



Norfolk Ladies County Golf Association

MINUTES OF A DELEGATES' MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 18th MARCH at 10.00AMam WENSUM VALLEY GOLF CLUB

Present: Alex Mournian (EG Voting Member and East Region Delegate), Carol Delf (County President), Denise Whiting (County Secretary), Sharon Black (County Captain), Chrissie Owens (Executive Committee Member), Sue Allen (Executive Committee Member/Handicap Advisor) and Margaret Fisher

The following clubs were represented

Barnham Broom	Lottie Fowler
Bawburgh	Jenny Aston and Ros Foster
Caldecott Hall	Carol Schoenherr
Dereham	Jane Bizley
Dunston Hall	Penny Frost
Eaton	Eppie Zandvoort
Fakenham	Pam Whitehead
Feltwell	Marian Hucker
Hunstanton	Alyson Wise
King's Lynn	Jane Reavell
Mattishall	Debbie Lilwall
Richmond Park	Cherrie Lawn and Annie Long
Royal Cromer	Clare Rossi and Pak Chan
Royal West Norfolk	Delia Broke
Royal Norwich	Jules Hutchinson
Ryston Park	Pam Brooke
Sheringham	Chris Tew and Sue Clayton
Sprowston Manor	Peggy Gower and Debbie Dale
Thetford	Moir Morgan
Wensum Valley	Linda Kel

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the ladies on the top table.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Helen Ayres (County Treasurer), Sherrell Chuter (County Junior Organiser), Sue Heeles (Chairman of Executive Committee), Pat Webb and Deborah Hemeter (Middleton Hall), Cheryl Singleton and Sue Edwards (Denver), Christine Rayfield (The Links Country Park), Barbara Stevenson (Swaffham), Maureen Le Lievre (Royal Norwich)

3.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th August 2021 were agreed as correct and signed by Alex Mournian (AM). Proposed Sue Clayton (Sheringham) seconded Delia Broke (Royal West Norfolk).

4.0 Matters Arising

4.1 Item 11.4 on the minutes: The issue of 95% reduction on Handicaps will be covered by Sue Allen (SA) in her report later in the meeting.



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Action

5.0 SUCCESSION PLANNING

5.1 Carol Delf (CD) explained what it meant to be on the Executive Committee, tracing its history back and pointing out how important it was to maintain a large enough Executive Committee. CD first joined the Executive herself in 1993 at which time everyone was involved, ie there were 46 ladies on the Executive; they had 2 meetings a year and there were two Sub Committees. This became too cumbersome and was changed to what we have today; an Executive Committee (10 members) with Sub Committees of Teams and Training, Competitions, Juniors and Delegates. In 2021 we had three vacancies and received no nominations, consequently we co-opted 2 ladies, Barbara Fielding and Sue Allen who agreed to join the Executive for one year. CD invited all those present to think/suggest anyone in their club who may be interested in joining the Executive Committee; there are two Executive vacancies for this year as well as a vacancy for Treasurer. It is important as we cannot run unless we have club support and this does offer ladies a pathway to get further involved in golf.

5.2 AM then split the Delegates into 4 groups to further explain and test their knowledge on the Executive what it involves and how they can make a difference. It also gave the Delegates an opportunity to voice what they were concerned about.

AM Group :

- Incorporation and Merging: interest in discussing further.
- No communication yet on Coronation Foursomes Competition/Ping 4BBB.
- More Q&A on issues – Delegates meetings are the conduit for this but also members can email Executive.
- More promotion needed regarding the Seniors.

Sharon Black (SB) Group :

- Could draft minutes be sent out shortly after the meeting so delegates can update their members sooner.
- Some Club Pros run Junior Coaching but there is no link to the ladies section or the county. These Juniors' may be unaware of the county academy and competitions. Contact details to be provided for Club Pro's / Juniors'.
- Could Clubs let us know if they have any single figure handicap players interested in representing the County that we may not already be in contact with. This to include Seniors.
- Days/Times for Executive Meetings – there may be some interest but timings may be an issue.
- Referees : Jennifer Aston (Bawburgh) has achieved Level 2 Refereeing qualification.
- Delegates please let us know if you know of any lady interested in finding out more about serving on the Executive.

Denise Whiting (DW) Group :

- Ladies would like to be sent a copy of the Calendar with all matches and meetings listed.
- Discussed how to encourage younger ladies onto committees – could some meetings be held in evenings?
- Why were meetings always held around Norwich, long way to travel for some – could they be spread around the County more.

CD Group :

- CD reported that the group had a fruitful conversation and found the exercise really useful, especially in finding out what other clubs do. The group agreed that this should be repeated at future meetings.

6.0 VOTING MEMBER AND EAST REGION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

6.1 AM opened with announcing the appointment of a new Senior Independent Director on the England Golf (EG) Board, Wasim Haq and that EG had secured two new Ambassadors, Tommy Fleetwood and Bronte Law.

6.2 The topics covered included an introduction to the 5 year strategic plan, the Course Planner and the Delegates were handed a copy of the Score card which outlined the 18 main topics of focus, they were also encouraged to take a look at the EG website where they could find both documents in greater depth.

6.3 **WHS** will be covered by SA in her report later.

6.4 **iGolf** – AM reported that the iGolf scheme was steadily growing and she included some figures giving Delegates an idea of how it was developing. It has been found that despite the years of resistance from clubs and the assumption that club members would leave in favour of the iGolf scheme has not been founded, in fact 378 golfers who signed up last July to iGolf have now joined clubs.



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iGolf Current Membership 12,170 (96% are men) : Average age Men 41, Women 46 : 77% have a Handicap Index (average 17) : Norfolk has 88 iGolf Members.

Information has gone out to clubs to see if they would support running events for iGolf members that would be advertised through EG. This is an area that EG are keen to support and promote as the benefits are far reaching.

6.5 **Golf IQ** – will also be an area of focus for EG during 2022 as the WHS database increases and the availability of stats provides more accurate information for all organisations - EG, Counties and Clubs. This will more than likely be covered in more depth at the March Regional Meeting.

6.6 **Equality & Diversity** – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is very much at the forefront of EG initiatives for 2022 and in particular policy documents. They touched on under-represented groups such as Women & Girls, Young People, Disability, BAME, LGBTQ+, Health Inequalities and Lower Social Economic Groups. This will be covered in more depth at the Regional Update meeting on 29 March at Woodhall Spa, but is food for thought and an area of focus for us as a County.

6.7 **EG Centre** - Sheila Withams (Cambs & Hunts) and Kim Burnage (Beds) have both taken on the shared role of representing the East Region on the working group that has been set up to develop the use and promotion of The EG Centre at Woodhall Spa, this is one of the key topics of 2022 for EG and more information will be available after the March EG Regional updates and then the April AGM & General Meeting, where there is a planned presentation. Matt Draper (EG) is the lead on this subject and the suggestion is that he will be invited to attend the October ER Working Group Meeting on Wed 19 Oct.

7.0 CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORTS

7.1 Chairman of Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee have been able to hold their meetings in person since last summer, enabling healthy discussion on a range of topics on behalf of Norfolk lady golfers.

Having been unable to elect two new members to the committee at the AGM we were pleased to welcome and thank Sue Allen and Barbara Fielding for agreeing to be co-opted on to the Executive Committee for the duration of this year.

Chrissie Owens (CO) has undertaken a creative refresh of our documents. Going forward, all paperwork from entry forms to minutes will have the same new format.

Following EG's move to Golf Genius computer software, considerable time was taken investigating what we should use for our competitions. Ultimately it was agreed to continue with the existing Club V1 package.

A Working Party has been set up to investigate Incorporation. Norfolk are the only county in the East not to have done so. It is a complex issue and will undoubtedly take time to establish whether it is right for us or not.

A review of county kit has been undertaken. It is intended to simplify kit by purchasing a stock of shirts to be shared by all the county teams for their match days.

Players will purchase their own mid layer, most already have one and hopefully an outer layer for inclement weather!

The County currently has a number of new sweaters available for purchase.

Other topics discussed by the Executive are covered elsewhere on the agenda.

7.2 County Captain's Report

Winter training sessions have commenced in order to prepare our county teams for their respective East Region match days. Having studied a list of single figure handicap players in Norfolk twenty two were invited to attend three sessions at Mattishall Golf Club with Tony Varney (Pro). The aim of the sessions was not to change technique but to focus on four areas.

- Team building
- Competitive practice
- Performance under pressure
- Match play

The sessions have involved a mixture of golf challenges set by Tony Varney in the morning either on the range or on the simulators. These were followed by competitive match play on the course with additional challenges in the afternoon.

A final session at Dunston Hall will include a match between the 1st and 2nd teams. Further practice matches have also been arranged for all the teams in the lead up to their County Match Days.

The County First Team head to Harpenden in Hertfordshire at the end of June whilst the Second Team event will take place at Colne Valley in Essex at the end of August. The format, new last year, is three singles and two foursomes against each of the other counties, all off scratch. Played over three days that is a lot of high standard golf in a short space of time



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Details will be available on the web site and all the teams will welcome support this year on any of the days.

If anyone is interested in taking part in some of the Seniors' Competitions please contact Nickie Wylie, her contact details are on the NLCGA website.

Finally if you know someone at your Club who would like to be considered for county selection for any of the teams please get in touch with Sharon Black.

8.0 CHAIR OF COMPETITIONS' REPORT

After two years of uncertainty, we have a full calendar of events, competitions, and championships. Posters for Ladies and Junior competitions are in your packs, please encourage all your ladies and girls to take part.

8.1 Winter League

Bawburgh won the Winter League after the final being played on 3rd March at Swaffham. This was a three way play off, played by Bawburgh, King's Lynn 1 and Mundesley as the winners of each league. This was a three-ball singles match play – something new for Norfolk Ladies. We would also like to encourage more clubs to join the Winter League.

The results were:

- Bawburgh beat King's Lynn 5-0
- Bawburgh beat Mundesley 5-0
- King's Lynn beat Mundesley 3½- 1½

8.2 County Club Stableford

New for this year, following on from the success of the Lockdown Stableford in 2020.

Round 1. Club Qualifying Competition.

The qualifying round to be played **as** an 18-hole Stableford Competition at your own club, players may only play in one qualifying round and this must be at their home club. The winner will receive a £15 John Lewis voucher and the runner-up £10.

Closing date is 1st August by which time the results sheet should have been received by the Competition Organiser.

Round 2. The Final

The winners will be invited to play in the final, which is planned for early October.

This day will include an 18 hole stableford, afternoon tea with prizes and a trophy.

Have a good season.

9.0 JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT

CD read out Sherrell Chuter's Junior Report in her absence.

Our aim with Junior golf in Norfolk is to provide opportunities for our girls to improve their golf, get to know other young players in Norfolk and learn the game of golf through playing opportunities. We need you the clubs, to introduce us to your young players. Opportunities are there for players to play for Norfolk through to England level and beyond. Please let your young players know about the many coaching and playing opportunities that are available, on our website.

10.0 HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT

SA concentrated on four topics :

10.1 MyEG APP

- During the first year of the WHS -over 400,000 people had downloaded the App.
- More than half a million General Play scores had been entered – 40% of them by the App.
- More developments to the app are due to be made over the next 6- 9 months or so.
- Most scores are 18 hole rounds – 9 holes are popular on Thursdays – General Play scores are popular Mondays and Fridays – Competitions popular on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
 - You can use it for home and away scores anywhere in England.
 - For General Play scores only – NOT competitions.
 - Golf clubs are encouraging members to use the app for general play scores.
 - The score intent must be done at the venue before the round is played – (Geo-location).
 - Select the tee – the round is timed – (about 4 hours for 18 holes).
 - Must be attested by someone who has the app.
 - Corrections can be made when the score is attested.
- **Unsatisfied Score Intent/Penalty Scores (Pre-Registered scores that are not followed through).**



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- No such thing as a “No Return”.
- Player: Score intent registered? – Expect a score submission.
- 24hours: no submission? System creates an email reminder.
- The Player should submit the score or speak to home club.
- MUST have a valid reason for not submitting score (“it’s raining” is not a valid reason).
- If valid reason (emergency/illness etc) score intent can be removed.
- If not a genuine reason – penalty score will be applied.
- **The handicap committee/golf club has full control** : *Handicap Secretaries please note that is a player has one or two unsatisfied score intents – that’s OK, however, three or four should start to ring alarm bells!*

10.2 iGolfers (Handicap Secretaries please note)

- Event organisers can set specific criteria for their events. For example: require a minimum number of scores have been submitted for handicap purposes over a period of time.
- To assist, the reports functionality in the WHS portal allows for a “COMPETITION V’s GENERAL PLAY SCORES REPORT” to be viewed.
- If clubs are happy to allow iGolf subscribers (who have an official WHS index) to compete in any of their club competitions or events, they should reference this in the terms of competition.

10.3 Mixed Tee Competitions

- More clubs are running mixed tee competitions now.
- Such as MIXED GENDER and MIXED ABILITY events.
- In these comps it may be necessary, depending on the format of play and difference in Course Rating between tees, to add an allowance to the standard calculation of the Playing handicap for equity purposes and to determine finishing positions, results and prizes.

To assist with the calculations, there is a MIXED TEE CALCULATOR, which can be found on the EG WEBSITE.

10.4 Understanding 95% Handicap Allowance and Equity

In individual stroke play formats of the game it is important that when a player performs well, they will place well on the leader-board – regardless of their Handicap Index.

This is what we mean by Equity and in individual stroke play competitions involving a large number of players with a wide range of abilities, it is the 95% Handicap Allowance which creates this equity. If the 95% Handicap Allowance is not used in these formats of the game; there is an increased probability that a higher handicap player will win the event.

This is because there are generally more ‘higher’ handicap players in the field and so it only takes one of them to have a good day.

This is based on statistics collected over many years. (The old CONGU system had a version “baked” into it)

RESOURCES

There are additional rules to regulate where the WHS systems change between Countries. These rules can be found on the EG website:- ENGLAND GOLF WEBSITE/World Handicap System/Club Resources/Rules of Handicapping Guide/**Guidance on the WHS Rules of Handicapping as applied within GB&I**

11.0 ENGLAND GOLF TRUST

The England Golf Trust is an independent charity (founded in 1982) which provides financial support to individual young golfers of all ages and abilities. The Trust has supported many of our Norfolk Junior girls, both past and present with grants and bursaries. We are asking clubs to spread the word on the work the Trust does and by helping with their fundraising initiatives.

Strategy: Awarding funds – The Trust aims to broaden its reach so that the right young golfers are receiving funding. Fundraising –and building partnerships with Counties, Golf Clubs, Coaches and Golfers to provide a range of fundraising/donation opportunities.

There are several Awards, Bursaries and Grants available for young golfers as well as a Young Ambassador Programme which enables young people to develop life skills through golf at a young age, building confidence, self-esteem, communication skills and commitment.

There are several ways Clubs and individuals can help, such as adopting the Trust as your Captain’s Charity, running a Golf Day, entering Women’s Competitions, leaving a gift in your Will or simply donating. For more details please contact Chrissie Owens on: chrissie.owens@googlemail.com



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12.0 QUESTIONS

We received three questions from Eaton Golf Club prior to the meeting :

- 12.1 **The Diamond Knock Out** – The feeling was that the Myhill Format could be unnecessarily challenging for some of the competitors and that a change of format would be beneficial.

Response: This topic will be added to the agenda of the next Competition's Sub Committee, due to be held at the beginning of September for discussion. In the meantime we will also gauge response of clubs in this matter.

- 12.2 **NLCGA Prizes** – Would it not be better to support club professionals by giving vouchers to be spent in Pro Shops or on lessons as County men so?

Response: This had been discussed at a recent Executive meeting and the consensus was that the selection of women's clothing/shoes etc was very poor when compared to the selection on offer to men. If your local club has a very small shop or no professional on site it could mean a long drive to be able to spend the vouchers. Finally, payment by voucher in this way would substantially increase the amount of work for the County Treasurer. This is not something that we could entertain at present however it can be reviewed at a later date.

- 12.3 **Carrick Cup** – it was felt by Eaton that fixed dates for this competition have not been successful in not always being able to field their best players. Could the County revert to 'Played By' dates.

Response: It was decided by the Competition's Sub Committee and the Executive, after many complaints about clubs being able to arrange dates for rounds of the Carrick Cup to trial 'Fixed Dates' for one year. This is to be reviewed at the next Competition's Sub Committee, due to be held at the beginning of September and is on the agenda. We have already received several comments from clubs regarding this and all these will be taken to the meeting.

If anyone has any comments or issues they would like discussed or brought to the attention of the Executive following this meeting of the Delegates please let AM or DW know.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 19th August 2022 At Wensum Valley Golf Club