



CHESHIRE COUNTY LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES' MEETING

HELD AT WARRINGTON GOLF CLUB on MONDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2014

The President, Lis Wilson, welcomed the Delegates and Handicap Secretaries to the Meeting and then introduced the Officers sitting on the top table:

County Captain, Mrs. Pauline Clegg, Vice Captain, Mrs. Marian Scowcroft, IPC Mrs. Luci Foster, England Golf Representative,

Mrs. Sue Wilson, Treasurer, Mrs. Rhona Bowler, County Handicap Adviser, Mrs. Wendy Taylor and Junior Organiser Mrs. Maria Hudson

County Captain

I would like to thank you all for coming this evening and I would also like to thank Warrington Golf Club for once again allowing us to meet here. For those of you who were not at the Doris Chambers' Trophy, it is my pleasure to announce the President and Captain for 2016. Ruth Whitehead from Delamere Forest Golf Club is to be our new President and Paula Latham from Caldley Golf Club is to be the Captain; unfortunately, they cannot be here this evening.

Sue Wilson – England Golf Representative

Meeting with David Joy – On 22 September, I attended a meeting of Cheshire, Lancashire and Isle of Man representatives with David Joy of England Golf and two of his colleagues from Woodhall Spa. Concerns by our Counties were raised over several issues.

E.G. receives its funding from our affiliation fees and Sport England. Although both bodies want more people playing golf, E.G. is concerned with club membership while S.E. are purely interested in more people playing the game, whether it be a private club, a municipal club or just as a member of a friendly society. As club memberships are in decline at present, the amount of funding E.G. receives from S.E. could be reduced in future. Cheshire and Lancashire feel that the counties in England should have more say in how the funds are spent but E.G., although claiming to be highly consultative, want their board to have the responsibility of handling the funds. There was a suggestion from Cheshire and Lancashire that they were dissatisfied with the internal organisation of E.G. but David Joy assured the meeting that staff morale and the general running has improved and become more efficient – thereby making a saving of £20k, which has been reinvested into E.G.

The change for courses to undergo the USGA course rating system seemed to be questionable according to Cheshire, but the panel claimed many counties are satisfied and 120 new measuring kits have been provided to assist with this. Teams of experienced volunteers should be able to assess a course in four hours. However, the

original target of 120 courses measured has now been reduced to 70. Eight Regional Course Raters have been assigned to help with this.

The Central Database for Handicaps (CDH) has now been in place for three years and could be developed over the next few years to allow direct contact between E.G. and its members but it is still not robust enough to cope with golfers who belong to two or more clubs.

E.G. takes lots of queries over handicaps, rules etc. and a ticketing system has been put in place for dealing with these. They were questioned whether it would be a good idea if someone were employed to deal with these as a full time job but it was pointed out that if this were to happen, it would mean another £35-£40k out of the pot. As well as each county having its own handicap advisers, there are also 8 regional handicap advisers so problems should be resolved without any need for E.G. to be involved.

The Portas Review has been investigating the potential for growth in golf and the results of this will soon be published. It is likely that other organisations are included in this such as the PGA and the Golf Foundation.

In summary, E.G. are committed to increasing club membership back to the levels they used to be (although they are unlikely to go any higher than that) and the retention of club members.

There may be a need for increased affiliation fees but we need to be able to offer a product to which new golfers wish to belong.

Competitions

Since we last met in January, the 2014 season has seen some amazing golf. At our last meeting, I appealed to you to rustle up support for the Northern Foursomes to be held at Ringway GC in April. Well the result was that the competition was oversubscribed with entries from all the six northern counties and I had a long list of reserves but as the opening day drew close, cancellations were received and two days before the start of the Competition, I was down to my sixth reserves. These were two of our county juniors, Isabel Wardle of Prestbury GC and Emily McBurney of Royal Liverpool GC.

They had just returned from a tournament in Scotland and proceeded to knock out all their opponents through all five rounds to the Final, where they beat the Ringway pairing of Marjorie Griffiths and Judith Wainwright. The weather held all week and shows the strength Cheshire has in its junior and senior ladies.

The Stableford Foursomes was won by S. Woodcock and Ann Ankers from Haydock Park GC on countback from Carole Legge and Jackie Roper from Cheshire.

The Stableford Team Event was won by D. Campbell, A. Smith, L. Faulkner and S. Loy of Warrington GC. Altogether it was a great week for Cheshire players.

The next event for the Northern Region was C.M.W. hosted by Northumberland this year and played at the Northumberland GC. At the end of the week Cheshire, Yorkshire and Lancashire all tied, all having lost one match. So it was down to the number of games within the matches each county had won. Yorkshire had 34, Lancashire 30.5 and Cheshire 30 so we were narrowly beaten into 3rd place by a halved game by Lancashire.

The Australian Spoons' Regional competition, hosted by Lancashire, was played at Swinton Park GC on 8 July and won by Celia Fowler and Pat Benson of Harrogate GC. Two ladies from Naunton Downs GC in Gloucestershire, Carol Park and Clare Spiller, were the winners of the national final at Belton Woods GC in Lincolnshire.

Durham hosted the Northern Ladies' Close Championship at Eaglescliffe GC in July and the Millennium Bowl was won by Megan Clarke of Cleckheaton GC, Yorkshire, beating Samantha Taylor of Tynemouth GC 4/3 in the Final.

Cumbria hosted the Northern Girls' Close Championships at Ulverston GC in August. The Clement Bowl, awarded to the Girls' Champion and open to all players was won by Holly Morgan of Yorkshire, beating Jessica Hall of Durham with a better 2nd round. The best nett was won by Charlotte Heath of Yorkshire – gross 170, nett 144. The Chairman's trophy, for over 15s-under 18s, was won by Holly Morgan again. The Kilburn Trophy for over 13s and under 16s was won by Jessica Hall but the best nett was awarded to Hannah Li of Cheshire gross 160, nett 150.

County Finals were held at Belton Park GC with Yorkshire representing the Northern Region. Hampshire was the winning county, with Hertfordshire narrowly beating Yorkshire into 3rd place.

And so we look ahead to 2015.

Cheshire will be hosting County Match Week at Sandiway GC from **22nd to 26th June.**

We look forward to welcoming the county squads from Northumberland, Cumbria, Durham, Yorkshire and Lancashire to our home territory and hope to see some great matches. It requires a lot of help from the Cheshire clubs and we will be advising you how you can get involved early in the New Year but we will need 72 trolley pullers each day!

County Captain-Fixture books and Fixtures 2015

I would like to inform the Delegates about the developments regarding the fixture books. We are trying to become more modern with our communication methods and need you to help communicate with the lady members and juniors, in your club. To do this we need you to confirm that your contact details are correct and please advise County if you have a change of Delegate at your Club.

For 2015 we will still have the fixture book but would like to encourage members to use the website for information.

However for the 2016 season we are aiming not to have fixture books with all the information regarding the CCLGA going on-line, including competition entry.

The purpose of this is 3-fold- it is to be environmentally friendly, save paper, save the huge cost of printing and to become more easily accessible, with so many now surfing for information and entering competitions on line.

This autumn we will be sending you a list of county dates for your diary and we would ask that you email this onto your members. Many ladies are under the impression that these competitions are for low handicap players but this is not correct: the competitions are for members of all playing abilities.

To support the website, an A3 poster will be produced with information on venues and dates for the club noticeboard and this will be prepared for the Delegates meeting in January.

I would also like to point out some changes for 2015. The Greensome competition has been changed to a 4ball better ball. The Greensome had to be cancelled due to lack of support so the change in format may be more popular. The 3ball team stableford, which had to be cancelled for the second year running, will be open to all handicaps and finally, although the Business Ladies competition only had 14 entries, this competition will take place again and hopefully more ladies will enter.

Maria Hudson- Junior Organiser

We have some very talented and promising junior girls in Cheshire - four girls have recently been selected to participate in the England North West Training Programme, including the current Junior Girls' Captain, Bel Wardle (aged 14) of Prestbury (who broke the amateur course record at Dunham Forest in the WPGA One Day series in May this year).

Other successes include Gemma Clews of Delamere Forest (recent cap for England who won the Home International at Aberdovey), Emma Goddard of Royal Liverpool, Poppy Findlay of Vicars Cross and Bronte Law of Bramhall, to name but a few. However we are looking at the way forward for junior girls' golf and we have two suggestions:

The first is improving communication- each year we send letters to all the Delegates' clubs asking for up-to-date information on Junior Girls. This year we have asked all Delegates to provide the name of the junior organiser in their club, together with their email address, in order to help me to make sure I have the details of all the girls, including their email address on file and also to provide information of any girl joining their club during the year.

The second is to encourage more girls into golf, both starting to play golf and also to encourage more girls to participate in the County Coaching and play in the junior competitions and matches organised by the CCLGA. England Golf have a new approach towards coaching in that they want a clear developmental pathway for boys and girls and the funding for U14 and 14-18 year olds (previously County Academy Partnership) will be merged. The aim is to develop talented players, with the emphasis on performance rather than participation and an emphasis on ability rather than age.

We have, therefore, produced a 'Talent Pathway' for Cheshire girls of all ages up to 18 years, which provides a more structured coaching/teaching programme for beginners and improvers.

The Cheshire girls' coaching programme is currently under review and we are planning on holding an evening presentation on Thursday, 13 November, at Warrington GC with the coaches, for parents and girls, at which time more information on the talent pathway and County coaching for 2015 will be available. The girls who are currently on the coaching programme will continue. However, we would like to attract more girls so please contact me if you know of any girls who would benefit from this programme.

Our aim is to attract more beginners and younger girls to feed through the talent pathway to the Performance B and A Squads and onwards – this should help to provide for the future of Cheshire Junior Girls' Golf.

Wendy Taylor – Handicap Adviser.

Although there have not been any changes to the handicapping system, Wendy was present to take questions from the Delegates.

- The Delegate from Hale asked if a handicap limit could be imposed in a knock-out competition. In a recent final at Hale the Silver Division finalist had to give 24 shots to her opponent. However, the Delegate pointed out that the match went to the 18th hole. Wendy pointed out that it is not recommended that a limit should be in place but it would be at the Committee's discretion. The President, Lis Wilson, said that, as a single figure player herself, she felt that full handicap should be given in

competitions and she regarded it as a challenge to compete against a higher handicap golfer. With the final at Hale going to the 18th, this proved the point.

- The Delegate from Marple felt that a lady member at her club should have her handicap reviewed as, in competitions, she was unable to reduce her handicap. The Delegate asked if the Committee would have to wait until the Annual Review to reduce. Wendy said no, a General Play reduction/increase may be made during the year if it was felt appropriate. You should be able to show the player the evidence on which you have made the reduction. The position should be monitored after a few months. Wendy suggested that a Committee member play with the lady in question.
- A Delegate from Hazel Grove asked Wendy if there was a limit to the number of strokes to be reduced, say 5. Wendy suggested 5 shots to be too much but the computer print-out should assist with the predicted handicap reduction.
- Wendy pointed out that when wishing to reduce a member's handicap all competitions could be taken into account, i.e. match play competitions etc. General play throughout the year should be taken into account if warranted and it was not necessary to wait until the Annual Review.
- The Delegate from Wirral Ladies had already had a meeting with Wendy Simm seeking her advice regarding ladies entering competitions without a 'C' handicap. The Committee's decision at Wirral Ladies was to allow the ladies to enter a competition in order to obtain a handicap but they did not pay an entrance fee and could not take a prize. She wished to know if other clubs had a similar situation. After a lengthy discussion many views were exchanged and the Delegates volunteered their opinion and suggestions which no doubt will be covered at the club.

County Captain

Ladies, please note from the AGM Agenda, contained in the envelopes, that the positions of Hon. Secretary, Hon. Fixture Secretary and Hon. Competition Secretary have now been filled but their names could not be included on the Agenda as we did not have the information by the due date in August. We do, however, we still require nominations for Executive members – one for the North East, one for the West and one for Mid Cheshire. If you know of anyone at your Club, who would be interested in joining the Committee, please contact me.

I would also like to point out that the AGM this year is at Vicars Cross Golf Club and not at Chester Racecourse. This change of venue is to reduce costs.

Rhona Bowler - County Treasurer

In your envelopes you will find two items which I wish to bring to your attention.

Firstly, a letter, which I would ask that you pass on to your Club Treasurer/Management team requesting your club's 2015 affiliation fee, which needs to be paid by 31st January 2015. The fee is remaining the same as 2014 at £5 and I once again encourage an electronic payment, which is cheaper for your club and ourselves.

Secondly, I enclose financial statements for CCLGA for the year 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014, I will be giving a fuller report at the AGM in November. As outlined at the last AGM my strategy over the last two years has been to give the Association a much

stronger financial foundation to allow it to maximize fully its objectives. Subsequently, I am pleased to report a much stronger financial performance for this last year, of a surplus of circa £11,000, giving us financial reserves of circa £37,000. Looking ahead this will now help enable at least two key initiatives you have heard about from the Executive this evening for this next year, being the promotion of golf and the development of junior players, and the modernisation of our communications, including website development, delegates communication and on-line competition registering.

I hope we can continue this stronger financial standing and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM at Vicars Cross on Monday, 10 November.

As we did not have Any Other Business, the County Captain closed the meeting and thanked the ladies for attending.

**THE NEXT DELEGATES' MEETING WILL
TAKE PLACE ON
MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2015
at WARRINGTON GOLF CLUB.**

28 Clubs were represented at the Meeting.