

## Minutes of the NCLGA Council Meeting

10.30 am Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Ramsdale Park GC NG14 6NU

### Participants.

NCLGA Council Members and Ladies Secretaries from Nottinghamshire golf clubs.

Representatives from 24 clubs attended.

1. Apologies were received from Norwood Park, Angela Jackson (Mapperley), Sandy Dickinson and Sylvia Fidler (Coxmoor), Janice Fearn (Serlby Park), Pam Loch and Helen Maber.
2. Previous Minutes and Matters arising.  
That the minutes from 24<sup>TH</sup> November 2014 were a true record. Proposed by Belinda Briggs and seconded by Louise Spray. Accepted unanimously.
3. Captains Report

Welcome to our meeting and thank you for coming.

Now is the time of the year for everyone to look at the fixtures and plan which competitions to enter and to look forward to visiting different courses.

We have 2 competitions to raise funds for our ladies 1st and 2nd teams.

The 1st is the county waltz at Wollaton Park on Monday 20th April.

Your support of a bottle raffle will be much appreciated.

Jane Fowler has kindly been accepting the entries and has now informed me that it is full.

The 2nd is my Captain's Day am-am at Coxmoor on Monday 27th July.

Again your support of a general raffle will help make the day a success.

The entry for these competitions includes a 2 course meal and I look forward to seeing you there. The prize giving for both competitions will be held on the day.

Entry forms have been added to the website and Jane has also been accepting entries for this competition. It is filling up nicely with about 10 entries left.

Of our regular competitions Colette has kindly agreed to accept the entries.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the website or found on the county information card.

The first of these is the 36 hole championship qualifier and 18 hole Spring meeting to be held at Coxmoor on Friday 15th May for handicaps up to 20.

For the 1st time the match play is to be limited to 8 qualifiers and will start on the afternoon of Saturday 16th May with the semi final and final on Sunday 17th May.

The prize giving from the stroke play will take place after the final on Sunday.

The Coronation foursomes are being held at Oakmere Admirals on Monday 8th June.

The Summer meeting medal together with the veterans medal is being held at Sherwood Forest on Monday 13th July.

The Autumn meeting medal is being held at Norwood Park on Thursday 10th September.

The prizes include ones for aggregate scores with the summer meeting.

It has been decided not to hold a prize giving on the day for the above 3 events but to present the trophies at the AGM as was trialled last year.

Another important competition which must be mentioned is the mixed am-am organised and run on the day by the junior girls to raise funds for their section.

This year it is being held at Beeston Fields on Sunday 12th July. They raise extra money there with items such as a raffle, club cleaning and putting events.

It is my role as captain to organise the county first team for the midland north county week at Enville in Staffordshire on June 29th to 3rd July. Notts play against the other 5 counties in the region. There are 3 foursomes in the morning and 6 singles in the afternoon against each county.

I have recently sent emails to our lowest handicap players asking for their availability over the week. We were close runners-up last year and it would be great to go one better and qualify for the all England finals at Frilford in September. I realise it is a long way to travel but your support over any of these days would be a big boost to the players and you would enjoy the great standard of golf.

I also have matches against the Sheffield union at Walton Chesterfield on April 9th and against the midland vets at Sherwood Forest on July 30th.

The midland vets team will be playing against teams from the north, south and Scotland at Sherwood Forest the following week from 4th to 6th August. Andrea Stockdale the midland vets captain is helping to organise the event and would welcome any support at this competition.

There will be some good golf to watch.

The dates of the second team matches and junior fixtures are on the county information card and website.

If they are being held at your home course, I encourage you to come along and see the golf.

The players value your support.

I would like to thank those courses who are hosting events this year. It is much appreciated.

Finally I wish you all an enjoyable season of golf and please encourage your members to enter our competitions. I think that sometimes they look at the description 'county' and feel they are not worthy of entering. We should instead be viewed as a friendly golf society giving people the opportunity to meet and play on different courses. Their handicaps are used to equalise the scores. Lets enjoy our golf!

#### 4. Vice Captains report

In the absence of my vice captains who send their apologies I will mention that the 2nd team matches this year are being played against Lincolnshire at Radcliffe on 29th July and at Stoke Rochford on 11th August and against Leicestershire at Rushcliffe on 19th July and at Lingdale on 16th August.

If Notts win this league the final against the winners of the other league of midland north counties is being played at Cavendish on 22nd August.

Again I encourage you to come along and see the golf.

#### 5. Handicap Advisers Report

##### Qualifying Competitions

Clubs must give their Members the opportunity to compete in a reasonable number of Qualifying Competitions in a calendar year and should encourage all members to participate in them. The Committee must lay down the method of entry into these Competitions, manually or by computer, and ensure Members are aware of what they need to do to enter. If a player fails to register for a competition in the manner laid down by the Committee her score must not be entered - she does not have a score for handicap or the competition. In other words her score, good or bad, does not exist. It is not a disqualified score.

There are various reasons why a player's Score might be Disqualified from a Qualifying Competition and these are shown in Appendix P in the CONGU Handbook pages 82/83. There are examples of where scores should be corrected for handicap purposes following disqualification, if a player has not seriously breached the rules of golf. The score should be entered after it is adjusted by including any penalties accrued. However, there are occasions when a player has seriously breached the Rules of Golf and her score must be Disqualified and entered as a No Return. Her handicap will go up point one unless the Competition Standard Scratch is Reduction Only.

##### Exceptional Score Reductions (ESRs)

For players who are improving rapidly, and whose handicap may not be reducing quickly enough, there is a process included in the club software that can apply an additional reduction. This is triggered if a player returns two scores of 4 under handicap or better. The reduction is based on the second score within a specified number of qualifying rounds. The handicap committee can accept or decline the ESR, but England Golf recommend acceptance. These Reductions mean that it is not necessary for General Play Reductions to take place during the golfing year.

Category 1 players do not have their handicaps reduced by an ESR and Category 2 players will not be reduced into Category 1 by an ESR. ESR's should not be accepted if triggered by a Supplementary Score.

#### Annual Review of Handicaps

The Annual Review should take place at any time between 31 October and 1 March each year, and is an opportunity for handicap committees to undertake a comprehensive review of the handicaps of all home players. All handicap software produces a report that should help with this review, by highlighting players who have played better or worse than their handicap during the previous year. Only qualifying scores are taken into consideration in the review. If you have evidence that a player has been performing well in other events such as non-qualifying rounds, match play events or team competitions, the annual review is the ideal time to discuss any potential adjustments to handicaps based on these scores. If your Competition Standard Scratch Scores often result in Reduction Only then the handicaps of all members who have not played in the buffer zone throughout the year should be considered for an increase of 2 strokes.

#### Compliance Check List

When the Handicap Committee meets they should ensure that they are consistent in their interpretation of the UHS by conducting a self audit using the Compliance Check List, Appendix L page 76 in the CONGU Handbook.

#### Small Fields

When the number of competitors in Categories 1-4 is less than 10 and the Competition Scratch Score results in plus 3 and Reduction Only the best nett score above buffer zone will be used to calculate the final CSS. When the number of competitors in Categories 1-4 are 5 or less, the CSS will not reduce below the Standard Scratch Score.

#### England Golf National Handicap Workshops

It is the intention of England Golf to hold Handicap Workshops in 2015 and it is hoped that all Club Handicap Secretaries, men and women, will attend. There will be the opportunity to ask questions and be advised of any changes that are likely to take place when the new CONGU Unified Handicapping manual is published in 2016. There will be a small charge. Our nearest Workshop is at Newark Golf Club on Thursday 9 April. I will be there. If you have not already registered please do so. The Rules Course and Exam is on Saturday afternoon 11 April and Saturday afternoon 25 July, both at Wollaton Park.

Thank you to those who have let me know that they have already booked their place.

Maureen Clarke  
County Handicap Adviser

#### **6. Financial Report**

##### **NCLGA Financial Report 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015**

The accounts are in good order with the following balances:

Current Account:           £4,789.44

Deposit Account:           £21,130.41

Affiliation Fees are gradually being paid by clubs. Many are now sending their completed forms by email and making payments electronically which is very helpful. Could I please encourage as many clubs as possible to make their payments this way and to avoid issuing cheques and using the post.

There has been no response yet to the available position of Treasurer on the Council from next year. Could I please ask all Lady Secretaries to ask their members if there are any likely candidates out there? Numeracy, computer literacy and a willingness to become involved in County Golf are the attributes required. The job is not too time consuming and it is a great opportunity to be part of the Council. Helen Maber Treasurer

## 7. Midland North Report

I always feel that this February Council Meeting has such a nice feel to it. We are at the beginning of the season, with a whole host of golfing events stretching in front of us. When you are organising your diaries, I would like you to consider the competitions organised by Midlands North. I will remind you of the dates and venues, and if you are interested, all the entry forms can be found on the England Golf, or our own Notts Ladies websites.

We kick off with a 36 hole foursomes competition, which this year is to be held at Burton on Trent on Mon 27th April. I know foursomes is not everyone's cup of tea, (or game of golf), but so far the entries have been poor, and if we do not get a good field we will have to consider not running the competition in future years. The Midlands North region are now responsible for the finances of these competitions, and so we cannot make a loss.

The Regional Final for the Australian Spoons is at Patshull Park in Shropshire, on Monday 1st June. This is also a foursomes competition, this time over 18 holes, and is open to ladies with handicaps 15 to 36. The entry to this competition is £2 per card, with many clubs holding qualifying competitions on a designated day, as well as giving players the option to take out extra cards. The winners of the regional final then go to a national final in September.

The Queen of Clubs Competition is being hosted by Nottinghamshire at Chilwell Manor on Friday 17 July. This is a competition for your Club Champion, and consists of 36 holes stroke play. So far I have only received 11 entries. Can you all please remind your Club Champion about the competition, the entry forms are on the website.

Leaving aside the practical aspects of golf, and wearing the other half of my Midland North Rep's hat, I attended an England Golf meeting at the West Midlands Golf Club, a few days ago. The meeting was led by Katy Tuncer of Portas Consulting, and took the form of a brainstorming session. Portas Consulting are looking into the governance of England Golf, plus other areas including affiliation fees, how to engage the nomadic golfer, and how to get more people into golf. The ideas were numerous and varied, some of them quite controversial, others quite radical. After holding more sessions in other parts of the country, it is the job of Portas Consulting to come up with a plan for England Golf. I have nothing more to report at this stage, I may have more after our next meeting in April.

Question from the floor - The Midland North regional final is at Rothley on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015. This makes it difficult for Business Ladies and schoolgirls to take part. Would it be possible for the final to be held at the weekend.

Post meeting – The decision was taken to hold the final in alternate years on a Saturday, So 2016 Saturday, 2017 Wednesday, 2018 Saturday, 2019 Wednesday

## 8. Junior Report

### **Updates over the closed season**

#### **a. League match winners for 2014**

Notts girls won for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, with Derbyshire as runner up

#### **b. Midlands Junior organisers meeting & MNR matches for 2015**

Pam Loch kindly attended this meeting back in November. The main sessions were more relevant to funding revenues, coaching and participation in the game. Most of it we already seem to be doing with through the CGP.

More of an issue was the MNR CJO meeting held on the same day where several counties wanted to change the scratch league to a residential event over one

weekend. This has been vetoed this year on cost grounds and time to arrange it, but there will be a further meeting in August to see if there is anyway it can go ahead in 2016.

Notts also suggested an alternative proposal of 3 rounds of matches and a final day and after some discussion it was decided on 13th Feb to leave the leagues as they are for 2015!

## **Diary**

The junior diary has been slightly delayed due to the issues with the league this year, however, we now hope to issue a finalised junior diary by the end of this month. It will be issued to all girls and clubs along with a junior newsletter for the forthcoming season, and it will be published on the NCLGA website.

## **County Golf Partnership and winter coaching**

Jane Fowler and I continue to represent NCLGA on the CGP. We meet regularly to ensure the activities under the "Nottinghamshire Golf" umbrella provide a clear pathway for junior golf development, with minimal duplication of events and shared resources. We are currently working on a Junior development pathway which, once agreed, we hope to publish so everyone is aware of how juniors progress and who is responsible at each stage.

The Nottinghamshire Golf winter development programme for which we obtained a joint grant of just over £4000 has been started and will run until April. We have 12 girls benefiting from this programme each receiving three different coaching sessions on non-swing aspects of their game. The plan will be to evaluate the effectiveness of this training, in the hope that it can be used to access more funds in the future.

The girls only coaching sessions at Rufford and The Nottinghamshire started under the "Athlete Development Programme" banner in November and we currently have 7 at Nottinghamshire and slightly less at Rufford. The numbers have dropped at Rufford because the sessions are aimed at the progressing intermediate players not the elite who will be targeted with individual NCLGA coaching bursaries (more about these later) The Junior Order of Merit and Rookies tour dates have also been finalised and an entry booklet for all venues will be available shortly which we will place on our website. Finally at our meeting last week we were presented with an England Golf consultation called "Raising our Game" which had been issued on 4th Feb and wanted a response on the future of County Golf Partnerships by the 27th Feb. Jane and I felt this was beyond our mandate as it had implications for the County Association too, so Jane will be taking this to the main NCLGA committee for comment.

## **Coaching bursaries**

The individual coaching bursaries are new this year. The idea is that girls who are elite or have elite potential will be given a grant to have one to one coaching with their own coach, rather than an appointed county coach. Details of the new bursaries will be issued in the coming month along with an application form.

## **Code of Conduct**

Following up from a question we asked at the regional CJO meeting we have been advised to write our own junior Code of Conduct which has been drafted and once approved at our junior committee meeting later this week, will be circulated to all the juniors with the spring newsletter.

In addition we are reviewing our safeguarding procedures and what needs to be done with the junior committee to ensure safeguarding compliance for NCLGA.

Jane Fowler added that there would be fewer Par 3 events as girls aged 6-12 were now able to take part in the Nippers tour. Currently around 12 girls are taking part and the club secretaries were urged to draw the attention of juniors at their club to the Nippers tour.

#### 9. Webmaster's report

There were no issues with the web site which continues to be well received.

Club secretaries were advised that they could send the entry forms for their club opens to Gill Stump and they could be added to the appropriate section on the website if they wished.

#### 10. Secretary's Notes

County Information Card. The County information cards were distributed to all the clubs.

Discussion document from England Golf. The meeting was advised that documents were being read and discussed by the executive committee in conjunction with England Golf and the Nottinghamshire Union of Golf Clubs with regard to working together in the future. The executive would report back at suitable times to all clubs.

#### 11. Any Other Business

Rules of Golf Qualifications. Maureen Clarke - R&A qualified Tournament Rules Official

The Notts Union of Golf Clubs and the Notts County Ladies' Golf Association are looking to add to their panel of tournament referees who officiate at our County Championships.

We are therefore planning to hold a rules course over two half-days and we are inviting applications from individuals who would be interested in attending this course and being a member of the Nottinghamshire Golf Tournament Rules Panel. Training Day 1 will take place on Sunday afternoon 12 April, and Day 2 will take place on Sunday afternoon 9 August. This allows 4 months of studying before the intermediate level examination. Venue to be announced.

Numbers on the course will be restricted to twelve and therefore places will be allocated to those responding early. I should be grateful if you would canvass interest amongst your men and lady members. Further details will be sent to those successful candidates later. Those wishing to attend should let me have their name, Club and contact details.

If you are interested, I encourage you to join the R&A Rules Academy in the first instance, go through the rules, and do the Level 1 examination which costs £10 - the R&A use these funds for Junior Golf Development.

Also look out for the England Golf Rules Schools which provide a Level 2 Rules Examination. Three Nottinghamshire ladies passed this last year.

The Rules Course and Exam is on Saturday afternoon 11 April and Saturday afternoon 25 July, both at Wollaton Park.

It is thought that, if Nottinghamshire could organise something similar and create a template for County Rules Courses then England Golf might roll it out to all Counties in the future.

#### County Card Jane Fowler Assistant Competition Secretary

The County card (reduced price green fees) is now available free of charge to lady members of the county's golf clubs.

Action – Lynn Buttery (General Secretary) to liase with Colin Bee and arrange for delivery of the cards to clubs.

The President thanked Kathryn for chairing the meeting and Ramsdale Golf Club for hosting.

The President thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.