

NCLGA Council Meeting Minutes

10.30 am Monday 4th July 2016 at Beeston Fields Golf Club (NG9 3DD)

Participants.

NCLGA Council Members and Ladies Secretaries from Nottinghamshire clubs.

The President welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

1. Apologies

There were representatives from 21 clubs and apologies from Sylvia Johnson Oakmere commanders, Sue Hutchinson Kilton Forest, Susan Bunting Mapperley, Lillian Richards Edwalton, Cynthia James Serlby Park, Mary Maxwell Radcliffe on Trent, Pat Fountain Nottingham City, Flick Brittan Beeston Fields. Patricia Saki Bulwell Forest and Emma Howie Junior Organiser

2. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

3. Captain's Report. Pamela Loch

Madam President, County Officials, Ladies

First to report is the sad death, last March, of one of our great County supporters, Joyce Crosby, who was so often to be found as starter for all those competing on big County Days. Our President, Joan and I attended Joyce's funeral

We are now well underway with the golfing season and lots to report, starting with the traditional match against the Sheffield Union ladies. This year we were the hosts and played at Notts golf Club on Monday 4th April. In mixed weather conditions, hailstones and all, we fought hard against a very competent opposition with 2 of their team playing off +1 handicaps. In a competitive and friendly match we witnessed some amazing golf but sadly lost 4-1.

A week later was the start of our County 1st team training when we had a Zen Putting coaching session with Nick Middleton at Rufford, who kindly gave us the use of their putting green. It was an informative and interesting session trying to understand both the mental and physical approach to putting.

Also in April we held the County Waltz at Beeston Fields with a full field of 31 teams, 93 competitors representing 18 clubs. Thanks to the generosity of the members of Beeston who gave us courtesy of the course and to those that played and supported the raffle an amazing £1,253 was raised.

Next came the County Championship and Spring Meeting in May. This year it was held at Sherwood Forest and the course was presented beautifully and in excellent condition. Some 18 players took part in the Championship playing 36 holes with the top 8 going through to the knock out stages over Saturday and Sunday. 21 additional players took part in the 18 hole Spring meeting medal played alongside the morning round of the Championship qualifying stage.

I will report all the details of who won at the AGM. Thanks to Gillian, there is also a detailed report on the website. Suffice to say that Caron Harrison had a great match against Lauren Spray in the semi final to come back from 2 down after 16 with 3 birdies in the next 4 holes to eventually gain her place in the final on the twentieth hole. Likewise we were treated to some exceptional golf in the final where Caron played Emily Cheshire and came back from 2 down after 7 to win on the 16th hole and become our new and well deserved County Champion.

In late May we had a County Foursomes Training Day at Notts Golf Club for 8 of the first team in preparation for County Week.

This year County Week was hosted by Lincolnshire, at Holme Hall Golf Club, Scunthorpe from June 6-10th. It was a happy, friendly, sunny and very competitive week! The pressure was on after the success of last year!

I had a great team of players who never gave up despite the fact that on both Monday and Wednesday we lost 5-4, on both days losing crucial matches on the 18th. With a halved match on the Tuesday we were bottom of the table on Wednesday evening, having not played badly. We achieved great wins against both Shropshire and Lincolnshire on Thursday and Friday and to our delight managed to win the salver and come home as runners up.

Staffordshire were worthy winners having won all 5 days.

Special thanks to Helen, Glenys and Joan who were a terrific support all week. It is both an exhausting and a rewarding week with everyone playing their part.

Thank you also for all the cards and messages and to those who were able to come, your support was welcomed by all

Unfortunately, this year the dates of County week and the Coronation Foursomes clashed. Coronation Foursomes were played at Chilwell on Monday 6th June. Many thanks to our competition secretary, Colette Newton and her assistant, Jane Fowler for running the day, which was a great success with 29 teams playing and everyone enjoying a beautiful day. Thank you to all those who played and to the Chilwell ladies who helped on the day.

The upcoming County Competitions are the Summer and Autumn Meetings.

The Summer meeting and Veterans medal is at Stanton on July 11th and has been very well supported with more than 60 entries, thank you to all those who have entered. We shall be having a raffle in aid of pancreatic cancer research and any contribution of prizes towards this will be most welcome. The Autumn meeting is at Wollaton Park on Monday 12th September.

I can't forget my County Captain's Day on Monday 25th July at Notts golf club, an AM-AM stableford along with a raffle to raise money towards running the county first and second teams. Thank you again for your support and I'm very sorry to those who did not get in. I hope it is going to be a fabulous day and we have generous sponsorship for the par 3 holes.

Talking of sponsorship, Andy Tyler from Coxmoor Golf Club has very kindly sponsored the County again with another 12 doz. Pro V1 golf balls.

We also have ongoing sponsorship from Acorn windows for which we are very grateful. Thanks to them we have added some very smart County brollies to our kit.

Sometimes as a County we feel that we are lacking input into golf clubs. I know as secretaries you all work extremely hard and would not thank the County for extra work but we have been discussing the idea of having a County rep at each club (similar to the Vets. and Past Captains) who would promote the County competitions and update the clubs with County information. I know space is at a premium on most notice boards but it would be nice (and maybe already exists) if the County could have a small area to highlight upcoming competitions.

If you have a member at your club who is willing to take on this role as county rep. we would love to hear from them

am indebted to my lovely committee for all the help and support they continue to give me. I could name them all and list everything they do but I think you'd be walking out!

Thank you, ladies for your time today and for all you do to support the county, we much appreciate it. I wish you good golf and a dryer remainder of the season!

4. Vice Captains' Report. Helen Maber

Second team matches 2016

I'm afraid I have to report that our first second team match was rained off after the whole team drove over to Scraftoft. The girls were very disappointed not to be able to make their debut for the 2016 season but the rain really was dreadful and a sensible decision was made. So we have recorded a halved match against Leicestershire away.

We are hoping for better conditions tomorrow for our next away match against Lincolnshire at Canwick Park. Watch this space!

5. Handicap Advisers Report Maureen Clarke

Madam President, Madam Captain, ladies

I have received a number of queries with regard to Four Ball Better Balls and Am Ams which I need to clarify. Four Ball Better Balls are played in teams of 2 with one score to count from each team of 2. The Four Ball Better Ball Handicap allowance is now a mandatory 90% in match play and stroke play. A 90% Chart can be downloaded from the England Golf Website.

Am Am Competitions are not Four Ball Better Balls. Am Ams are played in teams of 3 or 4 with 1, 2, 3, or 4 scores to count. Am Ams are not mentioned in either the R&A Rules of Golf or the CONGU Handbook but they must still be played under the R&A Rules of Golf. As they are Club competitions a Club can use any fraction of handicap they like for these. In the England Golf Club Mixed Team Championship, which is an Am Am, with 2 scores to count out of 4, three quarter handicap is used (75%).

There have been some problems with players changing their Home Clubs because the change has not taken place in the correct order of operations. The first move, in the sequence of events, is for the original Home Club to change the player to Away (if just changing Home Club), or resigning them (if they are leaving altogether). If this action does not happen at the current Home club first the England Golf CDH system will block any moves. So, if a player is changing to be a Home player at your Club, please do not change the player to 'HOME' until their original home club has changed them to 'AWAY', or removed them altogether, if they are leaving, having previously printing out the player's full handicap record to pass on to the new 'HOME' Club.

If a player has been out of Playing Membership for 2 years or more, (have been non-playing or social) they are required to return 54 holes worth of scores for re-allocation of handicap, as their current ability may not be reflected by their previous handicap. However, the Handicap Committee must give full consideration to the handicap the player last held.

Any player who has had continuous full playing membership, but has been unable to return 3 scores will be required to return 3 scorecards, at least 27 holes worth of scores, in any permutation of 9 and 18-hole qualifying scores or Supplementary Scores.

Handicap Committees should review the handicaps of players to identify those players who are under-handicapped by running the Continuous Handicap Review Report, which all software suppliers should have incorporated into their programmes. Committees should apply the Continuous Review Increase, when deemed appropriate, and continue to monitor the performance of such players closely. Committees must advise players when such an increase is going to be applied. Only players who appear on the Computer's Continuous Handicap Review should be considered for an increase at this time. Applying this increase will ensure the Competition Standard Scratch is more accurate. Thank you.

6. Financial Report Jenny Smith	
NCLGA Account current balance	4278.57
Reserve Account current balance	29646.73
Junior Account current balance	4819.41

Income from Affiliation fees for 2016 was £8,320 and we had 23 ladies and 5 juniors more than in 2015

The fee for entry to the Interclub, Bronze and Silver League will be increased to £10 per club per competition.

7. Midland North Report Sandra Beckett

The Midland North Reps thought that it would be a good idea to send each club an occasional newsletter, to keep you informed of news and developments in our region. This first one may be longer than most, as I have just come hotfoot from the England Golf Conference, and would like to report to you on that.

The Conference lasted for 2 days, and was held at the Hinckley Island Hotel. The programme was packed, and included, the Awards Diner, the AGM, the voting members General Meeting, workshops, presentations, 2 keynote speakers and a 'market place' which was likened to speed dating, with 10 presenters giving a 6 minute presentation to 10 groups of people, and when the klaxon sounded we all moved on to the next presentation. Here are some of the points that were covered.

The first morning session was hosted by Di Dougherty from Sky Sports, and Colin Haysledon from East Midlands Today. They gave a slick presentation based on the key points of Raising Our Game. There were short films taken at golf clubs round the country, and short interviews with people who had participated in or instigated these initiatives.

It is encouraging that there seems to be signs of growth in the number of women and girls participating. This is to do in some part to the 2 initiatives to get more girls to play golf. One is called 'This girls golfs' and the other 'GirlsGolfRocks'. The latter involves taking 12 girls to be ambassadors and to use them to encourage other girls to learn to play golf. This is now taking place in Nottinghamshire, with 4 taster days being held round the county, culminating in a par 3 competition in the 5th week

Another way to grow membership is to offer 9 hole membership/greenfees, and to put on 9 hole competitions. not just medals or stablefords but competitions such as Texas Scrambles as well. This should appeal to the time poor golfer, and in the summer months could be taken up after work. The keynote speaker from New Zealand called these events 'cheeky 9's'.

It is not just about getting new members, but retaining existing members. One speaker always thought of his friend called WEIR, which he thought ought to stand for

Welcome Engage Inspire Retain.

Justin Rose and Charlie Hull have agreed to become ambassadors for England Golf, to help improve the image and change the perception that golf is a sport for older people. There was a report on the England Golf

Championships held at Frilford Heath last year. It was the 1st golf week that England Golf had hosted, and was deemed to be a success. It was not just for the elite players, but for the club golfer, ladies and juniors as well.

Nick Pink, the new CEO of England Golf spoke, and as well as introducing himself, talked about the importance of encouraging the young people, as they are the future of the game.

At the AGM, the new president of England was appointed. She is Marion Rae, from Lindrick Golf Club. A ballot had been held prior to the meeting and the 3 female board members were also appointed. They are Carol Alford, Jill Dean and Carol Waites.

There was a lengthy report from the IMP pilot (increasing membership participation). This had been running in Northamptonshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire, and the brief was as the title suggests to increase membership in these counties. This is now going to be rolled out countrywide, mainly led by the County Development Officers. Clubs that have been involved in the project have been successful in increasing membership and visitor numbers and reducing costs.

Nottinghamshire are to become involved with 'Summer of Golf' or 'Golf for U'. The city council are to take golf into the parks and leisure centres, led by a community coach. The community coach can then promote links to local golf clubs.

.....and watch out. 59 Club, a customer services company, is providing a mystery shopper to go into golf clubs to assess customer service. The better the customer service, the better it is for the club.

Talks are still being held by the R&A and the LGU, to promote a merger - hopefully to take effect from Jan 2017.

It was agreed to extend the Special Projects Fund support for the U 14's Talent Pathways grant for a further 2 years.

'Club Matters' have resources for golf clubs to use, which can be downloaded for free from their web site. It is designed for any club, new or old, and has tools to help clubs apply for funding, and has information on marketing and management.

Gender Free Tees was an interesting topic in our market place presentations. The idea behind this is so that any player can play from any tee, and to lose the label of mens and ladies tees. Perhaps for example if the older members of the club were finding playing from the back tees difficult, the front tees with their own standard scratch could be used, and even used in competitions. Or perhaps the front tees could be used for beginners. Any club can do this. Contact Handicapping@englandgolf.org with the course measurement certificates of the tees you want to include and England Golf will be able to issue a SSS for each.

This has just given you a taste of what England Golf, and other clubs are doing. My next newsletter after my meeting in August will not be as lengthy, but this time I felt I had so much to share with you.

8. Junior Report Emma Howie

1. Girls Golf Rocks

The girls golf rocks taster sessions and coaching held at Norwood Park, The Nottinghamshire, Rufford Park and Trent lock has seen nearly 50 girls try golf, and most of them continued to participate in coaching. They were all invited to Norwood Park on Saturday 18th June where 18 girls played alongside our junior ambassadors for a par 3 texas scramble. A big thanks to all the girls who acted as ambassadors during the programme and to Emma Anderson for coordinating it.

The new girls in the project will also be invited to continue with coaching at their local club and to play any future 9 hole events run by the NCLGA.

2. Mixed AMAM

This is our annual event for the girls to raise money for junior funds by running this competition and it was held at Rufford Park on Sunday 24th April. We sincerely thank them for hosting it. We had a full field and a great day was had by all those who played.

A huge thanks to the Junior Captain Esme Hamilton and her team of helpers: Charlotte Hazelwood, Charlie Inger, Kristina Lazarevic, Jacey Peacock and Chloe Steele, for all their hard work ensuring the day was a success with £1147 being raised for junior funds. Brilliant!

3. The NCLGA Girls & Intermediate Championships – The Nottinghamshire - Sunday 26th June

24 juniors competed at the Nottinghamshire. While some of the girls found it challenging on their course management with the amount of water there were still some great scores returned.

- Sharna Betteridge (Sherwood Forest) won the U18 Nottinghamshire Championship with an excellent gross 77, pipping Esme Hamilton (Notts Ladies) on the back 6. She also won the U16 Scratch Championship and the U18 Handicap Cup with a nett 67.
- Charlotte Hazelwood (Notts Ladies) won the U14 Scratch Championship with a gross of 87.
- Lucy Holbrough (Norwood Park) won the Bronze Division Scratch Cup.
- The 9 hole Championship was won by Heather McCrorie (Norwood Park) with a score of 55
- The Intermediate trophy was won by Lauren Spray for the third year running, with a gross 74. Sophie Newlove won the intermediate Nett prize.

Congratulations to all the girls and our thanks to The Nottinghamshire for their support with hosting the event.

4. Friendly Match vs Mapperley Ladies

This match is always a great start to the season with the Mapperley Ladies providing a valuable opportunity for the girls to gain some match play experience, as well as how to play off sloping lies! The match was drawn 1 ½ – 1 ½ and we are truly grateful to the Mapperley ladies for their support and hospitality. A special mention to two girls playing their first match, Lucy Holbrough(Norwood Park) and Chloe Steele (Serlby Park), who demonstrated no nerves on the first tee and hit great shots.

5. MNR League results

2nd Team League match vs Leicestershire

Draw 2 – 2. In the first match of the season the team enjoyed a lovely day at Torksey golf club. It was a closely fought match with all the individual results being close. A special mention to Rebecca Oakes (Worksop) and Lucy Holbrough (Norwood Park) who made their debuts for the team.

1st Team league Matches vs Shropshire and Staffordshire

This was the first time the girls scratch team had to play 36 holes with the new format of the Midlands North league in 2016. Unfortunately the day was cold and wet so they had a tough time at Birstall Golf club. However, in the morning they beat Shropshire 4 ½ - 1 ½ and in the afternoon the narrowly lost 4-2 to Staffordshire, with this match result coming down to the final putt on the 18th green!

6. Other successes

- Amelia Wan (Rufford Park) was runner up at the Notts Union Cyril Sellick U18 Trophy
- Esme Hamilton won the Scratch Trophy at the Notts Ladies County Championships
- Esme Hamilton and Kristina Lazarevic (Notts ladies) were selected for the NCLGA 1st Team matches at county week.
- The first junior order of merit event took place at Beeston Fields Golf Club on Sunday 19th June with success for Amelia Wan (Rufford Park) who was overall winner with a nett 65. Catlin Arnold (The Nottinghamshire) also took 4th place with a nett 69.

7. Coaching bursaries

We have continued the programme of individual coaching bursaries this year with 7 girls applying to receiving amounts between £50-£100

8. Team training sessions/ girls get together days.

The first of two planned days this year was held at the Nottinghamshire in the Easter holidays. Dan Parkes and John Vaughan providing short game coaching for the girls during the day and everyone went out on the course for further education on course management later in the afternoon. Overall 19 girls attended the day with an age range from 7-18.

Money from the special projects coaching fund was used to subsidise this event and further money will be used towards to the next get together day which is planned for Sunday 17th July at Rufford Park.

And finally....if you want to watch some great girls golf head to The Nottinghamshire on 26-28th July when they are hosting the English Girls Championships. We have quite a few of our Notts Junior girls playing so go and cheer them on!

9. Webmaster's report

The website continues to be well used.

10. Course Rating 2016 Helen Maber

So far this year, two courses have been rated under the new USGA system in Nottinghamshire by our mixed team which rated both men's and women's courses at Worksop and Retford

Worksop has been awarded new Standard Scratch Scores for both Men and Women, together with a Slope Index under the USGA System. The work on Retford has been completed and is with England Golf for the final SSS to be allocated and the club will be notified shortly.

In July we plan to rate Notts Golf Club and Notts Ladies Golf Club and in August we will rate the Championship course at The Nottinghamshire. We also hope to fit in Nottingham City before the end of the playing season.

11. County Development Group. Jane Fowler

Discussions are continuing with representatives of Notts. Union, the PGA, England Golf, Golf Development Officers and the Association. The production of the Golf Strategy has enabled the Group to identify weaknesses. At the moment the Group is concentrating on two areas which are communication and mixed golf. With regard to communication we are embarking on scoping meetings to examine web development and the possible production of a newsletter. As an Association we have indicated that we might be able to contribute towards the content of a newsletter but not to editing and producing. The Association is also keen to see Clubs appoint a specific representative (as has already been reported) so that we have a main focal/contact point for all things "County". The Union are very interested to learn from this initiative. The web development is an area that basically could be a "one stop shop" for anyone interested in golf. Hopefully the portal developed would direct interested persons to the correct web page i.e. ladies, men, juniors, seniors, etc. However all areas are still being discussed but progress is being made.

The Union has now identified that it is heavily committed to "elite" golf and that it is seen by many of its members as being too elitist and not providing anything for the average to good Club golfer. In fact they have acknowledged that the Association provides much more in the way of golf for its lady members all abilities.

Consequently we are examining the possibility of a mixed championship which will hopefully include the winners of your Club's mixed championship going forward into what might be termed the grand finale or an open mixed event probably now for 2017. Full details will follow but this is an area that your Club representative could help us with. If anyone has any further ideas perhaps they could let us

know.

12. Feedback from Executive meeting (Not covered elsewhere)

Notts will be hosting County week in 2018 at Notts golf club 25th – 29th June 2018.

Initial discussions have taken place and a working party formed.

13. Secretary's notes.

The draft competition schedule for 2017 is almost complete. Dates confirmed included the Championships which will be at Wollaton on 12/13/14 May.

The secretary told the meeting that from 26th November she will be changing her name to Lynn Williams as she is getting married and this will be the name they will see on future communications.

14. Any Other Business

There had been a problem on several occasions this year with tee time bookings for Inter club matches. The tee has not been closed for a sufficient time before the matches and the foursomes format means that the matches quickly catch up with the four balls in front.

The Coxmoor representative spoke on this and gave an example of a problem occurring with the host club earlier this season.

This will be discussed further by the executive committee and at the AGM along with the ongoing discussion about meals after matches.

The Wollaton representative raised the matter of 5 teams playing in the same division in the Silver League – this means 8 matches to be fitted in during the busy season. It was agreed that this does make it difficult to fit the matches in and have players available.

When we have the teams who will be competing for next year in the leagues the competition secretary will assess the number of teams in each league.

The President thanked everyone for attending and thanked Beeston for their hospitality and closed the meeting at 11.20 wishing everyone a safe journey home.