



Cheshire County Ladies Golf Association

Minutes of the Delegates Meeting held at Warrington Golf Club on 1st June 2015

The County Captain, **Mrs Marian Scowcroft** welcomed the Delegates to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She said she feels it is important to keep everyone in touch with all developments in the County. The Captain introduced the top table:-

Mrs Carole Legge and Mrs Sue Wilson, Northern England Golf Representatives
Mrs Pauline Clegg, Immediate Past Captain,
Mrs Wendy Taylor and Mrs Wendy Simm the County Handicap Advisers
The Hon Secretary, **Mrs Penny Hall**.

Apologies: There were apologies from eight Clubs and eight other apologies. There were Delegates from 30 Clubs and 55 people at the meeting.

Minutes: The Minutes of the January meeting were taken as read.

Matters Arising: There were no Matters Arising.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

England Golf Representative – Mrs Carole Legge

England Golf Report June 1st 2015;

I am the Voting Member for Cheshire and attend England Golf meetings

In January I talked about the fact that England Golf had suggested that all Counties should have their own strategic plan and in order to facilitate this Associations, Unions & County Golf Partnerships were working together to agree responsibilities for key areas. Well that was January and in February the goal posts were moved very significantly by England Golf who felt that in many areas the County Golf Partnerships were not as successful as had been anticipated and in order to secure funding from Sport England change was needed

The Counties were instructed to change their strategic plans and adopt yet another template within a very short time frame – one week, subsequently extended to three weeks. This attitude and change of stance caused some concern in many counties and many including Cheshire felt local action was needed. Indeed England Golf at times can forget that we are volunteers and not paid employees on call 24/7

After consultation with their Executive the Union decided to withdraw from the CGP, the Association also had major concerns and having considered their recommendations our Executive unanimously decided that they too would withdraw.

Jointly the Union and Association have formed the Cheshire Golf Development Group. This group is composed of Union and Association representatives together with two Cheshire based PGA professionals (Peter Barber and Matthew Turnock). Under the CGP England Golf had employed 2 part time County

Development Officers, one based in Wolverhampton and one in Disley. It had proved extremely difficult to cover the county with this limited but willing resource. Cheshire is one of the bigger counties and England Golf now feel that there is a need for two full time CDOs in Cheshire, recruitment will begin shortly and the previous incumbents of the job have been invited to apply for the posts. The interviews will be conducted by Iain Lancaster, David Durling (representative of the Union) and me (representative of the Association) in July.

We felt that it was important that Cheshire had influence over what went on in the County and we wanted to ensure that we were not being controlled by paid England Golf employees, some of whom are not golfers. As the Union and Association were already working closely on the Talent Pathway and course rating, we felt that we could better serve our members, you, by working together in this way. Ten or even five years ago such a group would, I believe, have been unthinkable. We have moved such a long way in a short time because we care about the future of golf in Cheshire. We want to help clubs to grow their numbers, we want to encourage new players, young and old, and we want to see golf in Cheshire thrive.

The constitution which has been drawn up follows the one used by CGP and was originally provided by England Golf. The Cheshire Action plan follows a national framework and falls out of the EG strategic plan. There will be input from Iain Lancaster on Development Group EG targets and the County structure also falls out of the action plan and identifies the key areas on which we will focus.

Were it not for England Golf we would have taken much longer to arrive where we are now. England Golf have already done many positive things but not all of their ideas have been embraced by their members. There are so many initiatives that it makes your head spin, it is almost as though everything has to be done yesterday, I personally feel that this is a potential recipe for disaster.

The governance and affiliation project has caused much concern. The Northern Union invited the Northern Association to attend a meeting at Pannel, something else which would not have happened in the past. We discovered that we have much in common such as serious misgivings about centralised collection of affiliation fees, suggested changes to election of EG Board members and reduced powers of voting members. We also believe that by sharing our concerns we can work together to ensure we are not railroaded into actions which may be detrimental to golf. We want to ensure that we provide constructive criticism and possible alternatives to England Golf, we do not want to appear negative and unwilling to change because this is far from the truth.

There have recently been a number of workshops in the Northern regions, I am sure that you must feel a bit of workshop overload but it really is important that you have someone from your clubs attend to ensure that your club's view is represented.

I know that Bill Briggs reported very favourably on the delegates' meeting he attended in January. The Union want to follow our example and have two delegates' meetings a year plus an AGM, however I know that so far there are only 30 out of 90 clubs who have responded. This is where you can help, if your club does not currently have a male delegate please talk to your Captains & councils, tell them how important it is for clubs to be involved in what it a very important time for golf. It will be easier for you to make sure that all your members are kept up to date with developments if you can work as a team.

The inaugural meeting of the CGDG will take place in June and there is an EG meeting in August, where the key topic will be governance and affiliation. I will bring you an update at the AGM

Northern Regional Representative – Mrs Sue Wilson

Good Evening Ladies

A fairly short report from me this time.

The Northern Foursomes was played at Morecambe GC in April and the winners were Jacqueline Brown and Karen Taylor of Haydock Park GC at the 22nd hole! The runners up were Bev Scholes and Jane Antrobus of Rochdale and Oldham GCs. In the Stableford Foursomes played on the 2nd day the winners were Jane Brooks and Jane Airey of Morecambe GC with 32 points. The Team Foursomes played on the 3rd day was won by Joan Hughes, Julie Pyke, Chris Day and Sandra Woodcock with a score of 67.

The Cheshire committee is currently very busy preparing to host County Match Weed at Sandiway GC at the end of this month. Just in case anyone has missed the details, CMW is held in each of the six northern counties in turn. It is Cheshire's turn this year and we will be welcoming the county squads from Northumberland, Durham, Cumbria, Yorkshire and Lancashire. The competition takes the form of a round robin event, with each county fielding 3 foursomes each morning and 6 singles each afternoon, with all the counties playing all the others over the 5 days.

The winners will go forward to County Finals in September where they will play the winners of all the other English regions. As we are playing on home soil, Cheshire is hoping to do well and we have been giving our players as much experience on the course as possible. It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible over the week, wearing yellow if possible!

Appeals have been made to all your clubs for trolley pullers. We do still need pullers on Monday 22nd June and Friday 26th June. I do realise that Monday is often the day the East and West Cheshire Shield matches are played, but if you could mention these dates to your ladies we would be grateful. Paula Latham, our Vice Captain, would be pleased to hear from you. I can assure you that to be involved is very rewarding and you see the game of golf played by the best the north of England has to offer.

Finally, in July, from 15th -17th, the North of England Close Championships is to be held at Brampton GC in Cumbria. Currently there are only 5 entries and it may well have to be abandoned. This would be very sad and may incur a financial penalty, we have pay to the club to compensate them if we have to cancel the event.

I have details of the competition here if anyone is interested and there are the details on the Cheshire and Cumbria websites too. Please encourage any of your ladies who are in the silver division. There is also a team event on the 3rd day which may also appeal to your members.

Thank you.

Junior Organiser – Mrs Maria Hudson

The Captain said that Maria was unable to attend but that she would give a brief update:-

The Junior Pathway is up and running.

'Girls Into Golf' Some clubs have responded but the captain asked delegates to encourage more girls. There are five girls' competitions in the year. The Girls' Championship which had just taken place at Stockport Golf Club was won by Bel Wardle of Prestbury for the second year. Bel is the Junior Count Captain.

There are two more competitions to take place, The Stella Watson in July and the Wheatsheaf in August. Again the Captain urged delegates to persuade their girls to take part.

Handicap Adviser – Mrs Wendy Simm

CONGU Changes 2016

Captain, Past Captains Lady Captains Ladies

I attended the E.G. Handicap workshop at Trentham Park on 22nd April. EG have run several of these workshops at various venues around the country for Handicap advisors and Handicap secretaries. I know a few of you here this evening have also attended so you will be able to correct me if I make any mistakes.

The workshop lasted all day. The morning session covered several topics and I would like to mention a few points raised before I concentrate on the CONGU changes.

Gemma Hunter from EG gave us a quick resume of the different Handicap systems in use throughout Europe and the rest of the world and explained the USGA rating system. As you know all our courses are now being rated using the USGA system.

It became clear that eventually there will be a Worldwide handicapping system. and perhaps the slope system in years to come although it is still a long way off.

Other topics discussed were :

The role of the Handicap committee.

The Conditions of Competition and how important it is that clubs have these laid down for all their competitions.

The Annual Review. Always a topic for discussion! One point which was raised, was the importance of increasing handicaps. Players should not be asked if they want an increase. If an increase is due then it should be made. Playing off too high a handicap affects the CSS

The Appeals Procedure. The new EG publication gives guidance on the grounds for an appeal.

EG have now published all these presentations on their website.

The main interest was of course the CONGU changes and that is what I have been asked to report on today. I must stress that nothing has been finalised although most of the changes have now been agreed. There are still meetings with the software companies and the CONGU Board before the changes can be finalised and the 2016-2019 handbook published.

Here goes then.....

Reference Date

One fixed date of Jan 1st will be used as a reference date for all aspects of the Handicapping system. So the Handicap year is to revert back to Jan 1st –Dec 31st.

Competition/Non Competition Handicaps

All unions including Ireland will use the "c" and non "c" markers.

4BBB

4BBB handicap allowance will be 90%. CONGU are to provide a rationale for this change to field any questions we may receive.

Re-Activation of Handicap

3 cards will remain the required number for reactivating a handicap and, as now, these cards will be entered into the player's record and the record adjusted accordingly but, before the handicap is reactivated, a flag will appear to indicate that this player's handicap should be reviewed to ensure that the allocation of handicap was correct!

Re-Allocation of handicap

A player will have 12 months to reinstate her membership before losing her handicap. The "c" will also be

reinstated.

Exceptional Scoring Reductions/Increases

These are to continue as the system appears to be working well for golfers. A slight modification is proposed.

At present the Exceptional Scoring Reduction (ESR) calculation is made after 2 exceptionally low scores. After the first an initial marker is set and after the next one and every following exceptionally low score throughout the season the ESR calculation is made.

It is now proposed that after the first ESR calculation the process will start again. In other words a player will have to return 2 low scores each time before an ESR is calculated.

A proposal has also been put forward to add an algorithm similar to the annual review so that a player's performance can be tracked throughout the season. This would also give players with declining ability the opportunity for an increase if required.

The proposal is that if a player has 7 consecutive scores above handicap then they could have an increase in the middle of the year instead of waiting for the annual review.

Preferred Lies

There will be a generic clause in the handbook with the unions being given full discretion over the period for preferred lies.

Supplementary scores.

As before Cat 1 players are only allowed 3 scores to retain a "c" handicap.

Players in Cat 2-5 are allowed 10 scores as before but now these scores can be at the player's away club.

9 hole supplementary scores are to be allowed but NOT at the away club.

Details as to the way 9 hole scores are reported and calculated have still to be finalized but the handicap research group are investigating the removal of the additional 18 points and allowing medal scores to be included. We won't get details of this until the end of August.

Maximum handicaps

Cat 5 will increase to 36.4 for men and 40.4 for Ladies with an additional Category 6 going up to 54. This is based on the present junior handicap and running basically as a club handicap.

With a new category 5 for men it means that the category boundaries have to be reviewed. Again we have no more information about this but there will be advice given by EG on competitions etc.

One change that is being discussed but has not been agreed and it is unlikely to be introduced in 2016, is the idea of handicap reduction only throughout the year. No increase but a blind file would run in the background. Further research is required to see if this will work and how.

CONGU is aiming for a simplified handicapping system and believe these changes will benefit golfers and help to achieve this.

I must stress again that although most of these changes have been agreed they have NOT been finalised. The timescale, we were told, is as follows; meetings with the software companies would take place in May. There would be a further meeting of the CONGU Board in August. Golf Clubs would be notified in September when more workshops and road shows would be organized by EG ready for the changes to take place in January.

Once all these proposals have been finalized we will hold a meeting for Club Handicap secretaries to go through all the changes in detail. You will be notified of the date which will be in October.

The Captain asked for questions. One delegate asked about the changes to maximum handicaps being brought up again. Wendy replied that it was England Golf not CONGU who have inaugurated it in order to encourage new players.

The Captain asked the Heswall delegate to put her question regarding how many clubs allow their lady members to play competitions on a Saturday. Around 60% of the delegates attending affirmed that

their clubs already agree to this. Some delegates said that their Clubs have a five, six or seven day membership for both men and women.

A.O.B – Mrs Carole Legge mentioned the Mixed Competition being organised by the Union and Association in October which had already been circulated to the delegates by the secretary. She urged the delegates to check if the men in their Clubs had been told about it.

Mrs Laura McNair – Comp. Sec. Mid talked about the forthcoming competitions. She said that entry fees had been lowered to encourage players.

Mrs Jean Payne – Comp. Sec. West said that there are ten spaces available for the Westminster Shield at Portal and that she would like more Bronze entries. There are also spaces for the Margaret Sangster Salver and the Doris Chambers Cup.

Mrs Penny Hall, Hon. Sec. said that she would circulate details of the Northern Ladies Close Championship to all delegates.

The Captain told delegates that the new website is about to go live and that when it does the Secretary will send an e-mail. The two sites will run in tandem.

The Captain closed the meeting and thanked the delegates for coming.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

**The date of the next meeting is Monday, 5th October 2015,
6.30pm for 7pm
at Warrington Golf Club**