

N.C.L.G.A. COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT RAMSDALE PARK GOLF CLUB
Monday 20th February 2012

The County Captain opened the meeting by welcoming all ladies present. She introduced our new Vice-Captain Mrs Jane Fowler

Apologies: These had been received from the County President, Mrs G Shawcross and Mrs A Smith, Serlby Park. Clubs were represented with the acception of Brierley Forest, Misterton and the Orchards.

Minutes: These having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the County Captain.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes

Captains Report: As the season has yet to get away, the Captain read out fixtures for the teams and reported on the arrangements being made for the Midland North County Matches which will be played at The Nottinghamshire between 10th and 15th June. She requested help with trolley pulling for our team and invited anyone interested to come and watch. The new competition, the County Waltz is full, however there are a few early morning times for the County Captains Am-Am in July. She welcomed our new Junior Organiser and wished her well.

S.Vice-Captains Report: Dates of 2nd team matches were given. Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire are to continue with their decision to pick up and coming golfers for these matches even though other counties do not follow this maxim. Would Secretaries please let the S.Vice-Captain know if they have up and coming golfers in their clubs, particularly those with handicaps of 12 and below.

Financial Report: Affiliation fees are slowly coming in. Clubs are reminded that they must pay their Inter-Club & League entries before playing their first matches. As at 20th February the County accounts are as follows:

General	£5083
Captains	£3638
Junior	£4480
Reserve	£14130

As we will be holding the Counties matches this year we will obviously incur more expense than usual. The new competition will help to fund these expenses however we still need more entries into our competitions and Secretaries were asked to encourage their members to play.

Midland North Report: I am pleased to give you my report from the meeting of the Midland North Region's February Meeting, also from the first Annual General Meeting of England Golf held at Woodhall Spa on the 14th and 15th of this month.

All this year's regional competitions have their entry forms on line for you to download and I do hope you will all try to support these competitions that are mainly being held at very accessible courses for us.

The Ladies Championship in July at Branston, Staffs, has a new format, and will now be played as a two-day event.

The EWGA Plate that has traditionally been presented to all clubs hosting regional events is to be replaced with a small token gift from the county.

It is proposed to run the Ladies Championship in 2013 as a Queen of Clubs Championship and will be played on one day as a 36 hole scratch competition. All present club champions, regardless of the format used to win the championship, will be eligible to enter. With a maximum field of 64 a ballot on handicap will be used if necessary.

Last Tuesday and Wednesday I was honoured to represent Nottinghamshire Ladies at the first AGM of the newly merged company England Golf. Presentations were made to Charlie Hull (Woburn) who at the age of 14 won both the Order of Merit and the Junior order of Merit. Megan McLaren (Wellingborough) won the Silver Tee Award, and Worthing Golf Club was the Trust Stableford Winner. Philip Parker was presented with the The Gerald Micklem Award for outstanding service to English Golf

Jenny Cink gave a report for the LGU. It is the 120th anniversary of the company. They run the Ladies, Seniors and Girls Home Internationals and we were assured that a affiliation fee of £2.50 is very good value! This fee is to be phased out by 2020.

The format for The Women's Close Amateur Championship has altered and will now be a 4 Round Stroke Play Competition. All conditions of competition and the hard card can be found on the Web.

80 ladies between 11 and 21 had national coaching with emphasis on physical fitness and movement before technical coaching could begin.

The England Golf Affiliation Fee will be harmonised in 2014. The Ladies still have the extra LGU fee to pay.

The newly formed company is made up from 34 county unions with 35 county associations and Artisans.

They provide 10 non-executive directors and 2 executive directors based at Woodhall Spa and Highfields, at the present time there are 105 paid staff. The future for staff at Woodhall Spa and Highfields still has to be negotiated, as efficiencies and costs have to be rationalized

Woodhall Spa Estate was outside the merger and is in the possession of the County Unions. The Counties own England Golf, both the Men and Ladies have to be prepared to adapt to change as all management expectations are being looked into. It is important that the voting members are prepared to take part in the discussions, therefore a degree of continuity is important.

2012 is the year of Implementation, decisions will not be rushed, and during this year the committees will be sorted out for implementation in 2013. The two present championship committees will continue to run their own championships this year. In 2013 one committee will run all the championship events of England Golf and a further 5 committees will be formed covering Club Services, Coaching, Development, Handicap with Course rating, and Marketing.

We will shortly be sent a new Hand/Year book for 2012. However I do urge all clubs to retain the 2011 book as the information normally included by and for the ladies has been severely curtailed in the new joint edition.

The Website will be available from April and new branding is being rolled out from the end of this month. However the EWGA branding will still be in evidence this year.

Communication with the counties will be via three general meetings, with voting members forums as required. County Secretaries will be informed of all changes, with the regional committees continuing to organise all regional events. When major issues occur written papers will be sent out to all voting members three weeks before the proposed meeting. Counties will still have their required number of meetings per annum with all club representatives.

The Chief Executive Officer of England Golf is John Petrie, and the joint Presidents for this year are Paul Baxter and Sue Johnson. The president elect for 2013 will be nominated at the June general meeting this year, the president for 2013 will be female! Presidents have an ambassadorial position, attending major championships, being advised by the CEO, and numerous Presidential Dinners of which the men appear extraordinarily fond.

Counties may choose which of the three presidents to invite.

Advice will be available later this year on Tax and the Golf Club and affiliation fee structure.

At present only 27% of golfers belong to clubs and it is a major task to encourage the remaining 73% to join. Sport England and the England Golf Partnership are there to help. £28,000 is to be allocated annually to support elite golfers in full time education for up to three years. 3 players selected in 2013, 6 in 2014 up to 9 in 2015, as we are now a merge unit it was requested the funding applied to both genders.

As the rules of amateur status change in September this year players are permitted to have an agent, caution is urged in signing contracts, which must at least include a guarantee of starts. Advice on all matters can be obtained from the Golf Service Department.

County Mergers. At this time 12 counties have approach England Golf for advice on merging the union with the association. Although there is no expectation to do so, it is envisaged that in 5 years time 50% of counties will have done so. England Golf will give advice and look to producing a template for guidance.

Yorkshire and Lancashire requested extra funding to help them attract more people into golf. However as they refused to join the County Golf Partnership, as other counties had to obtain funding, it was felt they did not merit special treatment, so the request was voted out.

Most Ladies courses have now been USGA rated the cost being funded with an EWGA tax rebate.

The county unions are funding the rating of their courses, still with many more to do.

The Club Services Department, which covers all aspects of the game, is available to give guidance and advice on all matters in the running a golf club. County seminars can be arranged on request.

Junior Report: We are delighted to welcome Mrs Margaret Brook as our new Junior Organiser.

Margaret is a retired teacher so will be used to dealing with young people and will no doubt be able to organise the girls as well as their schedules.

As the dates were arranged before Margaret took over she is unable to attend some of the fixtures, however our Junior Committee have this in hand and will appoint parents etc to oversee the girls at their matches.

Please send the names, addresses etc of junior girls to the County Secretary if she has not already received them. They will then be forwarded to the Junior Organiser as updated information.

Inter-Club & Leagues: Some venues have been changed for the 2nd and 3rd rounds of the Inter-Club. These will be on the website shortly. The Notts Union have decided that the maximum ladies handicap will remain at 18 and not be reduced to 12 as previously suggested.

Dates for 2013: County Championship will be held at Wollaton Park 10th – 15th

May: We are awaiting confirmation from Nottingham City with regard to the Coronation Foursomes. The Summer meeting will be at Retford on 8th July, Veterans Trophy at Chilwell on 8th August and the Autumn meeting at Sherwood Forest on 9th September.

Secretaries Notes: 2 new Rule Books and Information for Members booklets are included in the packs.

As EWGA have changed their ruling with regard to Distance Measuring Devices we will now allow them to be used in County competitions. Some alterations were made to the Club Officials sheets. These will be emailed to secretaries. We are now a full voting member of England Golf. In future all letters to clubs etc will be emailed to save postage.

Any Other Business: The Assistant Secretary requested that ladies entering multiple competitions should put their entries onto one cheque.

As there was no further business, the Captain closed the meeting and thanked Ramsdale for allowing us the use their facilities

Date of next Council Meeting – July 23rd at Beeston Fields Golf Club. 10.30 a.m.

Mrs Maureen Clarke, the County Handicap Adviser gave a talk on the changes to the CONGU handicap system. A copy of her notes will be sent to all clubs.