

Minutes Suffolk Delegates Meeting at Bury St Edmunds on the 4th March 2016 at 10.30am

1. Welcome
2. Apologies; St Clements, Southwold, Waldringfield, Newton Green
3. Matters Arising
4. Inter Club & County & Regional Competitions;
 - Cranworth; squad will take effect 2017. Sadly, lack of time didn't allow the changes to take effect 2016.
 - EG have introduced a new competition which starts in April and runs until June. Club designates a stapleford competition and runs in parallel to own competition. Best 2 scores are then entered to a final. The entry forms and further information can be located on the Suffolk Association website. The competition is called; Women's England Golf Trust Individual Stableford Club Competition. A minimum fee of £20 per club is payable or £1 per entry whichever is greater.
 - Please encourage your clubs to field as many players for the divisional, chance of winning the shield.
 - This year Suffolk is host the Foursomes & Senior championships still not to late to enter foursome and seniors will be open very soon. Entry forms are available on the Suffolk Association website for the foursomes and the seniors will be available soon.
5. Suffolk Golf Partnership; A discussion regarding the viability of the Associations involvement in the Partnership took place. A summary of a recent meeting was communicated to delegates and in brief the chair expressed frustration that the Partnership seems to lack direction and focus. This concern was shared by other members of the GB and it was requested that delegates discuss the Association's involvement with their own committees as their earliest opportunity. Any feedback is requested to Rebecca Evans via email or telephone prior to the next GB meeting on the 18th April.
6. LGU Update; Rebecca read out a press release from England Golf. A copy is attached these minutes; appendix 1. The view of room was positive however, the group are concerned that there is no provision for any female taking up any Main Board position/s. Provision is made for Women specific committees but not for the main board. Rebecca is to email EG to express our concern.
7. AOB;

The County is currently planning on organising a trip to the British Women's Open at Woburn the competition takes place between 28 & 31st July and it's been discussed that the trip will be on the Thursday or Friday departing from Ipswich around 8am and returning the

same day at about 6pm. The cost is expected to be around £33 pp. This was very well received and the feedback is that the Friday would be the better day as the Thursday is the quarter finals for the Cranworth. Rebecca will feed this back and keep the delegates informed of further developments.

- Rebecca advised that England Golf are running Level 2 rules courses which are open to all. The prerequisite is that you have completed the level 1 course which is available online. Level 2 Rules School and will take place at Frilford Heath Golf Club Thursday 11th to Friday 12th August. The cost to attend is £85.00.

England Golf are currently looking to recruit the following positions;

- Regional Manager (North West) – covering Cheshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire & Derbyshire
The Regional Manager role is part of a team of four Regional Managers and four Senior Regional Managers with line management responsibility for identified County Development Officers. The main purpose of the role is to further the aims of England Golf in relation to areas of more players, more members and stronger clubs through the strategic plan.
- Young People Manager
The role of Young People Manager is to oversee, manage and implement the young people and junior golf action plan in line with England Golf's Strategic plan.
- Get into golf Engagement Officer (covering Nottingham) – approximately 6 month contract (April to October)
We invite applications for a Get into golf Engagement Officer providing support to the Participation & Club Support department. Applications can be from an individual or company.

The county are looking to recruit a Fixtures Co-Ordinator. The position would involve booking the counties fixtures along with general meeting and would suit an organised and personable lady. It is not a requirement to attend any GB meeting apart from the January meeting. This is an interesting role which you could really make your own if you so desire. If you wish you any further information, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the GB.

8. 100 Club, The lucky winners this time were;

Karen Ramsey – Ipswich £100
Eva Harris – BSE £50
Ladies – Aldeburgh £50
Kate Potter – Cretingham £25
Juliet Haley – Rookery Park £25
Ladies – Aldeburgh £25
Jean Morrissey – BSE £25
Val Shipp – Haverhill £15
Liffy Reeves – BSE £10

Once again our thanks go to Sue Cook for organising this. As there was no other business the meeting closed at 11.30.

Appendix 1;

BRIEFING NOTE: PROPOSED MERGER BETWEEN THE LADIES GOLF UNION & R&A

Background Towards the end of 2014 the Ladies Golf Union (LGU) received a letter from the R&A suggesting that the time was right to explore a merger between the R&A and the LGU. The LGU Board agreed to explore the possibility of a closer working relationship and potentially a merger of the two organisations. There being great synergy between the LGU and R&A, with both based in St Andrews, Scotland and responsible for staging Major Championships, prestigious amateur events and international matches. Discussions were ongoing during 2015 but details were confidential to the LGU Board and Home Union Chief Executives, however proposals are now final. The Board of England Golf discussed the proposals initially at its Board meeting on 15 December but at that time it was considered that there was insufficient clarity in the proposals and what was being asked of England Golf for the Board to be able to form an opinion. The LGU then presented to the England Golf Board at its meeting on 28 January 2016 and following the presentation and questioning the Board agreed in principle to the merger subject to 2 caveats, namely the LGU now following due internal legal process and England Golf considering and approving the final legal agreements. All of the other National Organisations had previously agreed to the merger process continuing. It is not clear at this time whether an EGM will be called to approve the final merger agreements but as detailed below the LGU can only be wound up with the unanimous agreement of all the National Associations.

Outline Summary of the merger proposal

- Shared vision to grow the game of women and girls' golf and to underpin the position of golf as a major sport with global popularity.
- The future development of an agreed strategy for women and girls golf.
- All of the assets and liabilities of the Ladies Golf Union will be transferred into LGU Championships Limited and R&A Trust Company (No. 1) Limited will then purchase the share capital of LGU Championships Limited for a consideration of £1.
- The LGU (unincorporated entity) will subsequently be wound up.
- The effective date of the merger will be 1 January 2017.
- All of the LGU staff will transfer to The R&A (under the TUPE regulations).
- R&A invest in the upgrade of LGU Championships – such as Ladies British Open, Amateur Championship, Curtis Cup & Vagliano Trophy, • Women's British Open – The R&A will strive to establish the championship as the No. 1 Major in women's golf.

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- Subscriptions from the National Organisations will cease at the end of 2017. (£2.50 per member), three years earlier than would otherwise be the case if the merger were not to proceed.
- National Organisations subscriptions will be ring fenced to cover LGU operations for 2016 and 2017.
- The current LGU Board will become a new Board within the R&A structure with two R&A members joining that Board. This Board will be the governance Board for all aspects of women's and girls' golf.
- 15 LGU women appointed as LGU full members of the most relevant R&A Boards and committees.
- The process of merger will be in stages over the course of 2016 to allow time to work out the detail of some aspects.

Ladies Golf Union

Constitution - Rule 29 Dissolution 29.1 The LGU may be wound up or dissolved (and may only be wound up or dissolved) with the agreement in writing of each of the National Organisations. 29.2 If upon the winding up or dissolution of the LGU there remains, after the satisfaction of all the debts and liabilities of the LGU, any property whatsoever (and the debts and liabilities of the LGU shall be satisfied first out of the assets of the LGU other than the golfing memorabilia and trophies owned by the LGU), such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the LGU but:- (a) the golfing memorabilia owned by the LGU shall be given or transferred to the Women Golfers' Museum; and (b) all other remaining property of the LGU shall be given, transferred or distributed to such person or persons and in such amounts or proportions as the National Organisations which are Ordinary Members shall unanimously agree in writing.

County Association Consultation Although the final decision on the merger is for the England Golf Board, we would be pleased to receive any views/opinions/questions from the County Associations. If these could be submitted to the England Golf Head Office either by post or to info@englandgolf.org for the attention of Rod Findlay, we will seek to answer these possibly through a presentation at the next or future General Meeting.