

## NCLGA COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Sherwood Forest Golf Club

Present: NCLGA Council members and 32 ladies secretaries/club representatives from Nottinghamshire affiliated clubs

The Captain, Glenys Priestley welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance especially in view of the difficult weather conditions

### 1. Apologies for absence

There were 2 apologies from NCLGA Council members and 12 from club representatives

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017

These were accepted and as a true record and signed by the President Maureen Clarke

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

### 4. Captain's report – Glenys Priestley

The golfing season will shortly be with us and I'm hoping that this will bring some sunshine with it. We start with our annual first team match against Sheffield Union which this year will be at Coxmoor on 11th April which is only 3 weeks away. Not that I'm competitive but it would be good to win this year, our last success being in 2014.

This is followed by the Mixed AM-AM on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at Radcliffe GC organised by the County Juniors to raise funds for their section. There are still a few spaces available and I have forms available.

It's a busy weekend as this is quickly followed by the County Waltz at Chilwell on the Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, where we have a full field, 40 teams have entered which is fantastic. Thanks to my Vice Captain Carol for collecting the entries and organising the day. My thanks also to Chilwell for hosting the day.

Funds raised from the Waltz and County Captains day are used to help support the County 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams. My County Captains Day is 23<sup>rd</sup> July at Hollinwell and thanks to Notts Golf Club for this opportunity. There are a few tee times still available and again I have application forms if anyone would like to enter. Thank you all for your support in entering these competitions.

Entry forms for the other County Competitions are on the web site, starting with the County Championship and Spring Meeting at Stanton 11<sup>th</sup> May. The Coronation Cups will again be 4BBB Comp having proved more popular than the original Foursomes format, this is to be held at Newark Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Summer Meeting and Vets Trophy are at Beeston Fields on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. England Golf has introduced a Senior County Champion of Champions competition to run alongside the County Champion of Champions which this year will be held at Frilford Heath 7-9<sup>th</sup> September.

The winner of the Vets trophy at the summer meeting will be nominated as Nottinghamshire Ladies Senior County Champion. The Autumn Meeting this year will be played at Norwood on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Thanks to all of these clubs for agreeing to host our competitions this year. You won't be surprised to learn that there are also entry forms for these competitions here on the desk. Please encourage your ladies to enter some of these competitions.

County Week this year is being hosted by Nottinghamshire to be held at Notts Golf Club (Hollinwell) w/c 25<sup>th</sup> June and arrangements for the week are well under way. We are however asking for volunteers to help with ball spotting or as Course Marshalls. Jane Fowler will shortly be in touch with clubs regarding this. Spectators are more than welcome and it would be great to have Nottinghamshire support out in force behind our team, so please come along for a day out and see some fantastic golf.

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Thank you to ladies from the following clubs that have volunteered to man the half way house, provide refreshments and cakes to players and visitors throughout the week, Sherwood, Beeston, Ruddington, The Nottinghamshire and Chilwell. Another good reason to come along and support.

The final competition of the year is the Presidents Open which will be at Beeston this year Monday 8th September.

It's going to be a busy year and again I would like to thank you all in anticipation of your support and wish you all a great golfing year.

The NCLGA website is continually being updated and is a good source of information. Thanks to Gillian Stump for maintaining an excellent resource

Glenys Priestley County Captain

There were no questions

### **5. Senior Vice-Captain's report – Carol Houghton**

(i) If clubs have players with handicap up to 12 will they please notify Carol Houghton

(ii) Second Team:

We have home and away County 2<sup>nd</sup> team matches in July.

Thank you to The Nottinghamshire and Radcliffe for allowing the County to host matches against Lincs on 17<sup>th</sup> July and Leics on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

(iii) Away matches:

These are v Leics 15<sup>th</sup> July at Rothley Park and Lincs 25<sup>th</sup> July at Ashby Decoy.

(iv) Scratch League:

We have had a very encouraging response to the introduction of a Scratch League this season. 12 Clubs have indicated they would like to enter teams.

The intention is to give players who don't normally get the chance to play in the Silver and Bronze matches a chance to play matchplay. So we wish to encourage clubs to set matches at weekends and early evenings.

There are just 3 players per team. Matches are played without shots but importantly in handicap order. The likely format will involve drawn divisions of 3 or 4 teams. The top 4 teams to meet in a semi and a final, playing for the Maureen Clarke scratch trophy which was shown to those present. Thanks go to Maureen Clarke for the trophy

Year 2 the teams will be divided into divisions based on their performance in year 1.

Entry fee is £10 per team. Payment can be made by BACS or cheque payable to NCLGA

More details to follow

There were no questions

### **6. Handicap Adviser's report – Maureen Clarke**

Madam Captain, Ladies

My Assistant, Val Dowthwaite and I attended the England Golf County Handicap Advisers' Seminar at Kings Norton Golf Club on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The Seminar covered the changes in the CONGU rules that took place on 1<sup>st</sup> January this year, and the progress with regard to the World Wide Handicapping System which will come into force early 2020. All changes are aimed at encouraging players to submit more scores, and obtain a more realistic handicap.

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### **MAXIMUM HANDICAP FOR MEN AND WOMEN IS NOW 54.0**

Club and Disability Handicaps were removed and a Category 5 and Category 6 for both men and women, with a maximum handicap of 54.0, for all golfers, took their place. These higher handicaps are mandatory. Players are able to maintain a Competition Handicap in all six categories and once the requisite number of cards has been completed players will be able to play in Competitions.

England Golf has just issued some Guidance on Handicap Limits which I will send to you when I send this report. Clubs have 3 clear options.

Option 1 – Have no handicap entry limits: Allow all players to play off their actual handicap and have the possibility to win in any competition format.

Option 2 – Set Handicap Entry Limits: This option should be limited to National/County/Elite Competitions and must be clearly stated in the Conditions of Competition upon entry. It is not expected that Clubs will use this option for their internal Medals/Stablefords/Match Play Competitions.

Option 3 – A competition is set up without a handicap entry limit allowing ALL players to enter, but Prizes and Trophies may be limited to a maximum or minimum handicap. Prizes may be given in Divisions and Divisions may be adjusted to reflect the demographic of the individual club. If a Committee uses this option for Match Play the players must be allowed to play off their full CONGU Handicap and receive the Full Difference in handicap. Players must NOT be asked to compete off a handicap lower than that to which they are entitled.

It is important to ensure all players have the opportunity to compete in competitions and higher handicaps are not discriminated against. Restricting higher handicaps may have an effect on participation and membership. It is important to maintain player interest in golf and if the player is correctly handicapped there should be no advantage to holding a Category 5 or 6 handicap. Players in Category 5 and 6 do not affect the Competition Standard Scratch.

Handicap Allowances as shown in the CONGU Manual are mandatory

Handicap Committees can increase handicaps above the current limits of 28.0 and 36.0, and the handicap of a player will increase automatically if she/he does not score in the buffer zone. When you review handicaps look at the player's Performance Against Target and adjust the handicap accordingly. If the Performance Against Target is more than 3 and less than 5, increase the handicap by one; if more than 5 and less than 12, increase the handicap by 2 shots; and if the Performance Against Target is more than 12 increase the handicap by 3 shots. Players can appeal after a review.

### **APPEALS PROCEDURE**

I sent details of the new England Golf Appeals Procedure to all Club Handicap Secretaries at the beginning of the year. An Appeal by a player has to be lodged within 14 days of being advised of the new handicap. The player must first approach the Club Handicap Committee explaining their reasons for the Appeal and ask them to re-consider. If the player is still not satisfied the Appeal can go to the County or England Golf. Appeals will not succeed as long as the Handicap Committee has adhered to the Handicap Review Guidelines. Any player appealing to the County Area Authority will have to send a cheque for £150 to cover the administration costs involved in convening an Appeals Committee. If a player appeals to England golf a cheque for £250 will be required. If an appeal is successful some or all of the money may be returned.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY SCORES**

Supplementary Scores must be recorded on the Player's Record in preparation for the new World Wide Handicapping System. With the exception of Category 1 Players, all players are able to return as many Supplementary Scores as they wish and this will give players the opportunity to return more scores.

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Remind players that action can be taken if malpractice is suspected. The restriction on Category 1 players remains the same. Category 1 players may only complete Supplementary Scores in order to retain or re-obtain a Competition Handicap.

### **MIXED TEE COMPETITIONS**

A single Competition Standard Scratch should be calculated for Mixed Tee Competitions. Mixed Tee competitions can include any group, men, women and juniors, and any tees. Having a single CSS for two or more competitions will provide a more equitable result, especially if one of the competitions has a very low number of players. All scores will be entered into a single competition and the software will allow the results to be separated for each group. Make sure your Software Supplier has put this facility in place. It is **very** strongly recommended that the single Competition Standard Scratch Adjustment is adopted. The updated CONGU Handbook, which can be downloaded, now states that Handicap Adjustments must be made **before** applying the Allowance.

### **HANDICAP CARDS FOR NEW PLAYERS**

Cards submitted for Initial Handicap are Qualifying Scores for handicap purposes and when 54 holes have been completed the players will automatically be allocated a Competition Handicap and should be allowed to play in competitions. Players must continue to hole out at every hole to obtain their initial handicap. Bad holes will be adjusted to double the Par (6 on a par 3, 8 on a par 4 and 10 on a par 5). It will not be the same as the maximum score for a hole that might become an R&A Rule of Golf - this will vary. The suggested Initial Handicap is only a guide and may be overridden by the Handicap Committee when all information is taken into account.

### **NINE-HOLE COMPETITIONS – MEDALS AND STABLEFORDS**

Nine-Hole Medal Competitions and 9-Hole Open Competitions are an option. The 9-hole medal scores will be converted to Stableford and will appear as Stableford on the player's handicap record. It is important to provide 9-hole qualifying competitions to encourage players with limited time and/or physical restraints. Clubs must obtain a Standard Scratch Score from England Golf for the appropriate 9 holes.

### **CDH AND CLEANSING OF THE CDH**

Earlier this year I sent out information on the Central Database of Handicaps and the process for each Club to go through in order to cleanse their CDH. All Clubs should check their own CDH information and ensure they do not have players on the CDH that have deceased, left their golf club or are shown as pending or unknown. Each club has a password from England Golf which enables them to access their Club's CDH and if this is not known then England Golf should be contacted. Explain that you are intending to cleanse the CDH for your golf club and re-obtain your password. If England Golf decided to collect subscriptions in accordance with the number of members shown on your Database you could be expected to pay for a lot more members than you actually have. More importantly, the General Data Protection Regulations (the "GDPR"), which becomes Law on 25<sup>th</sup> May states that data about individuals should be kept no longer than necessary – Databases must be kept up-to-date and players who have left must be removed.

### **THE WORLD WIDE HANDICAPPING SYSTEM FOR GOLF**

At the moment there are 6 major handicapping systems currently in operation worldwide. The R&A, USGA, Handicap Authorities and National Associations are collaborating and are in support of a new 'World Wide Handicapping System'. The worldwide system will be universal and enable golfers to compete or play socially with anyone, anywhere in the world on an equal basis. Rules of Golf, Equipment Rules, and Amateur Status Rules are worldwide so why not Handicaps. The World-Wide Handicapping System will be an Average-Based system - it will be an average of the best 8 scores out of the last 20, so handicaps will change more often and will need to be checked, but there will be technology – an App perhaps – so the workload on Handicap Administrators will be less. Software Suppliers will still be necessary and work is going on to ensure a more consistent provision by Software Suppliers. At the

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moment the differences between these Vendors causes problems and glitches in the system so these are being reviewed. There will also be a review and re-design of the CDH which will incorporate the other Home Unions. All courses will use the Course/Slope Rating and there will be a chart at each golf club, hopefully displayed in a prominent position, so players can check their handicap at that golf club. If your Club is updating and ordering more score cards because your Standard Scratch Scores have changed I suggest you do not print too many. With the imminent changes to the R&A Rules of Golf on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and the World-Wide Handicapping due to be in place in early 2020 you may wish to change your Local Rules at a later date and include the Slope for each of your courses.

All singles stroke play scores will go onto a player's record. It will still be the player's responsibility to post scores **as soon as possible** so the handicap can be updated before the next day's play. Players playing socially will be able to register for Supplementary Scores but must do so before they play. The maximum score for a hole will continue to be a nett double bogey. There will be no buffer zone and no point one increases once we return to an average-based system. The formula for the Competition Standard Scratch will be changed and will be more stable and any score played during a particular day will go into it. Our Handicap will be called - Handicap Index, we will have a Course Handicap when we use the Slope to adjust our handicap, and our Playing Handicap will be our stroke allowance for competition purposes (say, for example 95%). There has been no research into using Non-Qualifying Scores, and there will be some discretion for National Unions to fit in with the ethos of their country. England is unlikely to expect players to enter scores every time they play.

Please register for the England Golf Seminar at the Nottinghamshire Golf & Country Club on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1.30 – 4.30 when you can hear it all again with pictures. I look forward to seeing you there. If that date is inconvenient you can choose any of the other venues/dates available.

Thank you.

Maureen Clarke County Handicap Adviser

There were no questions

### 7. Financial report – Jenny Smith

- i. On March 1<sup>st</sup> last year, the total for the 2 accounts was £33,458.
- ii. The balance on the 1<sup>st</sup> March this year the total for both accounts is £37,500.
- iii. Of the total for this year, £2645 is the amount that has been raised from donations and competitions from clubs, County President's Day and the Smartie Tube collection towards the funding for County Week at Notts Golf Club. We are hoping to be 'on course' with this event and with the amount of £1500 due from England Golf we are confident with Jane Fowler's guidance to comfortably fund the event. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way.
- iv. The amount for Junior donations has been lower this year but again the amount of £841 is very much appreciated.
- v. We are now in the second year of the new system of payment for affiliation fees. Whilst it has not always been a smooth ride most of the problems that have occurred have been through lack of understanding, or failure to grasp that meeting deadlines is important. However, compared with this point last year we are up to date with all payments. The introduction of Mop Up fees, means new ladies to clubs not charged in the original payment, are captured 8 months after the club original subscription date. This has raised an amount of £310 over the last year. Starting in November this year the affiliation subscription for 2018/2019 will be increased to £8 and I will be notifying all clubs of this later in the year.
- vi. Overall so far this year, there has been a drop of 11 ladies from the clubs who have already paid, compared with last year's figures, but an increase of 15 juniors is a positive note to end on.

Jenny Smith Treasurer

There were no questions

### 8. Midland North report – Clare Jones

*Presented by Dianne Whittaker*

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Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend the meeting today due to work commitments. I attended the England Golf General Forum and meeting shortly after the County AGM in November. We heard from several members of the team at England Golf with presentations on participation and membership as well as the Worldwide Handicapping System. Our County President, Maureen, will have already covered this in detail at today's meeting. In terms of participation and membership our sport continues to face challenges around increasing golf club membership in particular with women and girls still making up a relatively small percentage of total membership. Initiatives to encourage more women and girls to participate in golf and go on to become club members remain important parts of the England Golf Strategy. England Golf do also have statistics on the numbers of nomadic golfers in the UK, that is those who have very similar playing habits to golf club members, but do not belong to golf clubs and therefore do not pay an affiliation fee to England Golf. There was a lively discussion at the voting members' forum about strategies to bring in affiliation income from this group although no conclusions were reached.

Finally could I remind you that entry forms are now available for the Midlands North Competitions for this season, the forms are available on the county website. There have been some queries regarding what was the Medal Finals this is now the Bridgestone Chase Your Dream Trophy and the Midlands North event is at Burton on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, entries have to be made to England Golf and so if you have not entered your Medal Winner from 2017 the closing date for entries is this Wednesday. Forms for all competitions can also be downloaded from the England Golf website by following the links For Golfer/Competitions and Events/ Women's County & Regions/Midlands North/Regional Events.

That concludes my report and may I wish you all a successful and sunny golfing spring and summer.  
Clare Jones MNR rep

### **9. Junior report – Sue Taylor**

*Presented by Glenys Priestley*

We as a Junior Committee are working very hard to adjust to our new roles.

A junior newsletter has been written and circulated by Emma Anderson and the junior diary is almost complete.

A coaching session for our 1st and 2nd team squads will be held in the near future followed by a get together for all of our girls.

The Mixed AM-AM Fundraiser is at Radcliffe on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Please help support our girls.

I have attended my first Girls Golf Rocks Ambassador training and was very impressed with the session.

My thanks to Emma Anderson, Kristina Larazevic, Alice Lowe and Emily Cheshire for a fantastic evening for our girls.

I will have a more detailed report in July when everything I hope will be up and running.

Please check the website for the latest updates.

Sue Taylor Junior Coordinator NCLGA

### **10. Secretary's notes – Dianne Whittaker**

- i. Associate members: email reminder has been sent out to all clubs. Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> March. Need to know the clubs and county at which players have both full and associate membership. Thanks to those who have responded
- ii. Use of buggies: email reminder has been sent to all clubs to request permission. Letters/medical certificates to be sent to The Secretary Lynn Williams.
- iii. Club officials: It is essential to have accurate up to date information. Thank you to those clubs that have already supplied data and a request that remaining clubs send their updates ASAP. Then contact details will be emailed to clubs. New regulations regarding data protection come

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into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. To ensure that NCLGA are compliant with GDPR there will be a Privacy Notice on the website

- iv. Interclub: Thanks to those clubs agreeing to host matches. All host clubs have been contacted and dates agreed but please check with your clubs

### 11. AOB

No other matters were raised

The President, Maureen Clarke thanked Glenys Priestley for chairing the meeting and everyone for attending. The meeting was then closed at 11.30

### 12. Date of next meeting

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 10.30 at Beeston Fields Golf Club

### Scratch League payment

Cheque payable to NCLGA.

Post cheques to Jenny Smith, 15 Magnolia Court, Beeston, Nottm, NG9 3LG. Will email address to participating clubs.

BACS payment: presumably the club will have details. May not if ladies' section does not handle the affiliation fees. Best if clubs email me for information.

Invoices will only be sent if payment is not made before April 15th.