

The 81st Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association was held at Kesgrave Community Hall on Saturday 11th January 2014 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Mrs Pippa Beak	President
Mrs Laura Lowe	Captain
Mrs Sarah Saggars	Vice Captain
Ms Ann Graves	Handicap Adviser
Mrs Jeanette Longman	Hon Secretary
Mrs June Stack	Minutes Secretary
Miss Hermione Scrope	Hon Treasurer
Mrs Judy Hamshere	Junior Representative
Ms Chris Lynch-Bates	Championship Organiser
Mrs Anne Archer	England Golf Representative
Mrs Cynthia Stewart	Match & Competitions Venue Organiser
Mrs Jan Pattinson	Divisional Meetings Organiser
Mrs Claudia Long	Weston Organiser
Mrs Angela Middleton	Cranworth Organiser
Mrs Mary Wilderspin	Haskell & Stearn Organiser
Mrs Pat Kennedy	Foursomes Organiser
Mr Alastair Spink	Suffolk Golf Partnership

Together with 115 members

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Good Morning and welcome to the 81st AGM of the Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association.

Please would you all stand while we remember Pat Bing who died last year and was a Past Captain from Halesworth - and others in your memory

Thank you.

Where did 2013 go? We seemed to spend the first half of the year waiting for Spring and Summer – up until late June we were often out on the golf course dressed in thermals and waterproofs. And then it arrived – Wimbledon – the first week was cold and damp and then much to the Nations surprise, summer arrived and a Mens Champion – what excitement!!! To accompany the welcome sun and warmth there was some wonderful golf throughout the County and beyond.

Congratulations to Maureen Duckett and Joanna Crossell from Gorleston, who won the Regional LGU Peugeot Coronation Foursomes at Thetford with 43 points, 7 ahead of their rivals. They then went on to play the Eden Course at St Andrews and came 3rd overall.

Sarah Brownie and Rachel Mason from Flempton won through to the 6th round of the Daily Mail Foursomes.

Congratulations must go to two of our Junior Girls, Eloise Aldous and Alice Barlow. They both had an outstanding year being selected for the Ladies County Team, winning the Haskell Trophy and now selection for English Training. Well done girls – we are very proud of you.

Newton Green Ladies have done exceptionally well – they won the Haskell Trophy, the Cranworth Trophy and the Weston Plate. It is so encouraging to see a smaller Club doing so well – they have great support from their members wherever they go and a friendlier bunch of players and supporters you couldn't wish to meet.

On behalf of the Suffolk Ladies I would like to thank Detmar Hackman of Sabona International for sponsorship again last year. Mr Hackman also gives generously to our Suffolk Golf Day – once again this was a great success thanks to Chris Lynch Bates and her helpers and the generous facilities at Hintlesham. As this event is so popular it is being held again in August at Hintlesham.

Judi Walker continues to give most of her time to England Golf and is due for re-election in February as a non executive Director. Judi is also an R & A rules official and is very happy to come to Clubs to discuss rules.

I would like to extend a big thank you to the Governing Body who work so hard to ensure the Association runs smoothly and thank them for their support over the past two years.

The Secretary then read the Notice to convene the Meeting

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from:

Liz Robinson	Vicki Inglis
Nicola Tindall	Vanessa Bell
Eleanor Tindall	Lynne Wright (Ladies Captain, Bury St Edmunds)
Lils James	Ruth Goodship (Ladies Captain, St Audrys)

together with 243 apologies from members and Clubs.

2 MINUTES OF THE AGM 2013

There being no amendments or alterations required to the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 12th January 2013, copies of which had been circulated to all Clubs, the Minutes were approved and signed by Pippa Beak as a true copy.

3 MATTERS ARISING AGM 2013

There were no matters arising.

4 REPORTS & ACCOUNTS FOR 2012/2013

PRESIDENT:

The Reports were sent to all Clubs together with the Agenda and I hope you all have had the opportunity to read them.

These Reports will be taken together and, with your agreement, adopted en bloc.

Resumes of Reports were then given by the GB Members.

Report 4(a) County Captain's Report – Mrs Laura Lowe

After training sessions and practice matches the County Championship was held at Bury St Edmunds in May. Lily Kent won the stroke play and Sharon Luckman won the matchplay.

The Seniors' championship ran alongside the main championship. Liz Robinson won the strokeplay and Barbara Cole retained her matchplay title.

County Week was hosted by Bedford at the Bedfordshire Golf Club. We beat Norfolk and Bedford but lost against Essex, Cambs&Hunts and the eventual winners Hertfordshire.

We feel that this week is too long for a small county and in some regions a different format has been adopted. At the moment we are out voted by the larger counties in our region.

The Division meetings were well supported.

The Division 4 team event was won by Bungay with Wendy Walpole winning the individual.

The Division 3 team event was shared between Felixstowe and Bury St Edmunds with Jill Harris winning the individual.

The Division 2 team event was won by Woodbridge with Tessa Catchpole winning the scratch prize and Liffey Reeves the handicap prize.

The Division 1 team event was won by Ipswich with Fiona Edmond winning the scratch prize and Sally Cade the handicap prize.

The Centenary Foursomes at Rookery Park were won by Susan Fulcher and Anne Trueman.

The Coronation Foursomes at Felixstowe Ferry were won by Abbie Symonds and Michelle Wilce.

The Weston was won by Ipswich, the Weston plate by Newton Green.

The Haskell was won by 2 juniors, Alice Barlow & Eloise Aldous from Newton Green.

The Stearn was retained by Felixstowe.

The Cranworth was won by Newton Green.

The Jubilee Shield was won by Woodbridge.

We had another successful Golf Day at Hintlesham, sponsored by Sabona. The winners came from Woodbridge.

My first year as County Captain has flown by and I have learned so much. Members of the Governing Body all work so hard to ensure the smooth running of all the events I have been summarising. My grateful thanks to all of them. Thanks must also go to all the clubs who have hosted us and looked after us so well.

I must not forget Julie Latimer-Jones for all the coverage and entertaining reports on our website. If you wish for any further information on our activities then do pay a visit to the website.

Special thanks to our super secretary, Jeanette Longman, who keeps us all in order. She is always there with her trusty laptop sorting everything out. I am not fond of computers so I can only admire her skills.

We have to say goodbye to Pippa Beak as our President. She has graced the post for 2 years and has been a tower of strength in her support of us lesser mortals. She has represented the County with distinction as a player, 2nd Team Captain and now President. Her club, Flempton, will be pleased to have her back and they are fortunate to have her in their midst. Pippa, you are a great friend and support, enjoy your 'retirement', we thank you and we will miss you.

The President invited questions for Laura. None were raised.

President:

Thank you Laura for your report and kind words. I have enjoyed our year together and certainly your sense of humour on and off the course has been much appreciated by all of us!!

Report 4(b) Junior Report – Mrs Judy Hamshere

Once again our junior girls have worked hard at their game and have reduced their handicap - I am sure far more than the majority of most ladies!!

I have said many times that being with the girls and watching their enjoyment and enthusiasm for the game is a tonic - it is to be recommended.

A month ago I would have been saying to you all that the ladies on the Junior Committee are still without a Junior Organiser - well it's all change. We are delighted to say that Sarah Howe, who has been a member of the county juniors since she was very small, is willing to stand as County Junior Organiser. I remember her just managing to do a few holes on a nine hole course when she was very very young - to a single figure handicapper and then playing at county week - all in Suffolk. We are all very proud of her.

I am sure you will all give her support over the next few years; once you have confirmed her appointment later on in this meeting.

May I wish all the girls a good golfing year; especially this year as their county week is being held in Suffolk at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club.

Continue to enjoy the game of golf.

There were no questions for Judy.

President:

Thank you Judy. I have really enjoyed watching the juniors – their enthusiasm and etiquette is to be much admired. Good luck Sarah in your new role as Junior Organiser – I know you will receive a lot of support.

Report 4(c) Senior Report – Mrs Liz Robinson

President: Unfortunately Liz is unwell and cannot be with us today. Sarah (Saggers) will read her report instead.

This year the Seniors had an extra match, so in addition to the warm-up match against the senior county men, the four county matches and the finale against the Suffolk Vets we also played the county juniors – seven in all.

We played the men in April at Royal Worlington, four ball better ball, Hambro scoring off handicap and they proved too strong for us - we lost all four games.

Senior county matches are four four-ball games played off scratch. In May against Norfolk at Royal Norwich we were able to avenge last year's loss and won 3–1

In June we played Essex at Woodbridge and suffered a 3½-1½ defeat to a stronger and younger side.

In July we played Bedfordshire at Haverhill and we had a welcome win by three matches to one and just four days later we had a tight tussle against the Juniors at Newton Green. Playing six singles off scratch, and with handicaps evenly matched, the Seniors just managed to win by 3½-2½ .

August saw us at Cambridge Meridian playing Cambs and Hunts who won 3–1, although the lost matches were close.

Finally, in September, we played the Suffolk Vets at Aldeburgh – four foursomes off handicap. All matches were close and it ended with a 'friendly' half.

All in all a successful season. A big thank you to the twenty nine seniors who represented Suffolk and special thanks to all who stood in at the last minute. Apologies to those who were available but not selected.

My thanks to the clubs who gave us courtesy, were very welcoming and looked after us extremely well. Also to Julie Latimer Jones for all her reports and to Pippa, Laura and Jeanette for all their help and support.

I wish my successor the very best of luck and hope that she will enjoy her two years as much as I did mine.

President:

Liz has worked so conscientiously throughout her Captaincy, especially establishing the Senior Jubilee Shield which has proved VERY popular – we owe her our thanks and wish her a speedy recovery.

Report 4(d) England Golf Report – Mrs Anne Archer

This year has seen the appointment of David Joy as the new CEO, at England Golf. We are in the process of perfecting a strategic plan to take us through to 2017 and workshops and meetings are ongoing.

Unfortunately the Regional Meeting at Fynn Valley in October 2013 was poorly supported. However on a more positive note the Regional Competitions have been well attended and from the feedback much enjoyed.

Suffolk's successes have been reported on the website and once again can I take the opportunity to encourage you all to take a regular look at the County Website where with the expertise of Julie and Jeanette you will find the entry forms for the 2014 competitions and updates of national news where it may be of interest to the club golfer.

We understand that the national website is going to receive some attention and then hopefully this should result in a much more user friendly experience.

I do hope you have all enjoyed your golf over the past year particularly during the warm and dry summer months. The sport at all levels will only continue with your support and I have been greatly encouraged by the continued high turnout at our Delegate Meetings.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you all that no one person is indispensable, in particular, yours truly and if there is anyone who would like to take my place please do not hesitate to let me know.

There were no questions for Anne

President:

Anne continues to spend many hours on the road to Woodhall Spa for meetings. I know at times you find these very frustrating – however, I detect a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel with England Golf?!! Thank you also for our Delegate Meetings – these continue to be very popular.

Report 4(e) Treasurer's Report – Miss Hermione Scrope

I have covered all matters in my notes. The only point to be mentioned is that, over the years, the ladies have received a contribution from the sale of County Cards. The men have unilaterally decided not to issue County Cards, so we will lose this income this year. This will be discussed by the SLCGA Committee at a later meeting.

There were no questions for Hermione.

President:

Thank you, Hermione. Once again our books have been in very safe hands!! The Governing Body value your expertise both on financial and administration problems.

Report 4(f) Suffolk Golf Partnership Report – Mr Alastair Spink

Unfortunately, there is still some confusion as to the role of the Suffolk Golf Partnership and I fear that many of you may not be fully aware of who or what we are! However, I hope that the full report previously circulated will help to illustrate some practical examples of how the Partnership works alongside the Association, the Union, Golf Clubs and other partners to create awareness, develop opportunities and ultimately grow the game of golf in Suffolk.

As we are all only too aware, currently golf is going through an extremely challenging time. Although, clearly the current economic climate can be considered a primary factor for decreasing numbers in both membership and regular participation, in truth, this trend has been evident since 2004, and ultimately golf will need to change to remain vibrant and appeal to today's population

This decreasing trend is considered by the Partnership to be our greatest challenge and as you will have seen from some of the examples, we focus on all areas of the game and level of abilities and ages to work towards initially stabilising and then reversing this trend.

On a more positive note, one of our roles is to share best practice and we are pleased to report that some clubs have been successful, even throughout this challenging time and have reported an increase in their membership figures. These clubs however tend to share a common view – they recognise that life outside of their club has changed and they have created new and creative forms of membership packages to reflect those changes, entice new members and importantly retain those that they already have.

We are of course under no illusion, there are no “quick fixes” – it will be a step by step process and effective communication at all stages will be vital. Opportunities such as these hopefully help us to spread the word and illustrate to you how we operate and work towards developing our wonderful sport.

There were no questions for Alastair.

President:

I hope Alastair's report and brief summary today have made the Golf Partnership clearer to you all. Thank you Alastair for attending this meeting and for your help in promoting golf within the County.

Report 4(g) Handicap Adviser's Report – Ms Ann Graves

There are few changes to the CONGU system for this year and these have been sent to all of your Handicap Secretaries some weeks ago.

The most important changes are:

- There will no longer be the dreaded “i” after a handicap to show it is inactive. From 1st March, if you have put in your 3 qualifying cards you will have a “c” after your handicap and this denotes it is a Competition handicap, the old active handicap. There will be nothing after those who have not put in their cards.
- The date in which the 12 month period for putting in the three cards from qualifying competitions has changed from 1st January to 1st March.
- Category 1 players can only put in 3 supplementary scores to attain a competition handicap. There are extra rules about when Cat 1 players can put in supplementary scores.

Finally: I have been Handicap Advisor for 6 years now and 5 years before that in Sussex so I think it is time to pass on the baton.

I am happy to continue for this year but if anyone is interested in taking over from me, they can step in gradually and learn the ropes.

I should be grateful if you would spread the word and if anyone is interested to let me know please.

There were no questions for Ann.

President:

After 11 years of being Handicap Advisor, I quite understand you wanting to handover. I am sure there is someone here today, who with a bit of gentle persuasion, would step in and gradually learn the ropes. If so, please make yourself known to Ann after the meeting - thank you.

The Reports were then proposed for adoption by Sylvia Bloomfield of Ipswich Golf Club and seconded by Sheila Price of Haverhill Golf Club. 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 are retiring:

Pippa Beak	–	President
Liz Robinson	–	Senior Organiser
Claudia Long	–	Competition Organiser (Weston)
Pat Kennedy	–	Competition Organiser (Foursomes)
Judy Hamshere	–	Junior Representative

Captain:

We have a number of ladies leaving us this year and amongst them is our Judy. Judy Hamshere has been serving the county in many guises over many years. She has played for the County 1st Team, been County Captain, County President and latterly Junior Organiser. I wish that her abundant supplies of knowledge, good humour and enthusiasm could be bottled in which case it would become a fine vintage despite the screw top!! The juniors will still have the benefit of her guidance in organising Junior County Week even though she has a family wedding to divert her. We wish Judy every good wish for the future.

Liz Robinson has finished her term as Senior Organiser. Her role expanded to include the new Jubilee trophy and the Seniors Championship as well as organising the inter county matches. She had to cope with all this whilst recovering from knee surgery in her first year and in the second year she was able to play again and win an award in the Seniors Championship. We thank Liz very much for all her hard work and hope that she continues to enjoy her golf.

Claudia Long has been our Weston Organiser and has kept the competition running very smoothly. She has also been a great support to the Governing Body especially in events run at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club. I would also like to thank her for her support in 2nd Team matches.

Pat Kennedy leaves after serving her term as Coronation and Centenary Foursomes Organiser. The fact that these events were so popular and well organised speaks for itself. Thank you Pat for all your hard work.

Finally we have to say goodbye to Pippa Beak our wonderful President. She has been a great support to everyone on the Governing Body and has also supported all the events that we have organised. Over the years she has always been a keen player, being on the 1st Team and she also managed the 2nd Team, even coping with errant players – MOI - who did not read the letter correctly and went to the wrong course! I felt so embarrassed but she calmed me down and I was able to concentrate on my play. That is Pippa, always calm and ready to encourage. I hope that she now enjoys all her free time though I would really like to see her face if she wins a weekend of free golf at Woodhall Spa!!!

The Secretary read out the names of those Officers who will remain in office for the coming year.

Laura Lowe	–	County Captain
Sarah Sagers	–	Vice Captain
Ann Graves	–	Handicap Advisor
Hermione Scrope	–	Treasurer
Anne Archer	–	England Golf Representative
June Stack	–	Minutes Secretary
Cynthia Stewart	–	Match & Venue Organiser
Jeanette Longman	–	Secretary

Competition Organisers:-

Jan Pattinson	–	Royal Worlington	– a further 1 year
Chris Lynch Bates	–	Fynn Valley	– a further 1 year
Angela Middleton	–	Halesworth	– a further 1 year
Mary Wilderspin	–	Rookery Park	– a further 2 years

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

Ann Graves	–	County President
Jo Moore	–	Seniors Organiser
Sarah Howe	–	Junior Organiser

The Secretary read out the names of the ladies nominated as Competition Organisers and asked them to stand when their name was called.

June Kenworthy	–	Rushmere (Weston/Senior Jubilee Shield)
Deb Howlett	–	Hintlesham (Foursomes)

The nominations were proposed en bloc by Jenny Ives of Rookery Park Golf Club and seconded by Debbie Blackwell of Royal Worlington Golf Club. They were carried unanimously.

President:

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.

Junior Organiser:

As I said earlier in the Junior report, Sarah was a member of the juniors for many years so is an ideal candidate for the job she has agreed to take on.

I think she was 7 or 8 years old when she started with Suffolk Juniors and was captain in her last year.

I am sure everyone will give her their full support in her new role.

Judy then presented Sarah with her badge of office.

President:

I would now like to say a few words about Ann. She started playing her golf in Sussex and is a past Captain of Goodwood Golf Club and a Sussex Handicap Adviser. Fortunately Ann moved to Suffolk and became involved with the Suffolk Ladies, becoming our Handicap Adviser and Chairing the Governing Body Meetings for 2 years. Ann was Captain of Woodbridge recently and has played for the Suffolk Seniors and is still our capable Handicap Adviser. Ann has a

keen interest in the rules of golf and has a rules qualification from England Golf and if that CV is not enough look out Ladies, Ann is a Magistrate!!!

I feel sure she will be a wonderful President and it gives me great pleasure to hand over the badge of office.

Pippa then presented Ann with her President's Badge

Ann:

Ann thanked Pippa and revealed that receiving the President's Badge was very special to her as the Badge had been donated by a past President, Ann Seward, who is a personal friend and golfing colleague at Woodbridge. She expressed the honour she felt at being chosen to become the next President of the SLCGA.

President:

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

President:

Before opening this section of the proceedings to the floor, I would like to invite Laura to tell us about a new Suffolk Trophy – the Joy Winn Salver

Captain:

Joy Winn was a well-known and respected golfer at Aldeburgh, whose most notable achievement was taking the runner-up spot in the English County Championship during the 1920s. She was a keen advocate of the golfing exploits and expertise of lady golfers and that was her motivation behind the donation of this Salver.

Joy donated the Salver in 1985, initially as the Trophy for the winner of the East Anglian Championship. In 2012, the Salver returned to Suffolk.

It was agreed, by those who knew her, that an annual competition which rewards consistency at the highest level would have pleased her immensely. The GB have, therefore, devised a completely new Competition which is hoped will fulfil this criteria – the basic Rules are as follows:

The Joy Winn Salver will be awarded to the player with the lowest score over a whole season's play. The Competition is designed to encourage the county's elite players to participate in their regular club medal competitions.

This competition is open to all amateur female golfers who enter the SLCGA County Championship. Competitors must remain a Full Member of the SLCGA for the entire period from the first day of the county championship to the award of the salver.

The rules will be coming out shortly and will be available on our website.

We look forward to awarding this prestigious trophy at our next AGM and we wish all the entrants good luck..

Sue Cook (Aldeburgh on behalf of England Golf) - Some information regarding the new Course Rating System. All Courses (18 and 9 hole) will have to be re-rated on a ten yearly cycle. Colin Firmin is the Team Leader. During 2014, four Clubs will be chosen to be re-rated.

In the past, EWGA covered the expense of this exercise, but England Golf cannot continue to do so. England Golf will pay £100 per Club re-rated and the County will be expected to cover any excess.

President:

I would like to thank Anne and Angela for running the raffle. Also to Ann, Cynthia, Jan and Mary for their work in the kitchen and keeping us all refreshed.

The monies raised, amounting to £370, will go directly to Hermione to put into the county account.

PRESENTATIONS:

President:

Our first Presentations today are new to our AGM, although this Competition has run successfully for many years. The format of the Weston was changed to a league system last year and now comprises three Divisions. So, for 2013, please can I invite the winning Clubs in each of the Divisions onto the stage to collect their Trophies. They are:

- Weston Trophy (Division 1) – Ipswich
- Weston Plate (Division 2) – Newton Green
- Weston Bowl (Division 3) - Rushmere

Cynthia Stewart read out the Medal Winners:

Silver Medal was won by Fiona Edmond of Ipswich with a nett differential of -9, who was not present to receive her Medal

Bronze Medal was awarded to Sally Clark of Cretingham with a nett differential of -10.

The President then invited the Captain to present the Nigel Birrell Trophy

CAPTAIN:

This Trophy is presented to an individual or group who have contributed most to the SLCGA and is at the Captain's discretion.

I have taken very little time to make up my mind on who should receive this trophy. I would like this trophy to go to someone whose skills I much admire. These skills have been of benefit to all of us in the County and especially on the Governing Body. So, to our very own Jeanette Longman, I would like to present the Nigel Birrell Trophy with thanks for absolutely everything that she does.

The Captain presented the Nigel Birrell Trophy to Jeanette.

President:

The Junior Awards – there are a few:

Firstly, the **Eva Harris Shield** – this Shield is awarded for services to Junior Golf. The recipient made a significant contribution at the Junior County Match Week – she won all her matches. She also won the Girls Gross Prize at the Aldeburgh Open, but the icing on the cake must be her handicap reduction during the year from 11-6 (an impressive 45.5% drop). It gives me great pleasure to award the Eva Harris Shield to Abbie Symonds of Ipswich.

President presented the Eva Harris Shield to Abbie.

Secondly, we would like to present a new Award which has been donated by Macy Hessay's grandmother who has requested that this award be presented to the **Junior Improver of the Year**. It gives me pleasure to present the Junior Improver Award to a Junior who has had a significant handicap reduction from 32-22 and has also shown maturity and leadership throughout the year – Chloe Bennet of Rushmere.

Pippa presented the Junior Improver Award and the Second Team Captain's Jumper to Chloe

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Junior Captain for 2014 is **Melissa Schroeder**. President presented Junior Captain's Jumper to Melissa.

Finally, please can I invite the following girls onto the stage to receive their Junior Colours - Melissa Schroeder, Eloise Aldous and Alice Barlow.

The President then reminded Club Captains or their representatives to collect their Handbooks from the back of the hall and reminded all to check their raffle tickets and collect prizes.

President:

Before I finally close the Meeting, I should like to say how much I have enjoyed being your President – it has been a great honour and enormously rewarding. I have loved visiting various

Clubs around the County and beyond meeting up with Ladies who are all fortunate enough to enjoy this wonderful game. My Father once said to me – get yourself a half set of clubs and a handicap and you will have fun and friendship – how right he was!!

Now may I wish you all a very happy, healthy and successful golfing 2014.

Thank you for coming today, have a safe journey home and I hereby declare the Meeting closed.

Laura, on behalf of the Committee, presented Pippa with flowers.

Meeting closed at 11.35.

Carol Durston of Newton Green proposed a vote of thanks, on behalf of Suffolk Clubs, to all the officials and Committee members of the SLCGA for all their hard work during the past year. She also wished to reiterate Laura's words and wish Pippa a happy “retirement” and to extend best wishes to Ann, Laura and their team for a very successful 2014.

President

Date

Report 4(a) - County Captain's Report (Mrs Laura Lowe)

The first few months of the year are taken up with training and practice matches for the First Team. Following Sheila Jarvis last year I also invited a few of the promising juniors to the training sessions with Keith Preston at Aldeburgh and I would like to thank him for all the hard work he has put in with training the ladies and girls over the year.

The practice matches were also very valuable for the team and I would like to thank all the gentlemen who gave the girls some extremely good matches and to all the clubs who kindly hosted them.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

In May, we held our County Championship at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club. The strokeplay was won by Lily Kent of Ipswich Golf Club and the runner up was Blaise Esmond of Aldeburgh with Victoria Inglis and Vanessa Bell of Ipswich Golf club in joint third.

The matchplay over the following two days saw four of our top players win through to the final day. Lily Kent played Vanessa Bell and won one up, while Sharon Luckman played Blaise Esmond and also won one up. This trend continued in the final which was won by Sharon one up.

The Seniors' Championship was held alongside the main event and my congratulations go to Liz Robinson who won the Seniors' Strokeplay and also ran the event. After knee surgery last year it was good to have her back in action. The matchplay was won by Barbara Cole , repeating her win of last year.

Many thanks go to the Championship organiser Chris Lynch-Bates, and to the members and staff of Bury St Edmunds Golf Club.

COUNTY WEEK

This event was hosted this year by Bedfordshire at The Bedfordshire Golf Club.

On the first day we played Norfolk and had a good day winning by 7 to 2

Day 2 we were up against the big guns of Essex and we lost 6 to 3. Lily Kent and Victoria Inglis won their foursomes well, and Liz Laflin and Lils James had good singles wins. Those who lost were involved in very close matches.

Day 3 we were against Cambs & Hunts and again we lost by 6 to 3 which was disappointing as we were up after the foursomes by 2 matches to one.

Day 4 we were up against Hertfordshire, the form team of the week. After halving the foursomes in the morning we lost in the singles in the afternoon to record one and a half points to their seven and a half.

Day 5 we played the hosts Bedfordshire and won by 6 to 2. We won all our foursomes in the morning with Vanessa Bell, Sharon Luckman and Eloise Aldous winning their singles handsomely.

Hertfordshire won the week and went on to represent the region in the County Finals up in Yorkshire.

Thank you to all the team members for all their hard work and efforts, you represented your County with much credit.

Suffolk came joint third with Bedfordshire who hosted the event very well with an army of volunteers who were most helpful and cheerful. My thanks to the caddies and supporters who made time for us. Special thanks to Pippa (Lady President) and Sarah (Vice Captain) for their help and support.

We feel that this week is too long for a small county and in some regions they have opted for a different format but at the moment we are out voted by the larger counties in our region

DIVISION MEETINGS

Division 4 was held at Rushmere Golf Club where 64 competitors braved a cold and showery day.

The winner was Wendy Walpole from Bungay golf Club with Bungay also winning the team event.

Division 3 was held at Ufford Park Golf Club on a hot , sunny day. The winner was Jill Harris from Bury St. Edmunds Golf Club. The team event was shared between Felixstowe Ferry and Bury ST Edmunds.

Division 2 was held at Bungay Golf Club where Tessa Catchpole from Woodbridge won the Scratch prize. First Handicap Was Liffey Reeves from Bury St. Edmunds Golf Club. The team prize was won by Woodbridge Golf Club.

Division 1 was held at Ipswich Golf Club. The scratch prize was won by Fiona Edmond from Ipswich with a superb score of 67. The runner up was Sharon Luckman from Felixstowe Ferry with gross 72. The net prize was won by Sally Cade from Newton Green Golf Club. The team event was won by Ipswich Golf Club.

Many thanks to the organiser Jan Pattinson, ably assisted by Jeanette Longman and Cynthia Stewart, and to the Lady Captains, committee members and staff of the host clubs who all help to make these days so successful.

CENTENARY FOURSOMES

This event took place at Rookery Park Golf Club. The winners were Susan Fulcher and Anne Truman from Woodbridge with Kerry Lee and Avril Chapman of The Suffolk the runners up.

CORONATION FOURSOMES

This was held at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club and was won by Abbie Symonds and Michelle Wilce from Ipswich Golf Club. The runners up were Liz Laflin and Julie Blemings from Stowmarket Golf Club.

Thanks to both clubs for hosting these events competitions and to Pat Kennedy the organiser.

KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

WESTON

Winners of the first division and the Weston Trophy were Ipswich Golf Club with Aldeburgh the runners up.

Winners of the second division and the Weston Plate were Newton Green with Bungay as runners up.

Division 3 was won by Rushmere with Diss the runners up.

Thank you to Claudia Long for organising this competition.

HASKELL

Only 12 clubs entered the Haskell this year. The final between Newton Green and Aldeburgh was played at Waldringfield Golf Club. The two juniors from Newton Green, playing in their first Haskell competition beat Aldeburgh 3&2.

STEARN

23 clubs entered the Stearn competition. The final between Felixstowe and Gorleston was played on a warm sunny day in October at Southwold Golf Club. Felixstowe managed to win and retain the trophy.

CRANWORTH

This year the scoring system was changed mainly to speed up the pace of play. Still some matches were closely fought with extra holes required to decide the outcome. Newton Green and Woodbridge played in the final at Diss Golf Club with Newton Green the eventual winners. Thank you to Angela Middleton for her organisation.

SENIORS SHIELD

The final of this competition for the Jubilee Shield took place between Woodbridge and Diss at Brett Vale Golf Club with Woodbridge winning .

Thanks to Liz Robinson for organising this competition.

SUFFOLK GOLF DAY

Again we were able to hold this competition at Hintlesham Golf Club. It was so popular that we had to close the entry list early. £400 was raised in the raffle. A team from Woodbridge won the first prize with ladies from Stowmarket the runners up. Grateful thanks to Sabona for the donation of prizes and to Chris Lynch-Bates for her organisation.

My first year as County Captain has flown by and I have learned so much, I am like that figurehead on the prow of a great sailing vessel plunging into the waves ahead while all the sailors are doing all the hard work on deck. So many thanks to all the hard working Governing Body members. To those who are coming off the committee I hope you have enjoyed your time with us and you leave with our grateful thanks. Thank you again to all the competition organisers and to Jeanette Longman our 'super woman' who keeps me in order with these computer 'thingies' which seem like quite a good invention after all!

I must not forget Julie Latimer-Jones for all the coverage and entertaining reports on our website. If you wish for any further information on our activities then do pay a visit to the website.

We say goodbye to Pippa Beak as our President. She has been in charge for 2 years and has been a tower of strength with her support of us lesser mortals on the Governing Body and has represented the County with distinction wherever she goes. Her club , Flempton , will be pleased to see more of her , and they are fortunate to have her back in their midst. Pippa, thank you from us, all we will miss you.

Thank you.

Report 4(b) – Junior Report (Mrs Judy Hamshere)

The year began for the girls, as for all golfers, with a spell of poor weather, but when fixtures and training began in March, there was no lack of enthusiasm. It was clear by then, however, that with uncertainty over the future, and shape, of the SGP Academy programme, together with the loss of the former EWGA annual Development Grant, it was going to be quite difficult to maintain our schedule and momentum through 2013.

In the event, we were able to incorporate all the potential Academy girls into our early training sessions to ensure contact was maintained.

The financial shortfall was less easy to resolve, however, and we appreciate the support received from SLCGA, SLVGA and the SGP. A sub-committee has examined the situation and set out proposals for 2014, which include increasing the girls' contributions according to the amount of training each group receives, and raising entry fees for competitions.

Training has continued with Sarah Wilson at Bramford for Beginners and Improvers, with Andrew Collison at Bungay for a mixed ability group, and with Alastair Spink and Sarah Wilson at Fynn Valley for the Elite squad. This was an innovation which has proved very successful, and also included on-course preparation at Bawburgh GC, before Junior County Match Week. The 10-14 Academy got under way in the summer at 2 centres, and the 14-18 Academy began in September to run through to March 2014 - this group now includes all the Girls 2nd. team members. In total between 60 and 70 girls have been involved across all these programmes.

At present we are working with Alastair Spink (SGP's Development Officer) and SGU to prepare Suffolk's bid for funding under the England Golf 'Junior Player Pathway' initiative which should roll out in 2014, and hopefully be effective in encouraging girls to take up golf and make progress in the game.

Alice Barlow and Eloise Aldous (both Newton Green) continue with England Golf training under Roly Hitchcock at Stoke by Nayland, and Abbie Symonds (Ipswich) has joined the Lee Westwood Academy, also at Stoke. Lily Kent, Lottie Whyman (both Ipswich), Abbie Symonds have attended SLCGA training, as well as Alice and Eloise.

Competitions began with the High Handicap Texas Scramble at Orwell Park School in April, then the Girls Championship at Felixstowe Ferry GC at the end of May. The Moss Blundell

trophy was won by Lily Kent with a gross 77, reducing her handicap to 3. The handicap prize went to Eloise Aldous. Lottie Whyman won the Girls Matchplay Championship.

The High Handicap girls had their Championship at St. Audry's GC once again, when the winner was Rio Everitt (Stowmarket) with 41 points.

Unfortunately both the Lady/Junior competition and the Autumn meeting were cancelled due to poor weather in October, but the Lady/Junior has been rescheduled for December 1st. at Halesworth GC.

The East Girls Championship was played at Stowmarket GC in August, when Lottie Whyman recorded a hole in one, but otherwise the honours went to Essex.

Lottie also came 2nd. in the Prince of Wales U21 competition at Woburn, reducing her handicap to 4.

Five girls played in the English Girls Championships.

The Elite squad played practice matches in preparation for JCMW, against Weston teams from Aldeburgh, Bury and Stowmarket, as well as SLCGA Seniors.

At Bawburgh, the Suffolk Girls team, led by Eleanor Tindall (Stowmarket), had wins over Bedfordshire and Cambs. & Hunts., they had a good half with Essex, but found Hertfordshire and Norfolk too strong, so ended up in 4th. place, with Hertfordshire the winners. It was perhaps unfortunate that Lily Kent had already left to take up her golf scholarship in West Florida. JCMW in 2014 will be played at Bury St. Edmunds GC, so we hope the girls will make the most of their home advantage.

The young 2nd. team played 4 matches, winning against Haverhill Boys but losing to Bedfordshire, Cambs. & Hunts. and Norfolk.

At the SLCGA Championship, 5 girls played; Lily Kent won the Strokeplay Championship and was runner-up in the Matchplay, Alice Barlow and Eloise Aldous also qualified for the Matchplay.

At CMW, Lily won all five foursomes matches with Vicki Inglis, and Eloise also played, but Alice was unavailable due to school commitments. Eloise and Alice won the Haskell Trophy for Newton Green, and Abbie Symonds and her mother won the SLCGA Coronation Foursomes at Felixstowe Ferry; she also won the scratch prize at the Aldeburgh Junior Open, reducing her handicap to 6.

We were delighted to welcome Sarah Howe to the Committee; County President Pippa Beak and County Vice Captain Sarah Siggers have also attended meetings and events, and their support has been greatly appreciated. We were sorry that Christine Bennett has resigned from the Committee, after serving very ably as Treasurer for nine years; our accounts are now in the care of County Treasurer Hermione Scrope.

Girls' Captain Eleanor Tindall has set an excellent example on and off the golf course, and we send our very best wishes for her Medical studies at Imperial College, London. Mel Schroeder will succeed her as Captain for 2014, and Chloe Bennett (Rushmere) will be 2nd. team Captain. We wish them a successful and enjoyable year.

Despite weathering the challenges with which 2013 has presented us, we remain without a Junior Organiser, which must be a cause for concern. We are very grateful, however, for the support we have received from SLCGA, SVLGA, SGP, our donors and all the clubs which have allowed us to hold events on their courses, as well as to our three coaches for their continuing commitment to girls' golf.

Report 4(c)– Senior Organiser's Report (Mrs Liz Robinson)

This year the Seniors had an extra match, so in addition to the warm-up match against the senior county men, the four county matches and the finale against the Suffolk Vets we also played the county juniors.

We played the men in April at Royal Worlington, four ball better ball, Hambro scoring, and they proved too strong for us - we lost all four games. The day clashed with a Weston match so although it was played off handicap, we were missing some of our stronger players.

All county matches are four four ball games played off scratch. In May against Norfolk at Royal Norwich we were able to revenge last year's loss and won 3 – 1

In June we played Essex at Woodbridge and suffered a 3 ½ - 1 ½ defeat to a stronger and younger side.

In July we played Bedfordshire at Haverhill and we had a welcome win by three matches to one and just four days later we had a tight tussle against the Juniors at Newton Green. Playing six singles off scratch, and with handicaps evenly matched, the Seniors just managed to win by 3 ½ - 2 ½ .

August saw us at Cambridge Meridian playing Cambs and Hunts who won 3 – 1, although the lost matches were close.

Finally, in September, we played the Suffolk Vets at Aldeburgh – four foursomes off handicap. All matches were close and it ended with a 'friendly' half.

All in all a successful season. A big thank you to the twenty nine seniors - including newcomers - Bev Allen, Suzanne Mason and Andrea Newman - who represented Suffolk and special thanks to all who stood in at the last minute. Apologies to those who were available but not selected.

My thanks to the clubs who gave us courtesy, were very welcoming and looked after us extremely well. Also to Julie Latimer Jones for all her reports and to Pippa, Laura and Jeanette for all their help and support.

I wish my successor the very best of luck and hope that she will enjoy her two years as much as I did mine.

Report 4(d) – England Golf Report (Mrs Anne Archer)

NATIONAL

The organisation has moved into its second year and seen a major change with the appointment of David Joy as Chief Executive. The process of agreeing a three year strategic plan is well under way with the third and probably final draft being put together in early January 2014 for approval at the AGM in February. There have been various meetings and workshops to develop the plan, one of which was held at Fynn Valley G.C. in October. It was disappointing to hear that some of you would have attended but apparently did not know the workshop was being held. This topic was discussed at the delegate meeting & the subsequent minutes, containing the date, were posted on the County Website. We will obviously have to try harder to communicate! The subject of national competitions is also on the agenda and it is a good time to take the opportunity to encourage you all to enter the Australian Spoons and to remember that if anyone has a good medal score to forward it for entry in the Rose Spoon Competition. Details of this and many other interesting and relevant facts are readily available on both the England Golf and County Websites and I would urge you all to check them out regularly.

REGIONAL

The Eastern Region continues to organise the main competitions throughout the year. This year saw Suffolk host the Junior Regional Final at Stowmarket, which was well attended and I would like to thank all those who gave up their time to help make this a successful event. 2014 will see the Junior County event take place over three days at Bury on August the 18th, 19th & 20th. Haverhill will again host the Regional Seniors Championship on Monday 14th July and also the Australian Spoons Regional Final on the Wednesday 6th August. All these events are reported on the various websites and again I hope you have seen these and would join me in thanking both Jeanette and Julie for all their hard work in managing the Website.

LOCAL

We hold four delegate meetings throughout the year and this is an opportunity for all clubs to put forward ideas, which as appropriate are then channelled to the relevant bodies. Each year sees some new faces and not so new but I hope you have all feel welcomed and that these meetings are beneficial. We also hold the Draws for the County 100 Club and this gives me the chance to say thanks to Sue Cook for all her hard work in making this possible. By the way it is not too late to join for this year as there are three draws still to be made so please ask you delegate or Sue Cook about entering. Finally I believe I have reached my sell-by date in this role and it would be good to see a new and enthusiastic replacement coming forward so please give it some thought. I would be happy to chat with anyone interested.

Report 4(e) – Treasurer's Report (Miss Hermione Scrope)

We have had another successful year showing a surplus of income over expenditure of £2,175. This is despite a drop of 150 in the number of Members and also the income from County Cards continues to fall.

On the income side it is encouraging to note that the number of Members entering the competitions run by the County was up during the year and that these continue to make a positive contribution. We also held another successful Golf Day for members which contributed £957 to our Funds.

This year we did not run a 2nd Team and this resulted in a reduction in Team and Match expenses which were also down on the previous year as our costs for County Week were reduced.

The profit from the 100 Club was £737 and this money will be used to finance First Aid Training for our Volunteers.

This year the Juniors Bank Account has been integrated with that of the Ladies but we continue to show their Income and Expenditure separately.

Report 4(f) – Suffolk Golf Partnership Report (Mr Alastair Spink)

The Suffolk Golf Partnership (SGP) continues to build upon the success of the previous four years by growing the game of golf in the County, aligning with the National outcomes within the WholeSport Plan agreement with Sport England. Our aim is to increase the amount of people regularly playing golf in Suffolk and ensure their continued participation. We also provide a structure to support and develop those particular participants with talent, through the identified “Suffolk Player Pathway”.

During our 2009-2013 plan, the SGP achieved 10 out of the 12 outcomes (83%). As a result of this success, and following submission of our 2013-2017 Operational Plan, the SGP were awarded further funding to help support five agreed objectives.

Each objective is detailed below together with a brief summary illustrating examples of how the SGP operates within each area to achieve its targets.

1. A growth in participation in the 14 to 25 age range.

SGP creates links with schools, further education and higher education establishments, signposting students to golf clubs to continue their participation. For example, the SGP attended Fresher Fairs at both UCS and Suffolk New College and is currently working with College Sports Makers to engage with Otley and West Suffolk College.

2. A growth in participation across the adult population (26 years plus).

At present, seven “Get into Golf Centres” (a National initiative) operate in the County. Each centre delivers 4-week taster sessions, providing opportunities to attend further 6-week structured sessions, leading to regular participation and membership opportunities. The SGP works closely with other Partners to populate these centres, for example, attending public events, such as the Suffolk Show and well-being events, organised by local authorities etc. The SGP also provides marketing support and coach education opportunities to both Professional and volunteer staff.

3. An excellent sporting experience for existing participants to keep them playing sport.

Currently 17 clubs have achieved GolfMark – a National accreditation that identifies golf clubs providing a junior and beginner friendly environment. Of these 17 clubs, 12 are recognised as “High achievers” demonstrating they have met additional conditions over and above those minimum standards required for GolfMark.

4. High quality talent development which creates a strong England talent pathway.

SGP works closely with the relevant junior committees to provide opportunities for young golfers to develop within the County talent pathway. Development squads are divided by age (10-14yrs & 14-18yrs) and act as a bridge between the Club and the County squads. The older development squad was introduced this year and currently has 12 girls attending regular coaching sessions.

5. A growth in participation by people who have disabilities, including those with talent.

The SGP works closely with all “Get into Golf” Centres to ensure that initiatives are inclusive. Additionally, the SGP creates links with other County Partners and organisations. For example, Rushmere GC recently hosted a successful “inclusive day” for 100 students in partnership with local schools and “Discovery” clubs. Each student participated in a taster session and received coaching at their schools together with a link and an opportunity for further coaching at their local golf club.

For the Suffolk Golf Partnership to continue to meet its objectives, good relationships and communication are vital. The SGP very much appreciates the support that it receives from the Suffolk Ladies’ County Golf Association and hopes this will continue to strengthen as we work towards the implementation of the current Operational Plan.

Alastair Spink
County Development Officer