

SUFFOLK LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting held on Monday 20 July 2015 at Fynn Valley Golf Club at 10 am

PRESENT:

Ms Ann Graves	President
Mrs Sarah Sagers	Captain
Miss Hermione Scrope	Treasurer
Miss Sarah Howe	Junior Representative
Mrs Rebecca Evans	England Golf Representative
Mrs Eunice Gray	Handicap Adviser
Mrs Jo Moore	Seniors Organiser
Mrs Cynthia Stewart	Match & Comp. Venue Organiser
Mrs Christine Knappett	Cranworth Organiser
Miss Vanessa Bell	Vice Captain
Mrs Deb Howlett	Foursomes Organiser
Ms Chris Lynch-Bates	Championship Organiser
Mrs June Kenworthy	Weston/Jubilee Shield Organiser

1. **Apologies**

Jeanette Longman
Mary Wilderspin

2. **Minutes of GB Meeting on 13 April 2015**

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true copy

3. **Matters Arising from GB Meeting**

Course Ratings – Training is ongoing and a programme of courses to be rated this year has been agreed. A Job Description for the role of Team Leader was submitted by Sue Cook and will be distributed at the next Delegates Meeting, after which they will be sent to Ladies' Captains. It is understood that there is a lady who may be interested and Sue Cook will be asked to contact her direct. **ACTION: REBECCA**

Rota for County Fixtures from 2016 – this will be distributed to Club Secretaries once venues in 2017/18 have been confirmed **ACTION: CYNTHIA**

4. **Correspondence**

- a) Club Team Championship (a new mixed event being launched by England Golf) – although the details still need to be discussed, everyone was in favour. Charlie Wilderspin will confirm with England Golf that Suffolk are in favour.
- b) Meeting with David Joy – it was agreed that this should be postponed
- c) An invitation to attend a Women and Girls Conference has been received. It was agreed that nobody from Suffolk would be attending.
- d) Resignation of Alastair Spink (Suffolk County Development Officer). Ann responded with best wishes and the thanks of the SLCGA.

5. **England Golf Representative's Report – Rebecca Evans – Appendix 1**

The Minutes for the Delegates Meeting on 22 May are on the SLCGA website. There will be a Voting Members Meeting at Woodhall Spa in August at which the Governance and Affiliation Review will be discussed (following the feedback received from the regional workshops).

There will be a meeting in August between the LGU and the R&A to discuss their possible future merger

6. **Handicap Adviser's Report – Eunice Gray – Appendix 2**

England Golf are intending to hold regional meetings in order to bring the Counties up to date with the proposed changes to CONGU. Following this, Eunice will arrange a meeting for the Ladies Handicap Secretaries, at which she will confirm/explain all the changes agreed. **ACTION: EUNICE**

7. **Competition Organisers' Reports – Appendix 3**

It was agreed that a sub-committee be formed to discuss all the competitions - recommendations will be brought back to the GB **ACTION: SARAH S**

Venues for the Finals of Stearn, Cranworth and Senior Jubilee Shield will be booked following the Quarter Final stages of each competition **ACTION: CYNTHIA**

It was agreed that informal attendance would be provided at semi-finals stages of each competition.

Draws for the Inter-club Competitions (except the Haskell) will be done before the next GB meeting in September. **ACTION: JEANETTE**

a) County Championship – Chris Lynch-Bates

Entries for both the Main and Senior County Championship were low again this year. It was agreed that Chris would contact all ladies with handicaps of 14 and below to ask for their views. **ACTION: CHRIS L-B AND EUNICE**

b) Divisions – Di Spring/Jen Cardwell

Division 4 Report is on the website. Entries are now being accepted for Divisions 1, 2 and 3 in September.

c) Weston – June Kenworthy

It was agreed that play should be in playing handicap order (not exact handicap order). All matches must be completed before 31 August – in future, the winners for each Division will not be announced until after this date.

d) Haskell & Stearn – Mary Wilderspin

e) Cranworth – Christine Knappett

There was a discussion concerning the cost of meals at neutral venues – it was felt that this should be a negotiation between the 'Home' team(s) - after discussion with their opponents - and the host club(s). A request asking for substitutions was received – this will be discussed by the sub-committee.

f) Coronation and Centenary Foursomes – Deb Howlett

Both events were very encouraging and thanks were extended to Woodbridge for accepting such a large field. A request was received following the Coronation Foursomes to minimise the length of time taken for lunch – it was felt that the day was long due to the large number of entries and so the original arrangements for lunch would continue.

g) Senior Jubilee Shield – June Kenworthy

8. Competition Organisers for 2016

Dianne Clarke (Ufford Park) has been nominated from 2016 (for three years) for the role of Foursomes Organiser

As yet, there has been no nomination received from Bury St Edmunds.

9. Team Reports – Appendix 4

a) 1st Team Report – Sarah Siggers

Vanessa has agreed to research the clothing requirements (and potential sponsorship) for the 1st Team, Seniors and Juniors. **ACTION: VANESSA**

b) Seniors Report – Jo Moore

c) Juniors Report – Sarah Howe

All the DBS checks are now up to date. Sarah confirmed that Nicola Tindall and Claire Aldous will be attending a Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshop.

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

A ballot was conducted due to the high number of entries and those teams who were not successful this year have been personally informed. The Start Sheet is now on the website. Sarah S agreed to be available to assist with registration and scorecards.

There was some discussion regarding a second competition involving the County Teams – the suggestions raised will be taken to the next Delegates Meeting. **ACTION: REBECCA**

11. Treasurers Report – Hermione Scrope

Numbers of lady members and Junior Girls as at 30 June have been requested from each Club.

12. Suffolk Golf Partnership – Rebecca Evans – Appendix 6

There is currently a vacancy for a Minutes Secretary – to cover 4 meetings per year. The SGP is now focussed on development – the training (including planning and applications for funding) is now the responsibility of the SGU/SLCGA.

13. Any Other Business

- a) A request had been received for the SLCGA to set up and run a Twitter account. It was agreed that now was not the right time to do this
- b) Annual meeting with the SGU – Tuesday 29 September (early evening) was suggested as a convenient date for the SLCGA members - Cynthia will confirm whether this is convenient for the SGU **ACTION: CYNTHIA**

14. Date of AGM and next GB Meeting

Monday 28 September 2015 – Fynn Valley GC – 10am

Chairman

Date

APPENDIX 1

ENGLAND GOLF REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

The last couple of months have been very interesting: I have been able to be part of the Governance and Affiliation Review once again. The meeting this time was held at Bishops Stortford and saw a number of the GB attend. The topics were hotly debated - however, we did have the benefit of an excellent representative from Portas Consulting who kept the louder voices at bay. I will go into this topic further as part of my report of the June EG Board meeting.

My caddying skills were tested in Counties week, where I was in charge of Lils James' bag. I spent a very interesting two days looking after Lils and learnt a tremendous amount about match play. I hope to be able to spend the whole week in Hertfordshire next year!

We are fast approaching the East Region Championship, which is being held this year in Suffolk at Hintlesham on 7 September. We currently only have a handful of entries. I will be sending out an email to all county captains but I'm reaching out to you if you are (or know players who are) 15 and under and want to test their skills. Also if you are free and wish to help out on the day, please don't be shy!

So, on with the reports! These are the overviews.

Impact Report

This report details the progress that County Golf Partnerships are making in 2014/15. EG report that 70% of Suffolk golf development will be focused and funded at the 26 plus demographic. We still have funding for the 14-25 year olds but the main focus will be on the 26 plus. They report that 2014/15 has been a good year where we have met the majority of our targets. Get into Golf being the main focus; digital marketing is also a focus, but they didn't really report any hard facts on that subject.

IMP - Increasing Membership & Participation. This is a project that is being carried out in the Midlands and is largely centred around short formats and Get into Golf. The majority of the funding is from Sport England and they are very focused on this project, making significant gains in the respected counties. The numbers for Suffolk are pretty much in line with counties of a similar size to us, they are;

14-25 - Structured increase of 250

14-25 - Regular increase 150

26 plus - Structured increase 270

26 plus - Regular increase 200

England Golf Board Meeting – June 2015

Portas Consulting presented their recommendation to the board after meeting with counties in April and May - these are:

- To introduce 3 Categories of individual membership to England Golf - full club membership, independent membership and subscribers. There was some support for creating a second tier of club membership to capture those flexible schemes/season ticket

holders possibly not captured currently, but it was agreed this required further investigation and may be introduced at a later date.

- To introduce enhanced membership benefits for each category of membership and for these to be tiered of high quality. Outline proposals for liability and personal accident insurance for golfers was presented and subject to clarification on subrogation it was agreed that this should be further investigated as a possible future benefit.
- That facilities other than golf clubs could be affiliated to England Golf. This is to include driving ranges, shorter courses, pitch and putt, adventure golf and societies. Benefits are again to be tiered and affiliation costs to be further explored.
- That England Golf should directly collect its own fees from clubs. This will be subject to the database of members being fully operational and a full testing of the system. It was proposed that counties could opt in to the opportunity for their fees to be collected by England Golf, but also to retain their own collection if preferred. This could vary county by county. It was noted unlikely that England Golf would look to collect fees directly prior to 2018 or 2019.
- That the Board should have the powers to set the affiliation fees.
- Approve that there were to be no changes to the special resolution power (75% veto) and the power to remove the Board.
- To establish a Nominations Committee as a subcommittee of the Board to manage the process of board recruitment.
- To review the standing Committee Structure with a view to evolving this to a structure of working and advisory groups as deemed necessary.
- That the Board should consist of the 13 people – An appointed Chair, 6 Elected (3 men & 3 Women) and 4 appointed Directors, the CEO and Finance Director.
- For the tenure of board members to be 2 x 3 years.
- For the Voting Members to remain as 2 per county, with guidance offered around skills and experience.
- That there be 2 General Meetings and the third meeting be replaced with a round of regional consultations and meetings with Voting Members.

It was agreed to prepare a paper ahead of the Governance and Affiliation review to distribute to Voting members in good time for the August meeting. A forum is to be held on the afternoon of 25 August to discuss the recommendations in detail at which Voting Members would be asked to make an indicative, but not binding vote, on each proposal. At the last delegates meeting I asked the delegates to speak with their committees and feedback the opinion of their clubs/committee's. As yet I only have a handful of responses, they have the same opinion as most in as much that they would not want to see any removal of gender quotas and that they would prefer the county to collect its own affiliation fee. I am requesting that the GB review the recommendations and provide me with your feedback prior the 24th August.

Ladies Golf Union

The CEO updated on the current position of the LGU and R&A merger proposals and advised of a planned meeting of the LGU Board and representatives of its four shareholders on 9 July.

A report will be presented to the General Meeting in August, further to the Resolution passed by the General Meeting in April, regarding the LGU.

Delegates Meeting

As always these prove to be a lively debate on golfing topics. Prior to the meeting I received an email from one of our clubs, suggesting that we discuss the opportunity to make substitutions in the Cranworth competition, as such I have asked the delegates to speak with their committees and report back at our next meeting in Southwold. The question raised was;

“In the men's Tolly and Hambro competitions, they are allowed to substitute a player in the afternoon. As a small club, with an ageing ladies section we are finding it increasing difficult to find enough players capable of playing 36 holes. In the Stearn and the Cranworth and I think we are not alone with this problem. Would it not be possible to consider bringing us into line with the men”.

As yet I have not received full feedback from the clubs but the individuals I have spoken with general feel that this would not really benefit the competition and that it could be open to manipulation. But we will wait to see what the remainder of the clubs think about this.

During our discussions I presented to the delegates the proposed changes from EG re: Governance and Affiliation - the feedback was generally quite positive. However, most of the clubs/delegates feel quite strongly that the clubs paying EG the affiliation fee directly would not benefit them or the county. As we see from the recent board meeting it would appear that EG have taken this onboard.

Our next meeting is on 14 August at Southwold and we will be enjoying a round of golf plus a cream tea prior to playing, so if you would like to join us you are more than welcome! I'll be carb loading that day as I have my ultra marathon the next day!

APPENDIX 2

HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT

As you will be aware there are various changes/updates to the CONGU Handicap Rules. Gemma Hunter, Handicap and Course Rating Advisor at England Golf, has informed me that the handicap updates have been finalised. She is in the process of arranging a meeting for the Handicap Advisors after which I will get the Suffolk H/C secretaries together to let them have the details of the changes.

APPENDIX 3

COMPETITION ORGANISER'S REPORTS

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Firstly, my sincere thanks to all Jeanette, Cynthia and all who helped out at the Championships at Felixstowe.

I understand this ran smoothly and the weather was much more favourable than 2014! Hopefully all paperwork etc. was in place and I hadn't forgotten anything.

What is of great concern is the low number of entrants for both Championships. Last year numbers were down but I thought this may have been due to location, Rookery Park was quite a distance to travel each day. However, the numbers dropped again this year and I don't believe location/venue is the reason. I think the time has come to talk to eligible Ladies and get some feedback on dwindling numbers. I think the best way to do this is visit individual clubs and talk with the Ladies, possibly on Ladies Day.

DIVISIONS

Division 4 saw something of a record when 89 year old Barbara Wells of the home club, The Suffolk, took the number one spot on the day. How wonderful! Playing off 33 handicap, Barbara amassed 33 points, one ahead of Victoria Clark (32 points) and 4 ahead of June Smart (29 points), who also play at The Suffolk. The three of them, perhaps understandably, won the team shield, seventeen points ahead of their nearest rivals from Bury St Edmunds.

WESTON

Playing in handicap order this year was welcomed by most clubs with the ladies at the front of the team enjoying their games. While there are still a few more games to be played I think I can say that Rushmere have won Division 3, Stowmarket have won Division 2 and Ipswich have won Division 1. We will have to wait until all matches have been played to finalize who will be promoted and who will be relegated. The question of playing in exact handicap order has been raised twice this year.

HASKELL AND STEARN

The Haskell Semi-Finals will be played on 26 July. Felixstowe and Stowmarket will play at Ipswich - tee times 10.00am & 2.00pm. Ipswich and Rushmere will play at Ufford Park - tee Times 9.28am & 1.44pm. The Final has been arranged on 23 August at Aldeburgh.

The Stearn is up to the Quarter Final stage, these will be played on Monday 3 August. The venues for the Semi-Finals on Monday 7 September will be decided after the matches on the 3 August.

CRANWORTH

14 of the 23 Clubs battled it out in the Preliminary Round on Thursday 28th May with Stowmarket, Woodbridge, Diss, Fynn Valley, Ipswich, Rushmere and Haverhill Golf Clubs progressing through to the First Round which was held on Thursday 25th June.

Round One saw 16 clubs fighting for a place in the Quarter Finals and after some hard fought matches Felixstowe, Stowmarket, Diss, Fynn Valley, Ufford Park, Haverhill, Halesworth and Aldeburgh progressed to the next round to be played at Fynn Valley, Halesworth, Stowmarket and Ufford Park respectively.

All the matches have been played within the spirit of the game and our thanks go out to all the clubs that hosted both the Preliminary and First Round Matches and congratulations to all those clubs who were successful and commiserations to all those that lost and hope that next year will be a more successful year for them.

Preliminary Round Feedback raised a couple of issues:

- The increasing cost that some clubs are now charging for the catering on the day for this competition. Is this an issue with the other Inter-club County Competitions or is this an isolated case?
- The teams (Diss and Seckford) playing their match at Ipswich both felt that the long carries on some holes were an issue for players of handicap 21-30. Could this be taken into consideration in the future?

From the Delegates Meeting:

- At the latest delegates meeting, one of our clubs forwarded a proposal for discussion regarding the Cranworth competition and a discussion took place – the wording is covered in Rebecca's England Golf Report above.

Following the discussion they had some different opinion regarding any changes to the competition. It was agreed that any proposed changes to the county competition should be fully debated and that needed the opinions of all ladies committees. They agreed that the delegates would ask our members the following question initially: Would the ability to replace 1 player in the Cranworth increase participation?

Rebecca requested that clubs ask this question initially and she welcomed any further feedback and suggestions.

SENIOR JUBILEE SHIELD

Four teams have made it through to the semi-final rounds of the Jubilee Shield. Ufford Park will play Bury St Edmunds at Fynn Valley starting at 11 am. Fynn Valley and Rookery Park will be playing at Waldringfield. These two teams should have been playing at Bury St Edmunds but as they were hollow tining the greens that week it was decided to change the course. Waldringfield kindly allowed us use of their course and the start time is also 11 am. Good luck to all four teams. The final will be played on Sunday 13 September on a neutral course.

APPENDIX 4

TEAM REPORTS

1ST TEAM

Since our last GB meeting we have had both the County Championships and County Match Week.

The County Champs ran smoothly due to Chris L-Bs organisation and Jeanette Longman and Cynthia Stewart's hardwork at the event. Our County Champion is Lottie Whyman from Purdis.

Training/Coaching with our County Coach, Chris Langford, was arranged between the Champs and CMW. The second session was tailored specifically to Chigwell Golf Course where CMW was to be held, with ball position below and above feet as it is an undulating Parkland golf course. The girls loved trying out and practicing this, something we don't get so much of in Suffolk.

During this time we also had team get-togethers on Tuesday nights, courtesy of Purdis Golf Club, our thanks to Purdis and the Pro Kevin Lovelock for kindly setting-up the short game area and giving us use of the 9 hole course.

First Team Match v Suffolk Pros @ Hintlesham was held two weeks before CMW. This was kindly arranged by Ollie Rush from Haverhill, he managed to find 5 very competitive foursomes pairings to give our whole team a game, we beat them soundly. Our Thanks go to Ollie and Hintlesham.

County Match Week held in Essex at Chigwell Golf Course. We carried on our winning streak for the first three days against Bedfordshire, Cambs & Hunts & Hertfordshire, unfortunately, this was the end of our run and we lost to Norfolk and Essex. With games won/lost we came a sad 4th. Please see the report on our website for more detail.

The outstanding player of the week was Vanessa Bell who not only won 8 out of 9 matches, resting one morning but performed with wonderful attitude, fitness and support not only for her peers but also me.

I also want to thank all those who helped to organise and run the week;

Claire Aldous as Caddy Master, this is a thankless task and a little more tweaking will be needed to get this right but hopefully we will again be inundated next year – it's so wonderful to come down a fairway and see a face from Suffolk you recognise, it really does lift the girls spirits and game.

Thank you so much to all the Caddies who came along it is appreciated and to Karen Korzack for organising all their refreshments.

Malcolm Coe, who supports us through out the year but especially this year with the Suffolk Blue Caddy Tabard, a few titters on the first day but by the end of the week all the other counties were enquiring about them!

Last but not least, my thanks to Ann Graves who at CMW has shown me unequivocal support for the last 2 years .

SENIORS

The season is now well underway, and we have played four matches of eight. These four matches have all been played in good spirit and enjoyed by all. The hosting clubs have all been most generous in their attention towards us and made us feel most welcome. In the four matches so far, we have lost two and won two. We have won against Norfolk and Bedfordshire and lost to Suffolk Senior men and Essex. The next match is against the Suffolk Junior Girls at Thorpeness on Sunday August 2nd.

JUNIORS

I have tracked down our hard copy of the Safeguarding and Protecting Children Document and a copy we can keep.

I emailed the Suffolk Vets President Sylvia thanking them for their kind donation and informing them what we will be using it for. She would like an update later this year so she can tell the ladies at the AGM how the money was spent.

I am still researching the cartoon that we could use to advertise Suffolk Girls golf and finding out how much it will cost.

We are in the process of applying to get back the England golf grant money for training which was sent back, Rebecca has more information on this. Also together the SGU and SLCGA have a grant coming from England Golf for training the Junior's during the winter of 2015/2016.

We had the Junior Championship on the 26 May at Ipswich Golf Club, Alice Barlow won on count back to Eloise Aldous with Gross 86's. Fiona Stokes won the Nett with a 72 and Rio Everitt won the Stableford with 34 points. All the girls on the 9 hole course won a prize. We also had a putting competition which Cleo Parfett, Rio Everitt and Molly Newson won in their categories. Thank you to Teresa Wardlaw and Nicola Tindall for organising it and all the helpers that made the day run smoothly.

The 1st team has been selected for JCMW and the Team is:

Eloise Aldous
Alice Barlow
Charlotte Gregory
Mary Cuthbert
Megan Bailey
Fiona Stokes
Molly Newson
Francesca Tindall

The selection was based on who played in the Junior Championship and also the girls' commitment to training and matches. The team did a practice round at John O'Gaunt in preparation for JCMW. Two sets of parents were dissatisfied that their daughters were not invited to play in the team for JCMW this year. Sadly, they have subsequently removed their daughters from playing in all future junior County events.

The 2nd team Girls have played 3 matches against 1st team juniors, Bedfordshire and Cambs & Hunts although they didn't win them all they showed great team spirit.

APPENDIX 5

SUFFOLK GOLF DAY

Again we have the full compliment of 31 teams. we were oversubscribed and as agreed in 2014 with the Club Delegates a ballot was made ensuring each Club had a fair allocation of successful teams. As with 2014 those who were unsuccessful will automatically be given a slot for 2016.

I am seeing Hintlesham again next week and will be purchasing prizes and making last minute arrangements.

Jeanette is contacting Detmar and hopefully he along with Sarah Saggars will present the prizes.

I have arranged that Cynthia Stewart and Karen Korzack help on the day. I will need one other person and if none of you are able to come along Anne Archer, who normally helps, has volunteered.

APPENDIX 6

SUFFOLK GOLF PARTNERSHIP REPORT

This year the decision was made to focus solely on ladies and girls golf at the Suffolk Show. The idea being that we would piggyback on "This Girl Can" campaign. Initially we had some issue with volunteer's not being sought by the CDO - however, I am pleased to advise that this was sorted and we had a full complement of ladies and girls on the stand. My thanks go to Vicky Inglis, Georgia Parker, Sarah Howe and Ellie Aldous who gave up their valuable time to show our visitors the basics of the golf swing. We were lucky enough to have a pitch next to the cricket stand and we had a lot of passing trade. As we were focusing on ladies and girls golf our CDO took the decision to only allow females to hit into the net. Generally most boys who visited us were accepting of this - however, we did have the odd complaint from some parents. I must stress that golf was available for boys in the Suffolk Sport tent which was only a short walk away. On both days we had over 150 ladies and girls take shots in our net. Sadly I am unable to provide any data on conversion to get in to golf or clubs. It was discussed on the day that in 2016 we would focus on both sexes.

Sadly we have had funding sent back to England Golf as it was unused, this funding was for the over 26 year demographic. In light of this and to ensure that we fully utilise all funding both Sarah Saggars, Phil Platten and myself met with Gareth Jenkins of England Golf to discuss the process for obtaining funding. I'm pleased to report that the meeting was a success for both parties and we left the meeting with a confirmed date (31st July) to meet with the Union to discuss our joint plans.

Our next SGP meeting is at Purdis on the 23rd July.

The SGP is currently looking for a secretary; if you know of anyone who might be interested please ask him or her to contact me initially. The position would involve taking minutes and organising the agenda and sending out to delegates.