

Minutes for Suffolk Delegates Meeting at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club 31st March at 10.30am

1. Welcome
2. Apologies; In Advance from Rushmere.
3. Matters Arising; No matters arose from the previous meeting.
4. Inter Club & County & Regional Competitions

The county has reviewed the rules relating to whether clubs are able to host county fixtures. The county has applied the Congu ruling in respect to playing a qualifying competition. The decision was made that the following rules would apply from 2017:

- No more 50% of bunkers can be out of play.
- Course cannot be more than 100 yards shorter than the measured length.
- No more than 2 temporary greens.

If your course cannot comply to this then you are unable to host a county fixture and should contact the competition organiser in the first instance.

A discussion was had regarding where the measured course started. The delegate from Flempton advised that she had been instructed by a Rules Official that it is anywhere on the Tee box. The chair has looked into this and checked with Congu and another Rules Official and it is from the Official Tee Marker or Back Plate. This does not affect the Counties current rules and was just a clarification of a point raised. Another concern was raised by the delegate from The Suffolk who are currently undergoing major course refurbishment. This was discussed off-line after the meeting.

Reminder that Cranworth is now a squad of 8. Captain can substitute 2 players at lunch time. Updated rules are on website.

Handicap certs will still need to be produced for all county competitions. Discussion at last GB meeting. GB felt that it would be very difficult for competition organisers to manage. A question was asked in what format is acceptable. With the increase in smart phones and App's its now possible for you to produce your handicap cert via your smart phone. The chair will take this question back to the GB to discuss at our next meeting and advise accordingly.

5. England Golf

Congratulations to Fynn Valley who have been voted England's friendliest club at the England Golf awards evening. Well done! Sally Crosbie enlighten the delegates with what an honour the accolade is and how much they enjoyed the prize winners event at Lords Cricket Ground.

Rebecca read out the announcement of the appointment of Nic Coward who joins England Golf from the English Golf Partnership at Chief Executive Office replacing Graham Yates at the England Golf AGM on the 12th April. *Copy attached*

Rebecca read out a request from England Golf directed at Counties but explained that she felt it pertinent that clubs also adopted the same policy. *Copy attached*

6. 100 Club Discussion Re; Spending of 2016 Money Raised

We have been approached by Sue Cook who is one of our County Course Assessors who would like approval to purchase a basic range finder to assist her and the team in assessing the courses. Rebecca explained that the team are issued with a range finder however they are quite complicated and they only have 1 which also causes delays. The budget agreed with Sue was maximum £200. This was approved by the delegates.

The remainder of the £1000 was discussed in detail. The chair had received a suggestion from Rushmere that we could use the money to purchase mementos for the players who had won or reached the final in county competitions. Whilst this was well received it was felt that the money should be used to make one off special purchases.

The past delegate from Newton Green had also suggested that the money could be used for clubs to provide some additional training for club golfers. Once again this was well received but after the money was divided equally between the 33 clubs it would be a very small amount. It was decided that this would not add additional value.

Rebecca mentioned that an issue which we experience in the county is the shipping of the county flag and table cloth to all the fixtures and that maybe an additional flag could be purchased. The delegate from Rookery Park proposed that we could keep the county flag's and table clothes in strategic places within the county.

The discussion then moved on to Tee Markers. Currently the county has none. It was proposed that we could invest in Tee Markers for county finals and possibly semi-finals if the budget extended that far. The delegates all agreed this would be a good use of the 100-club money.

7. Any Other Business

A question was asked if the county or England Golf would hold any more Handicap workshops this year. Rebecca explained that she wasn't aware of any planned but would report back at the next meeting.

No other AOB was raised. The meeting closed at 11.39 am. Date of next meeting 16th June at Bury St Edmunds (unless the room isn't available)

100 Club Winners

£100: Margaret Upton (Cretingham);

£50: Mary Stevenson (Thorpeness), Linda Miller (Woodbridge);

£25: Sue Strutt-Holmes (Bungay), Elaine Bonney, (Bury St Edmunds), Viv Kemp (Bury St Edmunds), Dannie Aldous (Fynn Valley);

£20: Ann Baker (Rookery Park);

£10: Trudi Laws (Ipswich), Yvonne Maclean (Rookery Park);

£5: Penelope McCalmont (Royal Worlington).

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Nic Coward set to become England Golf's first independent Chair



Nic Coward will become the first independent Chair of England Golf after his appointment is ratified at the annual general meeting on 12 April, 2017.

He was selected after a rigorous appointment process which considered a number of high-calibre candidates for the role.

For the past year Nic has been the



independent chairman of the England Golf Partnership, whose key roles are being taken on by England Golf.

In a 20-year career at the top levels of British sport, Nic has been the General Secretary of the Premier League, the chief executive of the British Horseracing Authority, joint chief executive of the Football Association and a director of Wembley Stadium.

He has also been a non-executive director of the FA, was treasurer of the CCPR (now the Sport and Recreation Alliance) and first chair of the global Sports Rights Owners Coalition. He now consults to a number of sports and entertainment businesses in the UK and around the world, as well as non-executive roles away from sport.

Nic said: "Golf in England has a huge amount to be proud of, from Olympic gold to huge impact in communities across the country. There is great work going on at every level of the game. What is really exciting is the opportunity to do even more, to get more people playing, more often."

Nick Pink, England Golf Chief Executive, said: "I am delighted to welcome Nic as Chair of England Golf. Nic has been working closely with us already and has a good understanding of what we do as an organisation. I believe his background and strong networks will significantly help England Golf, and I look forward to working with Nic in the future."

Dear County Secretary,

As you will be aware, The R&A and the USGA have announced a Rules of Golf modernisation initiative which involves a major set of proposed changes, scheduled for implementation at the start of 2019.

To clarify, the proposed changes would mean some fundamental changes in terms of the Rules that are applicable in certain situations and the terminology used across the golf course.

We are writing to update you on our current position regarding an England Golf strategy to educate and inform clubs and counties on these new Rules. Aside from the extensive material that The R&A and USGA have uploaded to their websites regarding these proposed new Rules, we have not yet been provided with any formal education material to work with, not least because these Rules changes are under review until August 2017. We envisage that the final draft of the new Rules will not be complete until Spring 2018.

Therefore we would like your co-operation not to undertake any formal Rules education training in the new Rules until England Golf have formulated our

strategy that will almost certainly require your assistance to deliver a comprehensive programme.

We are aware of the urgency to start assisting clubs and players in knowing the new Rules, and will be focused on ensuring a coherent programme is in place, in time for 2019.

Please feel free to forward this information to people within your county or region who are involved in Refereeing and Rules Education. If you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing championships@englandgolf.org

Kind regards,
Toby

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