambridge has 4 with 2 High Achiever status.

The County Academy Programme

2010 saw the introduction of our County Academy Programme. This National initiative is open to young golfers between the ages of 9 & 15

At the outset it was very important that this new scheme would integrate into our already highly successful county coaching programme for both boys and girls but that it would allow us to widen our net at the base of our coaching pyramid.

Eight Golf professionals were chosen to help launch the new project and three centres were then selected strategically around the County to host the coaching - Newton Green in the West, Bungay in the North and Bramford/Seckford would share the central location. Each centre would have either one or two lead coaches plus an Assistant and volunteer coach.

The existing Under 12's boy's squad together with nominations received by the Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association gave us a fantastic base for a squad of players. However, it was known that there must be more young golfers, maybe not members, maybe not even with a handicap that should have the opportunity to take advantage and be included within this new project. So local schools, youth clubs, golf clubs and ranges, Par 3 courses other sports clubs and other local organisations were approached and invited any would-be golfers along to an open trial for an assessment to join the squads.

We had nearly 140 children attend 3 talent days and from those, 104 (including those already nominated) were offered a place - 79 boys & 25 girls started their coaching in March 2010.

Each centre, provided 6 sessions of tuition covering a varied programme of topics to help with their development and hopefully prepare them for future County coaching. Each student received some fantastic resources to help with this continuity and were encouraged to keep in regular contact with their coaches in-between sessions.

Bringing you up-to-date, the first year's coaching has now been completed and we have received some fantastic results and feedback -

33 Academy boys were invited to attend a trial for the Under 14's squad. 11 of those successfully gained a place and one was offered a place in the A squad.

2 of the girls have reduced their handicap by approximately 50% - Alice Barlow (41 - 18) and Amy Bray (40 - 19), 2 more have reduced their handicap by 30% and 2 more girls have reduced their handicap by 20% or more: Furthermore 3 Academy girls have achieved their first CONGU handicaps

Level 1 Workshop

We have just hosted and funded our first Level 1 workshop. We now have 7 newly qualified Level 1 coaches that are "chomping at the bit" to be involved in projects next year!

Active Well Being

This project is probably best known by its other name "INTRODUCTION TO GOLF" and we were delighted to receive over £5,500 worth of funding from our County Sports Partnership, Suffolk Sport, to host projects around the County. These projects focus on increasing participation and physical activity opportunities for adults across Suffolk. Many sports and activities are included and we were delighted that golf would feature.

Sixteen golf clubs have been involved and approximately 300 new golfers have been introduced to the game through a structured series of tuition but also involving members of the host club that

would be on hand and introduce a social element to the learning. Virtually all clubs followed this tuition with further subsidized coaching and have in some cases gained new members.

Disability Project

Following a successful trial, The Suffolk Golf Partnership received £1,000 from England Golf to help fund six sessions with students with disabilities from the Suffolk New College. Five sessions were held at Rushmere Golf Club with 40 students aged between 16 and 21. Tri Golf equipment was used and the students were able to experience playing golf in a fun environment with a variety of activities. Due to the success of this project the Partnership has received a further funding of £4,000 to deliver similar coaching countywide.

Junior Awards

Ransomes Jacobsen have kindly agreed to sponsor our Junior awards. These awards are open to young golfers under the age of 15, whom golf clubs feel deserve recognition for their achievements in golf. They may have reduced their handicap, helped others within the club or perhaps achieved success in club competitions but this is not necessarily aimed at the best golfers within the club. Recipients are Sarah Jane Parker (Rookery Park) and Liam Merrit (Haverhill).

Website

Our new website is now fully operational and we were very pleased to be the first County in the Country to go live! As well as highlighting local events and activities etc this now also gives us live feeds into National News.

We are very keen for this, alongside the Union & Association websites, to be one of the main resources for golf in the County so please, please keep sending us through any information that we can feature.

Suffolk Golf Partnership Golf Development Conference

To end the year we organised our first Conference held at Fynn Valley Golf Club, who we would like to thank. We had over 100 delegates attend the Conference and after listening to our Chairman, Colin Firmin, our Regional Development Officer, Steven Peet and our County Development Officer Alastair Spink, the evening ended with the County Golf Partnership Awards – the winners are:-

Ransomes Jacobsen County Academy Awards - Jack Cuthbert (Bungay), Alice Barlow (Newton Green) and Jamie Hurren (Ipswich)

Young Volunteer of the Year – Holly Davies from Stowmarket – this was for her Exception work with the junior section.

GolfMark Club of the Year – Sue Strutt-Holmes and Peter Walker from Bungay

Suffolk Golf Volunteer of the Year 2010-Services to Golf/Lifetime Achievement – Sheila Laws from Ipswich

Volunteer Coach of the Year – Graham Hurren

Golf Club Development Volunteer of the Year – Wendy Wootton from Felixstowe

Looking forward to 2011

Our main aim will be to focus on 16+ projects and we will be contacting all clubs in the New Year to invite participation in a Countywide project. This will be along very similar lines to our current Active Well Being events.

However, we are also more than happy for clubs to apply directly to the Partnership should they have an initiative or project that they feel we may be able to help with. This might involve funding but it might just be for assistance with marketing and spreading the word or gaining access to other organizations and resources. You may be looking for an idea for an Open day theme or looking for

some positive suggestions and events that have worked in other areas. Please remember the Partnership is here to help everyone!

Ann Graves on the President's behalf - Wendy , thank you. Where do you get the time to do all you do. No wonder you were nominated as volunteer of the year. I know you really enjoy your work with the Felixstowe juniors. Your role as secretary in the Suffolk Golf Partnership is just one of the jobs you carry out. We are very lucky in this county to have Alastair Spink as the county development officer; his easy manner is a breath of fresh air, compared to some. Congratulations to Sheila Laws for her award.

The Reports were proposed for acceptance by Mrs Wendy Hayes of Ufford Park and seconded by Mrs Tricia Galleway of Waldringfield GC. They were carried unanimously.

5 Election and Re-Election of Officers and Members of the Governing Body

The Secretary read out the names of those members who were retiring:

Mary Wilderspin	-	County Captain
Susan Cook	-	Hon. Secretary
Cynthia Stewart	-	Competition Organiser (<i>Foursomes</i>)
Jane Izod	-	Competition Organiser (<i>Weston Trophies</i>)
Maggie Rudd	-	Minute Secretary

Ann Graves, on the President's behalf - All the ladies on the Governing Body have worked very hard this year. Those retiring deserve time now to concentrate on their golf and their lives; perhaps that is not in the right order.

I am particularly impressed with the way all the committee have helped each other out irrespective of their job title.

I have spoken about Mary, our Captain; I will certainly miss her .

Cynthia, who was the Competitions co-ordinator, and in the last year was also Lady Captain at Waldringfield, managed to organise the coronation and centenary foursomes and the bookings with apparent ease. I am very pleased to say that she has agreed to be co-opted for another year to pass on her valuable knowledge to the other organisers.

Maggie was excellent as Minute Secretary so it was a shock to find out she was emigrating to New Zealand. I am pretty sure it was nothing to do with her involvement with us. Let's hope she is enjoying her new life there.

Jane has overseen the Weston competitions and last year collated all your thoughts about the present format. She has calmly and efficiently performed all her duties; for which I thank her.

Who is left? Sue Cook. Despite being on the Committee for innumerable years in various capacities; this time last year she valiantly took on the role of Secretary when no one else was prepared to do so. She has, as expected, carried out the many tasks in a thoroughly professional manner. It will be strange not having you at the meetings and functions. I have appreciated having your knowledge at the end of a phone so don't go too far away as I may want to call you. I am really pleased that you have joined the Junior Committee so I will see you there.

The Secretary read out the names of those who would remain in office for the coming year:

Judy Hamshere	-	County President
Ann Graves	-	Handicap Advisor
Hermione Scrope	-	Treasurer
Kay Anderson	-	Junior Organiser
Anne Archer	-	EWGA Representative

Maureen Lloyd	-	Senior Organiser
Competition Organisers:-		
Tina Daubney	-	Cretingham - a further 1 year
Sandra Ball	-	Aldeburgh - a further 1 year
Alison Neilson	-	Bungay - a further 2 years
Cynthia Robinson	-	Ipswich - a further 2 years

The Secretary read the names of those ladies nominated Officers of the Association and asked them to stand when their name was called:

Sheila Jarvis	-	County Captain
Laura Lowe	-	County Vice-Captain/2 nd Team Captain
Jeanette Longman	-	Hon. Secretary
No Nominations	-	Minute Secretary

The Secretary read the names of those ladies nominated as Competition Organisers to stand for three years:

Claudia Long	-	Flempton (Foursomes)
Pam Ratford	-	Haverhill (Weston Trophies)

Ann Graves, on the President's behalf, made a further plea for a Minute Secretary and asked everyone to ask at their respective Clubs.

The nominations were proposed en bloc by Ms Linda Warner of Woodbridge GC and seconded by Mrs Nicky Gray of Aldeburgh GC. They were carried unanimously.

Mary presented the Captain's badge to Sheila and wished her well in her new role. Sheila thanked Mary and then presented the Vice-Captain's badge to Laura.

Ann Graves, on the President's behalf - On behalf of us all in the Association I would like to welcome the newly elected members, I hope they will enjoy their time on the Governing Body. We are grateful to them for their willingness to serve on the Association.

For our purposes this morning the present officers will continue to conduct the business of the meeting.

6 Any Other Business

Judi Walker of Stowmarket emphasised that the ELGA Trust exists because we want it and, because of the reduction in grants, she wanted Clubs to aware of this when raising funds – fundraising and merchandise are the only means of income.

Judi also thanked everyone who had given their email addresses when registering on arrival today - this would enable electronic versions of the newsletter to be sent out to a wider audience and she felt that it would also assist with gaining sponsorship

Finally, Julie issued a plea for us to keep up to date with the merger and to be aware of its advantages – roadshows and DVDs will be available to explain it more fully. She emphasised that the delegates do have the opportunity for input and how important it was to ensure communication channels are kept open. When the merger goes ahead, every Club member will be represented by one person (whether male or female)

Ann Graves (Handicap Adviser and Representative of EWGA – GB Committee) stated that a poll from all Clubs had been taken and confirmed that three cards are required to keep an active handicap.

Vivien Cullen – Thorpeness made the observation that Haskell was perceived as being the major county competition and asked why the Cranworth will be the only county competition to be played on neutral courses during 2011.

Ann Graves replied that it had been agreed to trial just the Cranworth in order to determine whether playing each round on neutral courses is successful. If, after feedback, it is deemed to have been a success, the Stearn and the Haskell will then be considered.

Ann Graves gave her thanks to Tina Daubney and Nina Nielsen for running the raffle, which raised £360, and to Alison Nielsen, Cynthia Stewart and Jane Izod for their work in the kitchen and keeping us all refreshed, which raised £34. The monies raised will go directly to Hermione to put in the county account – although a reminder was made that it may need to be used to fund a Minutes Secretary if nobody volunteered.

7 Presentations

The Silver Medal was awarded jointly to **Mrs Mariette Robbertsee** of Bury St Edmunds and **Mrs Tessa Summers** of Aldeburgh, with a nett differential of -7.

The Bronze Medal was awarded to **Miss Alice Barlow** of Newton Green with a nett differential of -17

Nigel Birrell Shield

Mary Wilderspin made the award and said the following words:

This year I have decided to give the Nigel Birrell Shield for services to the County to someone from the Governing Body.

After two extremely busy years as President, Sue would have liked to have had a rest but when we couldn't find anyone to take on the role as Secretary, Sue stepped in and, although she didn't want the job, has worked tirelessly all year and has done a brilliant job.

She found time to come to County Week and caddie for the girls, she helps with the juniors and is on the junior committee and has also been on the Partnership committee.

So, this year the Nigel Burrell Shield goes to Sue Cook.

Sue thanked Mary and said what a great honour it was. She has really enjoyed her time with the County and will treasure this Trophy.

Presentation of County Colours

Second Team Colours were presented to Jo-Jo Hamer-Philip (Aldeburgh) and Lynda Harvey-Arnell (Woodbridge).

Junior Colours were presented to Emily Rothwell (Woodbridge)

The Junior Captain's jumper was presented to Blaize Esmond (Aldeburgh)

Outgoing members of the Governing Body, Mary Wilderspin and Cynthia Stewart, were then presented with a small memento of their time on the Governing Body.

Sheila presented Mary, the outgoing Captain, with a gift in recognition and appreciation of all her hard work for the County over the past 4 years.

Ann Graves wished Judy a speedy recovery and announced that a card was available for anyone wishing to sign it.

On behalf of the President, Ann Graves reminded Club Captains (or their representatives) to collect their envelopes and Handbooks and to check their tickets for the main draw. She thanked everyone for coming and declared the meeting closed.

A vote of thanks to the Committee was given by Mrs Julie Latimer-Jones of Aldeburgh.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

President

Date