

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT RAMSDALE PARK GOLF CLUB

ON MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2013

Apologies: Mrs A G Shawcross, Worksop, College Pines, V Dowthwaite
45 ladies attended representing 27 clubs

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

Matters Arising: The reduction in handicap for the Bronze League to 19 had been passed at the Annual General Meeting. It was also agreed to retain 7 players in each League.

Captains Report: The Captain reported that she had been organising training for the 1st team squad. She had also been in touch with previous members of the team with regard to their availability for this year's County Match Week. The County Waltz profits will go towards the expenses of the 1st team as will the County Am-Am.

Vice-Captains Report: Would clubs with players in the 6-12 handicap range please let the Vice-Captain know if they are interested in playing for the County. The County Waltz still has a few places available. This was a very good competition last year and we thank Beeston for allowing us to hold it again. The contact list of club officers is available, if there are alterations or corrections please let the Vice-Captain know.

Financial Report: Affiliation fees are slowly coming in. At the moment the accounts stand as follows: General Fund - £4125: Captains - £2522: Junior - £6637: Reserve - £16,296.

Midland Report: Last week I attended in Woodhall Spa a meeting of the Midland North Region, and the Annual General Meeting followed by a General Meeting of England Golf.

Our main concerns at the Midland North Meeting are the successful running of the regional competitions. Some changes have been made to encourage more of our playing members to enter these competitions. I should like to stress that the regional competitions are run for all our playing members; the only essential requirement is the holding of an active CONGU handicap. The same applies to County Competitions, they are for you all to enter and enjoy.

The first regional competition is the Foursomes over 36 holes on Monday 22nd April and hosted by Whittington Heath Golf Club.

The Australian Spoons this year is open to all Ladies with active CONGU handicaps of 15 – 36 at the time of marking a card in the qualifying round. The Closing date for entries is Friday 10th May. The regional final is on Monday 3rd June at Matlock Golf Club Derbyshire.

Nottinghamshire is hosting **The Medal finals** on 22nd May at Radcliffe Golf Club this year. This is run completely by England Golf Championship Committee.

County Match Week will follow the same format as the previous five years; the six counties playing three foursomes in the morning and six singles in the afternoon. The venue this year is Hawkestone Park Shropshire; the week of the 24th June.

Instead of the Ladies Championship which has had very poor support over the last few years we are trialling a new format - **The Queen of Club** Competition. Every Club Champion is invited to enter and we are very keen to make this event a success. It is being held at Belton Park in Lincolnshire on Monday 15th July. Belton is a lovely course and a very easy journey to get there. I have emailed all the club delegates with the entry form to pass on to their club champion and I hope we have a very good response from all our clubs.

The Girls Championship and Challenge is at Kibworth Leicestershire on Thursday 22nd August.

The problem of paying an affiliation fee from more than one club is under review.

Golf membership continues to fall and the number of nomad golfers continues to increase, clubs are urged to be more flexible in their membership packages to encourage more players to commit to a club membership. 75% of clubs have seen a decrease in Membership.

The new logoed England Golf Tee Markers, Prize Cloth and Flag will not be available for this year. Clubs are encouraged to use their own logoed equipment or that of their County if it is available.

2. A full enquiry into the collection of affiliation fees is ongoing, taking into consideration needing to honour the rules for exemption of VAT. In 2014 Golf England would prefer to collect all their fees with the Counties being responsible for their own. Concern was expressed at the lack of support for under 14's. The County Golf Partnership and Counties help towards those starting in golf. As there is no Government funding England Golf will donate from a special projects account. A new Handbook will shortly be sent out to all the clubs.

Junior Report: The popular **Mixed AmAm** will be held on April 28th at Rufford Park and entry forms are on the NCLGA website. This is a 4 Ball Better Ball Stableford competition with teams of two ladies and two men, with one lady's score and one man's score to count on each hole. The girls will be running the day which raises money for the Junior Funds so do try to enter a team. Thank you to Rufford for kindly hosting this event.
COACHING : Group Coaching at Rufford and The Nottinghamshire is going well - so far only the January 19th session at The Nottinghamshire had to be cancelled due to snow.

A new coaching venue has been set up at Oakmere Park with Pro Jamie Jarvis. There will be 8 sessions from March to October on the 3rd Saturday on the month at a cost £48. This venue will be especially useful for girls new to golf or who haven't got a handicap. I've put fliers with your Fixture Cards for you to take back to your clubs. We now offer coaching groups north, central and south of the county which should help parents with travelling time and the ever increasing cost of petrol.

Summer Coaching details and dates and the 2013 Tracker Form are on the NCLGA website.

If you have any girls who would like to join a group do encourage them and please let me know. It's a great chance for them to meet other girls. They don't need a handicap – just enthusiasm! Similarly, encourage them to join in our competitions, there's something for all levels.

I would like to encourage clubs to help girls get a Club handicap of 37 - 54 as this gives them something to work on and also help mark cards for girls who are ready to get a CONGU handicap.

League Team Training is arranged for March 24th with John Vaughan and James Thompson at Rufford, 1 hour on skills plus 9 holes playing with the pros advising on course management, match play tactics etc. The session will also be good for team building.

Although we lost quite a few girls who are now 18, we still have a strong 1st team and if all our lowest handicap girls are available, our 1st team of six girls will have handicaps from scratch to 5.6. Our 2nd Team of four girls who play off handicap are less experienced.

The first of our five Midland North Region League matches is on April 7th. Let's hope we can retain the Midland North League 1st Team Trophy in 2013.

We have three **friendly matches** arranged for girls with 12+ handicaps to give them match play experience. Matches arranged are v Mapperley Ladies – thank you to Mapperley for continuing with this fixture, v Yorkshire girls and v Warwicks girls.

A Par 3 Competition has been arranged for the Easter holidays on April 2nd at Norwood Park and 9 hole Flag 50 Competitions are arranged for May 28th at Edwalton and August 19th at Trent Lock. These are all for girls without a CONGU handicap. If any ladies who live near these clubs would be able to help by going round with a group of three girls please let me know.

A Spring Get Together Texas Scramble is arranged for April 11th at Oakmere Park and Maureen Clarke is kindly sending a Rules Quiz for afterwards. This competition is for girls with a CONGU handicap or a Club 18 hole handicap. It's a chance for the girls to get to know each other and have fun – which is what golf is all about!

The Girls' Championship is at Coxmoor on May 19th. Thank you and congratulations to Coxmoor for hosting this in their centenary year, I know the girls will enjoy playing there.

The Junior Jubilee will be held at Rufford Park on Sunday October 6th.

3. A **2013 Newsletter** giving dates for the year was sent to the girls by email in January and is on the NCLGA website as are all competition entry forms.
- County Golf Partnership:** the CGP kindly printed the Oakmere Park Coaching fliers for us. I missed the last meeting as I was away but liaise regularly with Matt Bloor.
- Grant Applications**
- I applied for funding from the EWGA Women's and Girls' Grant 2012 and we received £963.75 in January. In my application, I specified that some of this would be for League Team Training. The future of this Grant is uncertain.
- Last Summer I applied for group coaching funding and we received £160.00 in January for The Nottinghamshire group - perhaps because this was a new venue.
- I have just been informed that the EWGA Group Coaching Grant for 2013 will be paid at a rate of £2.50 per affiliated club and 2013 is the last year this grant will be awarded. From 2014 the Trust will focus on helping individuals.
- I went to the England Golf annual conference in January entitled "Developing Winners" which was both interesting and useful. I also attended the Children in Golf Workshop 'Safeguarding and Protecting Children'. All clubs should have the CiG Handbook and it's worth making sure your club is up to date with the recommendations. The Handbook is especially useful if your club has only recently started having junior members as it includes guidance on player profile forms, planning and supervising junior events, the taking of photographs etc. The Appendix has example forms to help clubs. It's also available on the CiG website in Adobe pdf format.
- I have received Entry Forms from England Golf for the Abraham Trophy which is for the most improved U18 golfer March 2012 to March 2013. If anyone thinks they have a junior who could enter please see me afterwards if your club hasn't received any forms – I have a few forms with me today.

Handicap Secretary's Report: We must continue to encourage players to obtain the **Members Benefits Card**. Once every player that plays in Away Competitions has one, Handicap Committees will be relieved from having to print out Handicap Certificates. These Cards show the Competitor's name and their Unique CDH ID number which can be used to verify their handicaps via the Central Database of Handicaps. These cards also give a player access to certain discounts on goods. To Register for the Card, go to the England Golf Website, click on 'Handicaps and Rules', then click on 'Register Now' and fill in the form.

In Spring 2012, England Golf requested that the mandatory **Annual Review** should take place before 1 January - the commencement of the new handicapping year. Congratulations if your Handicap Committee, did as requested. If your Handicap Committee has not completed the Annual Review please be aware that the Annual Review Report, generated by the Computer, is useful as a guide as to whether a player should have their handicap increased or decreased. However, Handicap Committees must consider all other aspects of those players' achievements (or otherwise) before making any changes. Once the Handicap Committee has made a decision the players should immediately be informed. It is not up to the player to decide. Incorrectly handicapped players affect the CSS and the system will only work if the Handicap Committee goes through the process and makes their decision after access to all available information.

With regard to players with Inactive Handicaps; please bear in mind that you can override the system and make them Active if they have suffered an illness or injury. Once conditions are such that players are able to compete in Qualifying Competitions (whether 18 or 9 hole) or compile Supplementary Scores, after 3 scores have been returned, they can be made Active again. Supplementary Scores are only acceptable if they are authenticated over 18 holes under Competition Play Conditions over a Measured Course; maximum 1 a week unless the Committee agrees otherwise.

The Handicap Audit of Category 1 players will, as usual, take place in September. I will be attending the England Golf County Handicap Advisers' seminar on 11 April at Copt Heath Golf Club, Warwickshire. If Club Handicap Secretaries have any questions they would like me to raise at this meeting please let me know, as soon as possible, so I can inform England Golf in advance of the meeting.

4. Inter-Club & League: Secretaries were asked to check that they were in the correct Leagues and also to make sure payment is received before the 1st match is played.

County Dates: Dates for 2014 so far arranged: Championship at Beeston Fields 16th – 18th May: Summer Meeting – Worksop 7th July: Autumn Meeting – Rushcliffe 4th September. Newark have been requested to hold the Coronation Foursomes and Springwater has been requested to hold the Veterans Trophy.

Secretaries Notes & Correspondence: As Nottingham City is undergoing extensive ground works, this years Coronation Foursomes has been moved to Stanton. Secretaries were asked to make sure that the Club Delegate's name is correct. Roy Case is now running a country wide junior tournament – www.tigercubtour.co.uk.

All courses are now to be standardised for course rating with the USGA system. Nottinghamshire require volunteers for these teams. These ladies should have a reasonable knowledge of golf and have or have had a handicap of 15 or below. Any one interested should contact the County Secretary before the 20th March and be available to attend a training course at Woodhall on the 7th & 8th May.

As the Secretary/Treasurer is retiring at the next AGM, the Committee have drawn up a list of duties and suggested that the duties be split into 3 sections. A General Secretary, a Competition Secretary and a Treasurer. Again if anyone is interested they should contact the County Secretary.

Any Other Business: Southwell asked when the invoices for affiliation fees to England Golf would be sent. The Notts Union is now in charge of collecting these and would be sending them out within the next month or so.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed and the Captain was thanked by Mrs P Handley