

Minutes of an N.C.L.G.A.Council Meeting

Held at Beeston Fields Golf Club – Monday 22nd July 2013

The County Captain welcomed all the ladies present

Apologies: These had been received from Worksop, Serlby Park, Retford, Rufford Park and Kilton Forest. 22 clubs were represented.

Minutes of last Meeting: Minutes of the last meeting held on the 18th February, having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the County Captain.

Matters Arising: Apart from a spelling error, there were no matters arising

County Captain's Report: It has been a very busy 3 months with county events and I would like to give a resume of what has been happening.

April 8th: The county waltz was the first event of the year, it was held at Beeston Fields G.C. This is the 2nd year that we have had this event and once more it proved very popular. Organised again by my vice captain Jane Fowler the event was a great success and I would like to thank Jane and Pippa for doing the cards, everyone that entered and brought bottles for the raffle and especially to Beeston Fields for giving us courtesy of the course. The event was won by a combined team of ladies from Trent Lock and Rushcliffe. The day plus the raffle raised an amazing £1100.00 and was a great start to the year. Some of this money was used to pay for short game coaching for the 1st team which I had organised in April.

April 9th: Our annual match with the Sheffield Union was held this year at Rotherham golf club. This is always a lovely fixture played in a great spirit and this year was no exception. Having lost for the past 2 years we were hoping for a victory this year. We fielded a strong team and managed to just clinch a win with the last match. A great start to the season and I hoped a good omen for the rest of my year!!

April 26th: The English senior womens' championship was won by Janet Melville on her home course Sherwood Forest. She beat the defending champion Chris Quinn to take the title, a fantastic achievement and congratulations to her.

May 10th: The county championship and spring meeting were held at Wollaton Park this year. The course was in amazing condition considering that all the courses in the county were at least 6 weeks behind because of the bad weather so thanks must go to the green staff at Wollaton. Over the three days although the weather conditions were very difficult, the wind and heavy rain did not stop some wonderful golf being played. There were some very close matches in the quarter and semi finals. I will give a full report at the a.g.m. but suffice to say that quality came out on top and Alex Peters our home grown international became the champion for the 2nd time in 2 years beating Emma Newlove in the final. As always thanks to Bridgett and Joan for organising and being at Wollaton over the 3 days and to Gill and Joyce for acting as starters. They are going to be a tough act to follow!

June 3rd: The coronation foursomes were held at Stanton. It was a glorious day and everyone said how wonderful the course was. At least this one was a little closer to home for Bridgett and Gill! A team from Trent Lock were the winners with a team from Norwood in 2nd place. We had a raffle for breast cancer which raised a wonderful £248.00.

June 14th - 28th: County week this year was held at Hawkstone Park in Shropshire. We named a team of 12 for the week as we did not have all the girls available for all of the week, with exams, National school golf finals and work we were never at our full strength on any day. The week got off to a great start with wins against Derbyshire and Shropshire on the first 2 days. Sadly Lincolnshire proved too strong for us on the Wednesday but we beat Staffordshire and Leicestershire on the last 2 days. This meant we were runners up for the 2nd time in 3 years an excellent result. I am sure as we have such a strong but very young team that we will take the trophy in the very near future. The girls were all a credit to the county, supporting each other and playing some wonderful golf against 5 very strong counties. I

was very proud to be their county captain this year. My thanks go to Jane my vice captain for her help and encouragement and to Kathryn, Gill, Bridgett and our caddies for all their support. Thanks too to everyone who came to watch and caddy and to those who sent messages and cards wishing us luck.

8th July: The summer meeting was held at Retford. There was a very good entry this year which was really good to see. Again it was a beautiful day we have fared much better this year with the county events than we did last!! Although it was extremely hot in the afternoon there were some excellent scores. Janet Melville from Sherwood won the scratch cup and the handicap cup winner was P. Grinter from The Nottinghamshire. Many thanks to everyone who worked to make the day a success and to Retford for their hospitality.

I will give an in depth report on all these events and the rest of the season at the a.g.m. in November.

Vice-Captains Report:

Financial Report: In spite of an expensive County Week, the accounts are in a good financial position. The General Account has £3401: Captains Account - £5404: Junior Account £6112. Barclays account was not available as the service was being updated. We are still waiting for ladies affiliation from Bulwell Forest, Edwalton and Misterton. £250 was sent to Breast Cancer from the Coronation Foursomes meeting and £150 to the Lincs/Notts Air Ambulance from the Summer Meeting

Midland North Report:

During the last few months I have attended a seminar on slow play at Kings Norton and Committee meetings at Woodhall Spa.

The seminar at Kings Norton, though very interesting, did not actually shed any new light on the solving of the problem. We all know that in theory we should be ready to play when our turn, and to clear the green as soon as possible and drive from the next tee before marking the card if having the honour. The fact is that the first player on the tee has 50 seconds to play and the other players 40 second to play, is quite a generous time allowance, and if ready, the timing should rarely be exceeded. The same applies to shots on the fairway and green.

If there are persistent offenders the competition organising committee may have players put on the clock and warnings given, for persistent offenders a shot penalty and finally disqualified.

The Midland North Regional Meeting was held at Woodhall Spa. On 2nd July.

Our main responsibility is to run the Regional competitions.

Notts had three representatives who qualified from our Medal Finals at Radcliffe on Trent on 22nd May. Cath Wong The Nottinghamshire, Jo Hopkins and Carol Wild Notts Ladies, who played in the grand Final on 29th June.

The Australian Spoons was played at Matlock Golf Club Derbyshire on 3rd June. This course was a very difficult course and a number of complaints were received from the higher handicap golfers. It was maybe the difficulty of the course that deterred entries, only seven Nott's clubs entered a team. The venue for 2014 is Wollaton Golf Club, so please Ladies do encourage your club to have the Australian Spoons Competition on your fixture list and for the winners to enter the Regional Final. Wollaton is a beautiful course with easy walking and a full field would ensure the success of the competition.

I would be interested to have your views on the change in the handicap limits to now allow 15 to 20 handicap players. Should it revert to a bronze division only competition? The winners were from Charnwood Forest and go on to the Final

The first of the Queen of Clubs Competition was held on 15th July at Belton Park, and was deemed a success. Rachel Woodcock from Blankney won the Douglas Bowl and Emily Mae Hall, Notts Ladies was runner up and won the Enid Wilson Bowl for players under 18. Ten Nott's Clubs supported this Competition. Next year we are looking to include a section for the Net Champion from each club. So when the entry forms are available next year please read them carefully.

Dates for 2014.

Foursomes.	Tuesday 29 th April	Spalding Golf Club	Lincolnshire
Medal Finals.	Saturday 3 rd May	Shrewsbury Golf Club	Shropshire
Australian Spoons	Friday 27 th June	Wollaton Park	Nottinghamshire
County Match Week	Week of 8 th June	The Leicestershire	
Queen of Clubs	Wednesday 16 th July	Horsley Lodge Golf Club	
Girls Championship	Monday 1 st September	Trentham Golf Club,	Staffs

The format and expenses of Ladies County Week was discussed with all the Counties present at a meeting in July at Woodhall Spa. The counties would like to see a change in the timing of County Match Week to when the younger members of the squads will be finished with their GCSE and A level exams and be available to play. The booking of a course to host this event over 5 days is also very difficult as it curtails tee availability for members, clubs are not keen to do this especially if it is an 18 hole course. So the format of County Week is being looked at, taking on board the view of all counties that a match play format is preferable to stroke play. The expense to each County after accommodation is taken into account, takes a large proportion of the County Fees. The host County does receive a grant of £3000 plus £1500 for expenses, but that does not include accommodation costs.

Although we were assured the funding of these events was not an issue most feel that it will be in the near future as all these costs are multiplied by each of the 6 regions. A total of £27,000.

For County Finals the 6 regional finalists have a grant of £2900 , £16,000 costs to the Championship Committee to administer. A total of just over £60k. The discussion which took place had all the counties in agreement that it was important to keep the format of the week as match play, and before making any changes decided to wait for the details of the New Strategic plan for England Golf (2014 -2017).

This brings me neatly on to the next subject.

Developing a new strategic plan for England Golf. The new Chief Executive David Joy is giving every club the chance to fill in this survey and wants your input, so please will you make sure that someone at your club fills in this survey and returns it before the end of the month.

This new strategic plan for England will be developed through extensive consultation. It will be a plan which shapes the future work of the board, committees and staff of England Golf, the county unions, associations and county golf partnership, the clubs and volunteers.

Supporting the Golf Foundation.

At the last meeting the voting members approved this recommendation.

England Golf will make a payment £100k from the special projects fund, to support the work of the Golf Foundation in 2013/2014. This will be subject to a service level agreement which will require the Golf Foundation to work more closely with England Golf and the county golf partnership and also require increasing junior club membership within golf clubs as one of their key outcomes.

The Handicapping and Course Rating Committee has proposed and agreed a change in the return of Supplementary Scores by Category 1 golfers. From January 2014 Category 1 golfers will only be able to return a Maximum of 3 Supplementary Scores per annum and only to either maintain, or regain an Active Handicap. Any player whose handicap is Active on January 1st would not be permitted to return any Supplementary Scores until September, and then only as many as required to keep her handicap active. A player with an Inactive Handicap on January 1st will be permitted to return up to 3 Supplementary Scores to make their handicap Active.

Junior Report:

With the long winter and very cold Spring, everything arranged for the first part of the season was played in bitterly cold conditions and the girls had to wait for qualifying competitions to begin. Finally in July, temperatures soared, exams were over and the girls' handicaps started dropping.

The popular **Mixed AmAm** was held on April 28th at Rufford Park on a very cold day and raised an excellent £774 for Junior Funds. Thank you to everyone who gave raffle prizes, entered teams and to Rufford for hosting this event.

A Spring Get Together Texas Scramble was held on April 11th at Oakmere Park and Maureen Clarke kindly sent a Rules Quiz for afterwards. It was very cold but the girls enjoyed the chance to get together.

A Par 3 Competition for girls without handicaps was arranged for the Easter holidays on April 2nd at Norwood Park with eleven girls playing. It was bitterly cold but the girls enjoyed the morning. Thank you to Norwood Lady Captain Sarah Wooley who with four ladies from Norwood went round with the girls and to Norwood Park for making us very welcome again.

The 9 hole Flag 50 Competition arranged for May 28th at Edwalton with 11 girls due to play had to be cancelled due to torrential rain – playing in such conditions would not have encouraged young beginners!!

This was rearranged for July 7th and this time was far too hot – so hot it is likely to have put off the youngest girls! Edwalton Lady Captain Judy Theobald and three members kindly helped the girls. Thank you ladies and thanks also to Edwalton for making us welcome.

Some of the girls who played in these competitions now have CONGU handicaps so have moved on – obtaining that first Congu handicap is a big achievement.

The next competition for girls without handicaps is on August 19th playing 9 holes at Trent Lock and full details are on the NCLGA website.

The Girls' Championship was held at Coxmoor on May 19th, a lovely sunny day, with Rhiannon Linacre (Coxmoor) becoming our new County Girls' Champion with a score of 76. Rhiannon also won the Open Scratch Salver and U16 Scratch Trophy. The U18 Handicap Cup was won by 12 year old Jessica Bailey (Notts Ladies) with 79 - 11 - 68. Rebecca Williams (Coxmoor) won the Bronze Division Scratch Trophy and Emily-Mae Hall (Notts Ladies) the Intermediate (over 16) Trophy with a gross 77. Thank you to Coxmoor for hosting the Championship in their centenary year, I hope this special year is going well. The Men's Captain kindly presented each girl with a Centenary bag tag at the first tee and Lady Captain Joyce Hayward came to the Prize Giving. I know the girls enjoyed playing Coxmoor. In 2014 the Girls' Championship will be held at Retford on May 11th.

The England Schools' Championship was held at Notts GC (Hollinwell) on June 24th. Lianna and Annabel Bailey had finished 1st and 2nd respectively in the Leics Schools Championship back in April to qualify for the Championship, while Emily-Mae Hall qualified in a regional event. Emily-Mae Hall came 4th with gross scores of 75 and 76. Lianna Bailey finished 5th with 76 and 76. Both girls have been selected to play for England Schools v Scotland in September. Annabel Bailey finished 13th with 75 and 81. The winning girls' score was 70 & 74, 6 under par!

COACHING

Group Coaching at Rufford and The Nottinghamshire is going well. After a slow start due to the cold weather in the Spring, our new coaching venue at Oakmere Park with Pro Jamie Jarvis now has six girls attending. These are all beginners and range from 8 – 11 years of age.

MATCHES

League Team Training for our 16 lowest handicap girls arranged for March 24th with John Vaughan and James Thompson at Rufford had to be cancelled due to heavy snow. It was rearranged over two dates with John in April – a pity not to be able to get the girls together on the same date, but they still had very useful match play training.

The first of our five **Midland North Region League** matches was on April 7th against Lincs at Ramsdale Park GC. The 1st (Scratch) Team halved this match. Lincs could only bring two girls for the 2nd (Handicap) Team and Notts won one match and lost one match. Our remaining two girls played against each other for practice.

On April 21st the 1st team won 4 : 2 against Leics at Greetham Valley. The 2nd team lost 3 : 1. On June 16th the girls played against Staffs at Trentham. The 1st team halved 3 : 3 and the 2nd Team also halved 2 : 2.

On July 21st the girls played against Derbys at Carholme. The 1st Team had an excellent 6 : 0 win. None of the Bailey girls were available for this match and we had a very inexperienced team, but I needn't have worried as they produced the best result of the year so far. The 2nd Team only had 2 matches and Notts won one and lost one. It's worrying that the other counties seem to be struggling to produce second teams this year as our girls are losing valuable match play experience.

We have now won two and halved two of our scratch 1st team league matches this year with just one match still to play, so we're doing very well.

Rhiannon Linacre has now won her 1st team Junior Colours – well done Rhiannon.

Conscious of the increasing cost of petrol, the Junior Committee decided to give £15 per family per away league match to help with travel expenses.

You will have heard from County Captain Colette of the many girls who were part of the County Team at County Week, alternating matches with GCSE exams! Well done girls.

Our **Mid Handicap Friendly Matches** are for teams of eight girls with 12+ handicaps and give them match play experience.

The girls lost to Mapperley Ladies in April on what I think was the coldest day I can remember. Thank you to Christine Preston and Mapperley for continuing with this fixture and to the ladies who braved the cold!

The girls played against Yorkshire girls on June 9th at Meltham GC winning 4 ½ : 3 ½.

They then played against Warwicks girls at Beeston Fields on June 23rd winning 3 ½ : 2 ½ . Sadly a last minute illness meant Warwicks could only bring seven girls, so the 7th and 8th Notts girls and 7th Warwick girls played a Competition amongst themselves with Amie Whelan, a Notts team player, winning.

I discovered last year that the other county junior teams all had a mascot so this year we have a bear mascot in team colours - a white shirt, black trousers and red team sweater. She – the girls say the bear has to be a she but haven't decided on a name - sits on the first tee when the girls tee off and one of the girls takes her round the course on her golf bag.

The Junior Jubilee will be held at Rufford Park on Sunday October 6th. It's a Greensome Stableford with teams of one lady and one girl of any handicap combination, followed by a one course Sunday Supper. Entry forms will go on the website soon. Please support the girls by offering to play with one of them.

As you can imagine, to provide girls of all levels the help and encouragement they need, involves organising a wide range of competitions, matches and get togethers. The latter are especially important for girls without handicaps and for girls who are sometimes the only girl member of their club.

In order to continue running these events, I would like to spread the workload and ideally have a lady responsible for organising three or four Par 3 or 9 hole competitions per year for girls without a handicap. At present there are 10 or 11 girls in this category.

Also I would like to have a lady who could organise perhaps two games per year for higher handicap (24 – 36) girls to help them with course management and rules as well as giving them the opportunity to meet and play with the other girls in the county. There would probably be 8 girls, two tee times.

If anyone feels they could help do please contact me, your help would be greatly appreciated.

County Golf Partnership: I attended a Coaching Academy afternoon at Edwalton on July 6th but sadly there were no girls!

Grant Applications

I applied for funding from the EWGA Women's and Girls' Grant and we received £80.

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.

All funding will now come via CGP but as the funding CGP receives from Sport England is only for 14 – 25 year olds there is a gap – our youngsters start coaching at 8 years of age.

I am very unhappy about these changes to funding and on behalf of the Junior Committee wrote to Richard Flint at England Golf. The other County Associations in our area are also unhappy and similarly wrote to England Golf.

There are changes to the training for 2013/14 organised by England Golf. Birdie and Select Squads will be replaced by Regional U16 squads receiving 20 days coaching plus physical development training. Each regional squad will have a maximum of 8 girls. The regions will be purely for training purposes and Notts are in the East Midland region with Lincs, Leics, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. The girls and their families have to apply directly and full details are on the NCLGA website.

Handicap Advisers Report: I attended the England Golf Handicap Seminar at Copt Heath Golf Club on Thursday 11 April. Items discussed included the Annual Review, the Computer Database of Handicaps, the Category 1 Audit and the Handicap Enquiry System.

Annual Review

The Annual Review is an essential part of the Handicapping process and must take place to ensure all players in the Club have a handicap that reasonably reflects their playing ability. The Annual Handicap Report gives an indication as to whether a player has such a handicap. It makes recommendations based on scores returned. Committees must consider these and take any other factors into account before applying changes. The County Union/Area Authority will only overturn a decision made by the Club Handicap Committee if it considers that the actions of the Club were not in accordance with the CONGU Unified Handicapping System or any directive imposed by England Golf. One Appeal was received by me this year, the Club had applied the rules correctly and, therefore, received my full support.

Computer Database of Handicaps and Maintenance of Club Handicapping Software

It is imperative golf clubs maintain an accurate handicapping database. Make sure you do not have individuals identified as Home Members who are deceased, who are either no longer playing members of the club, who are Home Members at other Clubs, or visitors who have competed in a Club's open day competition.

If players transfer to social membership remove them from the software as only Playing Members with access to Qualifying Competitions are allowed to hold a CONGU Handicap. Reinstatement can take place within 6 months - beyond that time a new handicap and CDH number is required. If you have a doubt as to procedure contact your software supplier Club 2000, Intelligent Golf, Handicap Master, etc.

Away members must be made aware that they are only allowed one CONGU handicap and one CDH number irrespective of the number of Clubs in which they are a member. For Away players only enter their correct PLAYING handicap and their CDH number in your handicap software.

New CDH Numbers should only be allocated to new Club Members who are new to Club Membership. Avoid multiple upload of handicapping data or allocating a CDH to someone who is already in possession of one. Always ask new members, who have played before, for their CDH number. Ensure all members know their CDH number. If they have obtained their Members Benefits Card it is shown on the card. In the meantime, if you are still issuing handicap certificates ensure you print them with the CDH number shown. Via the England Golf CDH all clubs have access to view the playing records of all their members and playing handicap of all players in their Open Competitions. If you are unsure of your Club's Password you may need to contact England Golf. This will enable you to check the up-to-date

handicap by keying in any CDH number shown on the Members Benefits Card. You can also check that you do not have multiple uploads or members with more than one CDH ID.

County Handicap Advisers can view the players' handicaps of all players in the County in addition to playing records of all members affiliated to the County Golf Union/Association. England Golf have access the player's handicap records of all players nationally. It must be reiterated that only handicapping information is available on the CDH no personal information, no home address, no email addresses or telephone number.

Category 1 Audit

The Handicap Audit of Category 1 players will, as usual, take place in October. If you have any Category 1 players, please send me a copy of their full Handicap Record for 2013 at the end of September. I have to check the handicap records of players with low handicaps to ensure they are correct. I audit the lowest 3 or 10% (whichever is the greatest) of players with a handicap of 5.4 or better. I check they have one CDH Number, have returned all Qualifying Scores in a reasonable time, that they have the correct number of multi-rounds scores and no duplicates or omissions. One player had handed in 11 scores from practice rounds by giving them a competition name and a Competition Standard Scratch and getting them manually entered. Two were returned on dates of County match play events and 4 scores were missing. He had been getting into events because his handicap showed as 0.8. He was suspended for 3 months and his handicap was corrected to 1.7. He was not from Nottinghamshire I am pleased to say. It is important that all players take responsibility for their own handicap, especially juniors, and ensure it is correct.

Retrieval of Away Qualifying Scores

Manual acceptance of scores should be done on a daily basis throughout the summer playing season.

Handicap Enquiry System

It is recommended that in the first instance any handicap queries that clubs have should be directed to me as County Handicap Adviser. If England Golf receive any initial enquiries from Clubs they will be passed on to the County Handicap Adviser. Tickets (equivalent of emails) can be sent in via the CDH. Check your access.

Match Play

The average performance data shows that the low handicap player has a 5 stroke advantage on the higher handicap even with full difference - so full difference will continue.

Inter-Club & Leagues:

The semi-final of the Ladies Inter-Club will be between Norwood Park and Sherwood Forest and Retford and Serlby Park. Brierley Forest have now joined League F of the Bronze league.

County Dates – 2014: The following dates are now confirmed: County Championship at Beeston Fields 16th – 18th May: Coronation Foursomes at Newark on the 2nd June: Summer Meeting at Worksop on the 7th July: Veterans Trophy Meeting at Springwater on the 4th August and the Autumn Meeting at Rushcliffe on the 4th September.

Secretaries Notes: In view of the alterations to Officers for 2014, it had been decided to hold an EGM prior to the next Council meeting to change the County Rules etc. The proposition will be forwarded to the clubs with an invitation for any member of the County to attend and vote for the changes. Should these be passed, the new Officers can then be voted in at the AGM in November.

In view of the poor number of entries for the Veterans Trophy Meetings, it has been suggested that this competition be amalgamated with the Summer Meeting.

Radcliffe and The Nottinghamshire have kindly donated cheques to the Junior Fund.

Any Other Business: Chilwell Manor asked if the ladies Inter-Club could follow the decision of the Notts Union and do away with host clubs providing meals for the teams. Oakmere Park felt this might encourage clubs to ask for payment for the matches etc. Many clubs felt that this cessation would mean

less socialising. The clubs present were asked to take this request back to their committees and we would discuss this again at the October Council meeting

Chilwell also asked about the order of play in league matches. This has been discussed before and the consensus was that play in handicap order should be a recommendation rather than a rule.

As there was no further business the Captain thanked everyone for attending and Mrs Joan Underwood thanked her for taking the meeting.