



Sussex County Ladies Golf Association

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE ARDINGLY ROOM, NORFOLK
PAVILION, SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND, ARDINGLY ON MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 10.30
A.M.**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mrs Margaret Grover	President in the Chair
	Mrs Jane Covey	County Captain
	Mrs Brenda Gilbey	Vice Captain
	Mrs Ann Carnegie	Hon. Secretary
	Mrs Doreen Gibbs	Treasurer
	Mrs Sue Todd	Junior Organiser
	Mrs Sue Carey	EWGA South Region Representative
	Mrs Deborah James	Registrar
	Mrs Chris Handson	Handicap Adviser

Committee Members: Mrs Joan Jarman, Mrs Kay Grindell, Mrs Jane Rogers, Mrs. Sue Smith, Mrs. Marlene Gibson, Mrs. Sylvia Huggair, Miss Thrine Hely, Mrs Kathleen Donohoe and Mrs Victoria Pett

Representatives from 52 affiliated Golf Clubs were in attendance and a total of 217 ladies signed the Attendance Register.

NOTICE: The Honorary Secretary, Mrs Ann Carnegie, read the notice convening the meeting.

APOLOGIES: The Honorary Secretary read out the list of apologies for absence: Mary Barnard, Carol Larkin, Judy Gardiner, June Garland, Margot Mulvey, Jean Taylor, Pat Brown, Ann Howard, Janet Scott and Eileen Ritchie

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

The President opened on a sad note by recording the death of Daphne Reed from Bognor and West Sussex Golf Clubs, Daphne joined the County Executive in 1967, was County Captain from 1970 – 1972 and President from 1974 – 1977. The President also informed the meeting that Sue King had died recently, she was a member of East Brighton Golf Club, and was well known throughout the county having played in county senior matches and many county events.

The death was also reported of John Vinnicombe the chief sports reporter for the Argus, although not a member of the association he always took great interest in golf and was often seen at the County Championships.

The County First Team had another successful year winning County Match Week at Camberley Heath, they went on to play in the national finals at Thorndon Park in Essex where they came a very creditable 4th in the country.

The President congratulated the whole team for their commitment and hard work but mostly for the tremendous team spirit which was in many ways due to the County Captain and Neil Plimmer's inspirational management. The President also thanked the numerous supporters and trolley pullers who travelled to Essex.

The President reported that the Senior Team consisting of Kathy Donohoe, Rosie Hockey, Ann Howard and Katherine Russell played in the Counties Strokeplay competition at Frilford Heath. The Sussex team came second to the host county of Oxfordshire which was an excellent result. Katherine Russell recorded the lowest gross score of the day a great achievement.

In match play the seniors beat Hampshire, Surrey and Berkshire and drew with Kent. Unfortunately the Veterans were convincingly beaten by Hampshire Veterans at Cams Hall. Next year the Veterans match is being held at Ham Manor, the President asked any Lady Captain, particularly with a handicap in the bronze division who would like to be considered to please contact her.

The junior girls, despite losing some of the lower handicappers due to their age, have recorded some great successes. Congratulations to them and to Sue Todd the Junior Organiser who has worked extremely hard with them throughout the year.

The Annual Match v the Men's Committee was cancelled due to a conflict of dates by the men.

The President informed the meeting that the vote on the proposed merger between EWGA and EGU would take place later in the month, the County EWGA Representative; Sue Carey will report on this subject later in the meeting.

The county book called 'The History of Ladies Golf in Sussex' is in the process of being updated, the President recommended that all County Clubs purchase a copy for their records as it will be very interesting reading.

The President expressed her thanks to all the Committee Members who have worked so hard on the County's behalf throughout the year especially to Jane Covey, County Captain who is finishing this year. Jane has been involved with the executive for many years and has given a lot to the county, in her role as Past Captain she will be an invaluable source of advice when necessary.

The President concluded by thanking the clubs for making her so welcome during her first year of office as County President.

2. **MINUTES** of the last Annual General Meeting held on 8 November 2010. These having been circulated were taken as read. They were proposed by Amanda Jupp of West Sussex, seconded by Shirley Vance of Cottesmore and signed by the President.

3. **COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

The County Captain opened her report by thanking all the clubs who had so willingly hosted County events throughout the year. She thanked also the Lady Captains and their committees; as well as the behind the scene helpers who gave up their time to support County competitions both on and off the golf course.

Mrs. Covey informed the meeting that after much debate the Executive made the decision to allow Distance Measuring Devices in County Competitions. The County competition rules and conditions have been updated and will adhere to the R & A rule 14.3 concerning types of devices allowed.

The Website has proved an important part of association communication with news and results. Huw Barnes is the website manager and has been very helpful and efficient reporting the information in his spare time. Mrs. Covey congratulated him on behalf of the SCLGA. This year the county took the decision to go onto Facebook; this has been an enormous success with the younger generation of golfers who go on line to check on coaching, competitions and results.

Mrs Covey presented Chelsea Masters from Highwoods G.C. with her 1st Team Colours. Chelsea achieved 4 match wins in 2010 and this year achieved another 5 wins for Sussex at the regional finals at Camberley Heath in June.

Mrs. Covey congratulated the County Team for their win at Camberley Heath and their excellent result at the County Finals in Essex. To complete a very successful year for the County Team, they have been short listed for the Sussex Sports Award, "Team of the Year" and this is being hosted in the Metropole Hotel they were runners-up last year and we are hoping that they will succeed this year.

The Morrice Cup is usually awarded to the most improved player of the year; but this year Mrs. Covey presented this trophy to the incredible 1st team who not only achieved and broke records personally but achieved them collectively as a team. They won the County Regional Finals 2 years consecutively winning the Doris Abraham Trophy and then went on to retain their fourth place nationally. Mrs. Covey asked the County Champion, Stacey Rodger to receive the Morrice Cup on behalf of the team.

Sussex Golf Partnership — The County Captain reported as follows:

Funding is assured and has been increased again. The Partnership has continued and extended its programme in 2011 getting more participation in Golf in Sussex. New players have been encouraged to stay and develop with the game. The partnership attends shows where golf attractions are set up to attract new players. A county wide taster session for women and girls is planned for 2012.

The County Captain thanked her hard working committee:

Margaret Grover – President
Brenda Gilbey – Vice Captain
Neil Plimmer – County Coach
Ann Carnegie – Secretary
Sue Todd – Junior Organiser
Chris Handson – Handicap Advisor
And Vicky Pett, Sylvia Huggair, Thrine Hely, Kay Grindell, Jane Rogers and Sue Smith – invaluable committee members.

The County Captain said goodbyes to members of the executive who after many years working on the committee are leaving.

Doreen Gibbs after many years as Treasurer
Jane Bowers, Competition Secretary
Sue Carey, EWGA Representative
Deborah James after 5 years as County Registrar
And lastly to Joan Jarman and Kathy Donohue who have been very efficient Division Secretaries.

Mrs. Covey concluded her report by awarding Mrs. Di Langridge Honorary Life Membership in acknowledgement of her past services to the SCLGA and her continued loyalty to the county.

4. **PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES** - The President presented trophies to the following clubs:

Scratch Knock-Out Foursomes	-	West Sussex
Kathleen Rider Foursomes	-	Chartham Park
Jerdein Memorial Salver	-	West Sussex
Morrice Foursomes	-	Cottesmore
Division I	-	West Sussex
Division II	-	West Sussex
Division III	-	Cowdray Park
Mini League	-	Horam Park

5. **BALLOT** - Not held

6. **ACCOUNTS – MRS DOREEN GIBBS**

Report attached.

The adoption of the Accounts were proposed by Mrs. Terry Hughes of Cowdray Park and seconded by Mrs. Jacqueline Horwood of Horam Park

The President asked for a show of hands in agreement.

7. **COUNTY COACH REPORT – MR NEIL PLIMMER**

Report attached.

In the absence of Mr Plimmer, the Secretary, Mrs Ann Carnegie read out the report.

8. **COMPETITION SECRETARY’S REPORT – MRS BRENDA GILBEY**

Report attached.

9. **EWGA SOUTH REGION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT – MRS SUE CAREY**

Report attached.

10. **JUNIOR ORGANISER’S REPORT – MRS SUE TODD**

Report attached.

11. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF NEW COUNTY CAPTAIN MRS. BRENDA GILBEY

The County Captain, Mrs. Jane Covey introduced Brenda Gilbey who is a member of Sweetwoods Park Golf Club and has been on the Executive committee since 2004. Mrs. Gilbey was Competition Secretary for five years and organised a very successful County Match Week at East Sussex National in 2010. The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the nomination and the County Captain presented Mrs. Gilbey with her badge of office.

In her acceptance speech Mrs Gilbey said she was very honoured and privileged to be elected as County Captain and said she would look forward to the next 2 years with enthusiasm. She hoped that the success story with the County 1st team would continue and looked forward to helping them achieve more successes in the next two years. The new County Captain then presented Mrs. Jane Covey with a memento for her time as County Captain.

12. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF NEW PAST CAPTAIN – MRS JANE COVEY

The County Captain informed the AGM that Mrs Jane Covey from Singing Hills had joined the County in 1999 and since then has been Competition Secretary, Vice Captain and County Captain. Mrs. Covey will now take on the role of Past Captain for one year giving advice and support to the County Captain in her first year. The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the nomination and the County Captain presented Mrs. Covey with her Past Captain's badge.

13. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF NEW HONORARY TREASURER

The County Captain introduced Miss Thrine Hely who has been a member of West Sussex G.C. since 1985 and has a Masters Degree in Business Management. Miss Hely has been on the County Committee for 1 year and will be a great asset as Treasurer. The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the nomination and the County Captain presented Miss Hely with her badge of office.

14. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF NEW COMPETITION SECRETARY

The Captain introduced Mrs. Sylvia Huggair who has been a member of Willingdon G.C. since 2003, was competition and handicap secretary from 2006 to 2008 and Lady Captain in 2010. Mrs Huggair has been on the Executive committee for 1 year and will be a very conscientious competitions secretary. The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the nomination and the County Captain presented Mrs. Huggair with her badge of office.

15. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF NEW DIVISION I SECRETARY

The Captain introduced Mrs Jane Rogers who has been a member of the Dyke Golf Club since 1995 where she has served on the ladies' committee for four years. She is an organised and hardworking member of the executive committee and will be an efficient Division 1 secretary. The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the nomination.

16. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF NEW DIVISION III SECRETARY

The Captain introduced Mrs Marlene Gibson who is a member of Ham Manor Golf Club and joined the County in November 2010. Mrs. Gibson has been an extremely hard working member of the executive committee and will be an efficient Division 3 Secretary. The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the nomination.

17. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF NEW EWGA SOUTH REGION REPRESENTATIVE

The Captain introduced Mrs. Susan Smith who is a member of Crowborough Beacon Golf Club. Mrs. Smith has held the position of Treasurer for the Ladies Section of Crowborough since 2008. She is a very willing and able member of the committee and will carry out her duties as EWGA Representative with great efficiency. The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the nomination.

18. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF NEW COUNTY REGISTRAR

The Captain introduced Mrs. Carol Smith who is a member of the Dyke Golf Club where she currently holds the position of Treasurer. Carol will be a very efficient and thorough County Registrar and an asset to the committee. The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the nomination.

19. TO CONFIRM THE ELECTION OF THOSE REMAINING IN OFFICE

The President asked the Meeting to confirm the election of those remaining in office 'en bloc'.

County President	-	Mrs. Margaret Grover
Honorary Secretary	-	Mrs. Ann Carnegie
Junior Organiser	-	Mrs. Sue Todd
Div II Secretary	-	Mrs. Vicki Pett
And Committee Member	-	Mrs. Kay Grindell

The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the above.

20. TO ELECT 6 MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

Five nominations had been received and the following were elected to the County Committee for a period of 3 years. Circular 1 attached.

Mrs. Gilly Ewers – Mannings Heath G.C., Mrs. Rosie Chisholm-Hill – Ifield G.C., Mrs. Roseanne Rees – East Brighton G.C., Mrs. Joanne Mott – Sweetwoods Park G.C. and Miss Patricia Lowing – Dale Hill G.C.

The President asked for a show of hands in agreement with the above nominations. The five new committee members were presented with their badges by the County Captain.

21. PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENTS RECEIVED None.

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Jean Ranger from Seaford G.C. asked if the Division matches, currently played off scratch could be played off full handicap difference instead. Mrs. Ranger pointed out that the scratch format favoured large golf clubs that have a large pool of players to choose from.

The County Captain thanked Mrs. Ranger for her comments and assured her that this suggestion would be discussed in committee.

Mrs. Val Groombridge from Boars Head G.C. asked if the Division 4/Mini League secretary could be introduced to the meeting as this had been omitted. Mrs. Kay Grindell was duly introduced with an apology for the omission.

23. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

Mrs. Amanda Jupp of West Sussex G.C. gave a vote of thanks to the Chair.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 11.40 hours.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE COUNTY AGM 7 NOVEMBER 2011 – MRS DOREEN GIBBS

Madam President, County Captain and Ladies

I am sorry to report that this year we have made a loss of £4930, due to various factors, including the cost of everything we buy or use having increased significantly this year. The increase shown on stationery and printing is due to our having to pay nearly £900 for printing the county cards, which we have not had to do for several years. The increase shown under sundry expenses is mainly due to our having purchased county stakes for the tee boxes at county events, at a cost of £720, but these will last for many years, plus the cost of £362 to attend the EWGA conference earlier in the year, not including travel. We have 198 fewer ladies as members of our Association this year, now numbering 4268, resulting in £792 reduction in income, and our county card sales are further reduced this year by £174, i.e. 29 ladies not renewing.

As you know, we have had to cancel two of our county competitions, due to lack of support, and of the remainder, only one has made a profit. Obviously, we cannot continue in this way, therefore unless you wish us to run these events for you and are going to enter them; we will have to consider running fewer in the future. We hope that is not the case and we are organising more fun competitions, where you can play with friends across the county and enjoy your golf, without the need to consider handicap adjustments.

Our County teams this year have been very successful but after having received a donation of £2,000 from EWGA towards the cost of attending the RCMW at Thorndon Park, the cost of running these has risen by approximately £2200 to £22,145. Everyone on the County Executive is trying to minimise all costs, and to enable us to keep postage costs to a minimum, we rely on you all keeping us up-to-date with your current email details, also passing on to the correct person in your club any attached forms etc., as we often only have one email contact per club. If you have problems with this, please contact us in order that we can help resolve these.

The Per Capita invoice for this year will be sent out with your A3 fixtures poster in the next couple of weeks. This money is due at the beginning of 2012, and without being paid, you will not be eligible to enter division matches, EWGA medals or any county competitions or events, nor indeed hold valid handicaps. Please try and ensure it is paid on time, as Ann and I have spent a great deal of time, repeatedly telephoning and emailing many clubs and lady captains trying to get the club entry forms and payments, as they had not been sent by the due date. This all adds to the expenses.

Following a very successful day at the Glenda Ricketts Memorial Salvors this October, we were able to send a cheque for £415 to Breakthrough Breast Cancer, being proceeds of a raffle and all profit from competition expenses, together with a donation of £250 from Glenda's nephew. I would like to thank everyone who donated or helped us achieve this for such a worthwhile charity.

Please, ladies, keep supporting the County Association. I will not be increasing the Per Capita Levy or the cost of the County Cards for this year, 2011/2012. However, Per Capita Levy, which has not been increased since it was first introduced in 2004, will have to increase to £6 for 2012/13, to try and redress the balance of these losses.

AGM 2011 COACHING REPORT – MR NEIL PLIMMER

I would firstly like to congratulate Jane on a tremendous 2 years in office as County Captain. 2 years! 2 County Finals!

Last winter a Player Development Program was introduced and opened to all lady members of the county with a handicap of 12 or below and girls of 18 and below.

The program planned to engage more ladies in the county structure, so that the pool from which 1st and 2nd teams players are picked is bigger. Although we have had tremendous success over the last couple of years, we do not have a huge pool of players competing to get into the 1st team.

A total of 58 ladies and girls attended the training days throughout the winter, they were given the opportunity to learn about many subjects as well giving them the opportunity to meet new people and learn from each other.

During the sessions, attendees listened to expert speakers, it was then up to the individual to pursue it further if they wanted to.

Following the success of the ladies training days there was request from the County President to run something for the senior ladies. An extremely well attended evening was held at Pyecombe golf club and feedback from the session was positive with future sessions to be arranged.

County Match Week – June 2011

An extremely strong team was assembled over the beginning of 2011. The team took part in a number of team bonding days and matches in preparation for County Match Week at Camberley Heath. Chloe Court moved aside (to become a mummy) and Tiffany Hewetson joined the team. They represented the county BRILLIANTLY over the week. Winning all matches, including beating Hampshire for the first time.

Words to describe the performance of the team during the week were confident, assured and calm.

Having won County Match Week it was off to the Finals in September.

It is always a rush to organise arrangements for the finals following the win at regionals. Jane and I were able to go to Thorndon Park in Essex for a "reccy" and this proved extremely valuable in preparation for the week in September. The hotel was great, vitally important to have somewhere comfortable and convenient to retire to after the matches, it is a LONG week. In my opinion, an improved performance from 2010, the team looked comfortable in the environment and wasn't intimidated by any of the other Counties or Players.

Motto from the week – NO Fuss, NO Frills, NO Faff – very much displayed by the winning county Lincolnshire.

Winter Coaching 2011/2012

No sooner does the summer "competitive" season close than thoughts are drawn to the winter's coaching program.

We will be running a similar program to last winter, adding in some suggestions made following last year's coaching.

Sessions will have 2 speakers each morning that will be a balance between information and "action".

3 of the sessions will be at Sweetwoods Park GC and 2 at Slinfold Park so providing a good balance of travelling time for all players.

There will be sessions for juniors held in the afternoon of each player education day. These sessions will be fun based with a common theme that will run through each session. The themes will grow over the winter to give the youngsters plenty of action points to help their further learning and development.

I am looking forward to growing and developing ladies and girl's golf in Sussex in 2012 and beyond.

The 2nd Team Report from Heather Tidy

During the Winter Training programme several new players were identified as potential 2nd team players, they were Sophie Kennard from West Hove and Hannah Duval from Highwoods, both Juniors and Sue Wait from East Brighton, Karen Ashcroft, Slinfold Park and Katie Reid, Willingdon.

All 4 matches in the Stovold Trophy were played in good spirit and with some exceptional golf.

Sussex won 2 out of 4 matches, coming 3rd overall.

Surrey won the Stovold Trophy winning all 4 matches.

COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT – MRS. BRENDA GILBEY

Good Morning, County President, County Captain and ladies here today.....

Due to unforeseen circumstances our Competition Secretary had to resign from the job in the middle of the summer, so all of a sudden I was back in the driving seat and I'm now reporting back to you on the county competitions over the past season.

Starting with the positives of the past year; a fantastic response and oversubscribed by almost twice the numbers we were allowed, was the County Rumble, hosted by Seaford and brilliantly organised by Vicki Pett. We had some other equally well supported events, like Championship, Vets A and the Glenda Ricketts Memorial Salvagers. We had some disappointments too, having to cancel the Spring Meeting, county Greensomes and due to very few entries, we had to change the format of the Autumn meeting, which was to be a qualifier, to another team event. It would appear that the message coming through, is that ladies prefer to have a 'fun' day's golf, probably a team event, and not go up point one! We are constantly reviewing our competitions – the county cannot sustain these losses and we want to assure you, that you are getting value for money and above all, enjoy your county golf competitions with us.

We held a very successful EWGA event in July, being the EWGA South Region Championship – in fact the same weekend as The Open. We struggled at the beginning to get sufficient numbers, and at one time we thought we were going to have to cancel it, but we ended up with a field of just over 40 players from the 5 South Region counties of Sussex, Surrey, Kent,

Middlesex and Hampshire. It culminated with an all Surrey Final, with a young girl of 12, playing off 4 and the overall winner, Lauren Blease playing off scratch. Just like the open, we experienced the same appalling weather conditions and it was all credit to the players and the green staff of Sweetwoods that they managed to finish the competition with only a 20 minute delay whilst they cleared the greens of the torrential rain and subsequent flooding!

Another success story is of course our County Team but I'm going to save that to our County Captain to report on their triumphs this year.

New for next year..... we even got the 'thumbs up' from EWGA with the forthcoming possible merger and that is we are introducing a 'Mixed Greensomes' event. This came about as Sylvia Huggair who was running the Glenda Ricketts competition this year, received entries from mixed pairs, even though in the County Card and the website, it categorically states 'LADIES' Greensomes! So ladies, for those of you who wanted a mixed event, it is being held at Sweetwoods Park on the bank holiday Monday in June.

Championship and The Langridge Salver is returning to being held in April in 2012 and the qualifying day will be a Friday and the match play will be on the Saturday and Sunday. It is being held at Cooden Beach in their Centenary year. The Beryl Pockett will then move back to being played later in the summer.

I have had some great support this year from a lady who will be taking over the reins as Competitions Secretary, so at least you will have a different voice and person giving the report next year. Her name is Sylvia Huggair, so please support her and encourage your lady club members to enter our competitions. They are really no different to ladies opens and we too have had some wonderful prize tables!

We had a bit of a hiccup with the Semi Finals and Final of the Morrice Fours this year. The good old British Summer had its revenge again! Held at the Dyke in September, we sat for 4 hours in the clubhouse until the 'Sea Fret' cleared. True to the forecast, at mid-day, it just disappeared! Of course there wasn't time to play 36 holes, so the Final and the 3rd/4th place play off had to be moved to another day and was played at Singing Hills on the 11th October.

Please take a look at our website, you will see all the results of the county competitions, and if you won, probably your own photograph!

One minor adjustment to the Division Draws was made prior to the draw this year. We felt that it was unfair for clubs that had only had 3 teams in last year, to possibly end up in the same situation next year. Those clubs that only had 3 teams this year automatically got put into a 4 team draw. This of course will follow for future draws also.

Well this really is my last report as Competition Secretary and I will be handing over to my successor who I know has some new ideas and is also intending to send out a survey to all clubs as to what YOU want in the way of county competitions for the future.

REPORT OF SUSSEX EWGA REPRESENTATIVE TO SCLGA FOR THE AGM 7 NOVEMBER – MRS SUSAN CAREY

This is my last report to Sussex ladies as your representative to the South Region Committee of the English Women's Golf Association. Throughout my 3 years, there has been continual and long drawn out talk about a merger between the men's organisation, the English Golf Union and the ladies' organisation, EWGA. At last we have a vote forthcoming on November 16th, simultaneously at Birmingham for the ladies and Woodhall Spa for the men.

Here in Sussex on 28 September, 34 clubs voted unanimously in favour of the merger, as did the four other counties in our region. I will take that vote to Birmingham. We hope that the merger passes, it is a positive step for ladies and the game of golf. If it does there will be changes, although at County and Club level this will not be apparent. If the merger does not go ahead, I think it will be proposed again in due course.

We held two regional events in Sussex this year: Sweetwoods Park hosted the Women's Championship in July, my thanks to Brenda Gilbey who ran the three day event and to Jo Mott Lady Captain of Sweetwoods and her band of helpers.

Mid Sussex hosted the Australian Spoons in August, thanks to Kathy Donohoe who organised this event.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Regional Representative and I give my successor, Sue Smith, my best wishes for her term of office.

COUNTY JUNIOR ORGANISER AGM REPORT – MRS SUE TODD

Madam President, County Captain and Ladies

I stand here once again and start my report with – 2011 has been an exciting and successful year which is very true. Results for our competitions throughout the year are posted on the junior section of the website and the highlights of the year are as follows;

Spring Meeting held at Chartham Park was won by Hollie Spencer from Mid Sussex. Sophie Kennard from West Hove won the scratch prize. I was very pleased to appoint Hope Beland from Royal Eastbourne to be junior girl's captain.

Our Championships were held at Cottesmore Golf Club. Sophie Kennard won the 36 hole scratch aggregate and Amber Cockram from Slinfold won the 36 hole handicap aggregate. Our under 15 champion 36 hole aggregate was won by Lizzie Price from the Nevill.

Our Autumn Meeting was held at Royal Eastbourne and the scratch winner was Amber Cockram and Catriona Houston from Royal Eastbourne won the handicap prize. All the awards for 2011 are posted on our website. Penny Brown from Hill Barn was the most improved young golfer reducing her handicap from 19 to 12 from April to October. Penny is only 13 years old. Lizzie Price finished equal sixth at the National Championships in Buckinghamshire which is an outstanding achievement. The South Region Championships was a great success held at Stoneham Golf club in early August. Sophie Kennard won the under 18 handicap and runner up was Hope Beland from Royal Eastbourne and the under 15 handicap winner was Maddy Man from Haywards Heath.

JCMW was hosted by Kent this year at Rochester & Cobham. Our team consisted of 8 girls, 6 girls had not been part of this event before – and were all under 15. I was very impressed with their commitment, enthusiasm and level of play. They were a real team, encouraging each other with spirit and laughter. It was a year of learning and next year we will be a force to be reckoned with – watch this space – I have very high hopes!

At National level

Our Order of Merit was sponsored this year by Swing out Sister based at Cuckfield Golf Club. If you haven't had a 'golf makeover' by Lucy and Mary, I thoroughly suggest you get over there for a new winter wardrobe! Thank you Lucy for providing a fantastic new and highly fashionable outfit for our winner: Megan Edwards from Hill Barn.

I am delighted to say that we now have five girls who have been selected for England coaching; Penny Brown from Hill Barn, Lizzie Price from the Nevill, Belinda Whent and Hannah Duval from Highwoods and Jelina Fernando from Mid Sussex – well done girls – what an achievement it would be to have a player from Sussex in the England team – very exciting.

I must thank everyone who contributed with prizes for our fund raising day at Royal Ashdown Golf Club we raised £600 for new uniforms for the girls.

The support from clubs has been tremendous this year – my plea for donations has increased our income and Doreen Gibbs our honorary county treasurer has been pleased!

Thanks must also go to Neil Plimmer our county coach who has amazing ideas and techniques which he passes on to the girls with fun and enthusiasm.

I must thank my committee for all their help and support this year. We said thanks and farewell recently to Janet Carberry, Sallie Gook and Jo Wickes whose help over the last few years has been invaluable. I welcome Sarah Olsen from Worthing to the junior committee.

I have a different plea this year, as I go into my 5th and final year as Junior County organiser -we need more help on the junior committee. You know what they say about ask a busy person – well if any lady has a few hours a week mainly during the summer months to help a group of the nicest young girls I think you could ever come across - then please drop me an email. I have never done anything quite so rewarding as spending my days watching the best golf in Sussex – yes I send a few emails but it's better than housework!!!

I must thank Jane Covey our County Captain for all her support and words of wisdom – Jane it's been a pleasure and most important fun working with you.