

## Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association

### Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Fynn Valley Golf Club at 10.00am

#### **PRESENT:**

Miss Hermione Scrope	President/Treasurer
Vanessa Bell	Captain
Mrs Diane Cunningham	Secretary
Mrs Rebecca Evans	England Golf Representative
Sharon Luckman	Vice Captain
Eloise Aldous	Junior Organiser
Mrs Carol Cook	Championship Organiser
Mrs Rosemary Woodhouse	Cranworth Organiser
Mrs Dianne Clarke	Foursomes Organiser
Mrs Tessa Summers	Senior Organiser & Senior Shield Organiser
Ms Lynne Wright	Haskell & Stearn Organiser

- 1. Apologies** Eunice Gray, Amanda Norman, Chris Lynch-Bates, Debbie Anthistle, Jenny Cardwell and Di Spring
- 2. Minutes of GB Meeting 10 April 2017**  
Agreed and signed as a true record.
- 3. Matters Arising**
  - a) County Mixed Competition.** Vanessa has provisionally booked Ipswich Golf Club for 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 for this 18 hole competition, tee times starting from 8.30am. There is no minimum number of entries required. Entrance fee to be agreed
  - b) The Complaints & safeguarding policy** has been added to the website. The insurance company have asked that the safeguarding policy also incorporates information regarding vulnerable adults. Hermione has spoken with Debbie Anthistle who will research what is required and amend the policy.

**ACTION: DA**

Rebecca reminded everyone that if a subcommittee is formed to investigate a complaint that any correspondence/discussion should remain confidential within that subcommittee. This is to ensure that should a complaint need to move to stage 2 this can be completed within the remit of the policy.

- c) Di, Hermione and Chris** to meet to discuss the club rota for fixtures. This has not yet taken place. Di will email Hermione and Chris to arrange a date.

**ACTION: DC/HS/CLB**

d) Rebecca has not been able to get a quote for an additional county flag, tablecloth and tee markers. She is awaiting some information and will follow this up. Tessa will send Rebecca information of the contact she used when purchasing jumpers for the Seniors.

**ACTION: RE/TS**

f) Rebecca updated regarding the presentation of a course raised at the last meeting. The course was assessed as being acceptable and the appropriate people have been informed of the outcome.

#### **4. Correspondence**

a) The following have been granted permission to use a buggy for 2017 - Linda Bennett, Judy Gardner, Mary Anne Miles, Sue Thurgate and Wendy Jarvis.

A discussion was held regarding timeliness of applications for buggy permission. It was agreed a review of the buggy policy should take place. A subcommittee comprising of Hermione, Vanessa, Di, Rebecca and Lynne will meet to review the buggy policy. Rebecca will remind the delegates the process for applying for permission to use a buggy.

**ACTION/VB/HS/RE/LW/DC**

b) A letter was received from Pauline Hislop regarding buggy permission. Permission to use a buggy for 2017 was granted. Di will inform Pauline of this decision.

**ACTION: DC**

c) An email was received from Bungay ladies asking for clarification regarding the guidelines in knockout competitions for caddy's. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the guidance regarding caddy's going onto the greens is a request and not a rule. The guidance regarding caddy's not going onto the green was originally added as it was thought it would help to speed up play. From 2018 the England Golf Hard Card will be referenced which gives guidelines on pace of play. Di will research the differences in definition of trolley puller and caddy.

**ACTION: DC**

Bungay also requested neutral venues for knockout competitions. After discussion it was agreed that from 2018 the Stearn would be held on neutral venues as per the Cranworth. All other competitions at this time remain unchanged. It will be highlighted in the paperwork that is sent to clubs must make their course available if they are still in the competition for the specified date. Rebecca will send a response to Bungay.

**ACTION: RE**

#### **5. England Golf Representative's Report – Rebecca Evans - Report received – Appendix A**

The Delegates Meeting on 17 June was cancelled due to lack of items on the agenda.

Rebecca updated on the proposed changes to the England Golf Board Structure reducing the number on the board from 15 to 12. Currently the proposal does not include the finance director as a Board member. At the recent meeting it was felt that the Finance Director should be a full member of the board. The GB agreed with the proposed reduction of the board as long as the Finance Director is part of the new board structure.

There has been a proposal to change the current ladies' regions mirror the current men's regions. It is not known at this stage how county match week would work under the new structure. It was felt that the changes could increase costs. Hermione will speak with the treasurer of the Union to compare costs. A suggestion was that the men change to mirror the current ladies structure. The GB did not support the proposed change.

#### **6. Handicap Adviser's Report – Eunice Gray**

England Golf has officially announced the plan to develop a World Handicapping System, which it is hoped, will be in place by 2019. Further details will be made available later in the year. A survey has been sent to all clubs and it is hoped that as many players as possible will complete the survey and return it to England Golf. Details can be found on the EG website. There is also a comprehensive Q&A put together by the R&A and USGA which can be found on the website.

#### **7. Competition Organisers' Reports**

Entry fees for knockout competitions will remain unchanged for 2018.

The current rates of facility fees were discussed. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting when more information is available following completion of this year's competitions.

Tessa will contact Thorpeness to ask if their course is available to host the senior shield final on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017. If Thorpeness are not able to accommodate the final Tessa will contact Ufford Park, followed by Bungay.

**ACTION: TS**

Venues for the Finals of Stearn/Haskell and Cranworth will be decided when the clubs in each of the semi-finals are known.

It was agreed that the 'public' draw for the Inter-club knockout competitions will be held following the GB meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The following rules will be updated for next year's knockout competitions

- *Failure to submit all the paperwork to the competition organiser may result in disqualification.*
- *Failure to exchange paperwork on time will result in a loss of hole for each*

*match in the competition.*

- *Dates for Senior Shield – the deadline will be extended for the quarter finals to six weeks.*
- *Senior Shield and Haskell - The rules regarding offering of dates will be updated as follows: - The home club must contact their opponents within 7 days of them advancing to the next round and offer a minimum of 3 dates, these must not all be in the same week. Failure to do so within the specified time will result in loss of home advantage.*
- *Senior Jubilee Shield/Haskell - If a course is not available for the specified day/time of the competition home advantage will be conceded.*
- *Cranworth – Team sheet and foursomes sheet are to be exchanged by 9.00am. Singles sheet to be exchanged half an hour before commencement of play in the afternoon.*

Di will update the relevant paperwork for the September meeting.

**ACTION: DC**

#### **a) County Championship – Carol Cook**

The numbers entering the County Championship this year were disappointing. The Plate competition was not held as there were not enough entries. There were also some problems with slow play. It was noted that the England Golf Hard Card rules will be implemented for 2018 and slow play will be penalised. Consideration should be given to using a Marshall on the Friday for the stroke play event. Carole suggested that ten minute tee slots be used in 2018 and a longer break between teeing off for the main championship and the senior championship.

It was agreed that better advertising of the event is needed. It has already been agreed to reduce the qualifying age for the Senior Championship from 55 to 50 years old from next year. It was agreed qualification for the plate competition will be an 18 hole competition. It will also be highlighted that it is not compulsory to enter the match play event. Rebecca will highlight these changes with the delegates.

**ACTION: RE**

#### **b) Divisions – Di Spring/Jenny Cardwell**

Division 4 was held on 11 May at Crettingham and Division 3 was on held on 17 May at Gorleston. Unfortunately, due to heavy rain the night before the Division 3 meeting all bunkers were taken out of play and therefore a non-qualifying competition was held. Entries are now being accepted for Divisions 1 & 2 in September

Di has purchased a replacement for the Division 2 shield.

#### **c) Weston – Amanda Norman**

All matches being played with only a few left in each division. There was a problem with no tee reservation in one of the matches. It was noted that there should be a tee reservation for all the matches taking place in county knockout competitions.

**d) Haskell & Stearn – Debbie Anthistle/Lynne Wright**

Lynne asked for clarification on rules of the course being available for knockout competitions. The rule will be updated as per above.

**e) Cranworth – Rosemary Woodhouse – report received**

First round matches were all affected by adverse weather conditions but all completed.

Rosemary received a letter regarding a couple of issues with a preliminary round match. This has been resolved and competition rules will be amended.

The Gorleston/Halesworth quarter final match has been relocated to Fynn Valley as Aldeburgh are refurbishing their kitchens during July.

Agreed changes to rules will be updated as per above.

**f) Coronation and Centenary Foursomes – Dianne Clarke**

Both Centenary and Coronation Foursomes have been held. It was confirmed that Di is able to check handicaps for all competitions if required.

**g) Senior Jubilee Shield – Tessa Summers**

Tessa had received an email requesting fixed dates for the Senior Shield as there have been some issues booking dates. Tessa will email a response that the GB are tightening up the rules so there are consequences for not offering dates within the timescales. Rebecca will also raise this at the delegates meeting.

**ACTION: TS/RE**

**8. Competition Organisers for 2018/Vacancies**

Di Spring & Jenny Cardwell (Divisions) and Rosemary Woodhouse(Cranworth) are due to retire from the GB at the end of the year. Seckford and Woodbridge are to take over respectively. Di has emailed the Lady Captains of these clubs asking for their nominations. Tessa Summers, senior organiser is also due to retire, she will inform the GB when she has found someone to take over this role.

**ACTION: TS**

**9. Team Reports**

*1<sup>st</sup> Team – Vanessa – report received – Appendix B*

County Week – Vanessa was congratulated on the first team's performance. They will now play in the national county week finals which are being held at Felixstowe Golf Club from the 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

It has been decided that an event will be held during the practice match season 2018. A first team player will play in a fourball team alongside lady club members. It is hoped that this will help to integrate the county team with lady club members across the county and help to get the team members known within the county. This will also help to raise support for the team for CMW and generally raise the profile. It could also help to raise funds but is not the driving factor.

Lynne asked if match times etc for County Finals could be added to the website. All fixtures are on the England Golf website.

Ellie asked whether the county could use 'twitter' to inform of matches, results etc. This is used in other counties. Ellie will look into how other counties manage their twitter accounts and feedback at the next committee meeting.

**ACTION: EA**

*Seniors Report – Tessa Summers*

Some of the senior fixtures have been cancelled. Tessa would like to make the match against the GB committee an annual fixture. This was agreed.

*Junior Organisers Report – Eloise Aldous*

Junior Championship was held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Fynn Valley with 12 juniors entering. The day went well but Eloise would have liked more entries.

Junior County Match Week will take place at Colne Valley Golf Club between 14-16 August 2017. More supporters would be appreciated. Vanessa will write an item for the website.

**ACTION: VB**

Ellie has spoken to Ian about visiting schools to promote girls into golf. Due to work commitments, both are unable to do this year, will look into again next year.

**10. Suffolk Golf Day – Chris Lynch-Bates**

Suffolk Golf Day is a sell out and again oversubscribed. Unsuccessful teams will automatically qualify for a place in 2018. Start sheets will be sent to the teams in a couple of weeks. It is intended to have the teams draw their start tee at registration which worked well last year. There will be thirty-two teams again this year, 128 players. Di will invite Detmar to present the prizes.

**ACTION: DC**

**11. Treasurer's Report – Hermione Scrope – Report received**

Hermione guided everyone through the updated accounts. The second instalment of affiliation fees have been received, still two or three clubs outstanding. Numbers are slightly down on last year. If affiliation fees are not paid on time England Golf can withdraw CDH from the clubs involved.

Vanessa is looking into gaining sponsorship for the first team.

**ACTION: VB**

**12. Any Other Business**

Eloise had been approached by someone querying the rule if a player was unable to

continue due to injury whilst playing in the Cranworth. The rules are clear that if a player is unable to continue then their match it is forfeited. If this happened during the morning round, then there is the option of using up to two substitutes for the afternoon.

**13. Date of Next meeting:**

Please note rearranged date **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 10.00am at Fynn Valley**

Di Cunningham  
Hon Secretary

## **APPENDIX A**

### **England Golf Voting Member Report for July Governing Body Meeting 2017**

#### **England Golf AGM & General Meeting – Woodhall Spa April 2017**

I attended the AGM and General meeting and both meetings were uneventful. The main topics covered were;

- CDO and Club Support Network – Steven Peet is no longer a senior manager but will continue to cover Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambs with the added county of Kent.
- Handicapping – Gemma Hunt admitted she got the tone of the revised rules regarding 4BBB wrong and is now sending out notes to the clubs regarding how they manage this.
- New President – John Williams previously Chair of Championships
- England Golf Partnership to be dissolved. New England Golf chair was chair of Partnership. The dissolution was because of the PGA withdrawing.

General Meeting comments;

- Affiliation fee collection is down on this time last year.
- Must submit monthly & quarterly payments
- CDH will be suspended if clubs miss dates. Clubs have paid on the day CDH was suspended.
- EG will be conducting audits of 35 golf clubs. Part of meeting will cover what is included with affiliation fee.
- EG will audit 10 counties.
- EG will notify clubs & counties of process of audit.
- Sport England funding is £8.4 million for the next 4 years. This is dependant on England Golf conforming to specific criteria.
- Get in to Golf is now Core funding.
- Talent Funding is NOT covered by Sport England £8.4 EG to appeal this.
- Size of EG board will need to be reduced from 15 to 12. This was rejected previously by the counties as part of the governance & affiliation review in 2015.
- Nick Pink addressed meeting and previewed revised focus; We should be customer focused(golfer) and not work in cycles. Clubs should work to understand their customers i.e. are jeans ok in YOUR club house, horses for courses.
- We need to focus on the retention of golfers.
- Rod Findley spoke about Handicapping appeals; Should be fair and easy to apply a disciplinary procedure.
- All clubs and counties will have templates they can use. They can be obtained from the Company Secretaries office.
- Confirmed that EG disciplinary regulations apply if we pass over a case.
- EG now has the right and freedom to print and disclose who has been banned and for what reason.
- Aim is to achieve fairness and justice.
- Handicap appeals are under review with a target date of autumn 2017 for completion.

- Safeguarding; everyone who is involved with working with children should be DBS checked.

Next General Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> August Woodhall Spa

### **England Golf Meeting Re; Proposed Changes to EG Board to Satisfy Sport England**

Both myself and Di attended a meeting at Woodbridge GC on the 13<sup>th</sup> July to discuss with John Peters (Board Member) & Rod Findley (EG Company Sec) along with representatives from Norfolk, Essex, Kent and Cambs. The purpose of the meeting was to address any concerns the counties may have in the proposed changes. The most pertinent changes are;

- Reduction in board size from 15 to 12
- 30% gender representation

At the meeting John proposed that the board would be made up of the following;

1. 8 elected board members i.e. people from the counties
2. 3 independent members. These people will not have any past connection to the counties but would be people who are interested in golf.
3. 1 CEO

You will notice that the Finance Director and or Company Secretary are absent from the list of proposed members. I expressed our concern that the person who has the most knowledge of the state of our finances the FD was missing. This was a feeling that was supported by my peers. We were asked how would be accommodate the FD and suggested that we reduce the board members from 8 to 7, this was agreed by the people present.

We will be presented at the August meeting with a draft of the board make up and any articles which require changing. At the November meeting, we will then vote.

Counties would automatically comply with the Sport England policy when/if England Golf make the changes. Unless we want to apply for any finding directly we will not need to make any changes.

### **Changes to Regional Structure**

The Championship team under James Crampton are proposing that the ladies current regional structure now mirrors that of the Union. Sadly, I have very limited information of the rationale of this decision as I couldn't attend the meeting as England Golf restricted the numbers able to attend and limited us to 1 representative per region. I'm currently trying to get more information from our rep. I can advise that the chatter within our group is that this has gone down like a lead balloon. I will try to attend any future meetings personally. We have asked about how CMW will be run and what format but they have been unable to answer those questions. I'm personally not in favour of the change, I believe it will make taking part in competitions much more onerous and will ultimately put golfers off taking part. But we wait to see what the proposals are. I welcome your comments and feedback.

**APPENDIX B**  
**First Team Report**

- **Summary**

At the first training session, through the Player’s Agreement, we outlined the necessity for commitment to enable us to create a stronger team environment. In line with this, training and practice matches were well attended and the players committed to ensuring that they played in club competitions and matches to help give a broader picture of their standard of golf for team selection.

Kevin Lovelock has delivered a strong programme with a competitive element. We have worked extensively on short game, mind-set, ‘links golf’ and course management. He has become a strong member of the team in which the players have gained respect and trust.

- **County Match Week, Hunstanton**

Suffolk won the East Region County Match Week held at Hunstanton Golf Club. We will be representing the East Region at the National Finals held at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club, 18-22 September 2017.

	<b>BEDFORD</b>	<b>CAMBS &amp; HUNTS</b>	<b>ESSEX</b>	<b>HERTS</b>	<b>NORFOLK</b>	<b>SUFFOLK</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<b>BEDFORD</b>		1.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	0.0	<b>2.5</b>
<b>CAMBS &amp; HUNTS</b>	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
<b>ESSEX</b>	1.0	1.0		1.0	0.0	0.5	<b>3.5</b>
<b>HERTS</b>	0.5	1.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	<b>1.5</b>
<b>NORFOLK</b>	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		0.5	<b>3.5</b>
<b>SUFFOLK</b>	1.0	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.5		<b>4.0</b>

The team played fantastically well and there was a brilliant team spirit the whole week. Everybody had their part to play and it truly was a team win. We suffered no defeats and fought against some tough matches in all weathers. I feel honoured to be Captain of such a great team and to be leading them again in September.

The team was: Alice Barlow, Vanessa Bell, Fiona Edmond, Lils James, Sharon Luckman, Vicky Inglis, Fiona Stokes (reserve), Abbie Symonds, Lottie Whyman.

Thank you to: Hermione Scrope for being so supportive the whole week and for becoming such a great team order strategist; Kevin Lovelock for being there most of the week and instilling a winning confidence in the team; my vice-captain Sharon for her support; the

caddies and supporters who travelled up to support and encourage the team; Julie Latimer-Jones and Tony Garnett for reporting so well on the action and helping to elevate the team's recognition and success; James Ross for his listening ear and advice and the SLCGA Committee and affiliated members for their support to Suffolk Ladies County Golf.