

## NCLGA COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at Sherwood Forest Golf Club

**Present:** NCLGA Council members and ladies secretaries/club representatives from Nottinghamshire affiliated clubs. There were 35 attendees in total

The Captain, Caron Harrison, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

There were 8 apologies from club representatives.

### **2. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

Minutes had been distributed and were available on the website. These were agreed as a true record, proposed by Clare Jones, seconded by Irene Herod, Stanton-on-the-Wolds GC

### **3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. The Captain's Address, the year ahead – Caron Harrison**

Before I go into what's up and coming, I wanted to draw your attention to the leaflet that has been sent out to all clubs asking for volunteers to join us. Ideally, we have two posts to fill. Specifically, we are wanting an Assistant Junior Organiser and someone to shadow Clare as the Midland North Representative, but we'd like anyone who is able to give up a bit of time to help us, to join and see what we're about.

The word county "executive" perhaps gives the wrong impression! To me it conjures up a picture of a group of officious old fuddy duddies laying down the law. We're not that, we are a group who are trying to promote golf to as many ladies in the County as possible. Everyone in Notts pays their affiliation fee to the County, and we as a group need to ensure that everyone gets value from it. We aren't working just for the elite golfer we are aiming to give everyone in Notts the opportunity to play golf. Obviously, the County Championship is our elite competition, but most of our competitions are suitable for all golfers. They are played at good courses, for a reasonable entry fee and are open to all. We aim to provide competitions where we go out to enjoy our game of golf, just like you would any open competition, because obviously that's why most of us play golf, because we enjoy the game!

Please do think about whether you are able to give some of your time to helping us on the committee or ask around at your clubs to see if there is anyone interested in joining us. Because without this group of ladies there is no County Golf. No competitions. No up-and-coming juniors and no bronze or silver leagues.

OK I'll leave my pedestal now and tell you about what we have planned for the year! I'm looking forward to it all.

The first event is the Mixed am-am on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Stanton-on-the-Wolds. This is run by our Juniors to raise funds for their teams. Spaces left - entry on the website

The opening match is the annual friendly against the Sheffield Union. This year it's our home fixture and will be played at Serlby Park Golf Club. I'm sure Sheffield will be out for revenge this year as we managed to clinch a 3-2-win last year at Renishaw.

The County Waltz is on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at Norwood Park, organised by Vice Captain, Julie. There are tee times still available.

## **NCLGA COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at Sherwood Forest Golf Club

Coxmoor is the venue for this year's Championship and Spring Meeting on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May, the knockout match play stages take place over the weekend.

Newly amalgamated with the County, the Veterans Spring Meeting is at Springwater on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. This is a betterball competition for over 50s

In June, the Coronation Cup will be at Chilwell Manor. In July, the Summer Meeting and Veterans Trophy will be at Worksop, and my County Captains Day will be at Sherwood Forest. September sees the Autumn Meeting and Veterans Cup which will be at the Nottinghamshire. More about the Veterans in a few minutes.

We are extremely grateful to all the clubs who host our events and make them such excellent days. Full details of dates and entry are available online on the NCLGA website, where there is also useful information about other local, regional and National events as well as news and results from our County.

Do encourage your members to enter the competitions. They are all great value, played in great spirit and there are plenty of prizes to be won!

Moving on to the County Teams, this year MNR County Week is at Holme Hall in Lincolnshire from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June. The team will be selected after the County Championships and we have a lot to live up to after our win last year. Supporters are most welcome. It is fantastic for the team to see friendly faces, sporting red jumpers. It really spurs them on. You will also be treated to seeing some fantastic match play golf!

We also have a full schedule of second team matches during July and August. Julie will be running the team this year.

### **Other things we are working on this year are:**

#### **1. Women in Golf Charter**

We have recently become a signatory to the women in golf charter. Clare will update you later, but part of our commitment includes developing a clear county membership pathway from junior to senior golf. Our successful amalgamation of the vets section under the NCLGA umbrella enables us to progress this.

#### **Which brings me on to**

#### **2. Veterans Section & Amalgamation with Notts Vets**

In 2022 delegates from both the Notts County Vets and the County met to investigate the possibility of a merger between the two associations. Both parties agreed with the merger and the 2022 County AGM agreed to the election of a Senior Organiser to the Executive Committee. 2023 will be a year of transition amalgamating the Vets competitions and matches into the County fixture structure and it was decided that the current Vets officers should represent them at the executive meetings. At the 2023 AGM we will elect one person to the County Executive as Senior Organiser.

Most of the Vets competitions have been amalgamated into the Counties, however, since the venue for the Vets Spring Meeting had already been booked, it will continue as planned for 2023 and be included with the County competitions, to be entered via the website.

We already have a Veteran's Trophy alongside their Summer Meeting, which is the qualifier for the

## NCLGA COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at Sherwood Forest Golf Club

England Golf Senior Champion of Champions competition, and it was agreed to add a Veteran's Cup to the County Autumn Meeting, to replace the Vets Autumn Meeting.

We would encourage all past Vets members to enter any NCLGA competitions they can, as I've said before, our aim is to be as inclusive as possible.

We also have Veterans matches arranged with other counties. The format is yet to be confirmed with the opposition, but we are hoping it will be a mixture of scratch and handicap betterball.

The current Vets funds will be ring-fenced for the use of the Senior Section.

### **Another thing we need to address is the county website....**

We are really grateful to Gillian Stump for running it for the last few (maybe a bit longer than a few!) years and I think it's fair to say that we have been very lucky to have Gillian keeping our website up to date ..... and at no cost. It's been easy to use, well-constructed and very informative. However, after August 2023 the template will not be updated to comply with the latest software and also, we are unable to obtain an SSL certificate.

So, we need to find a new option and one which will give us more options eg competition booking, payments, refunds, publishing competition results and one that can build a database of contacts.

One of our problems as a County is our inability to keep all our members informed. We are concerned that information sent through to Club Secretaries does not always reach the Club membership and although we have a website not all our members refer to it. We are looking into building our new website with Intelligent Golf and hopefully this platform will allow us eventually to communicate directly with our members. We hope to begin the process in September, in order that it will be ready for use for 2024 competitions.

The last main thing we have on our radar is:

### **The Leagues**

At the AGM, the format of Leagues was discussed and we promised as an association to review how these were set up. The exec have discussed this at length. There are many permutations! Should there be seven players? Should all teams consist of five players? Should we allow Clubs to have an A and a B team? It is obvious that there is not a "one fits all" solution. There is a split between those clubs who wish to remain with teams of seven and those who would prefer to only field five players because of a smaller membership and difficulty finding players.

Last year we asked all clubs for feedback on their preferences. The current set up, that is, with league A to C having seven players and D to E (F in the bronze league) having five players, appeared to satisfy what the majority of clubs wanted.

As I previously said, it's impossible to please all clubs. As an association, our remit is to be as inclusive as possible, both on an individual and on a club basis. If we were to change to teams of five overall, it would not be inclusive to the individuals in clubs who have more available players. Conversely, if we were to insist on across the board seven players, we would inevitably have clubs dropping out of the league. Our ideal is for as many clubs, and as many players as possible to compete in our leagues. The system we have at the moment appears to allow for this.

We'll monitor this throughout this season, but it does seem that the option we have at present is the best one.

Thank you all for listening.

## NCLGA COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at Sherwood Forest Golf Club

### 5. Handicap Adviser's report – Val Dowthwaite

- First of all, I want to apologise for the WHS County to Club Workshop being organised at Coxmoor for today: the team had difficulty securing another more convenient date.
- The updated Guidance on the Rules of Handicapping and the WHS Club Platform User Guide are both available on the EG website in the WHS Resource Centre.  
The documents and tutorial videos in the User Guide are particularly helpful and easy to follow. They cover a range of areas such as resigning a member, adding a new member and entering scores into a player's record from overseas.
- Any acceptable scores played overseas should be returned to the home club and entered into the playing record.  
I would suggest photographing each card when played and sending it via Whatsapp or email rather than presenting the Handicap Secretary with a bundle of cards to deal with on return as they have to be entered manually into the system.  
If a player travels overseas and intends to submit scores at a club at which they are a member, they should take a copy of their home playing record as evidence of their current HI and do the same on their return.
- Preferred Lies can remain in place until April 30<sup>th</sup> and the course is acceptable for handicap purposes. If preferred lies are required beyond that date, permission must be granted by the County.  
The closing date for entry into the Regional Finals of the 2022 Women's Medal is 31st March. Each club's results can be found in the Reports section of the Club Platform under the heading Race to Woodhall Spa.  
If a club is unable to send a representative to the Regional Finals, a memento can be forwarded after all rounds have been played. You should contact [Championships@englandgolf.org](mailto:Championships@englandgolf.org) with the winner's details.
- Finally can I remind clubs that any queries regarding Handicapping or Rules of Golf should be addressed to the relevant County Advisers and not Regional Advisers or England Golf?
- I wish everyone an enjoyable 2023 golfing season and thank you for your attention.

Val Dowthwaite (County Handicap Adviser) 0798 397 9646 [dowthwaiteval@gmail.com](mailto:dowthwaiteval@gmail.com)

### 6. Women in Golf Charter – Clare Jones

The county is now a Charter signatory and the County's Commitment and Action Plan documents can be found on the NCLGA website.

The Action Plan has been designed to be manageable and the main actions link to the comments made by the County Captain in respect of our need to engage and communicate with all our members from those who are beginners to our elite players. As their Charter Champion I am meeting with Mark and Lauren from England Golf on March 15<sup>th</sup> to begin work on the major action points:

The construction and circulation of a survey to enable us to have better information and data on ladies golf throughout Nottinghamshire.

The establishment of a charter champions network to enable us to share good practice and ideas for the continued development of women's and girls' golf in the county.

If clubs are interested in finding out more about the Charter and what it involves then they can contact the County Charter Champion who will be happy to have an initial conversation about what is involved.

Clare Jones Charter Champion

## NCLGA COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at Sherwood Forest Golf Club

### **Midland North Region Update**

Entry forms and competition information is now available for MNR competitions. The Queen of Clubs competition is for Club Champions (if the Champion is unable to attend the club can nominate a runner- up or other representative). MNR Girls Championships has both 36 and 18 hole competitions dependent on handicap index.

The Australian Spoons competition rules have an addition which asks clubs to inform the regional organiser of their intention to play a qualifier. This rule has been introduced by EG but whilst the MNR regional organiser is happy to receive a notification from clubs a decision has been taken not to make this a mandatory requirement.

The Race to Woodhall Spa entry system is live. This competition is solely managed by England Golf.

### **Report from England Golf County Regional Meeting Woodhall Spa March 10th 2023 - Main points of interest:**

#### **1. Recruitment Update**

Jim Williamson, Finance Director, has been “headhunted” by another organisation and leaves at the end of March. Recruitment of his successor is underway.

Nic Coward’s term as Independent Chair of EG has ended, his successor will be announced soon

#### **2. Financial Update**

Total income up by 3.7%. Affiliation fee income is down by 2% but much of this can be explained by the variable date collection method so it is difficult to assess if this is a downward trend.

Spend has increased in 2022 on national squads, championships and participation programmes

Woodhall Spa GM income is up 26% against budget and a new appointment of Director of Courses is being made. This appointment will be part of the focus on maintaining WS as a premier venue.

EG Affiliation fee income is circa £6.8million and County affiliation fee income is £6.1million. The average county fee is £8.94.

2023 EG Affiliation Fee - no change to current fee of £9.50

2024 fee recommendation will be presented at next voting member’s general meeting. It will follow the agreed principle of being linked to inflation.

#### **3. Legal and Governance Update**

The team have dealt with 710 legal matters. They cover a range of issues from general advice on governance through to complicated legal issues. For example, disciplinary and handicapping issues may only produce a small number of queries but are usually complex and each case requires a great deal of work time.

Safeguarding has resulted in 86 cases with 32 relating to serious abuse. 49 individuals have been suspended and 12 are on managed agreements. This is where an individual may still play at a course but under strict guidelines.

2000 DBS checks is now the usual amount per annum.

## NCLGA COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at Sherwood Forest Golf Club

Focus for 2023 will be the appointment of the new Chair of EG, election of Board members and induction of new Voting members.

The areas which will support Club Support Officers will be Disciplinary, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Safegolf updates.

### **4. Club Support Team**

8900 visits to clubs. 1190 clubs supported with specific expertise areas. 641 clubs supported on three or more areas. 539 clubs provided with in-depth support on membership. Safegolf renewals and random sampling.

2023 focus - connecting with golf facilities such as driving ranges, adventure golf and golf simulators. This may be the start of a golf journey for some and as yet EG do not connect with these facilities.

The "Golf DNA" project will be a focus (NB I am waiting for the slides from the meeting so this is a very brief outline). This involves bringing together a range of information, research and data through CSO network, connection with other golf facilities, county information, R&A and Player First members survey. Aim is to improve the relevance of data and research for clubs and counties. Part of this is the recently established county benchmarking project

Governance will also be a focus. The Players First members survey shows that club management and governance is the "top scorer" for member satisfaction with their club. Matt Draper will be leading work on updating club governance support including an online education portal for club directors/board members. There will be a version of this for counties.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - having a club E,D & I policy will become a mandatory term of affiliation to EG, as will having an up to date disciplinary policy. Counties will also be required to have an E.D & I policy prior to clubs doing so and information on this will be available shortly.

### **5. Operational Team Update**

EG receive over 150000 WHS enquiries. Members seem to be going straight to EG to resolve queries rather than using club and county handicap officials.

Cross border MYEG app update should be available very soon. This will enable score input from courses in GB&I

There will be ongoing WHS education. WHS will be reviewed by R&A and USGA on the usual four yearly cycle (same as rules) and outcomes from the review are likely to be communicated in the next few months for implementation in January 2024.

Course rating training has been launched with the current trainers and will be widened to those outside this group in the next phase. EG are aware of the pressure on current trainers and potential shortages. Trials of using technology (tablets etc) to streamline the process are underway.

Community Golf Instructors - this role will not be a golf coach but will be part of the diversity and inclusion drive. They will be able to operate independently, will receive training to deliver this role.

### **6. Communications Team Update**

Connection numbers through newsletters, webpage landings continue to increase. The Respect in Golf project will be a major focus for 2023.

**Clare Jones MNR Representative**

## **NCLGA COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at Sherwood Forest Golf Club

### **7. Junior Co-ordinator's update – Suzi Anderson**

Junior coaching started again in February this year with 21 girls having attended over the two sessions held so far.

We run two sessions, once a month, on the second Wednesday of the month, coached by Richard Strange.

6 – 7pm for the development squad, ranging from no handicap to 24

7 – 8pm for the competition group ranging from 23 - +3.2

Snow kept the numbers lower last week, but we also included a successful rules session from Emma Anderson, who has recently taken over from Maureen Clarke as chief referee for Notts.

We have a programme of events and matches which gets squeezed into the very full life of a junior golfer. Scratch teams have 5 matches including both strokeplay and this year will include one matchplay pairing. We play against Derbyshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. Scratch teams play two counties on one day to reduce travelling. The handicap team plays three matches, against Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire during the season. Both teams play their final game at the 'Festival of Golf', where all counties get together at one venue to compete for the final league positions. Nottinghamshire are currently holders of the Scratch League title (for the second year in a row).

Nottinghamshire is running the finals event this year, so if anyone is interested in helping for the day at Branston GC, I would be very grateful.

Many of the junior golfers represent the county ladies and we are very proud to have so many good junior girls coming through the ranks. Covid knocked us back a little on numbers and we are always looking for new players to join on Wednesday nights, so if you have any junior girls at your clubs, please encourage them to contact us and come along to Norwood on the second Wednesday of each month. The aim is to extend their team playing and to work upon action points given by their regular coach.

As many of you will know Susie Taylor, the previous County Junior Organiser, stepped down in November having done an amazing job over the past 5 or so years. So, we are advertising for an assistant to help with the organisation of the juniors. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to see junior girls enjoy golf and to encourage them to participate. The more the merrier so if you know of more than one person interested, that would be fantastic, the girls are very appreciative and are a great group. Please speak to me or anyone on the NCLGA committee for further information. The contact details for everyone are on the NCLGA website.

Our next event is the Mixed Am/Am at Stanton-on-the-Wolds on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, this is our annual fundraising event, run by the girls who clean clubs, are starters and run the putting competition. Many thanks to all of you who have entered teams.

### **Suzi Anderson**

Notts County Junior Organiser.

## NCLGA COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at Sherwood Forest Golf Club

### 8. Secretary's notes – Dianne Whittaker

**(i) Club updates:** Thank you to those who have already supplied update information re club officials and a reminder to those who are still to reply

**(ii) Buggies:** This year a permission pass is provided for those players who need to use a buggy in NCLGA competitions and matches. These have been emailed to the clubs that had made a request. The passes must be shown at relevant events or have a photograph of the pass on their phone. Cards can also be collected by club representatives today. Chilwell Manor, College Pines, Mapperley, Newark, Retford, Ruddington, Rushcliffe, Stanton-on-the-Wolds  
If clubs haven't yet made a request on behalf of their ladies, then please let me know ASAP

**(iii) Safegolf:** NCLGA have gained re-accreditation

### 9. Any other business

**(i) Vets & NCLGA merger:** Question raised about dates of Vets/Seniors competitions. The dates are on the NCLGA website but it seems no way of entering the competitions. Anne Wooley answered, she will get in touch with those who played previously and the Vets club representatives.

Availability/form will be on the NCLGA website, download from the Seniors and main section.

**(ii) Trophies:** Thanks to the clubs for returning trophies, it helps planning and organisation

### 10. Date of next meeting

At the moment the meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 is not deemed necessary.

The AGM will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Beeston Fields Golf Club at 10.30

Meeting closed at 11.10