

Captain's Report for the 44th Annual General Meeting of the BCLVGA
held at Newbury & Crookham G.C. on Wednesday 21st January 2009

I thank Newbury & Crookham G.C. for their hospitality to-day and for the coming months throughout 2009. We are extremely grateful.

Earlier last year, the Committee decided to confer Honorary Membership on two of our members in recognition of their commitment and service, not just with regard to our Association, but also to the County and to the game of golf, over many years.

Joyce Drew from Reading G.C. and Sheila Fitzgerald from Temple kindly accepted.

On the golfing side it was a successful year. I received 59 return slips from members wishing to play in matches and all were offered the opportunity of at least 1 game, although in reality, personal circumstances just prior to the dates inevitably meant that some had to withdraw.

Our first match against Buckinghamshire Seniors was cancelled due to an overnight fall of snow and despite 3 attempts to re-arrange the fixture we were unable to find an alternative date.

From then on the weather was kind and we went from strength to strength.

The new fixture, versus Oxford Seniors for H'caps 12 -20 resulted in a 5½ - 1½ win for Berks.

Against Wiltshire, the match was halved, against Reading & District Gentlemen Vets. we won by 5 matches to 3, against Hampshire we won 5½ - 1½ and the final match, another new fixture, versus the Berkshire Captains, we won 5 - 2. Well played to all who battled so hard.

The 'Open Meetings' were well supported. I would like to take thank Alison Goudge, our Competition Secretary, for her commitment of time & energy to ensure these events ran smoothly.

A full field at Sunningdale Ladies G.C. for the Spring 36 Hole Foursomes, battled through the four seasons of weather experiencing sunshine, high winds, storms and sleet before the Olive Tomlinson Salvagers were eventually won by Brenda Wileman and Hilary Lawes from Maidenhead..

The first of the Summer Meetings, the Singles Stableford held at Mapledurham, had a field of 99 players. Doffi Parkinson from Reading G.C. won the Summer Bowl and the over 60's Trophy. Avril Catto from Calcot Park won the over 70's and Hazel Nixon, from Goring & Streatley won the Past Captain's Trophy.

Our new event, the Summer Better Ball, held at the Downshire, was won by Myra Newman and Linda Gower from Maidenhead.

At the final golfing event, the Autumn Stapleford, held at Calcot Park, Jill Edwardes from Newbury & Crookham won the Silver Scratch Trophy and Margaret Ann Taylor, from Calcot Park, The Silver Handicap.

In the Bronze Section, Jane Adamson from Sonning Ladies won the Scratch Trophy and Celia Geater from Reading won the Bronze Handicap and the Grandmothers' Trophy.

I congratulate not just the winners but all who took part.

The Gittins K O Trophy, played for throughout the year was fiercely contested. Newbury & Crookham G.C. very kindly gave us hospitality for the final and Jill Edwardes refereed the match between Marjorie Tierney from Reading and Yvonne Cottingham from Calcot Park.

Having played with both finalists during the year I knew how well both could play and that it would be a close contest on the day. I'm sure that they would not mind me saying that on the day neither played their best golf, indeed they seemed determined to hand the Trophy to each other. However, on the final hole and the final putt, Marjorie prevailed to win by 1 hole.

My congratulations go to both players for their tenacity and for the spirit in which they played the game.

The Bridge Drive, held in November at Calcot Park had just 9 tables and I would like to think that those who made the trip enjoyed the afternoon, and if the cards did not fall well for them, they at least enjoyed their tea. The slam prize was won by Kath Lambert from Reading & Yvonne Cottingham from Calcot Park.

I thank Catherine Cookson, our current Ladies' Captain at Calcot Park, and her team of helpers for ensuring that the afternoon ran smoothly.

Ladies, I have enjoyed my year as Captain, it is undoubtedly a unique experience reaching out to so many members from so many different clubs. I have been fortunate to have had the support of a first class Committee. I would like to thank Alison Phillips as Secretary, Maureen Rogers as Treasurer, Alison Goudge as Competition Secretary, Jill West as Past Captain and Jo Ross as Vice Captain. We have worked well as a team and I am truly grateful for their support and, of course, the backing and hospitality from the Board of Directors of Calcot Park.

Finally, I wish Jo, the current Ladies' Captain at Newbury & Crookham, the very best for a happy and successful 2009.

Margaret R Taylor
BCLVGA Captain 2008