

**The 84th Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association
was held at Kesgrave Memorial Hall on Saturday 14 January 2017 at 10.30am**

Present

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| Miss Hermione Scrope | President/Treasurer |
| Miss Sarah Saggars | Captain |
| Mrs Vanessa Bell | Vice Captain |
| Mrs Eunice Gray | Handicap Advisor |
| Mrs Diane Cunningham | Hon Secretary |
| Miss Sarah Howe | Junior Organiser |
| Ms Chris Lynch-Bates | Championship Organiser |
| Mrs Rebecca Evans | England Golf Representative |
| Mrs Di Spring | Divisional Meetings Organiser |
| Mrs Jenny Cardwell | Divisional Meetings Organiser |
| Mrs June Kenworthy | Weston and Senior Jubilee Shield Organiser |
| Mrs Debbie Anthistle | Haskell & Stearn Organiser |
| Mrs Dianne Clarke | Foursomes Organiser |

Together with 125 members

The President, Hermione Scrope welcomed everyone to the 84th AGM of the Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association.

The President asked everyone to stand whilst we remembered our friends who have died during the last year. In particular, W Sinclair who was County Captain in 2001-2.....Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the years, I have been happy crunching the numbers for the Association and as people have been very kind and never asked me a question I have not had to say more than a few words at the AGMs. I never thought for one moment that I would be in the position of actually chairing the meeting. It is very daunting.

On the whole the past year has run smoothly. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Sarah Saggars the County Captain. Thank you, Sarah, for all your hard work throughout the year and for helping to make the year so enjoyable. Between us we managed to attend all of the events that happened during the year and it was a pleasure to meet so many of you. Thank you to those individuals who organised the events for us. If you have ever organised an event you will know that it does involve a lot of hard work and we are grateful to the organisers.

This year County Week was at Bishops Stortford. From the Suffolk point of view the week was extremely well organised by Sarah Saggars and we fielded a strong side. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side and we had torrential rain which flooded the course and caused two sessions to be abandoned. This did not help our cause. The team played their hearts out and we came very close to getting through to the finals. I enjoyed my first experience of county week and became very proficient at handing out the refreshments. Thank you to the team for making me feel so welcome.

On behalf of the Ladies I would like to thank Mr. Detmar Hackman of Sabona International for his continued sponsorship. He also gives generously to our Suffolk Golf Day. The Golf

Day continues to be a great success and we now have a waiting list of teams wanting to play. Again we must thank Chris Lynch Bates and all her helpers for making the day so enjoyable and to Henry Roblin for his continued support and generously allowing us to hold the event at Hintlesham Golf Club.

One of the highlights of the year for me came in September when I turned up at Seckford Golf Club to watch the Lady/Junior Foursomes but instead found myself playing in the competition with two of our leading juniors and the Junior Organiser. I thoughtfully enjoyed the game even if I found myself playing from some interesting places. I learnt that all I have to do was put the ball on the fairway and let my partner do the rest. Thank you girls for putting up with me.

Rebecca Evans has been our England Golf Representative this year and has done a great job in keeping the Governing Body and the Clubs, through the delegates, abreast of what is going on at England Golf. Rebecca also organised the two Regional competitions that we were responsible for this year. Thank you Rebecca for all your hard work. Rebecca and Julie Latimer Jones have looked after our website during the year and kept it up to date with all the news. Thank you both.

Di Cunningham took over as County Secretary at the beginning of the year and has done a splendid job in looking after the GB and ensuring that all the relevant information from the GB and England Golf gets disseminated to the Clubs. Thank you very much indeed Di.

Finally, thank you to all the GB members for their hard work over the past year. Every single one of you have performed your duties efficiently and with good humour. Thank you.

The Secretary read the notice to convene the Meeting

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from the following: Laura Lowe, Fiona Edmund, Rachel Goldsmith, Rosemary Woodhouse, Pippa Beak and 224 apologies from 20 Clubs
Please will you ensure that you have all signed the attendance register.

2 MINUTES OF THE AGM 2016

There being no amendments or alterations to the minutes of the AGM held on 16th January 2016, the president signed them as a true record.

3 MATTERS ARISING AGM 2016

There were no matters arising.

4 REPORTS & ACCOUNTS FOR 2015/2016

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

a) County Captain's Report - Mrs Sarah Siggers

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My report begins with the County 1st Team.

County coaching continued in 2016 under Christine Langford at Thorpeness, in addition we offered coaching vouchers for the players to use with the professional of their choice – these worked very well and are to be continued into 2017. Christine's ever growing commitments at Thorpeness helped her to decide that she would no longer carry on with the Suffolk County training, we would like to thank her for the time and commitment she gave us over the past 2 years. Vanessa Bell has taken over the County training program, which is now being held at Purdis under Kevin Lovelock, the club professional.

The 1st Team practice matches against the Aldeburgh, Woodbridge, Thorpeness gentleman and the Suffolk Pros were played through the spring with an enthusiasm and competitiveness I'm going to miss. I would like to thank all the gentleman who took part and their clubs for this much needed practice. Unfortunately, the Suffolk County Men's 1st Team decided to drop our match in 2016, apparently, we would not have provided them with enough competition.

2016 County Championship along with the Senior Championship was held at Stowmarket Golf Club. Increasing the handicap limit to 18 and presenting a Handicap Plate increased numbers and created a very competitive atmosphere.

Alice Barlow (Newton Green GC) is our County Champion after beating Lottie Whyman (Ipswich GC) in the final. Our Stroke Play champion is Fiona Edmond (Ipswich GC) who shot 148 gross while suffering with pneumonia. Senior Champion is Vicki Hunt who beat Helen Bray in the final (both from Ipswich GC). Our first-time Championship Plate winner is Tanya McGregor (Bungay) who beat Elizabeth Bezance (Bury St Edmunds)

This year's County Championship will be held at Aldeburgh GC 12-14th May.

Team selection in the future will be announced the week following the Championship, allowing the Captain to enjoy playing in the Championships and giving time for feedback from players and selection committee before making her final decision.

County Match Week, June 2016

Held by Hertfordshire County at Bishop's Stortford GC, we arrived in our new kit with a very strong team: Alice Barlow, Eloise Aldous (Newton Green GC), Vanessa Bell, Fiona Edmond, Sarah Howe, Vicki Inglis, Sharon Luckman, Abbie Symonds & Lottie Whyman (Ipswich GC).

The wet weather during this week, was a determining part of the final result. The course was closed on 2 mornings, resulting in halving our foursomes matches on those days, a strong part of Suffolk's game.

On the Monday we played Bedfordshire, due to rain the morning foursomes had to be halved,

we won the overall match 5 ½ / 3 ½. On the Tuesday we played Essex, we won 6/3. On the Wednesday we beat Cambs & Hunts 7/2. Once again on the Thursday against Hertfordshire we had to halve the morning foursomes, the overall result was a half (3/3). We were leaders in the clubhouse for our final match on the Friday, we had to halve our match against a very strong Norfolk team to win overall. Our girls were under a lot of pressure, we had everything to lose and at lunchtime following the foursomes we were 2 ½ to ½ down. Now it was Norfolk's turn to be under pressure, we won the afternoon matches 3 ½ to 2 ½ but this was not enough and we lost 5/4. Norfolk were the Eastern Region Champions.

Although the team were disappointed, for Hermione and myself the highlight of the week were the team's spirit, commitment and sportsmanship. They were a joy to be with and I wish Vanessa and the girls all the best for next year at Hunstanton.

County Competitions Summary:

DIVISIONAL MEETINGS

Division 1

Was held at Woodbridge GC. The Sybil Green Trophy was won by Alice Barlow (Newton Green GC) with a gross score of 74. Aldeburgh GC won the Inter-Club Challenge Shield.

Division 2

Played at Halesworth GC, the winner of the Sybil Green Cup, was Eunice Gray (Woodbridge GC) with a gross score 87 the winner of the Joan O'Meara Shield was Woodbridge GC.

From 2017 the Governing Body has agreed that the Division 1 & 2 Team Shields will be awarded to the club with the best three gross scores.

Division 3

Played at Fynn Valley GC. The Silver Quaiche was won by Valerie Dadge (Fynn Valley GC) with 34 points and the Belstead Team Shield by Fynn Valley GC.

Division 4

Held at Southwold. The winner of the Olive Carruthers Cup, with a score of 33 points was Joan Keil (The Suffolk). Bury St Edmunds won the Divisional Shield.

I would like to thank Di Spring and Jenny Cardwell for arranging these competitions, I so enjoyed their company.

FOURSOMES MEETINGS

Coronation Foursomes

Held at Ufford Park Golf Club the winners, were Kerry Enever and Sarah Gotts from Diss GC with 112.25 points.

Centenary Foursomes

Played at Rushmere GC and the winners were Rebecca Draper & Phillipa Bridges (Diss GC) with 53 points.

Thank you Dianne Clark for running these 2 meetings so smoothly in your first year as Organiser.

KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

Haskell

The Haskell final was held at Bury St Edmunds GC in August between the holders Ipswich GC, represented by Lottie Whyman and Sharon Luckman and Newton Green GC represented by Alice Barlow and Eloise Aldous, Eloise and Alice won 6/4.

Stearn

Felixstowe GC and Haverhill GC met at Halesworth GC on the 1st Monday in October for the final of the Stearn Trophy. Congratulations go to Haverhill, who managed to win the match 2 to 1, the first time they have won this trophy.

The Stearn and the Haskell competitions were run by Debbie Anthistle and Lynne Wright, thank you.

Weston

Division 1 Winners of the Weston Trophy were Ipswich, Runners up Aldeburgh GC.

Division 2 Winners of the Weston Plate were Woodbridge GC, Runners up Felixstowe GC - these two clubs will be promoted to Division 1 next year, Bury St Edmunds GC and Stowmarket GC will be relegated to Division 2.

Division 3 Winners of the Weston Bowl were Rookery Park GC, Runner up after a play off was Haverhill GC – these two clubs will be promoted to Division 2.

Thorpe will be relegated to Division 3.

Suffolk Seniors Jubilee Shield

Felixstowe GC & Bungay GC teed up in the Final at Rushmere GC. The winners were Felixstowe with a score of 14 holes. I would like to thank June Kenworthy for running both this and the Weston competitions smoothly over the year.

Cranworth

This final was between Stowmarket GC and Halesworth GC played at Waldringfield with Halesworth winning 6.5 to 2.5 a second time win for Halesworth in this competition.

Thank you Rosemary Woodhouse and Christine Knappett, for running these matches.

From 2017 the Cranworth will be played with a squad of 8, Rosemary will be contacting the team captains in case of any queries. Rebecca Evans will also discuss this with the delegates.

SUFFOLK GOLF DAY

Once again our County Day went without a hitch under the eye of Christine Lynch-Bates, hosted very kindly by Hintlesham GC and sponsored by Sabona. The winning team, was again from Diss GC. The day raised £1,204.

I would like to thank all the County's club Ladies' Captains and their members who hosted our competitions in 2016, you have been more than generous.

Since joining the Governing Body there have been 3 outstanding Presidents; Pippa Beak, Ann Graves and in 2016 to date Hermione Scrope by my side. For a long time as Treasurer,

Hermione quietly got on with the County's finances, bringing them up-to-date, giving us more detail and a better understanding of the accounts. She took over the President's role seamlessly whilst also being club Captain and a successful winner with her string of racehorses! Just mention the name Tinman and you get that wry smile! Hermione, I have really enjoyed your company and considered approach; I'm looking forward to hearing what you're going to spend this year's winnings on.

Ladies, many of you have asked, have I been counting down the time until today, yes I have but with a little trepidation – I have truly enjoyed my time serving on the SLCGA. I was a complete novice when I came onto the Governing Body as Vice Captain. This fantastic bunch of volunteers on the GB have guided and supported me so that I could swan around the County looking like I knew what I was doing.

Ladies thank you for having me as your Captain.

The president invited questions for Sarah. Non were raised.

b) Junior Organisers Report – Miss Sarah Howe

Madam President, Lady Captain, Ladies and Juniors.

My last year has sailed by, the Juniors have worked hard this year reducing and gaining CONGU Handicaps. It has been a pleasure to watch them all in each event and the girls fought well at Junior County Match Week at The Cambridgeshire this year – again with great team spirit.

We send our best wishes to Eloise Aldous, Alice Barlow and Francesca Tindall who will be leaving us this year.

I would also like to thank those ladies who have helped this year and those who continue their involvement with the Juniors next year, you have all been a great support to both myself and the girls.

It was also my last year as Junior Organiser and I would like to thank everyone for all their support over the past 3 years I greatly appreciate it. I must say a special thank you to Sarah Saggars as she was always at the end of the phone over the past 3 years for me whether she was playing golf, on holiday or even walking her dogs! Thank you! It has been a pleasure working with everyone and the Juniors are a great group to look after.

While sending our best wishes to Eloise she won't be going far as she will be taking on the role as Junior Organiser and I wish her all the best in her new role, I know she will be a great influence to the girls and their golf.

I would like to wish all the girls a good golfing year!

The president invited questions for Sarah. Non were raised.

c) Senior Organisers Report – Mrs Tessa Summers

2016 has been a successful and enjoyable year for the Suffolk Senior Ladies.

Eight matches in total were played at eight different venues ranging from Gosfield Lakes in Essex to The Bedford and as far north as Sheringham in Norfolk. The teams we played were Norfolk Lady Vets, SGU Senior Men, Essex Senior Ladies, Beds Senior Ladies, Cambs and Hunts Seniors, Suffolk Junior Girls, Suffolk Lady Vets and Norfolk Senior Ladies. Most of these were played off scratch and resulted in 2 wins, 3 draws, 2 losses and 1 match abandoned due to torrential rain!

A big thank you to all the host Golf Clubs as their hospitality and welcome have been excellent and also a big thank you to all the ladies who have participated. All the matches have been played in a competitive but sporting manner giving us the opportunity of not only playing different courses but meeting and making new friends both in Suffolk and neighbouring Counties.

The president invited questions for Tessa. Non were raised.

d) **England Golf Report - Mrs Rebecca Evans**

2016 has been an enjoyable year serving the county. My first event to organise was the East Region Foursomes Championship which was held this year at Ipswich Golf Club on the Purdis Heath course. As always, the course was in excellent condition. The winners of the Championship were local girls Fiona Edmonds & Lottie Whyman from Ipswich GC. The Nett winners were also local girls Sarah Gotts & Kerry Enever from Diss GC. 2017 sees the event being held in Bedfordshire at South Beds GC on the 20th April.

On the 14th April both myself and Di Cunningham travelled to Hinckley for the England Golf AGM and Awards Event. This year was our new CEO Nick Pink's first AGM. Nick has joined us from the ECB where he held several high-profile positions. I've been lucky enough to have met with Nick and spoken with him about developing women's & girls golf, it is clear he believes passionately about women's & girls in sport.

July saw me hosting the East Region Senior Championship at Haverhill GC. Once again, the event was very well supported with 44 ladies playing the 18-hole stroke play event. The weather in July was pleasant enough apart from the high winds which for the best part didn't cause too many issues except on the par 4 11th Hole SI 1. The ladies were grateful for an excellent lunch and prize giving, with Rena Stott from Essendon GC Herts taking the Gross prize for the second year running and our own Pam Madams from Bury St Edmunds GC taking the Nett Prize. This year the Nett prize has been renamed the Archer Bowl in recognition of Anne Archers contribution to the event and her commitment to the county and Women's & Girls golf. In 2017 the event will be held in Bedfordshire at The Bedford GC. I'd like to thank Haverhill GC for all their support in hosting this event.

August had me make the long journey to Woodhall Spa, any of you that have travelled to the home of English golf will understand it's frustrations. Thankfully Woodhall Spa is a lovely town made even the more pleasant because I had the opportunity to play the Hotchkins course. In fact, the husband and I were the first people out just after the course was closed for its annual maintenance, I think they confused me for somebody important! But back to business - I wasn't there to play golf, we had to try and close out the last parts of the Governance & Affiliation review which took up a lot of our time in 2015. Sadly, we were unable to reach a consensus at this meeting! So In November I travelled once more to Woodhall Spa for the final general meeting of 2016. We voted on several changes to the articles of England Golf with the major item being the ability for either gender to vote for all board members which was passed unanimously. The new process will allow both genders to nominate and vote for a candidate regardless of gender. Slow progress but progress none the less.

As the year has come to an end so does Sarah Sagers captaincy. I would like to wish Sarah every success in all her future endeavours on and off the course. She really has been great to

work with, nothing is too much trouble and she is always available to the Governing Body. As a rookie finding my feet she took me under her wing and gave me assistance where needed whilst also allowing me to find my own way. Good luck and thanks for everything you have done for me and the delegates! You will be missed by many.

Also, leaving the County is Sarah Howe - our junior organiser. Sarah, during her time on the County, has had many challenges but has always dealt them with a smile on her face. She is quite the joker and I will miss not knowing what will happen with any of my belonging whilst in her company! Thankfully though her replacement is also just as gregarious and I'd like to welcome Eloise Aldous to the team and wish her every success. I'd like to personally thank the delegates for all their hard work and effort during 2016 and I'm looking forward to working with you in 2017.

The president invited questions for Rebecca. None were raised.

e) Treasurer's Report – Miss Hermione Scrope

I have attached a short report to the Accounts highlighting and explaining the salient points. However, if anyone has a question I will be very happy to answer it.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the County Card Scheme. As you know we ceased charging for County Cards about two years ago and they are now free. This year in conjunction with the SGU we are issuing new cards. These are like a credit card, and have a membership number on the back. They will also have a sticker identifying the year for which they are valid.

You will find a supply of these cards at the back of the hall for each club. The number given to each club is the number reported by your delegate at the last meeting. If you want any more please let me know.

The treasurer invited questions. None were raised.

f) Handicap Adviser's Report – Mrs Eunice Gray

This is now the end of my second year as handicap secretary and I think I may at last be getting to grips with the Central Database Handicap Website; it is not exactly user friendly.

The beginning of 2016 was taken up with the CONGU handicapping changes and the logistics of ensuring that handicap secretaries and the golf clubs in the county had a full understanding of those changes. England Golf held workshops in Cambridge for handicap secretaries and I followed that up with a local meeting at Woodbridge GC for those secretaries unable to attend.

The changes seem to have been accommodated without any major problems. There has been the occasional query on handicap issues and a more complicated issue involving junior players but these have all been resolved.

I do get several queries passed on from the CDH website which could easily have been resolved by the player speaking to their club secretary or handicap secretary. For instance asking how to print off a handicap certificate

Something of note which clubs and players must be made aware of:

Just before Christmas I received an email from England Golf outlining the recording of Non-qualifying scores. This was to address the issue of a large number of incidents in 2015/16 regarding players who play a lot of golf away from their Home Club in Non-Qualifying Competitions, and are gaining a great amount of success, it has been noted that these scores and victories do not seem to be reflective of the player's general performance at the home club.

From 1st January 2017 England Golf require all players to return all scores in Non-Qualifying Competition, to assist handicap committees with handicap reviews. (Clause 4.5b/8.12)

These scores will not directly affect a player's handicap, but may be used as 'supporting evidence' of performance when it comes to a handicap review.

Scores should be returned in all Singles, Am-Am, 4BBB and team competitions, with the exception of Texas Scrambles and Greensomes, foursomes or casual or social golf.

I have sent the information to all the handicap secretaries and clubs will have also received the information directly from England Golf. Any queries regarding this please contact Eunice.

The R&A have introduced new Local Rule that eliminates the penalty when a ball is accidentally moved on the putting green. More information can be found on the R&A website.

The president invited questions for Eunice. Non were raised.

The reports were then proposed for adoption by Debbie Golding of Woodbridge GC and seconded by Debbie Anthistle of Bury St Edmunds GC. They were carried unanimously.

5 RESOLUTIONS

The Secretary read the resolutions.

Resolution 1 (see appendix A) The president asked if there were any questions before the meeting was asked to vote on this resolution. No questions were raised. A vote was held and the resolution carried.

Resolution 2 (see appendix A) was read out to the meeting. The president asked if there were any questions before the meeting was asked to vote on this resolution. No questions were raised. A vote was held and the resolution carried.

6 ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The secretary read the names of those members who are retiring:-

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| Sarah Sagers | - | County Captain |
| Chris Lynch-Bates | - | County Championship Organiser |

June Kenworthy - Competition Organiser (Weston/Senior Shield)
Sarah Howe - Junior Organiser

CAPTAIN:

At this time of year, not only do we welcome the new committee members joining us but we also have to say goodbye to some and so I would like to say a big thank you to:

Chris Lynch-Bates

Chris has been Fynn Valley's representative on the GB since 2012 running the County Championship and Senior Championship's extending her term for a further 2 years when we were let down. She has also run our Suffolk Golf Day very successfully and has generously offered to continue this year. Chris, thank you and good luck for another successful golf day and enjoy your new found spare time.

June Kenworthy

June has been Rushmere's representative for the last 3 years running the Weston competition and out of the kindness of her heart the Senior Jubilee Shield – all in all 4 competitions run throughout the whole summer, quite a commitment. She ran these efficiently, with a smile and a glass of red wine. Thank you June

Sarah Howe

'Little Sarah' well she was when I first came to Suffolk, she now towers above me, not! Three years ago we were struggling to find a new County Junior Organiser. Having been a very successful junior, Junior County Captain and County 1st team player we thought she was someone who could offer something new, we were right. Once she found her feet she stepped up to the task, the girls blossomed in her care, respecting her kind and quiet enthusiasm. We were very lucky she took on this role, now it's time for Sarah to get back on the practice ground herself!

The secretary then read the names of those who will remain in office for the coming year.

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| Hermione Scrope | County President/Honorary Treasurer |
| Di Cunningham | Hon Secretary |
| Rebecca Evans | England Golf Representative |
| Eunice Gray | Handicap Adviser |
| Tessa Summers | Senior Organiser |

And Competition Organisers: -

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| Rosemary Woodhouse | Gorleston for a further 1 year |
| Di Spring & Jenny Cardwell | Southwold for a further 1 years |
| Dianne Clarke | Ufford Park for a further 2 years |
| Debbie Anthistle/Lynne Wright | Bury St Edmunds for a further 2 years |

I will read the names of ladies nominated as Officers of the Association:

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| Vanessa Bell | County Captain |
| Sharon Luckman | Vice Captain |
| Eloise Aldous | Junior Organiser |

And the names of the ladies nominated as Competition Organisers
Amanda Norman – Felixstowe (for the Weston – nominated for 3 years)
Carol Cooke - Thorpeness (for the County Championships) – nominated for 3 years

The nominations were proposed en bloc by Hilary Archer of Brett Vale Golf Club and seconded by Jo Moore from Bungay 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.

CAPTAIN:

Vanessa Bell as your County Captain will bring a wealth of golfing experience. She played as a Suffolk Junior, moving on to a career as a Touring Pro before returning five years ago as an amateur. Since she has immersed herself into club & family golf while making a great impact on our County Team with numerous wins. Good luck this year at Hunstanton, I believe you and your Vice Sharon, will make a winning team.

The Captain's badge was then presented to Vanessa.

Vice Captain

Sharon's first introduction to golf was a visit to the Felixstowe practice ground with her Dad. Childlike, she got bored standing around while her Dad had fun hitting balls about, so she picked up a club and joined in. According to her, she learned early on the art of keeping the ball low in the Felixstowe wind as not many of her shots got much air under them!

She first joined Waldringfield before moving to Felixstowe Golf Club where she remained for 22 years, enjoying numerous personal and club victories. She was club champion 9 times against some stern opposition, snapped up many inter-club trophies, twice became County Matchplay Champion and won the Strokeplay Championship three times. On the national stage, she reached the last eight of the 2003 English Ladies Amateur Championship and similarly in the English Mid Amateur Championship of 2013.

Sharon moved from Felixstowe to Ipswich Golf Club four years ago and has maintained her winning streak there and brought some first class golf to the Haskell and Weston teams. She also shot her career best of 68 to take home the President's Trophy.

This wide-ranging experience makes Sharon well qualified for the position of Suffolk's Vice-Captain but it is not only on the golf course that she excels. During the 22 years that she has represented us at County Match Week she has shown a clear and strong support for the Captains and their teams. She is hard working and loyal and I'm incredibly lucky to have her as my vice-Captain.

The Vice Captain's badge was then presented to Sharon Luckman

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

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PRESIDENT:

Governing Body have four items that they would like to raise at this time.

CAPTAIN:

Together with the Suffolk Golf Union, we decided to close down the Suffolk Golf Partnership. However, this does not affect our funding from England Golf for the Junior Talent Pathway, which we apply for and receive in conjunction with the SGU. It has been encouraging over the past 2 years that we have had a closer working relationship with the SGU.

The delegates voted unanimously to 'retire' the Blue book. It has been agreed that the County Secretary will email information including details of county competitions and entry forms to Ladies Captains and Ladies Secretaries. She will also send a reminder when entry opens for the various competitions. All the information previously in the blue book will also be on the website under a drop down section 'County Handbook'

We are still looking to recruit a Fixtures and Events organiser, this is not too onerous a position but really helps the running of the GB committee. Please don't be shy if you might be interested, please ask Di or Rebecca for information.

It has also been agreed that County Colours from 2017 will include foursomes wins as well as singles. Colours will be awarded to a player who has a total of 8 or more wins when representing Suffolk at County Match Week and/or National County Finals.

The president asked if there was any other business.

Kay Anderson of Ipswich asked the governing body to reconsider their decision to move the Haskell final to a Monday reversing the change that was made in 2012. Kay gave some background information as to why Ipswich were asking for this decision to be reconsidered.

PRESIDENT

The governing body has discussed this taking into account the points raised, it has been discussed at two meetings, for which the minutes have been circulated and it was agreed, unanimously, that we will go ahead and hold the 2 finals on the same day. The president asked for the views of the meeting with regard to the request from Ipswich.

Several views were expressed supporting that the Haskell final be held at a weekend. Amanda Norman, Felixstowe suggested holding the two finals on the same day but moving both to a Sunday.

Debbie Anthistle, Bury St Edmunds who is the current Haskell organiser informed the meeting that one of the reasons this decision had been made was it was felt that the final did not accurately reflect the status of the competition and that holding on the same day as the Stearn it might attract more attention to the Haskell competition. The Captain reiterated Debbie's comments having been at the last four finals with very little support in attendance. She also said that schools support students to take part in these competitions.

Amanda Norman informed the meeting that the National County Finals will be held at Felixstowe Golf Club starting on 18th September 2016.

Sue Cook

REPORT ON USGA RATING FOR 2016

USGA TEAM LEADERS: David Barnes(Stowmarket GC), Sue Cook and Julie Latimer-Jones(Aldeburgh GC)

Team Members: Carol Brown(Cretingham GC), Andy Crisp(Rookery Park GC), Keith Cresswell(Fynn Valley GC), Bill Darling(Stowmarket GC), Rachael Goldsmith(Halesworth GC), Peter Raspin(Ipswich GC), Kevin Rose(Ipswich GC).

2016 was our first complete year of Rating and we managed to rate five x 9 hole courses, of which only Southwold had separate tees on most holes. The clubs and courses we rated were, Bury St Edmunds GC - 9 hole course; Felixstowe Ferry GC - Kingsfleet course, Southwold GC, Halesworth GC - Valley Course and Flempton GC. All of the Ladies' tees on these courses had been previously measured using the USGA Rating System and in all, apart from one, the SSS remains unchanged. However the same was not true for the men's courses, which had previously been rated using a different system and may also have undergone some course changes, while there have been no significant changes to the Red courses.

As some SSSs change following the rating process, it follows that not all clubs are happy with their new SSS and if after discussion and having played with the new SSS, a club is still unhappy, there is an appeals procedure. However it is important to note that the SSS is based mainly on the overall length of the course and that adjustments for obstacles, rough, wind, bunkers, water, trees etc only amounts to + or - one stroke.

We finished the season with a meeting at Fynn Valley to discuss how the year had gone and to arrange the programme for 2017, finishing off with a Christmas quiz and lunch. All members of the team confirmed that they were happy to continue next year.

We have decided to rate five courses next year, and they are: Brett Vale GC, Royal WorlingtonmGC, Rookery Park GC, St. Clements GC, Seckford GC and Hintlesham GC. These are a mixture of 9 and 18 hole courses, some of them are quite long, so it will really test our metal!

We had a great team, who were constant throughout the year, but we can only rate one course a month. The squad is only large enough to provide sufficient personnel for one course, taking into account availability. It would be great if we could increase numbers, train more people and have the personnel to rate two courses a month or at least three courses over two months. We are getting to the stage in training where all Team Leaders will soon be able to rate without help from either Julie or myself, so we potentially would be able to split into two teams, thereby increasing the number of courses rated per year. We could really do with more ladies helping to rate. Rating is independent of gender, i.e. men can rate ladies' tees and ladies men's. So if there are any members who are interested in how courses are rated please, do consider coming along and having a go. Julie and I will be happy to talk to any interested people about what is required, or alternatively I'm sure either Rachael or Carol would be happy to chat about how they have found the experience.

We would like to thank all the officials at the courses that we have visited for their hospitality

and Keith Cresswell and the management at Fynn Valley for allowing us to use their facilities.

Our thanks go to the SLCGA and the SGU for their support.

Lastly thanks to all the rating team for giving so freely of their time and for always being a joy to work with.

PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much.

I would like to confirm that the Raffle this year has raised £315.00. Thank you to you all.

PRESIDENT:

I would like to thank Sue Cook sincerely on behalf of us all for all the work she has done to run the 100 Club since its inception and to make it so successful. Thank you Sue.

The draw for the 100 Club was made. The winners names will be displayed on the website.

PRESENTATIONS:

PRESIDENT:

Joy Winn Salver

This is the third year that the Salver has been played for. It is for the lowest scratch scores achieved over the year. I am delighted to present it to Alice Barlow.

The winning teams of the Weston Trophy, Plate and Bowl came onto the stage to collect their trophies. The Weston Bowl was won by Woodbridge, The Weston Plate was won by Rookery Park and finally many congratulations to the winners of the Weston Trophy - Ipswich

The coronation medals were presented to the winners:

The Silver Medal is awarded to Mandy Williamson, Haverhill -9

The Bronze Medal is awarded to Fern McCarthy, Flempton -14

CAPTAIN:

It gives me great pleasure to award the The Nigel Birrell Trophy to...

A young lady who is currently Suffolk's County Champion, Junior Champion, Junior Matchplay Champion, Division 1 scratch winner, Haskell winner, member of the County 1st Team with the most wins this year and Junior Captain. Nationally she won England Golf's Junior Champion of Champions, came 5th in the Ladies' Champion of Champions, 7th in the Telegraph BMW Championship held in Portugal and tied 8th in the English Girls Open of course it's Alice Barlow from Newton Green.

CAPTAIN:

The Captain presented Suffolk County Colours to 2 of the County Team: Abbie Symonds and Alice Barlow. Junior Colours (1st Team) were presented to Georgia Parker.

Sarah Sagers was presented with a small token of appreciation for all she has done whilst serving on the Governing Body.

PRESIDENT:

The Eva Harris Shield is awarded for achievements in junior golf. The winner this year is Fiona Stokes. Fiona's handicap was 12 at the beginning of the year and she reduced it to 6.8 which is her current handicap. During this year she became Haverhill Ladies Club Champion, won the Lady Captain's Cup, was club Junior Captain, was in the runners up team in the Suffolk 3 man team championships, won the Haverhill Junior Open and played at Junior County Week

Junior Improver of the Year: This trophy has been won by Georgia Parker. Georgia handicap was cut from 19 to 11. During the year she won the nett at the Suffolk Girls Championship at Felixstowe, she went on to play in the Champion of champions and won the U14 scratch. Georgia also won the nett at Haverhill and Gorleston. She played in the East Region Girls and was the overall nett winner. She also competed in the England girls U18. She played for the Junior 1st team at JCMW.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Junior Captain for 2017 is Molly Newson

The 2nd Team Captain is Layla Farthing

PRESIDENT:

Thank you for attending the meeting today. I now declare this meeting closed at 11.52

Joan Warnett of Bury St Edmunds Golf Club proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the Suffolk Golf Clubs to all officials and committee members. She wished a happy retirement to those standing down from the Governing Body.

Di Cunningham
Hon. Secretary
January 2017

Report 4(b) – Junior Organiser's Report (Miss Sarah Howe)

Junior Organiser's Report 2016

My final year as County Junior Organiser with all the girls ready to start training with Christine Langford, the beginners and improvers had an hour with Christine followed by an hour together with the first team girls and then the first team had an hour with Christine in preparation for JCMW. This also helped the girls get to know each other as a group. Alice Barlow and Eloise Aldous attended County Ladies First team training and represented both ladies and juniors at County week.

The Suffolk girls Junior Championship was held at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club. The Moss Blundell was won by Alice Barlow and the handicap prize went to Georgia Parker. Mary Cuthbert won the stableford prize with 31 points. Alice Barlow won the Matchplay Championship.

The Lady/ Junior Foursomes was held at Seckford Golf Club this year and won by Cleo Parfett and May bird. We combined the Autumn meeting this year with the High handicap cup, but unfortunately due to lack of interest we had to cancel.

Alice Barlow and Georgia Parker played in the English Girls this year. Well done Alice who finished in top 10.

The 1st team girls played in practice matches against Weston teams and the 2nd team girls in preparation for JCMW, they also had a practice round at The Cambridgeshire GC. This year at JCMW Suffolk the team gain a new member, Georgia Parker who joined Eloise Aldous, Alice Barlow (Junior Captain), Molly Newson, Fiona Stokes, Charlotte Gregory, Megan Bailey and Francesca Tindall. Suffolk had one halve against Essex but unfortunately lost the other matches. It was again noted that Suffolk had the best team spirit this year.

The young 2nd Team played 3 matches this year unfortunately they lost against the Junior 1st team, Cambs & Hunts and Bedfordshire. We didn't have enough girls for the match against Norfolk so had to cancel, hopefully they will be able to play the match next year.

Eloise and Alice played in the Ladies Championship and got through to the matchplay, Alice then went on to win the matchplay becoming the Suffolk ladies Champion.

Everyone had a great year in cutting their handicaps and gaining CONGU handicaps, well done all.

We send our best wishes to Eloise Aldous, Alice Barlow and Francesca Tindall who will be leaving us at the end of the year.

Molly Newson will be 2017's Captain and Layla Farthing will be second team captain – we wish them an enjoyable year.

Hermione Scrope (President) and Sarah Saggars (Captain) attended the junior events, their support has been greatly appreciated over the years.

I finish my role as Junior Organiser now and it has been a pleasure being Junior Organiser, I'd also like to say thank you to Teresa Wardlaw, Claire Aldous and Nicola Tindall for all your support this year and all the years I have been Junior organiser it has been great working with you all

Eloise will be taking on the role as Junior Organiser and hope she has a great time being Junior Organiser.

We are very grateful for the support we received from the SLCGA, SVLGA, our donors and all the clubs that have allowed us to hold events on their courses.

Sarah Howe
Junior Organiser

Report 4(c) – Senior Organiser's Report (Mrs Tessa Summers)

Senior Organiser's Report 2016

2016 has been a successful and enjoyable year for the Suffolk Senior Ladies.

New SLCGA jumpers were sourced and made available for players to buy at £35 each. This was because the original Glenmuir woollen ones had been discontinued and there were not enough spare jumpers available for the whole team!

Unfortunately the SGU Men are discontinuing future matches due to poor results at National events and therefore wanting a smaller squad with lower handicaps and more practice sessions! (Should we find a replacement match?)

Eight matches in total were played against Norfolk Lady Vets, SGU Senior Men, Beds Senior Ladies, Cambs and Hunts Senior Ladies, Suffolk Junior Girls, Suffolk Lady Vets and Norfolk Senior Ladies. Most of these were played off scratch and resulted in 2 wins, 3 draws, 2 losses and 1 match abandoned due to torrential rain!

A big thank you to all the Golf Clubs that have hosted our matches, their hospitality and welcoming have been excellent and also a big thank you to the ladies who have played. All our matches have been played in a competitive but sporting manner giving us the opportunity of not only playing different courses but meeting and making new friends both in Suffolk and neighbouring Counties.

Tessa Summers
Senior Organiser

Report 4(d) – England Golf Report (Mrs Rebecca Evans)

England Golf Report 2016

2016 has been an enjoyable year serving the county. My first event to organise was the East Region Foursomes Championship which was held this year at Ipswich Golf Club on the Purdis Heath course. As always, the course was in excellent condition and after a slight hiccup at the start the 112 players got off to a flying start. The winners of the Championship were local girls Fiona Edmonds & Lottie Whyman from Ipswich GC. The Nett winners were also local girls Sarah Gotts & Kerry Enever from Diss GC. 2017 sees the event being held in Bedfordshire at South Beds GC on the 20th April.

On the 14th April both myself and Di Cunningham (Suffolk Hon Secretary) travelled to Hinckley for the England Golf AGM and Awards Event. This event is a good opportunity for the counties to meet with the England Golf board and department leaders to review current plans and develop new opportunities. This year was our new CEO Nick Pink's first AGM. Nick has joined us from the ECB where he held several high-profile positions. I've been lucky enough to have met with Nick and spoken with him about developing women's & girls golf, it is clear he believes passionately about women's & girls in sport. Nick is very progressive in his outlook and his style is very consultative. During the short time, he has been at the helm of England Golf it's clear to see a change in the board and employee's attitude. They have a more open mindset and welcome the views of the counties.

During May I normally host a delegates meeting, this year however, things were very quiet and it was felt that it wasn't a good use of our delegates time so the meeting was cancelled. The delegates meeting is an excellent opportunity for the County to discuss member's concerns and issues but it's important to have a full agenda so the meetings have purpose.

July saw me hosting the East Region Senior Championship at Haverhill GC. Once again, the event was very well supported with 44 ladies playing the 18-hole stroke play event. The weather in July was pleasant enough apart from the high winds which for the best part didn't cause too many issues except on the par 4 11th Hole SI 1. As the stroke index suggests it's a tricky hole with a smallish landing area from the tee, two lots of water and a longish second shoot to make birdie or par. This hole caused even our winner a challenge with many of our ladies making bogey or worse on this hole. The ladies were grateful for an excellent lunch and prizing giving, with Rena Stott from Essendon GC Herts taking the Gross prize for the second year running and our own Pam Madams from Bury St Edmunds GC taking the Nett Prize. This year the Nett prize has been renamed the Archer Bowl in recognition of Anne Archers contribution to the event and her commitment to the county and Women's & Girls golf. In 2017 the event will be held in Bedfordshire at The Bedford GC. I'd like to thank Haverhill GC for all their support in hosting this event.

August had me make the long journey to Woodhall Spa, any of you that have travelled to the home of English golf will understand it's frustrations. Thankfully Woodhall Spa is a lovely town made even the more pleasant because I had the opportunity to play the Hotchkiss course. In fact, the husband and I were the first people out just after the course was closed for its annual maintenance, I think they confused me for somebody important! But back to business - I wasn't there to play golf (I did make an improvement on my previous score, but only just!), we had to try and close out the last parts of the Governance & Affiliation review which took up a lot of our time in 2015. Sadly, we were unable to reach a consensus at this

meeting! In November I travelled once more to Woodhall Spa for the final general meeting of 2016. We voted on several changes to the articles of England Golf with the major item being the ability for either gender to vote for all board members. On this occasion, we reached a unanimous vote on both genders being able to vote for board members. Currently only the Association can vote for female board members and the same is true for the men. The new process will allow both genders to nominate and vote for a candidate regardless of gender. Slow progress but progress none the same.

As the year comes to an end so does Sarah Sagger's captaincy. I would like to wish Sarah every success in all her future endeavours. She really has been great to work with, nothing is too much trouble and she is always available to the Governing Body. As a rookie finding my feet she took me under her wing and gave me assistance where needed whilst also allowing me to find my own way. Good luck and thanks for everything you have done for me and the delegates! You will be missed by many.

Also, leaving the County is Sarah Howe - our junior organiser. Sarah, during her time on the County, has had many challenges but has always dealt them with a smile on her face. She is quite the joker and I will miss not knowing what will have happen with any of my belonging whilst in her company! Thankfully though her replacement is also just as gregarious and I'd like to welcome Elouise Aldous to the team and wish her every success.

Rebecca Evans
England Golf Representative

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

Treasurer's Report 2016

This year the Association has incurred an excess of expenditure over income of £1,389, which is an improvement from the previous year.

Our main source of revenue is from the subscriptions that our members pay. For 2016 our numbers were slightly up on the previous year. The inter-club knock-out competitions continue to fund themselves. The competitions run by the County saw an encouraging increase in the number of participants, particularly in Division 1, but an increase in the costs incurred resulted in a small loss. The Suffolk Golf Day continues to be a valuable source of income and very popular with our members and this year contributed £1,204. This year we hosted two Eastern Region events which made a contribution of £1,314

Membership of the 100 Club continues to grow and this year raised £1,070. We are currently awaiting suggestions from the Clubs, via the delegates, as to how this money is to be spent. As reported last year the money raised in 2015 was spent during 2016 on a First Aid Course run by the Red Cross for those County Officials involved in running events.

This year we introduced a system of training vouchers for the teams which has proved successful and this accounts for the increase in the cost of County training. We have also invested in a new uniform for the teams. These two items are the main reason for the increase in the cost of the teams and matches. We are constantly monitoring our expenditure and this year managed to reduce our administration costs.

We continue to support our Juniors by making a contribution of £1,541 towards their expenses.

Hermione C. Scrope FCA CTA
Hon. Treasurer

Report 4(f) – Handicap Adviser's Report (Mrs Eunice Gray)

Handicap Adviser's Report 2016

The beginning of 2016 was taken up with the CONGU handicapping changes and the logistics of ensuring that handicap secretaries and the golf clubs in the county had a full understanding of those changes. England Golf held workshops in Cambridge for handicap secretaries and I followed that up with a local meeting at Woodbridge GC for those secretaries unable to attend.

The main changes were

- Calendar year to run from January 1st-Dec 31st
- Introduction of the Club Handicap for club run events for those players new to golf or those no longer able to play to a 28/36 handicap. This is to encourage more people to take up the sport and to remain playing for longer. Players cannot hold a “c” handicap and a club handicap at the same time although players can put in supplementary cards in order to gain a “c” handicap
- A change to the qualifying 9 hole parameters-it should be noted that clubs offering 9 hole qualifiers must have the 9 holes allocated a specific SS by England Golf and not use the 18 hole parameters
- Continuous handicap review where a player with 7 consecutive 0.1 increases will be flagged to enable the handicap committee to decide whether an increase in immediate increase in handicap is called for.
- Competition status -a reallocation of handicap will require scorecards for 54 holes in any permutation of 9 and 18 holes. Reactivation of “c” status handicap is necessary if a player does not play qualifiers in a 12 month golfing year. If the player rejoins another club within the year the handicap remains the same.
- The Exceptional Scoring Reduction table has been amended to reduce the severity of reduction. ESR's will only be applied based on a pair of exceptional scores

The changes seem to have been accommodated without any major problems. There has been the occasional query on handicap issues and a more complicated issue involving junior players but these have all been resolved.

Eunice Gray
Handicap Advisor

APPENDIX A

RESOLUTION 1

CONTAINING AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE SUFFOLK LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

1 All Sections within the Rules

Rule 2 – Subscriptions

It is proposed that the Rule be amended as follows:

The date “by 1st January in any one year” should be replaced with “60 days following the start of the club subscription year”.

The purpose of this Resolution is to bring the date by which subscriptions must be paid in line with the new England Golf affiliation fee collection process for Clubs.

RESOLUTION 2

AFFILIATION FEE TO RISE

As of January 2018 the Affiliation fees to rise to £7.50 per capita.

This entitles all members to play in the County events throughout the year. The ladies who have to pay the Affiliation Fee are those who are full, country, five-day and restricted members of your Club. Those exempt from any payment are members who have nominated another Suffolk club as their home Club, Juniors and Honorary Members.

The purpose of this Resolution is to increase the affiliation fee from January 2018 by £1 per capita to help meet the continued increase in the cost of running the association.