

NCLGA Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 10.30 am Monday 17th July 2017 at Beeston Fields Golf Club (NG9 3DD)

Participants.

NCLGA Council Members and 27 Ladies Secretaries, County/Club representatives and members from Nottinghamshire clubs affiliated to the NCLGA and the Midland North Regional winners trophy sitting prominently in front of the Captain.

1. The Captain welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies from 14 club representatives.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters arising.
The previous minutes were proposed as a true record by Gillian Stump, seconded by Jane Fowler and accepted unanimously by the meeting and signed by the Captain.

There were no matters arising.

3. Captain's Report

It is with enormous pleasure that I tell you that our County First Team was successful in winning the MNR County Week held at Matlock in June.

The week could hardly be described as "summery", but our team were totally un-phased by whatever weather was thrown at them. They simply got on with the job and battled the elements. I am delighted to report that Nottinghamshire won every single day and we will now go on in September to play in the England Finals against Hampshire, Yorkshire, Suffolk, Gloucestershire and Buckinghamshire. The Finals will be held at Felixstowe Ferry in Suffolk for the week beginning 18th September. We would love to see some supporters from Nottinghamshire there. I realise it is a very long way to go but it makes such a difference to see friendly faces encouraging the players and of course it is a great opportunity to see some wonderful ladies golf being played.

I would like to thank the very numerous supporters who turned out in Matlock to support the team it was marvellous to have such support. Thanks to all who came and also to everyone for the lovely good luck cards, emails and kind wishes – it really did make a massive difference. The week ran very smoothly and I would like to thank my two vice captains Glenys and Carol and our President Maureen for being such a great support. The whole week was totally exhausting for us all, but an amazing experience and we returned on cloud nine – it has taken us a little while to return to earth – I think we may just about have got there now!

Now on to report the year's events so far. I will fill in more detail at the AGM and just give a brief outline now of the events to date.

The first event of the year was the traditional first team match against the Sheffield Union, this year played away at Bondhay on a glorious Spring day. Sadly this year, we lost 3-2 but we are looking forward to a match on home soil next year and hopefully a more positive result.

Fast on the heels of the Sheffield Union match was the County Waltz which was played this year at Stanton in very wintry conditions. We were looked after very well at Stanton, raising over £1200 for the County teams. The day was a great success and a very good start to the season.

The next big event of the year was the Spring Meeting and County Championship which this year was held at Wollaton Park. Our thanks must go to Wollaton for presenting the course in such wonderful condition, and some excellent scores were recorded. Once again, I will give the full results at the AGM but I really must mention the outstanding score achieved by young Libby Kilbride from Worksop. Libby, aged 14, took just 68 shots in the afternoon round to break the course record and win the overall 36-hole scratch competition. Our new County Champion this year was Rachel Boulton from Springwater, beating Emma Howie in the Final on the 16th hole.

It was wonderful to see such great golf being played and the excellent scores recorded by so many of our youngsters. We really do have some exceptional talent in the county and this clearly came into play at Matlock last month.

The County Coronation Cups competition was played at Rufford Park on 5th June. This year, for the first time, the competition was played as a 4 ball better ball rather than a foursomes and the number of entries confirmed that this was a popular move. The weather at Rufford was atrocious, but most players seemed to have smiles on their faces at the end of their rounds and 42 pairs braved the weather on the day. Thanks to everyone for supporting my raffle on the day. We raised £200 for Alopecia UK and I am very grateful to all for bringing prizes and buying tickets.

Finally, bringing us up to date, the Summer Meeting and Vets Trophy was held at Radcliffe this month. Once again, a good number of entries, and a great day in lovely conditions and the scores reflected the excellent presentation of the course.

Our thanks go to all the clubs who have hosted competitions so far this year. We really do appreciate the great support offered by all the participating clubs and thank the members for allowing us the use of their courses.

The new multi-competition entry form has clearly proved useful this year with very many more entrants to our competitions than in previous years. I know our Competition Secretary Colette will be mentioning this in her report but I would please ask club representatives to stress to their members that if they enter one of these competitions it is their responsibility to check on the internet for their draw time and to ensure that if they cannot attend for any reason they inform us in good time in order that the draw can be amended. Colette and Jane do such a good job running our competitions - it is never straightforward - but we can all make their jobs a little easier by keeping them in touch with any changes in advance of the day. Thank you.

Next on the list is my County Captains Day on Monday next week. This will be held here at Beeston and I am keeping my fingers crossed for some lovely sunshine for the day. Thanks to everyone for their offers of support and help on the day – I really do appreciate it and am sure with the backing of so many of you the day will go well.

We are indebted once again to Acorn Windows for their continued sponsorship this year. We have kitted out our Junior Team in lovely new polos shirts courtesy of Acorn Windows and I would like to record our thanks for their generosity. Also, our thanks go to Andy Tyler from Coxmoor who has again donated balls for use in our matches, and clearly brought us good luck this year at Matlock. Andy is wonderful in his support of the county teams and we really appreciate his continued sponsorship and generosity.

Before closing my report I would like to thank all members of the Executive for their support and help. It really is a great team effort with everyone playing their part, we all work very well together and are a very friendly and happy team. As you know there will be some changes to the Executive next year as Colette and Jane retire as Competition Secretaries and our Junior Organiser Emma reduces her involvement. I know that Emma will be discussing her role in more detail in her report and asking for volunteers to become involved with our juniors. What I would like to add is – if you are interested or if you know of anyone in your clubs who may be interested - in helping with the organisation of our juniors, please do not hesitate to get in touch – it is a very rewarding job and I am quite sure will provide a huge amount of satisfaction and enjoyment.

Thank you for your attention, ladies. I look forward to giving a full report at the AGM and of course details of our forthcoming trip to Felixstowe Ferry. In the meantime I wish you a very enjoyable remainder of the season and good golfing.

Helen Maber Captain

4. Vice Captains' Report

Our first 2nd team match was played on 6th July v Lincolnshire at Kenwick Park on a lovely sunny day.

All of the matches were close with 7 of the 9 going down the 18th, 2 of the morning foursomes were halved, with the pairing of Jacey Peacock and Vicki Johnson-making her debut- winning 2 up, giving a 2-1 lead at lunch.

2 of the singles were halved and there were wins for Jacey Peacock, Kristina Lazarevic and Leone Muir - another debutant.

The overall result for the day was 6-3 to Nottinghamshire with some very good golf played.

The team consisted of Laura Abbott, Emma Anderson, Vicki Johnson, Kristina Lazarevic, Leone Muir and Jacey Peacock.

Our next match is on Wednesday 19th July at Norwood v Lincolnshire closely followed by our away match v Leicestershire at Cosby GC on Sunday 23rd July.

Our final match will be played on Thursday 3rd August at Ruddington Grange v Leicestershire.

Any support is very welcome.

Glenys Priestley Vice Captain

5. Handicap Advisers Report

Madam Captains, Ladies

STABLEFORD/NETT DOUBLE BOGEY ADJUSTMENT

Players need to be reminded about the Stableford/Nett Double Bogey Adjustment. This enables players who do not complete a hole for any reason in any Stroke Play Qualifying Competition, which includes Medal Competitions, to continue to record a score for handicap purposes. Although the score comes up as a No Return (NR) for the Competition, the Adjusted Gross Score will be shown in the Player's Record. By taking advantage of this and completing subsequent holes, competitors have the opportunity to return scores below their handicap or within their Buffer Zone even though they do not have a score for the Competition.

CONTINUOUS HANDICAP REVIEW REPORT

The Handicap Committee should consider the Continuous Handicap Review Report quarterly. The playing record of each player on the Report should be checked to ascertain whether or not their handicap was changed at the Annual Review. Take into account the player's age/ill health or injury and previous scores - have they played in the Buffer Zone, or to handicap or better, in the last 12 months. You may decide not to take any action until the next Annual Review. However, if the evidence suggests a need to increase the handicap significantly, it is advised that the increase should be carried out in stages, over a period of time, unless exceptional circumstances exist.

WORLD WIDE HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

It has been confirmed that there will be a World Wide Handicapping System in place, perhaps by 2020. The R&A and USGA are gathering insights and feedback about Handicapping, directly from golfers by using a Survey. I sent this information out to all Club Handicap Secretaries in early July in the hope that they will complete the Survey. Our Midland North Representative, Clare, has been to a meeting about the World Wide Handicapping System so she will advise on progress so far when she gives her Midland North Regional Report. Thank you.

Maureen Clarke County Handicap Adviser

6. Financial Report

Bearing in mind there will be many more expenses this year the balance on the 15th July was: £34,600 At a similar time last year the balance was £32,100 .

We have received £1340.72 in donations from clubs and individuals for the Junior Section.

We would like to thank those of you, either personally, or through your club who continue to support the Junior Section.

The contribution from the Tasker Trophies was down this year by £200 reflecting fewer teams in Notts participating in this competition.

Acorn windows are also to be thanked and they are the reason our county team looks so smart in all the matches they play.

As you are aware the payment of Affiliation Fees changed this year. In the main the new system has worked well with most clubs paying on time. So far, the projected number of ladies playing golf in the county has dropped this year showing a decrease of around 60 ladies but an increase of 10 Junior members, but of course they do not pay an affiliation fee.

There are now 30 participating clubs in the county which this year saw the resignation of Haxeygate. When dealing with our accounts we must realise we are a small county in comparison with many others and so do very well both on and off the golf course.

From a financial point of view, we need to look ahead and plan for the years to come.

The reasons for this are as follows:

It is a fact that equality at all levels take place. The NUGC charge £10.25 per member for their affiliation fees and they have over 7 or 8 times as many members as us.

Other Ladies' Associations also charge between £6 and £10 per member with, in some cases a club fee too. Many charge far more for entries into running competitions and county competitions which we do not wish to do.

We do need to reach a better level of equality but at the same time look for ways to encourage more women and girls into the sport.

We have a very thriving Junior Section and need to continue with our support as well as encouraging new people to help with this.

We should not have to rely upon donations.

Our county team continues to do very well but this of course needs funding and as accommodation expenses and fuel continues to rise – over the last 4 years these prices have added more than £2000 to our bills - we need extra funds to compete at the highest level.

We will receive a grant to help towards our visit to Felixstowe Ferry. In 2015, it was £2900 from England Golf but of course we will have to find more than a similar amount to cover all costs.

Next year will also be more taxing on our expenses as we are to host County Week at Notts Golf Club and again England Golf will contribute to this.

Our county competitions sometimes run at a loss due to either poor entries or high expenses eg cost of using a course. We would like to keep the cost of entries as low as possible for these competitions as an increase will be penalising those who choose to enter and regularly support these meetings, but we would like to increase the value and number of prizes to make them more meaningful.

Finally, some clubs are very proactive in encouraging new lady members and we would like to support this in whatever way we can in the future.

I would like to suggest that we have an increase in Affiliation fees from 2018/9 and increase them on a sliding scale until we reach parity with the men. This will commence with an increase of £3 (raising an extra £5000) in the first year and £2 (raising an extra £3000) in the second year ie 2019/20 and thereafter to be reviewed annually and in conjunction with the men. This will need to be voted upon at this year's AGM so I am giving you time to discuss it with your own committees.

Jenny Smith Treasurer to NCLGA

7. Midland North Report

County President, County Captain and Officers, ladies

In this report I will start with some updates from England Golf activities and then conclude with competition updates and information.

ENGLAND GOLF

I attended the General Meeting and AGM of England Golf in April at Woodhall Spa.

At the General Meeting Nick Pink, CEO of England Golf, presented the Strategic Plan 2017/21. This has seven Strategic Priorities and I do not propose to go through all of them but to highlight that they now include the overarching priority of being "Customer Focussed", with a commitment from England Golf to engage appropriately with different customers, from individual golfers to clubs, counties and investors. The other priorities I would highlight are "Stronger Counties and Clubs" and "More Members and Players". There have been actions already taken on the "Stronger Counties and Clubs" priority with the appointment of Club Support Officers. A communication was also sent out in June regarding the establishment of a County Advisory Group. At present my fellow Midlands North representatives and I do have some concerns about the need for this group and how we as voting members, representing our counties, will interact with this advisory group. I will keep our Executive informed about this group's activities and discussions.

For "More members and players" I have copies of the Impact Report factsheet on numbers generally but this priority includes the initiatives targeted at encouraging women and girls into golf. The average number of women members per club is 70 and this has been static for two years, only 15% of club members are women and girls represent 1% of club membership, the figure for boys is 6%. There have been encouraging statistics and outcomes from the programmes targeted at encouraging women and girls into golf and many of your clubs have taken part in these. However the biggest challenge remains converting participation into these programmes into more members.

During the General Meeting I attended a presentation on the Worldwide Handicapping System which will be introduced on January 1st 2020. The next timeline milestone will be the system launch in September 2017 which will be followed by a series of England Golf Education sessions from October to December. As soon as dates are announced for these sessions these will be communicated to you. The system is still being developed and I hope that many of you will have responded to the England Golf Survey sent out recently, if you haven't responded please do so and encourage as many of your members to do so as possible.

Currently I can outline some of the main points from the development discussions:

- The system will use slope rating – courses continue to be rated but not all will be by 2020 and discussions are taking place to establish an interim system. Ability tees and short course ratings are encouraged. Rating statistics show 76% of courses are within one shot of their current SS.
- An averaging system to determine handicap – possibly best 8 from 20 but this is not final
- No handicap categories
- Maximum handicap index for men and women likely to be 54
- There will be some form of playing conditions adjustment (CSS)
- Use both competition and social scores – although not all social golf will be used
- Handicap will be maintained by one home club and we will all have a unique global ID number/card

Midlands North Competitions updates

The MN Foursomes was held in April at Shifnal and I would like to thank those of you who made the long journey to Shropshire – your participations was much appreciated by my MN colleague, Susan as this was the first competition she had organised.

I have only just received the full results and so a belated congratulations to Sue Penfold and Andrea Stockdale, from Sherwood Forest, who won third gross for the 36 hole competition and to Pam Loch, Notts Ladies and Alison Pitkethly, Beeston Fields who won the Best nett for the afternoon round.

Next year the foursomes is at Glen Gorse, so a little closer to home, and whilst we know that 36 holes foursomes is not for everyone the general feedback from competitors is that they want the event to continue in its current format.

May I also make another plea for entries to the Junior Girls Championships which is at Ruddington Grange on August 28th. There are 36 hole and 18 hole competitions – please do encourage your junior girls to enter especially those who might be ready to try the 18 hole event but are a little nervous about entering something at regional level.

This concludes my report. Thank you

Clare Jones Midland North Representative

8. Junior Report

The season is now in full swing and there is lots to report on with the juniors:

MNR League

2nd Team League match vs Leicestershire Lost 3 1/2 - 1 1/2

In the first match of the season the team enjoyed a lovely day at Beedles Lakes Golf club. It was a closely fought match with all the individual results being close. A special mention to Ankita Anand from Ruddington who made her debut and fought back from being 2 down with 3 to play to get a half!

1st Team league Matches vs Shropshire and Staffordshire

This was played in May at Holme Hall, Lincs with the Notts Girls winning against Shropshire 5-0 in the morning. In the afternoon they took on last years league champions Staffordshire and they halved the match, with Laura About our junior Captain making an up and down from the bunker on the 18th hole to give us the important winning point!

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 Springwater Golf club on Sunday 23rd 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 Laura Abbott and the team of junior helpers who work hard all day and raised nearly £1000 for junior funds. Brilliant!

The NCLGA Girls & Intermediate Championships – Norwood Park - Sunday 2nd July

23 juniors and 6 intermediates competed and there were some great scores returned.

Esme Hamilton (Notts Ladies) is our U18 Nottinghamshire Champion for 2017

Leonie Muir (Wollaton Park) won the U16 and U14 titles.

Ankita Anand (Ruddington) won the Handicap Cup and Bronze Scratch Trophy

The 9 hole Championship was won by Elizabeth Wilson (Norwood Park)

The Intermediate Trophy was won by Lauren Spray (Notts ladies), with a gross 73.

Girls Golf Rocks

The girls' golf rocks taster sessions continued this year at Norwood Park, Stanton, Beeston Fields and Coxmoor. Unfortunately the uptake this year has been lower with around 30 girls trying golf, although most of them continued to participate in coaching at their taster club. They were all invited to Norwood Park on Saturday 24th June where 12 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.

Coaching

Bursaries

We have continued the programme of individual coaching bursaries this year with 9 girls applying to receiving amounts between £50-£100.

Team training sessions/ girls get together days.

The two days this year have been held so far at Rufford and Norwood in the Easter holidays and the May half-term. Over the two days we had Dan Parkes and John Vaughan providing short game coaching, along with some specialist putting coaching from Zen.

In addition the girls went out on the course for further education on course management. Overall 30 girls attended across the two days.

Funding

Money from the special projects coaching fund was used to subsidize these coaching activities. However at a recent meeting with England Golf our funding for 2017-18 will be reduced by more than a half. This will have an impact on our coaching for next year, although there are still some funds left in this years' pot, which we might hold back to use next year. However, going forward in the next few years we will need more finance from the NCLGA to be able to run a sustainable programme of development for the junior girls within the county and provide future golfers for our club and county teams.

Junior Coordinator Role

I have informed the NCLGA executive that I will be stepping down from this role at the end of this year. I'm sad that I have to step away from the role but unfortunately I no longer have the time to complete this job to the level I would like to, and I do not wish to see the juniors suffer.

So we are looking for more support with junior golf in the county and we appreciate that the role may be a little daunting for anyone to commit to going forward. So we are looking to split it into the following 4 roles:

Junior coordinator - who will provide representation at meetings in the county and region, and communicate with the girls/parents and clubs the junior golf opportunities within Nottinghamshire

Junior Match Secretary - who will select, attend and report on matches and associated functions like team kit and county colours

Junior Competition Secretary - organisation competitions within the county each year and oversee the results and reports for them.

Coaching Coordinator - Arrange girls coaching programmes/days during the year

We hope that will increase the number of ladies out there who might come forward to help support juniors in our county. Please ask at your clubs and speak to anyone who you think might be interested or have the right skills to help out. If anyone would like more information then please just ask them to contact me.

Emma Howie Junior co-ordinator

9. Webmaster's report

The web site continues to be used successfully by all our members and attracts positive comments.

The NCLGA are working via the Golf Partnership with the Notts Union and the PGA to examine the use of social media for golfers in the county.

To extend our use of social media and the web site we need assistance from members who have experience and expertise in this field and would be grateful if the secretaries would ask at their clubs if anyone would be interested in becoming involved.

Gillian Stump

10. Course Rating update

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:

Norwood Park

Oakmere Commanders

At the end of this month we plan to rate Beeston Fields Golf Club and in August we have scheduled Ruddington Grange. Finally, in September we will rate Sherwood Forest, bringing the total of courses rated this year to 5.

I have been helped this year by Jenny Smith and by Janet Slater. I am very grateful for their help. If anyone else is interested in helping with the course rating please do let me know – I am always very happy to have additional volunteers on board.

Helen Maber

11. County Development Group.

Emily Cheshire has now taken over the role of club support officer for Nottinghamshire. Emily is well known to us all in Nottinghamshire as she has represented the county with distinction for many years.

The Secretary and Captain attend the group meetings working together with all parties in the county who are involved and committed to the betterment of golf in Nottinghamshire. We are currently looking at shared communications including websites, social media and newsletters.

12. Feedback from Executive meeting (Not covered elsewhere)

Jane Fowler reported on 2018 county week which Nottinghamshire will be hosting at Notts golf club from Sunday 24th June 2018 (Practice day) until Friday 29th June 2018

Now County Week 2017 has finished we need to move on and continue to plan 2018. We have actually been planning the event for two years now.

The first phase was to secure a course which we've done. We actually had three courses expressing some interest so we evaluated them on a like for like basis taking several factors into account for example the quality of course, facility fee, location and ease of access, parking and practice facilities, catering, etc. We eventually accepted the offer of Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club and the event is now scheduled to take place commencing with the practice day on 24th June and then competition proper 25th-29th June, 2018

In taking this action the Association has accepted that we will need to "top up" the facility fee and fund raising has already

commenced. Fran Tunnicliffe and Rosemary Lockwood have been working on behalf of the County to secure additional funds. The County Treasurer is most keen to ensure that the event is self financing and at least breaks even. Grants are paid by England Golf to the Club and to the Association but we have accepted that there will a shortfall. The “smartie tubes” have gone well and our President is holding a “President’s Day” with the profits going towards the 2018 event. Further fund raising and sponsorship are being pursued.

We have been pledged the help and support from Notts. GC and from Notts. Ladies GC. Representatives from Notts. Ladies have taken the time to visit Matlock (the 2017 venue) to gain first hand experience of what happens. The staging of the 2018 event is seen very much as a joint effort by the Association and Notts. Ladies.

However, the time is now approaching to seek Club involvement. We will need help in terms of resources for the halt (half way house); ball spotters; on course marshals and general help and support to ensure that the event is a success. If you have some spare time perhaps a day or half a day and can help please let us know. A little nearer the time we will be contacting all the Clubs again.

13. Voting by the meeting on

Proposal 1

Associate Membership clarification

This requires a change to item 8b of our constitution to read

8 (b) Notification of Associate membership must be made to the County Secretary in writing (e-mail is acceptable) by 31st March of the membership year.

If no notification is received players will be deemed to be Full members of the Association.

Full members of NCLGA who are members of clubs in other counties must notify their other counties of their Associate Membership of those counties.

Proposed by Helen Maber

Seconded by Jane Fowler

Passed unanimously by the meeting.

Proposal 2

Change to executive council

The Assistant general secretary should be a member of the Executive committee. This requires a change to item 4a of our constitution to read

4 (a) The Officers of the Association shall consist of the President, the County Captain, the Senior Vice-Captain, the Assistant Vice-Captain, the General Secretary, the Assistant General Secretary, the Treasurer, the Competition Secretary and the Assistant Competition Secretary.

Proposer Lynn Williams

Seconder Maureen Clarke.

Passed unanimously by the meeting.

14. Secretary's notes

-The General secretary is formalizing the process on members who have permission to use buggies in county events and asked all secretaries for their assistance in ensuring this list is kept up to date.

Applicants should contact the general secretary (usually via email) and may be asked to provide medical evidence of requirement for buggy use when playing golf.

-It was discussed and agreed that the match secretaries meeting should be arranged in early October at Mapperley golf club.

-A request asking for interest on sitting on England golf committee representing clubs interests. This is a heavy commitment and we are already well represented via Clare Jones. General Secretary to discuss and ascertain further information with England golf director Carol Alford at a planned phone meeting later this week.

-The General secretary has set up a process for the signing for collection of trophies when they are presented. This was used at the Championships and will be used at the AGM and in the future.

-Reports on our major events are forwarded to the Evening Post for publication in the printed newspaper and on the web site.

-County competitions for 2018 have been arranged as follows

County Waltz	Chilwell	23 rd April 2018
Spring Meeting and Championships	Stanton on the Wolds	11 th – 13 th May 2018
Coronation Foursomes	Newark	4 th June 2018
Summer meeting and Vets	Beeston Fields	2 nd July 2018
Autumn meeting	Norwood Park	3 rd September 2018

Courses have been identified for 2019 schedule and will be contacted over the summer.

15. Any Other Business.

The representative from Stanton commented that their professional had requested that people did not bring their own buggies to the course but would supply them from the professional's shop.

There was concern that some buggies may cause damage to the course.

Clare Jones commented that people may require specialist buggies which may not be available from pro shops.

There were several queries on guidelines to reduce slow play and the forthcoming rules update.

The representative from Nottingham City queried local rules including no penalty shot for accidentally moving the ball on the green

Players will be encouraged to play 'ready golf' i.e. if you are ready to tee off then get on with it rather than waiting for your turn on the tee.

Gender free tees were discussed, particularly the use of forward tees – to speed up play and also to encourage continuing to play when players become less able – perhaps through advancing age or for medical reasons.

More information on these points and rule changes will be available in January 2018 and will be applied in 2019.

The President thanked Springwater golf club for their donation of £60 raised at a rules evening.

There is only 1 tee time still available on Presidents day.

The County Captains day draw was on the web site and will be sent out via email to all secretaries and is fully booked.

The President thanked the Captain for chairing the meeting and to Beeston Fields for their hospitality and closed the meeting at 11-45am.