

Delegates Meeting **Friday, November 7th**

Present:

P Bridges (Diss), B Dennis (Halesworth), A Chamberlain (Aldeburgh), H Argent (Felixstowe), C Kirk (R. Worlington), E Anderson (Stowmarket), T Daubney (Fynn Valley), M Stevenson (Thorpeness), C Owens (Brett Vale), S Woodhead (Newton Green), K Ingram (Southwold), A Sheering (Seckford), J Beard (Bramford), M Duckett (Gorleston), A Wallice (Rookery Park)

From SLCGA:

K Matthews (EG Voting Member), C Deslandes (Treasurer), S Boath (Secretary)

On Zoom:

R McKenzie

1 Apologies:

M Lesser (Bury), K Perridge (Hintlesham), P Long (Rushmere) and V Hunt (SLCGA)

2 100 Club:

Discussion regarding the continuation of the 100 Club. This last year we raised £3450, £1365 goes to the county and the rest is in prizes. Money raised has been usefully distributed and not absorbed into country funds. A vote was taken on whether the 100 Club should continue - the vote was passed. Later, Jan Fawdry offered to run the 100 Club. A question was raised regarding claiming winnings, in that it can be a bit long winded, however, the Treasurer only retains the details of previous payees and if they are on the system it will be paid promptly. Other individuals will be required to supply payment details.
(Draw is available on the website)

3 Notes of Meeting held on August 29th 2025

Nothing raised.

4 Matters Arising:

- a. Cranworth Dates and Format
We have checked and Cranworth dates are not conflicting with bank holidays. The format of the competition was looked at last year so we

will look to review it again at the end of 2026. Prior to that a questionnaire will be sent to the Cranworth captains for feedback. Will include reviews of Stearn and Silver Jubilee.

- b. Centenary Sponsors
Nothing to report
- c. Event Publicity
Golf Empire not available to use in this instance. Kris will send out a monthly reminder of upcoming events. In addition, The Captains newsletter will contain info but apparently an issue with BT not allowing mass communication. Sign up on the website under contacts, 'mail chimp' should work! Will discuss with Emily. Also there is a wall chart type diary on the website, which up until now, hasn't been utilised. This will be updated for the coming year.
- d. 4BBB Qualifying Opens
Conversations are being had amongst some clubs to change their opens to qualifying competitions. We are not being prescriptive about this and is down to the individual clubs. However, it does mean that if a player has had a fantastic day, it will give them the opportunity to cut their handicap.
- e. Use of Different Tee Boxes
Firstly, a lot of clubs have changed the colour of their tees and because England Golf didn't stipulate any standardisation, there is a complete mishmash of colours across the County. Sheila's email has in fact been a very good exercise. We will create a data base to be published by March showing all the colours at each club. Where necessary particular tees will be specified for each competition. Aldeburgh suggested that the yardages for each could be add to the data base as they are moving away from tee colours and talking about course length. Also some courses have long carries, such as Woodbridge and Ipswich, the forward tees affords players a better opportunity to reach fairways. Benefits to that are more enjoyment for participants and maintains speed of play. Not all clubs will use forward tees, this will depend very much on the advice received from the clubs. Haskell and Western will not be put off the equivalent of the old men's tees.
- f. Western Format
A suggestion was made at the last meeting for the Western to mirror the County Match week's format in Division 1. The format will remain the same as some clubs struggle to find enough players currently and a change would require them to find two more. In addition, it was felt that streamlining throughout the whole competition was important, not to create potential barriers moving from Division 2 to Division 1. Aldeburgh raised the issue of playoffs, Penny has written to the Governing Body, this has not been discussed yet. Will report back next meeting.

- g. **Senior Scratch**
Will be run again this year using the same format. Amalgamated teams will still be acceptable to keep the competition inclusive.
- h. **Access to Rulings**
Suggestion raised at the last meeting regarding having access to rulings. This was discussed at length by the GB and we couldn't find a practical way to offer referee support. If you consider the number of competitions over the summer, the commitment would be quite considerable. Sheila thought that when we review the guidelines for competitions an addition will be that when a dispute cannot be solved the two Captains will make a decision, which will be final. Players must abide by their decision.
A general discussion took place about rules and the general lack of knowledge that players have. The Suffolk referees are very happy to conduct rules sessions, so if you would like more information let me know and I will pass your details on.
- i. **Thorpeness Feedback**
- j. Email received from Thorpeness with some feedback from the last meeting. We spoke about encouraging more players to enter County events, their Committee felt that players didn't enter because the same people and clubs win everything and that the cost to enter a competition knowing you have little chance of winning was not worth it.
- k. Thorpeness also raised the question whether caddies should be banned from the Silver Jubilee Competition. Sheila commented that this has been discussed from time to time. A ban was introduced a few years ago but was removed because England Golf don't ban caddies. Guidelines were introduced encouraging caddies not to go onto greens and to be a support to keep up speed of play. Big push this year is the Team Captains must take some responsibility for encouraging their players to keep up with the group in front. General discussion on use of caddies took place with no real conclusions.

5 Australian Spoons

This year, Suffolk are hosting the Eastern Region Australian Spoons event. So to make sure you are aware, each club holds a competition. The winners go to Eastern Region Finals, the winners of that go to an England Golf Event. If you are successful and reach the EG Event then they pay all expenses. The Eastern Region event will be at Stowmarket in July, so clubs will need to organise a competition before then. England Golf website has all details.

6 Ladies and Girls Eastern Region Championships

Last year there was an amalgamation of ladies, girls and seniors played on the same day, this year it will be split. Ladies and girls in Norfolk and seniors in Bedfordshire.

7 Notes from Eastern Region Delegates meeting.

Minutes were attached

8 England Golf Report

- a. Increase in affiliation to £12
- b. In 2028 the Olympics and The Open clash and therefore the Open will change dates. There will be a knock on effect to other events on the calendar so bear in mind if you've got that far with your planning!
- c. Newsletters from EG not always reaching the correct people within the clubs. A lot of the information is aimed at Course Managers. If you could ask the question to see if your clubs are receiving them, that would be appreciated. Mainly because of timing, a lot of the schemes to get women or juniors into golf, by the time we are told the deadline is very tight meaning we are missing out on funding. Sign up is on the website.
- d. England Golf buggy policy. This is just to clarify that any event run by EG or Eastern Region, use of a buggy will require medical certification. In Suffolk, self certification is allowed but starting in 2026 clubs will be contacted to check that this is the players normal way to play.
- e. Regarding course rating, England Golf are chasing the R & A to move more quickly to use stats and data to rate a course as well as local course assessors. The logic behind that is due to the time it takes to send individuals to rate a course, process the information and create a rating requires a considerable number of man hours. Something they are short of. Using data from actual rounds played at a course will also help ensure a more accurate outcome.

In addition to that EG are looking at a pilot scheme in Ireland which is permitting clubs to set the handicap allowance for competitions. For example 85% in medals, which would balance out shots received helping the lower handicaps. Both of these are in consultation stage and not happening in 2026.

9 AGM Saturday 10th January 10.00 am at Kesgrave Memorial Hall.

10 AOB

Fixture cards to be handed out at the AGM

Vote of thanks to Sue Cook at AGM

Coronation and Centenary Foursome still showing as Bungay instead of Aldeburgh. Waiting on Aldeburgh to accept on Golf Genius.

England Golf are running Rule Ambassador Courses which they will be rolling out across the Country. These are not for refereeing but a mixture of rules and committee responsibilities, including how to set up a course and run events.

When more detail is available I will let you know.

A rota for clubs to take on specific rolls such as Stearn organiser of Suffolk Golf Day organiser. This appears to have gone awry somewhat. I shall endeavour to look at and re-issue next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING 27TH MARCH 2026
10am – 12pm Fynn Valley Golf Club**