

SUFFOLK LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting held on Monday 14 April 2014 at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club at 10 am

PRESENT:

Ms Ann Graves	President/Handicap Adviser
Mrs Laura Lowe	Captain
Mrs Sarah Siggers	Vice Captain
Mrs Anne Archer	England Golf Representative
Miss Hermione Scrope	Treasurer
Mrs Jeanette Longman	Hon Secretary
Miss Sarah Howe	Junior Representative
Mrs Jo Moore	Seniors Organiser
Mrs Cynthia Stewart	Match & Comp. Venue Organiser
Mrs Jan Pattinson	Divisional Meetings Organiser
Mrs June Kenworthy	Weston/Suffolk Senior Shield Organiser
Mrs Chris Lynch-Bates	Championship Organiser

The Captain welcomed Judi Walker, representing England Golf, to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Angela Middleton
Mary Wilderspin
Deb Howlett

2. Minutes of GB Meeting on 20 January 2014

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true copy.

3. Matters Arising from GB Meeting

None

4. Correspondence

a) Pam May (Southwold), Sue Curran (Brett Vale) and Karen Korzack (Fynn Valley) were granted permission to use buggies. **ACTION: JEANETTE**

b) We have received a number of emails from England Golf concerning Green Keeping/Club Secretary Workshops and emails from Club Services which we (along with the SGU) have been requested to send to Clubs on England Golf's behalf. Judi confirmed that England Golf do not necessarily expect emails to be forwarded – they just wish us to be aware and support the initiatives that are contained within the emails. It was agreed that we ask the SGU whether they forward these emails to avoid duplicating

ACTION: JEANETTE

We agreed that we would discuss the relationship between Associations and Clubs with the other Counties within the East Region. Judi agreed to take our feedback regarding our relationship with Clubs in Suffolk to England Golf.

ACTION: LAURA AND SARAH S

5. **England Golf Strategic Plan - Judi Walker was invited to attend the meeting**
The England Golf Strategic Plan Launch was held on 2-3 April (unfortunately, Suffolk were unable to send a representative). Judi presented an overview and there was some discussion covering the topics below.
- a) On a strategic level, income is received from Affiliation Fees and Sport England. Sport England dictate the targets that need to be reached to receive funding.
 - b) England Golf's biggest issue is the drop in numbers of Club members. The Strategic Plan includes a commitment to increase players to 850,000 (between now and 2017).
 - c) England Golf recognise that encouraging ladies and girls is a priority.
 - d) Discussions are in process concerning the collection of Affiliation Fees
 - e) Funding from England Golf is designed to support the Regions and there is a grant available to pay into a Regional fund to assist with Regional events
 - g) There was some discussion around the role of Secretary and their relationship to England Golf. It was pointed out that terms of office, length of service, remuneration and interaction with Clubs is different for Association, in comparison to the Unions.

The Final phase of consultation for the Strategic Plan is a "closed" process which is seeking the views of just the County Unions and Associations

ACTION: LAURA AND SARAH S

6. **England Golf Representative's Report – Anne Archer**
Anne has received some feedback from Ladies' Captains that they are not aware of discussions that have taken place at Delegates meetings. Anne has pointed out that Delegates Minutes are on the SLCGA website. It was also agreed to remind Delegates that they should be talking to their Committees after meetings. **ACTION: ANNE A**
The next Delegates Meeting is scheduled to be held on 30 May at Felixstowe
7. **AGM and Voting Members Meetings – Ann Graves – Appendix 1**
Ann found these meetings informative and reported that the presentation by David Joy was good. The networking opportunities are also useful. Ann congratulated Judi on being re-elected to the Board and Judi thanked Suffolk for their support.
8. **Secretaries Conference – 17-18 March 2014 – Sarah Siggers – Appendix 2**
Sarah was asked to attend this Conference on Suffolk's behalf. Sarah talked us through her notes but, as they are so comprehensive, it was felt appropriate to include them as an Appendix to these Minutes.
9. **Handicap Adviser's Report – Ann Graves**
The Category 1 Audit is now complete – there are 20 Category 1 players in Suffolk. There was some discussion concerning the number of qualifying competitions that Category 1 players compete in and concern was raised that supplementary scores are being used to maintain handicaps.
10. **County Match Week – Laura Lowe**
County Match Week will be held at Gog Magog (Cambs) in 2014 – Monday 16-Friday 20 June. Laura expressed the hope that some Suffolk Ladies would be prepared to volunteer as caddies for the Suffolk County Team during this week. An email request will be sent to the Clubs and a request made at the Delegates Meeting. **ACTION: LAURA/ANNE A**

Laura confirmed that the accommodation is booked and Sarah has the catering under control.

As yet, the programme of matches for the week is not available.

11. Competition Organisers' Reports – Appendix 3

a) County Championship – Chris Lynch-Bates (Report attached)

The Joy Winn Salver Rules will be handed out to entrants on the Friday of the County Championship (eligibility is automatic on completion of the Stroke Play Championship)

ACTION: JEANETTE

Detmar Hackman of Sabona (our sponsor) will be invited on the Final Day to present the prizes

ACTION: JEANETTE

b) Divisions – Jan Pattinson

The closing date for Division 4 is 15 April and currently there are 24 entries.

There was some discussion around the advisability of moving Division 3 to earlier in the year. This will be discussed in advance of bookings being made for 2016

ACTION: CYNTHIA

c) Weston – June Kenworthy (Report attached)

The Weston in its current format is in its second year. There have been requests for two suggested changes to the format of the Weston – Teams reverting to playing in handicap order and Clubs being permitted to enter more than one team. A decision as to whether to introduce any changes for 2015 will be made at the June meeting.

d) Haskell & Stearn – Mary Wilderspin

e) Cranworth – Angela Middleton

f) Coronation and Centenary Foursomes – Deb Howlett

g) Seniors Jubilee Shield – June Kenworthy – (Report attached)

12. Team Reports – Appendix 4

a) 1st Team – Laura Lowe (Report attached)

b) Seniors Report – Jo Moore (Report attached)

Judi mentioned that, a few years ago, Norfolk had been interested in running a Seniors League – apparently, at the time, Suffolk wished to keep their matches friendly and so had not joined. It was agreed to check whether there is an elite league and whether the Suffolk players are interested in taking part.

ACTION: JO

It was agreed to reduce the age of Seniors in Suffolk to 50 from 2015 – it was felt that this would bring the age into line with the other Counties in the Region.

DECISION

c) Junior Organisers Report - Sarah Howe – (Report attached)

There was a meeting to discuss coaching held on 17 January. It was expressed at this meeting that only one coach per session should be necessary (although not necessarily the same coach for each session).

Following this meeting, a concern was raised. It was agreed that, as Laura was meeting with Sarah Wilson in a few days to discuss County uniform requirements, she would discuss this with Sarah.

ACTION: LAURA

The SGP has received funding for Junior Girls' Coaching. Sarah has requested that these funds should be forwarded to the SLCGA. It was agreed that a finance sub-committee should be held

ACTION: HERMIONE/LAURA/SARAH H

A number of the Junior Committee are required to attend a Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshop this year. The SGP will be asked who runs these Workshops and who pays for the volunteers (it is believed that training for volunteers is covered by funding through the SGP.

ACTION: SARAH H

The rules for DBS checking have changed recently and we don't think that all the Junior Committee need to be checked (only those members who are directly responsible for activities – any volunteer who is supervised during activities with Juniors does not need this check). Sarah will contact the Compliance Department if there is any doubt as to whether a Committee members requires this check. DBS checks can then be arranged as required.

ACTION: SARAH H

Next Junior Committee meeting is 15 May

13. Suffolk Golf Day – Chris Lynch-Bates – Appendix 5

It was agreed to discuss this competition further at the September GB Meeting (after the 2014 Suffolk Golf Day has taken place).

14. Treasurers Report – Hermione Scrope – Appendix 6

a) At the time of the meeting, one Suffolk Club had not paid their Affiliation Fee.

ACTION: HERMIONE

b) An Affiliation Fee Workshop was held by England Golf on 9 April – at the time of this meeting we had not heard who had attended from the East Region and we have not received a report of their finding

c) Currently, we have 35 County Cards remaining. It was agreed that, if we sell the remaining County Cards, we will arranged to have a few more printed.

ACTION: HERMIONE/JEANETTE

d) Alastair will be asked to confirm the charge he will make for each coaching session (fully inclusive of any extras) and be requested to invoice the SLCGA after each session.

ACTION: LAURA

15. Suffolk Golf Partnership - Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 4 February – Appendix 7

a) The next meeting will be held on Friday 25 April at Woodbridge. Sarah Siggers will be attending.

ACTION: SARAH S

b) Some members of the GB met with Crawford Gillam (SGP Chairman) and Alastair Spink in February to express our concerns about the SLCGA's involvement with the SGP. Crawford was given a written overview with some proposals and asked to give these some consideration. We have not received a response, so it was agreed to re-send this paper, copying the SGU members who attend this meeting, asking for a written response.

ACTION: JEANETTE

c) Alastair Spink was invited to attend the Delegates Meeting in March in order to give him the opportunity to explain the role of the SGP in relation to Clubs and the role he would like to see ladies play. Feedback from ladies has been mixed – some was positive, some ladies didn't understand what was expected of them.

d) Sarah S raised a query regarding the employment of the County Development Officer (CDO - Alastair Spink) and whether the SLCGA had any legal responsibilities regarding this role. Judi responded by saying that England Golf are responsible for the role of the CDO

16. County Fixtures for 2015

Dates and venues for Competitions have been agreed for 2015
Dates for the Inter-Club Knockouts were agreed.
Club Secretaries would be informed of these dates.

ACTION: CYNTHIA S

17. Suggested Dates for GB meetings 2015

AGM – Saturday 10 January 2015 – Kesgrave Memorial – 10.30am (confirmed)
Monday, 19 January 2015
Monday, 13 April 2015
Monday, 29 June 2015
Monday, 21 September 2015
Monday, 16 November 2015

18. Any Other Business

- a) First Aid Course was held on 24 March. There were 13 attendees, all of whom have been awarded Certificates, which are valid for 2 years.
- b) Presidents Conference 2014 – Ann will not be attending the Conference
- c) It was suggested that we should approach the East Region to set up at least one meeting per year (to include Captains, Vices, Presidents, EG Reps, Junior Organisers, Treasurers and Secretaries (to share best practices, understand each others' priorities and concerns, shorten some of the decision processes and help to promote a Regional identity when communicating with England Golf **ACTION: LAURA**
- d) Minutes Secretary – there has been no response following our request at the Delegates Meeting. A request to all the Secretaries will be sent with the Minutes of this meeting. **ACTION: JEANETTE**
- e) The Golf Foundation Month is May – it was felt that events would be led by Golf Clubs and the SGP.

Date of next GB Meeting

Monday 23 June at 10am – Waldringfield

Chairman

Date

APPENDIX 1

AGM AND VOTING MEMBERS MEETINGS – ANN GRAVES

On the Tuesday afternoon there was a forum of Voting members to discuss three issues:

1. Property Leases – An issue for the Unions only as they have paid through their affiliation fees before the merger.
2. The latest edition of the Strategic Framework. David Joy gave a presentation and then groups were asked to discuss various topics from the strategy, write their comments down and then share with the meeting.
3. Taxation Issues and the Proprietary Sector. The final consultation date for this is imminent. 40% clubs are proprietary and 40-50% of EG income comes from these clubs.

The Strategic Framework.

It was unanimously agreed that we should all be working together and speaking with one voice to promote golf for all.

Everyone agreed that the 2nd draft of the Strategy was not a good document. It was too wordy and unworkable. The third draft has taken this into account.

It was agreed that the new timetable to approve the final document was acceptable. Further comments invited from County Unions and Associations by 07.05.14. Final plan presented to the Board for approval on 28th May 2014 and Final plan presented for approval to the General meeting 2nd July 2014.

There was concern that the proposal for funding for various support initiatives was to come from the Special Projects Funding. One of these was for £30K to fund a new member of staff for three years to help attain women and girls participation and membership programme. People were concerned that this should be money at the “coal face” rather than another layer of staff at EG. I voiced our concern about encouragement to recruit older golfers and was told this was included in this area.

The AGM Wednesday 12 February 2014

All reports were approved. These were on Disciplinary Procedures, Special Projects and many more. There was a presentation of awards, The silver tee award and the EWGA Trust stableford. All elections of officers were unanimous.

Then the Election of Directors resulted in Judi Walker and Margaret Berriman being re-elected to the Board for a further period of two years.

Under AOB The question was raised as to the validity of having to vote for two members for the ladies and three for the men as opposed to voting for one two or three candidates. This was not in the Articles and will go to the Board for clarification.

The next meeting will be 10am 16 April 2014

The General meeting of the Company followed.

All the recommendations in reports were approved. There was still concern about the funding principles and we were informed that detailed proposals would be documented and sent out. There was discussion about the decline in membership and the possible affect on affiliation fees. There is likely to be a 20% reduction in funding from Sport England due to not having achieved the target for the numbers of new people stating golf. The funding is result orientated.

County Secretaries were asked to encourage as many clubs as possible to complete the Biennial Golf Club Membership Questionnaire 2014.

National Golf Month is May.

APPENDIX 2

SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE – 17-18 MARCH 2014 – SARAH SAGGERS

Monday 17th March, 2014

1. **Welcome to the Conference** - Ray Saunders, President

Raising our Game together
910,000 play golf once a week
675,000 members - in decline

2. **Strategic Framework 2014-17**

David Joy gave an overview of the Key Issues
Halt the decline in numbers over the next few years
Unions and Associations together with the CGPs to grow club memberships
Affiliation fees
Database
Special Projects Funding (£1.67m)

3. **Outstanding Championships**

James Crampton
Gave us an overview of Scratch and Handicap Championships - I brought up about the 4somes/4ball - lots of agreement about dumbing down
EG provided 120K for county events and 136K for facilities
£3000 per region available for extra comps*
Golf Week 2015 to be held at Frilford Heath 10-14th August
This will have Handicap finals and introduce new competitions including a quiz final!
Ideas welcome.

Anita - Leicestershire/Rutland

We have been asking the same questions for 3 years
When she requested money for the Juniors, the office wouldn't help her. James denied, said that this shouldn't have happened. It turned out she had several discussions with him which he denied - he embarrassed himself as she had it in writing. Banners etc had been promised for events, she had to fight for them and was still waiting. He wanted to determine when they were to be used as they want to demean them. This didn't go down well and it was suggested they were used more often to highlight awareness of EG. I suggested all Kite Mark Clubs had a banner.

The Counties said they had far too many competitions to organise and did not need any more regional competitions for a Golf Week National final.

David Joy stated that "we were not in this together".

James requested a Championship Committee.

4. **Winning Golfers 2014-17**

Nigel Edwards discussed Talent Pathway

The CAP U14 money will now be coming directly to the Counties and not through CGP

CGP will be focussing on increasing Membership numbers and increasing women and girls

CGP is not going to disappear, so together with Union and Associations we are going to have to make it work.

It was highlighted that 15 to 18yr old late starters were being missed.

5. Telegraph Competition

Nigel Evans wants Counties to be aware of the above competition and to put forward and enter our Junior County Champion. (18hole gross score).

I have the Competition Pack.

It was requested that we are given prior information about what is to be discussed at each meeting rather than springing on us a question and answer session

These were not good discussions for England Golf.

Tuesday 18th March, 2014

1. Any Other Business

AMATEUR CLUB GOLFER MAGAZINE

Isn't for the Amateur Golfer and is missing it's target (Marketing)

England Golf - Have no editing control or risk

They are looking to set up a new magazine

2. National Golf Month

PGAi & Bowers, plus CGP & Get into Golf

Raising and highlighting golfs image.

Information going to clubs, Counties requested being copied in on Club communications

3. More Members & Players / Club Services & Development

Richard Flint - very good speaker

ie. Customer Services (centre parcs)

Clubs need to become more friendly and flexible

Clubs up slightly in last 2 years

4. CGP to Refocus

County Sport's Partnership - Where is ours

Apparently it is up to us to take ownership of the CGPs

Somerset (Dennis) - have rejoined their CGP (Pros and ladies Sec have too much influence (£1 from every member would pay for a CDO working for them not Pro)

Not Union & Assoc job

Clubs have to market themselves

Why don't clubs come to association & Union for advice

Bucks Juniors are joining clubs

Some Unions give large donations to CGP - we said we gave some, lol

CDO's are to stop doing 'one-offs' but work with clubs on long term

CGP representative to go to delegate meetings

Questions with regard to tracking conversion of players to club Membership

De-committed of £200K 25/3/14 because 26+ has not reached numbers

CGP 4 yr plan is being revised in it's 2nd year (they are aware) 200K in CGP account any

EG underspend could be clawed back.

5. Key Drivers

Getting More Playing - CGP Refocus

Time/Importance/Satisfaction - 'Get into Golf'

Active Suffolk

We need more connection (CSP's) - I have broached this with Alastair

More pro-active and get them involved via CDP

CDO's doing too many nice things - EG no wanting one-offs

Get more 'Get into Golf' into Golf Centres (Surrey very successful)

Give them more support

Get more numbers out and conversions

Now all on-line registration

track information and collect date

Play more golf is the next stage

Governance - volunteers could be liable should CDO's go to court.

I believe this has been discussed but should double check we are not liable

6. Club & Business Support - Chris Hicks

'England Golf Clubhouse' website

We should be made aware early April and launched 21st.

Associations/Unions/CGP will have access

Delegates should be made aware and receive a link.

Training & Education

National/County/Club - www.golfeducation.co.uk

England Golf commitment to volunteers, so deliver education to them in new positions .

7. Golfmark - Claire Roberts

Changing criteria of Golfmark

attracting and looking after the older members

new 3 years accreditation

improve Clubs benefits and support them

attach a financial value

8. Club Funding 2014

'Play more Golf Fund' 2014

Affiliated Clubs to apply for upto £1500 for **Improvers/Refreshers/Get back into Golfers.**

Clubs to apply by **30/5/2014** reviewed in June, will go out by 1/7/14

Maybe a second round of funding later in the year

9. Affiliations & Governance - Craig Wagstaff - Finance Director

HMRC:- VAT exempt on affiliation fees

Not possible to opt in/out of fees

Affiliation fees for youngsters?

Societies, such as de Veres hotels are not being 'honest' - only paying 25%

Collection process causes problems

Need of consistent affiliation rules

Figures go on past years numbers, lose members and this is a short fall - Counties to pay EG by 30/6/2014

9.4 million - working on 5% +/- could mean up to 250K (1% =50K) so need to know numbers.

License for members?

Who pays an affiliation fee?

When should it be collected - 1/7/14 - details following year

Should EG collect their own fees – NO

What amount are 2015 going to be so Counties have advanced warning

Honest of Clubs - CDH doesn't have a clue not accurate enough

Real time collection system?

What happens if club doesn't pay - EG very weak

Affiliation Process

If new ownership - they have to re-apply

Annual re-affiliation like Scotland

Getting database sorted

Working party of County Secs to sort out problems for the short-term - by 31/7/14 and begin process of re-doing affiliation

APPENDIX 3

COMPETITION ORGANISERS' REPORT

(A) COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP – CHRIS LYNCH-BATES

Entrance is now closed and for the main championship - 22 have entered. For the senior championship we have 15 entries. This is not a large number of entries but I suspect this could be due to the distance to travel each day.

I am visiting Rookery Park G.C. to finalise arrangements on Thursday next. Mary is accompanying me and she has already advised the management of our tee requirements.

(C) WESTON – JUNE KENWORTHY

The season has started and so far we have had two matches played.

In Div 1 Bury won beating Hintlesham away 3 & 2 .

In Div 2 Stowmarket won at home to Flempton 3 & 2.

Weston Trophy Feedback:

Following the feedback from the delegates meeting where the 2 questions asked were:-

Revert to playing in handicap order

Of the fifteen clubs replying nine would like to revert back and five said no and the other was of no strong opinion.

2 Clubs to enter more than one team

Eight clubs said no to this question with five saying yes. These were clubs with the larger ladies section.

(G) SENIORS JUBILEE SHIELD – JUNE KENWORTHY

The first of the Seniors' Jubilee Shield knockout has been played and what a match it was.

After four matches it was all square. The pairings chosen by the Captains went out to play sudden death. After playing for 7 hours and 25 holes the final result came with Ipswich winning.

A full report of this match is on the website.

APPENDIX 4

TEAM REPORTS

(A) 1st TEAM – LAURA LOWE

The 1st Team played a practice match on Sunday 9th February against the Aldeburgh Gentlemen. We played foursomes off scratch with the ladies off the red tees and men off the white.

The results were as follows:-

Sharon Luckman (Ipswich) & Eloise Aldous (Newton Green) lost 4&3 v. Lewis Staff & Roger Taylor

Vicky Inglis (Ipswich) & Lils James (Rookery Park) won 1up v. Will Morcombe & Douglas Inglis

Vanessa Bell (Ipswich) & Abbie Symonds (Ipswich) halved with Mike Olding & Chris Nall

Sarah Saggars (Ipswich) & Ann Graves (Woodbridge) lost 4&3 v. Dick Jenkinson & Jack Levermore

The match was played in a cold wind but everyone was warmed up with a lovely Sunday lunch.

We then played the Woodbridge Men on Sunday 16th March 2014

We played foursomes with 2 courtesy shots to allow for differences in the pars on the back 9.

The results were as follows:-

Sharon Luckman & Abbie Symonds lost 1 down v. Steve Man & Adrian Studd

Vicky Inglis & Lils James lost 8 down v. Dom Rosser & Ricky Dzierozynski

Vanessa Bell & SaraH Saggars halved with Garry Robinson & Darren Hilton

Alice Barlow (Newton Green) won 4up v. Andy Whittaker & David Reid

Our first training session with our new coach Alastair Spink was held at Ufford Park on Sunday 16th March 2014.

Alastair is interested in getting the players to think about their game and decide what they need from their coaching. On the practice field they were practising their chipping but being far more exact in the distances they were hitting the ball. The session went well with everyone joining in and enjoying themselves.

At their next session on 13th April Alastair will have a Trackman available which gives accurate information to the player on the distances they are hitting the ball.

Unfortunately the 1st Team practice match vs the SGU had to be cancelled as not enough players were available. These matches are useful to try out pairings and to integrate new players into the set up. If not enough probable 1st Team players are available the exercise becomes pointless.

(B) SENIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT – JO MOORE

2014

In 2014 the Seniors have 7 matches, 4 at home and 3 away.

Invitations were sent out in March to players with a handicap of 12 and below as these matches are played off scratch. Following responses to the invitations, teams for these matches have been selected based on player's handicap and availability, and I have done my best to include as many players as possible.

In 6 of the 7 matches we now have a team and the necessary reserves, however for the away game to Bedfordshire Senior Ladies at Mowsbury GC 2 additional players and reserves are being sort.

All team players are aware of the need for team colours and the attendance to meals before or after the games.

As the matches get closer, a final confirmation will be sent with all details.

2015

In 2015 the seniors will have 7 games with 3 at home and 4 away. Venues and dates for these matches have been confirmed and many thanks to Cynthia Stewart for arranging the home venues with the GC.

(C) JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT – SARAH HOWE

1st Team Girls are now having training and doing practice matches ready for Junior county week – the younger girls training has also started.

A note sent from Sue raising some points that are bringing up some concerns that she would like me to bring up at the meeting.

SGP pathway projects - I have requested from Alastair that we could have the money for the 'Elite Girls' moved to the SLCGA account, still awaiting a response.

The 'beginner sessions project' are in process of being sorted. And the 'Road show project' is yet to be sorted.

Establishing and implementing child protection policy and procedures are all up to date and we had no problems reported from 2013. Kay Hazell, Judy Hamshere, Kay Anderson will need to update their DBS later this year and Teresa Wardlaw I will be helping renew within the next month, all the others are up to date. Also Kay Hazell, Kay Anderson and Teresa Wardlaw will need to do a safe guarding and protecting children workshop this year, again the others are up to date.

APPENDIX 5

SUFFOLK GOLF DAY – CHRIS LYNCH-BATES

Entrance for this was full within 3 days of opening. There have been several disappointed teams and I have apologised to those who missed out. There is interest in a second Golf Day and I think we should discuss this. I have visited Hintlesham G.C. and they would be pleased to host two events if we decide this is the way forward. I am also pleased to report that Hintlesham have not increased their fees this year. I now have the menus and will be forwarding them to the teams. I have also arranged to meet Henry Roblyn again a couple of weeks before the event to arrange the prizes.

APPENDIX 7

Minutes of the meeting held at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club
on Tuesday 4th February, 2014

Present: Bill Darling, Crawford Gillan (Chair), Ron Kent, Alastair Spink, Wendy Wootton, Sarah Saggars and Sarah Howe (SLCGA)

1. **Apologies:** Joe Cardy, Ben Jackson, Katie Moggan, Steven Peet, Kelvin Vince and Teresa Wardlaw

Crawford welcomed Ron Kent from the SGU and Sarah Saggars and Sarah Howe from the SLCGA.

2. **MINUTES** of the meeting held on the 26th November, 2013 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **ACTION FROM LAST MEETING** – there were no matters arising from the last meeting.

4. **REPORTS**

a) Suffolk Sport – in Ben’s absence, Alastair explained the “Work Place Challenge” which should encourage physical activity within the work place. The Clubs who are the Get into Golf Centres have been encouraged to take part and Alastair felt it to be a good idea for Suffolk Golf Partnership to register. **A.S.**

b) Treasurer – Alastair presented the Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Budget Year 2013/2014. He explained that the layout of this financial overview was an England Golf template and that he paid all bills as soon as they were presented. He said that the budgets were “on track”.

c) County Development Officer – Alastair’s Report had been circulated. The 14-25 initiative is on track, although Alastair felt that it was quite hard to gain commitment from the students at UCS. He forecasts that we will not achieve our “structured” target within the 26+ project, but he is pleased to report that our retention figures will exceed expectations, the key indicator for Sport England and England Golf. In summary, once we have obtained the interest of the participants, we are good at keeping them.

d) Regional Development Officer report –the England Golf Board (after Counties took a vote) decided to delay the strategy launch until some areas around financing the plan were clarified. Although counties were supportive of The Strategy there were some concerns as to how the strategy is to be funded and it is now likely to go to the voting members in July, hopefully for sign off with financial questions answered. The third draft is now on the England Golf website. The Conference on the 2nd/3rd April is not now to include the Strategy launch but will be more of our national development and Awards conference.

GolfMark is still likely to go ahead in April as planned, but will probably be more of a “soft launch” and more will be made of it when the strategy is launched.

A Women and Girls and a Junior Officer will be recruited to drive these areas once there is ratification from the England Golf Board.

There is to be a “Customer Service Workshop” on the 5th/6th March at Wyboston Lakes and clubs have until 17th February to register. Cost is £60 per delegate or £150 for 3 delegates.

Alastair’s Contract could now be managed by England Golf rather than by the SGP which would take liabilities away from the Partnership. There is also a template contract for services that should be used and a slight change in how things might have to work for both parties to comply with self-employed contractor agreement.

England Golf Development Department and Club Services Department have now merged into one, headed up by Richard Flint.

e) **Golf Foundation report** – Katie’s report has been circulated in her absence. Alastair said there were no issues to worry about regarding the Golf Roots centres and was particularly pleased to see Bury St.Edmunds at the recent Junior Passport workshop.

5. UNDER 14 FUNDING

A committee met to plan this bid which was successful and SGP have been allocated £3,760. The money will be spent on:-

Starter Centre at Stonham to support the county squads.

Suffolk Junior Roadshow for under 15’s. This will give Juniors regular and relevant playing opportunities within the county and help to raise the profile of Suffolk Junior Golf.

Girls Elite Squad to prepare them for their County Week.

Alastair told the meeting that the England Golf Board will meet in March to vote on this funding to be continued every three years.

The SGP committee thanked Alastair for all his hard work and was pleased with the outcome of the bid.

6. GET INTO GOLF

Alastair and Ben Jackson from Suffolk Sport met with 10 Clubs to explain exactly what is expected from Clubs wishing to run the G.I.G. centres. They explained everything about marketing, coaching, funding etc..

The Clubs were asked to sign up for the 4 week course of coaching which would then be followed by a 6 week course. These courses would run throughout the year. The Clubs were asked to supply Alastair with their dates for the whole year starting in April.

Alastair explained that the campaign enables Clubs to work together to drive it forward and Coaches and Managers will meet regular. SGP will carry out a county wide marketing campaign and there will be a website that people can click on to where they will be given their nearest golf club and the opportunity to pay on line.

Crawford and Alastair are due to meet with the EADT to discuss the advertising.

It is hoped if these centres are successful and in the long term it is hoped that other Clubs will be persuaded to take part.

7. & 8. Suffolk Golf Union and Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association

Both Ron Kent and Sarah Sagggers agreed that there had been some short comings in communication in the past, but they were very encouraged by the initiatives that SGP are working on. Crawford agreed and said that it is the ambition of SGP to improve communication.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

14 – 25 Participation Group – due to meet next week.

CAP - the Development squad coaches had a meeting to review 2013 and plan for 2014. Some good ideas were discussed and all are looking forward to continue the good work.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Crawford reminded the meeting about the May Golf Month which is being driven by a media company.

Ron Kent said that the SGU had some concerns that the Partnership does not have a Treasurer. This was re-iterated by Sarah from SLCGA. Crawford said that he did understand their concerns but explained that any payments that Alastair makes are always double checked by Crawford. Also as our Treasurer had wished to retire from the job, the accounts were now worked on the England Golf template which made the job a lot easier to manage.

It was agreed that this subject would be discussed at the next SGP meeting.