

# **Cheshire County Ladies Golf Association**

# Delegates meeting at Warrington GC October 14th 2013

County Secretary introduced Warrington's Lady Captain, who welcomed all the Delegates to Warrington GC and then introduced 2013 County Captain Mrs Luci Foster

County Captain Mrs Luci Foster introduced the top table to everyone: President Mrs Lis Wilson, County Vice Captain Mrs Pauline Clegg, IPC Mrs Hilary McNeil, County hon Sec Mrs Ann Mc Cormick, and also in attendance Mr Sean Hammill the CGP County Development Officer,

And again thanked the delegates for attending and introduced:

#### Mr Sean Hammill - Regional Development Officer for England Golf.

Sean explained his role as he looks after 4 counties and is responsible for supporting the CGP's in the Whole Sport Plan. England Golf is in the process of developing a strategy plan and a series of consultation presentation meetings are taking place, the next step is at the County level and all your clubs have been invited the first letters went out to your clubs in July and again more recently — please check with your club manager/secretary that he/she has seen the letter from England Golf and that your club is being represented there. They want feedback from golf clubs and this is your chance to have your say about what you want to see happen.

The dates for Cheshire are at Sandiway GC on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October and Ringway GC on the 23<sup>rd</sup> both starting at 7pm. Ann will email the original invitation out to you all so that you can all attend if you want to. David Joy the new CEO will be at Sandiway and Richard Flint will attend Ringway GC. The Whole sport plan has been given 13million and our operational plan has a part of the funding to increase participation in golf with junior development for 14 -18.

We work along with the golf foundation who link in with school and local golf clubs.

For the age group of 14 -25 Craig Thomas our county development officer is working with universities with freshers week recently delivering taster sessions and also we have Adult beginner coaching taster sessions running across the county "Get into Golf" campaign which all charge £25 for 5 beginner lessons.

Part of the operational plan has targets to achieve and we have one off events where we take our inflatable net out to get golf out there, recently we were at the Cheshire Show and Bolesworth Horse Trials, Manchester 10k run, Media City etc.

In addition to this we have targets to meet with developing golf through disability groups with Craig's expertise on delivering specific coaching to specific needs e.g. disability can be healthcare groups, groups with diabetes, mental healthcare etc. England golf has now a specific disability officer. We have the talent player pathway through our County Academy to grow the talent and feed into the elite golfing teams with the association and the union. There are 79 currently on the academy all over 14 years old. England golf has recognized that through Sport England there was a lack of funding for the under 14 so we can now still develop our youngsters but it will be self funding and not through Sport England.

There will be a new marketing structure soon with the new addition of a marketing person which you should see very soon.

targets as it is laid out in our development plan for Cheshire. Sean thanked the delegates for the opportunity to speak and asked if any questions before leaving.

#### **Mrs Jackie Hesketh - Competition Secretary West Division.**

Jackie explained that the county have been taking a look at the England Golf Buggy Policy as it seems more and more ladies are using buggies to play their competitions and matches. Jackie asked the clubs to ask their club what their policy is and whether it complies with the England Golf Policy. It is all to do with the equality act which came in a couple of years ago and we have put into practice this year to comply with this act and the England golf recommendations.

Jackie suggested that delegates should visit the England Golf website and take it to the clubs council if no policy is in place.

#### Mrs Luci Foster - County Captain 2013

#### County Fixture Books

County Captain explained that the executive committee were looking at an alternative to the fixture books as we know as we visit many clubs there are many books not being used and although we reduce the amount we print every year we wondered whether we could have your thoughts on approaching a company like "intelligent golf" so that you would be able to apply and pay on line for any county competitions.

The view from the floor was an approval of this move as County Captain explained the costs of setting this up were similar to that of the printing – we would make sure that every golf club had a book which could sit on a notice board but an online system would seem the way to move the County forward from possibly 2015.

### Mrs Barbara Baird – Junior Organiser

Barbara thanked the clubs for their support over the time that she has been the junior organiser and the exec's for the help along with her junior committee.

Barbara gave a brief report of the success of our girls and explained that even the little ones have competitions to play and start over 6 holes there are 3 girls will be taking up coaching with England Golf and Barbara has enjoyed being part of the progression with the juniors and enjoyed her position with the county, Maria Hudson from Delamere Forest GC will be taking over from me in November and Barbara wished her every success.

# **Mrs Luci Foster – County Captain**

## Working Ladies:

We recognize in the County that our fixtures don't accommodate working ladies as all the competitions are played in the day, so for a trial next year we have added a singles Stableford competition at Warrington GC on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June with tee times from 4.30 -6.30pm, although this is not listed on your fixture list in your envelope it will be in the fixture book and also online too, we hope that this will be well supported and we can look at it again for 2015.

# Mrs Lis Wilson - County President 2013/14

President explained when visiting the smaller clubs in the County it is apparent that many members are not playing for their handicap as often as they would like, but the opportunities to play in bigger fields would be there if the smaller local clubs joined up and held a competition at each others clubs in

idea.

Lis explained that it isnt a county run competition but down to the clubs themselves to get together and organize

#### **Mrs Jackie Hesketh – Competition secretary West Division**

Jackie asked the delegates how many of the clubs here play off full difference when playing matchplay and if any club contravenes CONGU by allowing a restriction of Handicap (say 30)?

She explained as each club is affiliated to CONGU you should be applying the rules of CONGU – you can limit by category but not handicap.

CONGU guidelines say that it is mandatory to give full difference.

This created some discussion from various clubs as we all seem to have noticed that the lower h/cap players are reluctant to enter the knockouts as they have to give too many shots. The statistic from CONGU are the lower h/cap players do normally win – Portal delegate said that their club has been monitoring this over the last 6 years and their findings are that the lower h/cap player do tend to win.

On another note the Bronze 4BBB in being changed to a team of 3 as we realize that the team games are a preferred option, this will be in the fixture book and online.

#### **Mrs Marjorie Griffiths – Northern England Golf Representative**

The Northern Womens champs were staged by Cheshire at Tytherington GC over 4 absolutely sizzling days in July. Eventually we had a full field with a strong entry of over 60 players. over 40 of these were off low single figures & 15 were off scratch or better. Ellie Goodall, Yorks was the Champion in a final against Ami Storey from N'thumberland.

The subsidiary eventually had sufficient team ,thanks to players from The Wilmslow GC, Prestbury Ringway, Delamere & Portal.

Congratulations to the staff & members of Tytherington GC & the Cheshire Exec who went out of their way to ensure that the event was a great success.

The first event next year is the Northern Foursomes, matchplay event held over 3 days—this will be held at Ringway & entry forms will be on the EG & CCLGA websites towards the end of the year, possibly towards the end of Nov. Entries are accepted after Jan 2nd on a first come first served basis, send your entry in early—to me!!! Also several subsidiary events—one a team event on the last day.

## **England Golf**

There was a very lengthy discussion at the last EG meeting in July about the future of CMW. All 34 womens Assocns had a chance to have their say, & they did & the final outcome was that the regions can now decide how to find their Regional County Champion. The 6 Northern Counties are very satisfied with this outcome & will continue with the 5day championship.

# 1)Strategic Plan

England Golf is in the process of producing a 3 year plan for the game of golf. It is aiming to come up with 4/5 key ambitions with 8/9 action plans which will require cooperation of County Assocns, Unions, Partnerships, GCs ,other golf organisations like Golf Foundation, PGA along with the National Body. County Captain & myself attended a National conference at Staverton Park, Daventry last Friday & attended several workshops where we did our best to represent the game of golf in Cheshire.the first draft of this plan is on the EG website, but it is hope that the 2nd draft will be completed by the end of November, Keep your eye on the EG website for future developments.

Some figures from the conference;

There has been a reduction in all categories—a worrying trend—how can we stop it? Is golf a game or a business???

What is causing this trend? Money? Image of the game, GCs? Value for money/Are golfers treated like valued customers? Pace of play?

Should we encourage more family membership as in some European countries?

There are over 1,000,000 unattached golfers? How do we encourage them to be members of GCs?

April/May 2014 there will be a National Golf Month—there will be unique Media coverage. Maybe your GC would like to be involving for 5 lowest h/caps from your club.

## **County Delegates Questions from the floor:**

- 1. One club has a hole in one fund and wondered whether it would be appropriate for a junior to win the money answer: it would have to be in the form of a voucher not cash.
- 2. The England golf memento goes out in August/September and one club is worried that as it is now October and their presentation evening fast approaching what should they do answer from one lady delegate who phoned England Golf and one was in the post immediately.
- 3. Heaton Moor club asked if in the shields matches one of their ladies has a buggy, can she play in the matches answer: as long as she has a doctors note and approval from the Shield organizers or the County

**Wendy Taylor The County Handicap Advisor** stated that CONGU are making some possible changes and there will be a h/cap, delegates meeting in January which will cover this item.

As we did not have Any Other Business the Captain closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for their input and for attending the Meeting.

Ann McCormick Hon. Secretary

# THE NEXT DELEGATES MEETING HAS BEEN BOOKED AT WARRINGTON GC MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY