

SUFFOLK LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting held on Monday 18th April 2016 at 3pm Golf Club at Fynn Valley Golf Club

PRESENT:

Miss Hermione Scrope	President/Treasurer
Sarah Saggars	Captain
Mrs Diane Cunningham	Secretary
Mrs Rebecca Evans	England Golf Representative
Mrs Eunice Gray	Handicap Advisor
Vanessa Bell	Vice-Captain
Mrs June Kenworthy	Weston & Senior Shield Organiser
Mrs Tessa Summers	Senior Organiser
Mrs Cynthia Stewart	Match & Venue Organiser

1. APOLOGIES

Sarah Howe	Junior Organiser
Ms Chris Lynch-Bates	Championship Organiser
Mrs Christine Knappett	Cranworth Organiser
Mrs Dianne Clarke	Foursomes Organiser
Mrs Debbie Anthistle	Haskell & Stearn Organiser
Mrs Lynne Wright	Haskell & Stearn Organiser
Di Spring	Divisional Organiser
Jenny Cardwell	Divisional Organiser

2. Minutes of GB Meeting 18th January 2016

The minutes were approved and signed as a true copy.

3. Matters Arising

SS has checked and Blaize Esmond can make a request to return to amateur status in November 2016, therefore she will not be eligible to play for the county this year.

A decision has been made not to appoint a specific lady welfare officer. Stuart McCullum will continue his role as Welfare Officer. Training for both club and county welfare officers will be available soon via England Golf.

First Aid Training was held on 21st March 2016. Certificates were handed out to GB members present who completed the course. DC will distribute the remaining certificates.

ACTION: DC

VB reported that she is looking to organise the County Mixed competition for 2017. This will be discussed at competition sub-committee. VB to be invited to attend.

ACTION: SS

4. Minutes of AGM 10 January 2016 – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Correspondence

a) GB gave permission to use a buggy for Sharon Luckman's caddy Malcolm Coe for the County Championships provided he submits a doctor's note. It has also been agreed that Malcolm Coe can use a buggy during County Match Week to enable him to caddy for Sharon, Request to CMW Organisers. Reminder that the player must not use the buggy.

ACTION: SS

b) Nigel Birrell Trophy – an email was received from Nigel asking if the trophy needed updating/repairing. When SS spoke to Nigel he was really pleased that the trophy had been presented to a player. Nigel has requested that the trophy be awarded to a golfer, anyone from a junior to a vet, someone in adversity or who has had outstanding achievements over the year. This information will be added to the website under the information about the trophy.

ACTION: RE

c) County Champion of Champions event – details have been received from England Golf regarding this new event. This year it is being held on Sunday 11th September at Woodhall Spa. The competition format will be 18 holes this year but in future it will be played over 36 holes. If the women's & junior champions are the same person they can compete in both events.

d) SS has received a flyer for an Amateur Scratch, 36 holes competition, open to gentlemen and ladies on 16th July being held at Royal Cromer. This information will be put on the website. Also to be put on the website a four ball better ball open being held at Thorpeness on 23rd June organised by Framlingham College.

ACTION: RE

e) Terry Broom has sent details of a competition for Under 25's and assistant pros inviting six ladies whose handicap is under 6 to join them. SS has submitted the names of seven players who meet this criteria, Terry will decide on the six to invite.

6. England Golf Representatives Report – Rebecca Evans Appendix 1

Minutes from the last Delegates Meeting held on 3 March are on the website.

SS attended the County Secretaries Conference in March 2016. Her report along with the England Golf report were sent out with the agenda. DC has since attended a workshop at the England Golf conference on World Wide handicaps. England Golf are now looking at implementation 2018/19 but have decided they won't move to the new system until they are ready.

Suffolk submitted their vote for England Golf Directors – Carol Alford, Jill Dean and Carole Ann Waight were elected.

RE and DC had attended England Golf conference and AGM on 14th April 2016. RE will write a report and send out to GB members. One item discussed at the AGM was about proportional representation on the board of England Golf.

ACTION: RE

7. Handicap Adviser's Report – Eunice Gray- Appendix 2

EG had sent a report. EG held a workshop at Woodbridge for ladies' handicap secretaries on 17th February 2016. Eunice has received clarification re GUR and Bunkers. She confirmed that preferred lies can be 'on' until 30th April as a norm but can be extended to 31st May if needed.

Worldwide handicap system is still being developed for implementation 2018/2019. Announcement expected at end of this month

Category 1 audit of 10 best players in the county whose handicaps are 3 and under including Hannah Rees. Vanessa to contact Hannah next year to ask if she would like to be included in county training.

ACTION: VB

8. County Match Week

SS has confirmed the price of the buggy's for county match week. Malcom Coe, Sharon's caddy will fund his own buggy. RE to put the matches on the website.

ACTION: RE

SS has received the rota for East Region competitions for next 6 years.

Suffolk will host County Match week in 2018. It will be held at Woodbridge Golf Club. Vanessa will contact Ufford Park to provisionally book 50 rooms. SS suggested that the Suffolk team unless they live a distance away from the venue would not need to stay in the hotel.

ACTION: VB

9. Competition Organisers' Reports

a) Championships (Main and Senior) – Chris Lynch-Bates

The plate competition will be named the Championship Plate. SS has a trophy donated by two Presidents in 1966/68. SS has sent it to be engraved. If it is not finished by the championship it will be returned to SS to enable it to be awarded then returned to the engraver to finish.

CL-B had sent a report. Two players have pulled out of the draw leaving 24 in the main draw. SS confirmed the format for Championship match play. The top 16 scratch scores will contest the Championship Match play on Saturday morning, this will then be reduced to 8 to play in the afternoon. The semi and finals will be played on Sunday. The remaining 8 players from the main draw will proceed to the championship plate competition which will be played off handicap and be seeded. This will also be played on Saturday morning with the semi-finals on Saturday afternoon and the final on Sunday. The plate final will tee off first on Sunday afternoon, followed by the senior final and then the Championship final.

The senior championship has 9 entries. Four will proceed into the match play semi-finals which will be played on Saturday and the final on Sunday. This means the competitors in the senior championship will play 18 holes only on Saturday and Sunday.

Referee for the Championship final will be Sarah Saggars, Ann Graves for the senior final and Jeanette Longman for the championship plate final.

HS confirmed that if volunteer ball spotters are appointed by the County then they would be covered under the County Employers Public Liability Insurance as they are our volunteers.

VB said that she has an official volunteer form which is completed by the volunteers. All agreed that this was an extremely good idea. VB to email a copy of the form to DC/SS/RE for the county to use.

ACTION: VB

SS said that she had also received a “thank you” from another county for HS’s advice about insurance which has saved them money.

b) **Haskell & Stearn** – Lynne Wright/Debbie Anthistle.

Stearn - Waldringfield have withdrawn from Stearn, there is no impact on the rest of draw.

Haskell – the match in the preliminary round has been played. Suggestion that the Haskell final to take place on the same day as the Stearn Final, the Haskell could tee off about an hour after the Stearn. To be discussed at competition sub-committee.

ACTION: SS

c) **Weston** – June Kenworthy

Only 3 matches have been played so far, the website has been updated. The results sheet will be updated at the end of April.

ACTION: RE/DC

An email has been received requesting clubs be allowed to enter two teams for the Weston competition. Discussion was also held about holding a semi-finals and a final for the Weston. These will be discussed by the competition sub-committee and suggestions will be brought back to next GB meeting. Date for competition sub-committee to be booked.

ACTION: SS

d) **Cranworth** – Christine Knappett

A new plinth has been fitted to the trophy and it has been returned to Fynn Valley, last year's winners. Chris has moved house, all forms for the Cranworth on the website have been updated with her new contact details.

e) **Divisions** – Di Spring/Jen Cardwell

Closing date for Division 4 is 21st April, currently 36 entries. Closing date for Division 3 is 28th April, currently 23 entries. HS gave prize vouchers for all divisional meetings to DC to take to divisional organisers. DC to email Ladies Secretaries to ask them to remind their ladies that the entry for this competition closes next week.

ACTION: DC

f) **Coronation and Centenary Foursomes** – Di Clarke

Nothing to report. Entry for these competitions opens on 20th April.

g) **Senior Jubilee Shield** – June Kenworthy

Preliminary round - 3 matches have been played, 4 more to be played this week. The draw sheet on website will be updated end of April. Senior shield final will be played on 11th September, Di to contact Cynthia to confirm if a venue has been booked for the final. SS will attend the final.

ACTION: DC

10. Team Reports APPENDIX 3

a) 1st Team – Sarah Sagers 1st Team Squad. Report received. The first team have a match against the Suffolk PGA on Sunday 5th June at Hintlesham at 1pm. Details to be added to website.

ACTION: RE

b) **Seniors Report** – Tessa Summers

TS informed the meeting that she had 44 players who responded to her email and were eligible/interested in playing for the senior team (criteria over 50 years old and playing off a handicap of 14 or less). Given this she decided to change the criteria to maximum 12 handicap, this reduced the number to 27 players. After discussion it was agreed that the criteria should be changed to a playing handicap of 12 and below, if there were not enough players this could then be adjusted.

As there are only 8 matches TS is hopeful with the smaller number of players eligible and depending on availability everyone will play at least once. Maximum number of games played by any one person will be three.

TS to decide whether the senior players will play in blue shirts or the new white shirts.

c) **Junior Organisers Report** – Sarah Howe

Report received. The shirt purchased for the Junior Captain did not fit. DC will take an alternative size for her to try and then the county will get the new shirt embroidered. Previous shirt to be returned as this may be able to be used for future captains.

As SH is not in attendance DC will email SH to follow up the actions from the last meeting re whether the jamboree is being rearranged and safeguarding training for HS.

ACTION: DC

HS and VB need to apply for a DBS check. SS has applied for her DBS certificate.

ACTION: HS/VB

11. **Suffolk Golf Day** – Chris Lynch-Bates report sent.

Entry closes on 31st May – 31 teams have entered so far which is the maximum entry so if any more entries are received a ballot will be required.

12. **Treasurers Report** – Hermione Scrope

Budget for 2016 sent out to GB members. Hermione reported excess expenditure of approx. £4,700 which is mainly due to the purchase of additional uniform.

The 100 club goes from strength to strength.

HS reported that it was encouraging that affiliation fees have risen by 32 additional members.

New affiliation fee software is available for collecting these fees in real time. SS has seen a demonstration of this and thinks it would be worth purchasing. Details of cost and availability to be confirmed. HS suggested to look at the software alongside her SGU counterpart.

ACTION: HS

The money donated by the Suffolk Vets (£500) will be used specifically for Beginners/Improvers Girls training. These will start with 5 sessions with Christine Langford at Thorpeness.

13. Suffolk Golf Partnership Report – Rebecca Evans – APPENDIX 5

Minutes of last meeting in February 2016 have been distributed and are on the website. A report was received from Rebecca regarding her meeting with the SGP in February which was also discussed at the delegates meeting. Feedback was received from two clubs, both agreed with the proposal. RE proposed that SLCGA leave the Suffolk Golf Partnership which was seconded by EG. This was carried unanimously. RE to notify Steven Peet of this decision.

ACTION: RE

14. County Fixtures for 2017

List of dates and venues for 2017 – Fixture list 2017 was emailed to GB members before the meeting. Flempton will confirm if they can host a senior fixture after it has been discussed at their committee. DC will email fixture list to club secretaries. DC confirmed that CS has sent her a copy of her schedule of duties. DC will also email Club Secretaries to remind them that if a team from their club enters a competition, they must keep the dates for the interclub knockout matches available. The draws will be sent out in October.

ACTION: DC

Dates for Inter-Club Knockouts 2017 were agreed:
Haskell - 1st Round to be played by 31 May/Quarter Finals by 30 June/ - dates to be confirmed for Semi Finals and Final
Stearn – First Monday of month (5 June/3 July/7 August/4 September /Final on 2 October)
Cranworth – Fourth Thursday of month (25 May/22 June/27 July/25 August/Final on 21 September)
Senior Jubilee Shield – Preliminary Round to be played by 30 April, 1st Round by 31 May/Quarter Final by 30 June – dates to be confirmed for Semi Finals and Final
Weston – all games to be completed by 31 August

15. The GB meeting due to be held on 21st November 2016 has been changed. This meeting will now be held on Monday 12th December 2016 at 10.00am at Waldringfield Golf Club.

The following dates for 2017 were agreed:-

Dates for GB meetings 2017

Monday, 16 January 2017, 10am

Monday, 10 April 2017 3pm

Monday, 17 July 2017 3pm

Monday, 18 September 2017 3pm

Monday, 11th December 2017 10am

AGM – Saturday 13th January 2018 – Kesgrave Memorial Hall has been booked.

16. Website

RE asked if anyone has any news items they send them to RE and she will put them onto the website. She also asked that if anyone notices anything that doesn't look right on the Website or is incorrect they let her know.

17. Any Other Business

a) GB memento's – Crystal Trophies – need to be purchased. DC to check cost and minimum order required.

ACTION: DC

b) Woburn Trip – decided not to go ahead with the county trip. Other clubs are organising their own trips. SS to let Theresa know.

ACTION: SS

c) County cards – SGU have previously given SLCGA a supply. DC has received enquiries from two clubs regarding these. It has also been reported that the SGU are looking at moving to a plastic county card. SS will contact Charlie Wilderspin to ask if it would be possible for the SLCGA to have a further supply of county cards and their future developments.

ACTION: SS

Confirmed that the new team shirts can be purchased at a cost is £28 per shirt plus an optional donation. TS will take some shirts in different sizes to the seniors to see if they would like to purchase one.

VB asked for a list of people who have used their training vouchers to date. HS provided a copy.

HS presented Cynthia with a memento and thanked her for all her service and hard work on the GB for past 9 years and wished her well with her move to Scotland. Cynthia also thanked everyone and said that she has enjoyed her time serving on the GB.

Date of Next meeting:

Monday 18th July, 3pm Waldringfield

Chairman

Date

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY SECRETARIES CONFERENCE

7/8th March 2016

This conference is a throw back to the days before the ladies joined them. It is a game of golf, dinner and 4 hours of presentations, apparently they struggle to fill the Agenda. However, I find it quite enlightening as I do not attend many of the other meetings and there are little nuggets picked up:

Worldwide Handicap

This is where the handicap system is going and it will be based on the US model which is very similar to ours before we went to CONGU. The R&A hope that the whole of the British Isles will be the first to join and are we will be integrated in 2017.

Course Rating

The Team Leader must attend a session within the next month. (Sue/Julie or is it Patricia)

If courses have not been rated by the time the new Handicap system comes in they will be set a Provisional slope rating.

Affiliation Fees Rules and Collection Software

Phil Harvey, County Secretary, Lancashire made an excellent presentation demonstrating a software package they have put together for real-time collection. EG have provided the details and Hermione will look at this together with the SGU for 2017. This cannot be used on a MAC, pc only.

They found many anomalies for membership numbers and it increased their figures by 809.

England Golf Funding

Phil Harvey also questioned whether we still need Sport England funding as EG is now in a good place. The Board Members were negative about this, I did ask if we strive to be independent, does it prevent us receiving funds.

Safeguarding and Disciplinary

All clubs to have welfare officers.

There is a template for Safeguarding at County Level that Rod Findlay has produced – maybe we should take a look?

Rod Findlay also wants to know if we would use Legal Advice from EG. Like us another county struggled with feedback.

Increasing Membership Programme

Business Growth Forums, clubs need to be encouraged, Jane Carter's workshops are apparently excellent.

Regional Business Advisors are free at the moment, can be quite brutal but if the Clubs follow their advice especially in Customer services it has been of great benefit. There is a package supplied by EG that clubs can use to help themselves.

CDO's

Are to receive more training so they conform to EG standards, eg Presentation Skills

Golf Express

9 hole golf membership

Election of Lady Board Members

We need to put in our votes.

APPENDIX 2 Handicap Advisor Report

I held a workshop at Woodbridge Golf Club on Wednesday February 17th for those handicap secretaries unable to attend the CONGU Roadshows at Gog Magog. The meeting was attended by 19 ladies and I ran through the presentation sent out by CONGU and England Golf. This was exactly the same as presented to the County secretaries at Kings Norton GC in January.

I had several emails following the meeting saying how useful the presentation had been.

Nothing major to report on, two handicap enquiries.

Please find attached the notice from CONGU on a couple of areas-Supplementary scores, bunkers as GUR and preferred lies. I have forwarded the same to the handicap secretaries

Kind Regards

Eunice

SLCGA Handicap Advisor

Good Morning,

Over the last few week we have received a number of questions regarding supplementary scores for category 1 golfers, preferred lies and Bunkers marked as GUR.

I though a quick email to all Counties and handicap advisors may help.

Supplementary Scores for Category 1 Golfers:

If a player in this category holds a `competition` handicap they are unable to return any supplementary score until 1st September and then only if they have not returned enough scores to maintain their competition handicap beyond the 1st Jan. (as in the CONGU book Clause 21)

If a player in this category has lost his `competition` status they are entitled to return 3 supplementary scores to regain the `competition` status. Please note this is a digression for England Golf and has been missed out the CONGU book but is included in the software specification.

Preferred Lies:

As CONGU have now asked each Home Union to define the period for the use of preferred lies, England Golf have decide to keep this as 1st October to 30th April. Clearly with the current weather conditions this may not be long enough, so I am going to extend this for 2016 till 31st May should clubs need to extend beyond this you can give extensions within your county.

The following local rule wording must be used:

'A ball lying on a closely mown area through the green may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within 6 inches [150mm] of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not on a putting green. A player may place his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed (Rule 20-4). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it is placed, Rule 20-3d applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other Rule apply. If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.'

Note: 'Closely Mown Area' means any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

*Penalty for breach of Local Rule: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes
If a player incurs the general penalty for a breach of this Local Rule, no additional penalty under the Local Rule is applied'*

Note: Competition Play Conditions will only apply when the specified area is within six inches (150 mm). See Clause 15.3

Bunkers marked as GUR.

This has caused some debate within CONGU as to the impact of Bunkers can have on a competition retaining its qualifying status.

CONGU state that when 'some bunkers' are out of play due to maintenance, and are marked as GUR an qualifying competition can be played.

What counts as some?

CONGU have struggled to define this, so England Golf advise that if more than 50% of bunkers are out of play due to maintenance or weather conditions then the competition must be declared as a non-qualifier.

CONGU had previously suggested that all bunkers could be out of play but this is likely to have an effect on the SSS/CSS and this also goes against a ruling from the R&A re flooded bunkers (See below)

Local Rule Providing Relief Without Penalty from Bunker Filled with Casual Water

Question:

May a Committee make a Local Rule allowing a player to drop out of any bunker filled with casual water, without penalty, contrary to Rule 25-1b(ii)?

Answer:

No. The Committee may not make a Local Rule providing generally that flooded bunkers are ground under repair through the green, as such a Local Rule waives a penalty imposed by the Rules of Golf, contrary to Rule 33-8b.

However, in exceptional circumstances, where certain specific bunkers are completely flooded and there is no reasonable likelihood of the bunkers drying up during the round, the Committee may introduce a Local Rule providing relief without penalty from specific bunkers.

Prior to introducing such a Local Rule, the Committee must be convinced that such exceptional circumstances exist and that providing relief without penalty from specific bunkers is more appropriate than simply applying Rule 25-1b(ii). If the Committee elects to introduce a Local Rule, the following wording is suggested:

"The flooded bunker on [insert location of bunker; e.g. left of 5th green] is ground under repair. If a player's ball lies in that bunker or if that bunker interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing and the player wishes to take relief, he must take relief outside the bunker, without penalty, in accordance with Rule 25-1b(i). All other bunkers on the course, regardless of whether they contain water, maintain their status as hazards and the Rules apply accordingly."

In a competition played over more than one round, such a Local Rule maybe introduced or rescinded between rounds.

Hopefully this will answer some of these questions and ensure that we are all giving the same information to players and clubs.

If anyone has any question please feel free to contact me.

Regards

Gemma

Gemma Hunter

Handicap & Course Rating Manager

APPENDIX 3

County Captain's 1st Team Report 18th April, 2016

Matches

7th February,

The 1st Team played our first annual match of the year against the Aldeburgh Gentlemen. Always a great start to the year, getting the girls together at the start of the year's campaign. The ladies gave shots, the final score 2-2.

3rd April

The match against the SGU at Royal Worlington was cancelled by the Men's Team Captain – very disappointing. We took the opportunity to organise a practice round at Bishop's Stortford where CMW is to be held this year.

17th April

The 1st Team played Woodbridge Gentlemen yesterday, a time change different to previous years delayed one of our ladies but her partner, Sharon already had her opponents 3 down after 3 by the time she arrived!

The final score was 2-2. We played off scratch with our 2 shot concession. I believe Vanessa will next year ask to have the shots on the holes that are usually par 5's for the ladies which the men's index does not reflect.

Please see website for match reports.

- We now have our new team shirts. These are being distributed to the team after selection at the County Champs.
- The girls have started using their coaching Vouchers, the feedback is very positive from Pros and girls alike.
- 2 team Coaching sessions have been booked with Christine Langford

- Coaching Passports, to encourage the girls to plan their training and match progress, have been ordered but still not received, needs to be chased up.

APPENDIX 4

Junior Organiser Report

- The Suffolk girl's Texas Scramble was on the 10th April at St. Audry's which is our first event of the year. 10 girls played with the winning team being Francesca Tindall, Charlotte Gregory, Ava Mcgreal and Grace Fricker. All the girls had fun and thank you to St. Audry's Ladies and club for the great food.
- We have 5 summer training sessions booked with Christine Langford at Thorpeness for all the girls first session starts in May.
- The Suffolk Girls 2nd team have their 1st match against Bedfordshire at the Bedford and County next Sunday.
- The Suffolk Girls 1st team have their 1st Practice match on the 1st May against the Suffolk Girls 2nd team at Newton Green.

APPENDIX 5

Report by Rebecca Evans for Suffolk Golf Partnership

Since our last meeting both Chris Lynch Bates and myself attended a meeting at Ipswich Golf club for the SGP. In attendance was representatives from England Golf & The PGA. As you are aware the Union decide that whilst they supported the philosophy of the partnership they no longer felt they were able to continue.

The meeting was as always held in good humour however, it lacked any structure or direction. Sadly, this has been the norm in these meeting and the Chair who had over 3 months to plan and evaluation the purpose and focus of the group seemed to be unprepared. Questions were asked by both the Association and PGA as the purpose of the group and what objectives and direction we are focused on. A request was made that Steven Peet please provide this information. A collection of England Golf spread sheets was send out but these were not what was discussed or required. What was provided was the East Regions Regional Manages targets and objectives and not in my mind what was requested. Both Chris and I requested a top line overview or roadmap as to the future, this was either not heard or understood.

During my very short time on the SGP the three groups works reasonably well together, we had good people like Tony Rubens who was focused and really understood what the group should be working on. As Tony is part of the Exec of the Union he will not be part of the SGP any longer. The fact that the Union no longer wish to be part of the group I believe also makes our involvement quite pointless. It's very much a three legged chair that's lost a leg, we'll just keep tipping over! The Association is restricted in how to engages with golf clubs. We can only influence our members which makes a lot of the work the SGP did previously quite difficult if not impossible. And it's for that reason that I recommend that we vote to leave the SGP.

I believe that if the partnership had the involvement of the Union then we should fully support it however, we don't and it's unlikely they will decide to return. So my in closing my recommendation is we leave.