

## NCLGA Council Meeting Minutes

10.30 am Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at Beeston Fields Golf Club (NG9 3DD)

### Participants.

NCLGA Council Members and Ladies Secretaries/Handicap Secretaries from 25 Nottinghamshire clubs.

President, Joan Underwood, welcomed the delegates to the first Council Meeting of 2016 and said how nice it was to see so many people here. She invited Captain, Pam Loch to chair the meeting.

#### **1. Apologies**

Received from Bulwell Forest (Pat Sacki), Mapperley (Angela Jackson), Newark (Sandra Goodwin), Vice-Captain (Helen Maber), Treasurer (Jenny Smith), Secretary (Lynn Buttery) and Junior Organiser (Emma Howie)

#### **2. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and were signed by the Captain.

There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Captains Report**

A warm welcome and thank you for coming. Can I start by apologising for those unable to be here today and introducing some new faces. Our absentees are sunning themselves in far off climates! Apologies from my Vice-Captain, Helen Maber, also from Lynn Buttery, our Secretary. Gillian Stump has very nobly agreed to take the minutes. Apologies, also, from Jenny Smith our new Treasurer. Di Whitaker has kindly agreed to give Jenny's financial report

I hope we can have as successful a golfing year as we did in 2015.

All of our adult and junior fixtures for 2016 are on the County Information Cards, which if you have not got already are here in envelopes to be collected, with your club name on.

As I'm sure you've all seen we also, thanks to Gillian Stump, have a very informative website, from which most of our entry forms for competitions can be printed off.

Our golfing season starts on April 4th at Notts with an annual first team match against Sheffield Union. This is closely followed on Monday April 11th by the County Waltz at Beeston Fields. Thank you for your support. Jane Fowler, who has been accepting the entries, tells me this is now fully subscribed.

We have 2 fund raisers for the County 1st and 2nd teams. The Waltz and my County Captain's Day. This will also be an AM-AM and is on Monday 25th July at Notts Golf Club, Hollinwell. The start sheet is filling up but there are still places available and we have some entry forms here today which will also be on the website later this week.

Prize presentation for both these competitions will be on the day.

At this stage I would also like to mention the Junior Mixed AM-AM which is run by the juniors to raise funds for the juniors. This year it will be held on Sunday 24th April at Rufford Park. Please encourage your members, it is a fun event.

There are also some entry forms here today for this competition.

We have our traditional County Events, with the 18-hole Spring Meeting now held alongside the 36-hole Championship qualifier, which will be held at Sherwood. The Coronation Foursomes are at Chilwell. The Summer Meeting and Veterans Trophy are at Stanton and the Autumn Meeting at Wollaton Park. It is such a wonderful opportunity to play these courses. Please encourage your lady members to enter these competitions. It would be much appreciated and we love to see both new and old faces.

In addition to our competitions we also have County week, which this year is in Lincolnshire, at Holme Hall Golf Club, June 6 – 10th. Your support would be very welcome – we hope to repeat the elation of last year!

We have the excitement of hosting the Midland North Regional County Week in 2018! Obviously this will entail a certain financial input. For that reason we are thinking ahead and introducing a new competition to raise funds for when we are hosts. It will be our President's Day competition and will be both an 18-hole and a 9-hole AM-AM on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>; this year at Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club.

Ladies we need and value your support. We are happy to have feedback and listen to suggestions.

Pam Loch  
County Captain

#### **4. Vice Captains' Report**

Helen sends her apologies but there is not a lot for her to report. She has arranged the second team matches which are as follows:

June 20<sup>th</sup> against Leics. at Scraftoft

July 5<sup>th</sup> against Lincs. at Canwick Park

July 13<sup>th</sup> against Leics. at Chilwell

July 18<sup>th</sup> against Lincs. at Stanton

Nottinghamshire are to host the Midland North Regional 2<sup>nd</sup> team Final this year which will be against the winners of the matches between Staffordshire, Shropshire and Derbyshire. This will be held at Stanton on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **5. Handicap Advisers Report**

Madam President, Madam Captain, ladies

I was pleased to attend the County Handicap Adviser's Seminar at Kings Norton Golf Club on Thursday 14 January where the following CONGU changes for 2016 were confirmed.

The Calendar year has returned to 1 January to 31 December. This means that next year's Annual Review should take place before 1 January 2017. For this year please ensure your Annual Review has taken place before 1 March. It is not allowed to ask players if they want to have an increase or decrease in handicap, or the system will not work. Players must personally be informed, by a member of the Club Handicap Committee, of any changes in advance of the change

England Golf have agreed that the Preferred Lie period will remain as 1 October until 30 April. Preferred lies out of this period will have to be authorised by the Notts County Union or Association.

Competition Handicaps continue to be indicated by the letter 'c'. The three-letter identifiers which indicate the type of competition played have been restructured for clarity and will show on each Player's Handicap Record. E.g. Qualifying Stableford Home QSH.

Four Ball Better Ball Handicap allowance is now 90%. This change is mandatory in both Stroke Play and Match Play including Four Ball Open Competitions. Clubs will have to revise their Competition Conditions to allow for this because restricting handicap allowances is against the spirit and intent of the CONGU system.

The Competition Standard Scratch Calculation for men is to include Category 4 players, so the CSS will now reflect the whole field, in the same manner as Ladies CSS calculation.

Initial Handicaps can be allocated up to 54 handicap. Any handicap higher than 28 for men and 36 for women is to be called a CONGU Club Handicap and will only be valid at the player's home club. This Handicap is not eligible for 'c' status. It is up to each Club to decide if it wishes to introduce CONGU Club handicaps and whether to allow players with such a handicap to play in some of the present competitions or bring in new competitions for these players.

When a player new to golf receives a handicap their scores will be entered into the software and a recommendation for allocation will be provided. If the best nett differential of a new player's three 18-hole cards is 28, the annual review formula will be used to adjust the scores and a handicap of 24 could be allocated instead of 26. The computer will work this out, all you have to do is accept, if you agree.

Players may only hold one handicap and it is either a CONGU Club Handicap (Handicaps 29 – 54 for men and 37 – 54 for ladies) or an official CONGU Handicap (28 and lower for men and 36 and lower for ladies). Returns from players with a Club Handicap are measured against the SSS and not the CSS and should be reviewed and adjusted as necessary. If a Handicap Committee considers a player should have a Club Handicap instead of a CONGU Handicap they must first have the player's agreement.

Re-activation of handicap – if a player leaves a club with a 'c' handicap, this status will remain valid for the year of resignation and for the full following calendar year, should a player re-join or join another affiliated club. If such a player joins your club you must ensure you obtain the player's previous CDH id number and details of previous membership. Check any new player's handicap records to ensure 3 qualifying scores were returned before leaving the old club. If a player has not been a member for over 2 years, the player must return 3 cards for handicap allocation, but any previous handicap must be taken into consideration when the new handicap is issued.

Re-instatement of a Competition Handicap will require scorecards for 27 holes, in any permutation of 9 and 18-hole qualifying scores or Supplementary Scores. Whereas a new player will have to complete 54 holes to obtain an initial handicap. Any nine-hole scores must be compiled over the same nine-hole course.

Handicaps for Golfers with Disabilities are administered in the same manner as the CONGU Club Handicaps. They are eligible for 'c' status if 36 handicap or below.

In Nine-Hole Qualifying Competitions a score returned better than, or within, Buffer Zone will have 18 points added, to create an 18-hole score. Any score returned outside Buffer Zone will be doubled. These scores will be included in the Annual Review and will give a fairer reflection of a player's capability. Clubs must ensure that they have a current 9-hole SSS, issued by England Golf, for their 9-hole course/courses, and that the handicap software is set-up correctly.

The Exceptional Scoring Reductions Table has been amended to reduce the severity of reductions. ESRs will only be applied based on a pair of exceptional scores. Nine-hole scores will be included and the application of the ESR is mandatory and will happen automatically.

Supplementary Scores may be returned at all GB&I clubs of which a player is a member. They will also be acceptable over 9-holes for Categories 2 and above, and unlimited for players with handicaps over 28 for men and 36 for women, up to 54 handicap. Supplementary scores over 9 holes must be played over the 9-hole Qualifying Course that has been allocated a special Standard Scratch Score by England Golf. If you do not have

such a course, 9-hole Supplementary Scores will not be available to your members. Ensure that members are aware of the club procedure for accepting Supplementary Scores for Home and Away Members. As players can now complete Supplementary Scores at their Away Clubs, the Away club will be required to send these scores on to the player's Home Club. Clubs should be aware that some players may try to build their handicap by completing Supplementary Scores.

Category 1 players will be included in the Annual Review Report in future, for your information, even though their handicaps cannot be changed without England Golf agreement and an access code.

There is to be a Continuous Handicap Review and players with 7 consecutive 0.1 handicap increases will be flagged up, so that Handicap Committees can review and apply an immediate handicap increase. These increases will be offered, even though it might take 2/3 years before a player has played in 7 competitions.

Unfortunately there have been some high profile instances of handicap manipulation which have come before the England Golf Disciplinary Committee. One has led to a 10 year ban from golf, and a fine, plus costs. As a result it is recommended that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in Non-Qualifying competitions are returned to clubs via a form provided by England Golf.

The World Wide Handicapping System is progressing and could be in place by 2020. It will be an average-based system similar to the USGA but including some of the better parts of other systems.

A new CONGU Handbook is going to be issued, after all, but will not be available until March. Three copies will be sent to all golf clubs.

Now, a reminder of the Rules for Non-Qualifying Competitions. Many Clubs play Non-Qualifying Competitions during the winter months, because Courses are not considered to be in Competition Play Condition. The number of holes played does NOT have to be less than 18 for a competition to be Non-Qualifying, but players MUST be informed, in advance that the competition is Non-Qualifying, and, scores CANNOT count for handicap. However, clubs should not deprive a competition of its status as a Qualifying competition by limiting the number of golf clubs a player may use, intentionally moving tees forward so the course is not a measured course or imposing a handicap allowance limit of, say, 7/8ths.

To ensure your Club is complying with the CONGU rules, the Handicap Committee should carry out a self-audit by going through the UHS Compliance Check List on page 76 of the 2012-2015 Handbook. This audit should take place annually.

It was hoped that the Handicap Benefits Card would eliminate the necessity for Handicap Certificates but players may still need a Certificate if visiting a Club without Internet Access, or where Clubs have difficulty getting on-line.

I thank all Club Handicap Secretaries for keeping in touch with me by telephone and email and for making such efforts to do the right thing. I was pleased to see how many of you had registered for the England Golf Seminar for Club Handicap Committees held at Newark Golf Club recently. I have been asked, by Gemma Hunter of England Golf, to remind you that your first port of call with a query is to me, your County Handicap Adviser. If you send a ticket to England Golf, via the CDH, it will come to me, so it may be quicker to email me in the first place. I also receive some emails via our Website but again it could be quicker to use my telephone number or personal email address shown on the County Card. Thank you

Maureen Clarke  
County Handicap Adviser.

Questions for Maureen :

- Belinda Briggs asked whether the results of Non-qualifying Open Competitions should be submitted on the forms provided by England Golf and the response was yes.
- Pippa Handley asked whether this also applied to the non-qualifying Vets and Past Captains competitions and the response to this was also yes.

## 6. Financial Report

The balance at the end of January is:

**Current account: £4,452.87**

**Deposit Account: £22,641.68**

At a similar time last year the balances were as follows

Current Account: £4,789.44

Deposit Account: £21,131.22

- These figures show an increase of £1173.89 in the bank and are pleasing in view of the extra expenditure incurred as a result of the county team doing so well last year.
- We have received 3 donations: the Tasker Trophy for £1020.00 and £250 from 2 lady members of the County, £50 of which has been specified for junior funds.
- Affiliation fees are coming in very slowly; 9 clubs have so far paid their fees. It would be very helpful if representatives could remind their treasurers/account managers that fees are still outstanding. The overall number of lady playing members from these 9 clubs is 9 more than last year and 5 more junior girls.

Jenny Smith

Treasurer

## 7. Midland North Report

President, Captain, Ladies

As usual we are looking forward to the coming golf season and starting to think about where we would like to play this summer. I would just like to remind you of the competitions arranged by the Midland North Region, and hope that some of them may find a way into your diaries.

We kick off with Nottinghamshire's contribution of the Foursomes at Radcliffe on Trent on Monday 25th April. This is a 36 hole competition for players with a combined handicap of 36 or less. At the moment we have some entries and would like at least 25 to break even. I have a few forms here if anyone would like one, or the entry form can be found on the England Golf or our Nottinghamshire County Ladies website.

Leicestershire are holding the Australian Spoons Competition at Whetstone on Aug 9th. This is also a foursomes competition for ladies with handicaps between 15 and 36. Your club may hold a qualifying competition and the best pair will play at Whetstone in the Regional Final, and the winners of that will go on to a National final. Entry forms are on the England Golf website.

Shropshire host the Queen of Clubs Competition this year on Thurs 21st July at Worfield. This is a competition for your club's club champion, and this year we are trialling it as an 18 instead of a 36 hole competition. I have e mailed a copy of the entry form to all clubs, with the exception of Ramsdale and Brierley Forest, whose e mails have come bouncing back to me. If there is anyone here from either of those clubs, please could you let me have a contact e-mail address. Please consider these competitions when filling your diaries, as without your support we will not be able to run them.

At the end of last year, David Joy gave up the position of CEO of England Golf. He has done a lot in the few years he was at the helm. He implemented 'Raising Our Game' which has become the blueprint for counties and clubs to work from. He was also involved in the Governance and Affiliation Review which played a big part in all of our meetings last year. At our December meeting we got to vote on which changes to accept and which to reject. The proposals accepted included widening the membership of England Golf to include clubs playing on short courses, and to introduce a new category of facility membership for pitch and putt courses.

The current committees are to be replaced by advisory groups, created when necessary, and there is to be a nominations committee to help with the nomination of board members. Also the Chair of England Golf will be appointed following open recruitment.

Affiliation fees are to be collected from clubs 60 days after the start of their subscription year.

The proposal to change the composition of the Board to include some appointed, instead of all elected directors, was rejected, as was the proposal that England Golf should have the full power to set the affiliation fee. Also on the rejection pile was the proposed reduction of our General meetings from 3 to 2, and the introduction of a regional meeting.

A club membership questionnaire has been sent out to all clubs. The collated responses will provide a comprehensive picture of what is happening in golf clubs, and a full national report will be produced later this year. I have been asked to ask you to encourage your clubs to complete this survey.

My next meeting is the England Golf Conference in April, and I hope to send a report to each club via a short newsletter after that.

Sandra Beckett

## **8. Junior Report**

CJO report by Emma Howie

- **Diary and MNR League**

The junior diary was published this month onto the NCLGA website, with just a few final fixtures to be confirmed. As the county card was sent to print in advance of many of the fixtures being finalised, it means there are incorrect dates on the county card, so please refer to the website for all junior dates. The junior girls, however, have received their own fixture list with the correct dates.

2016 sees the introduction of the new MNR league structure with 2 rounds and a finals day for all counties. The finals day this year is being held in Nottinghamshire on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at Trent Lock. Having been runners-up last year Notts girls are looking to regain their title this year!

- **Numbers of girl golfers in the county and a new initiative "Girls Golf Rocks"**

We currently have 39 who we know are actively playing golf; 25 have handicaps. There are also another 5 girls we are aware of who have recently joined Rufford.

In addition we have the names of about 20 more girls who we don't think are active playing golf anymore so we would like to re-engage with them.

By the end of this year my aim is to have 60 girls on our contact list actively playing.

This leads us to the Girls Golf Rocks project ....

This is a new initiative in which England Golf, Golf Foundation, CGP and NCLGA are working in partnership to recruit more girls into golf. We are using some of the county girls to act as ambassadors to recruit and encourage girls from 5-18 to have a try at golf. There are 4 free taster sessions to be held on either Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April or Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April at Norwood, Rufford Park, The Nottinghamshire and Trent Lock. From there the new girls will have an opportunity to take part in 4 coaching sessions and a par 3 competition during May and June for the nominal fee of £10. The

ambassadors will also attend the taster days and par three competition to encourage the new girls to take up the game.

More details of GGR will be circulated to clubs once the promotional materials are received, it will also feature in the media and on social media.

- **County Golf Partnership and Winter Coaching**

The winter coaching programme at Rufford and The Nottinghamshire continues to be run for girls only by the CGP. The numbers at The Nottinghamshire are steady at 7 but the number at Rufford, having dropped off last year, now seems to be back up to 6-7 which is good news.

In addition the talented athlete programme, for which we obtained a joint grant of just over £4000, will start shortly. This will see girls benefiting by receiving three different coaching sessions on non-swing aspects of their game.

I will be attending the next junior meeting for the Nottinghamshire Golf partnership this evening.

- **Coaching bursaries**

Following feedback from both girls and coaches we have decided to continue to offer coaching bursaries for the girls this year. Full details and application forms will be launched to the girls in March.

- **Team training sessions/ girls get together days**

As part of the Girls Golf Rocks project we discussed with the squad what had inspired them to play and improve. The overwhelming feedback was that they needed to play with other girls and have older girls as role models.

So this year we are planning to run two get together days for girls. The squad will receive coaching in the morning followed by 18 holes of golf. The younger girls will receive coaching in the afternoon followed by a par 3 competition.

- **Junior Committee Update**

Elaine Mitchell has agreed to take on the role of Junior Committee Secretary this year. Our thanks to Gillian Stump who has fulfilled this role for many years and been an active supporter of junior golf. Emma Anderson has joined the committee this year, after her successful year as Junior Captain and is already taking the lead on the Girls Golf Rocks project!

## **9. Webmaster's report**

The website is as up to date as it can be for the moment with all information that has been sent through added. The 2016 Leagues, ladies Interclub, Competitions and Matches are all included. If anyone spots any errors could they please let Gillian know and she will be happy to correct them. Also, if any Clubs have Open events they would like adding then they need to send their entry forms to Gillian with a request to add it to them website.

## **10. Secretary's Notes**

- a. The NCLGA Information Cards and the entry forms for the Junior Am-Am are available for each Club from the table at the back of the room.

- b. Could Secretaries who haven't already sent through the details of their club officials for 2016 please send them to Jane Fowler who is compiling the list in Lynn's absence.

**11. Any Other Business**

Belinda Briggs asked why the meeting had been at Beeston when it was agreed to have the first meeting of the year at Ramsdale as it was more central so not so far to travel in case of bad weather. The general consensus of the meeting was that they would rather it was at Ramsdale, so the Captain suggested that we try to arrange the next meeting at Ramsdale if possible and ensure that the February meeting in 2017 is at Ramsdale.

**12. Closing remarks**

The President thanked everyone for attending and thanked Beeston for hosting and Pam for chairing the meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.09am