

SUFFOLK DELEGATES MEETING

held on Friday 24 March 2023 @ Aldeburgh

Lizzie Johnson welcomed the ladies to the Delegates meeting.

1. Present: Aldeburgh (Janette Redshaw); Bramford (Jan Beard), Brett Vale (Hilary Archer); Bungay (Wendy Walpole), Bury St Edmunds (Viv Kemp); Diss (Liz Cole); Felixstowe (Carol Deslandes); Flempton (Jenny Dartnell); Fynn Valley (Sally Crosbie); Newton Green; Halesworth (Rita Fossey/Sara Higgins); Ipswich (Sheila Boath/Vanessa Adams); Rookery Park (Jenny Ladusans); Rushmere (Patsi Long/Sue Meecham); Seckford (Yvonne Southey), Southwold (Ruth Kemp), Thorpeness (Carol Cooke), Woodbridge (Jeanette Longman) & Secretary @ SLCGA (Di Hegarty)
2. Apologies: Gorleston, Haverhill, Hintlesham, Royal Worlington & Stowmarket
3. The 100 Club:

The draw results are as follows:

| Prize | Name | Club |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| £100 | Jude Hanner | Felixstowe |
| £75 | Ladies Section | Aldeburgh |
| £50 | Viv Kemp | Bury St Edmunds |
| £40 | Sandi Taylor | Haverhill |
| £30 | Sue Lawrence | Felixstowe |
| £25 | Doreen Crosbee | Haverhill |
| £25 | Sharon Luckman | Ipswich |
| £20 | Mary Wilderspin | Rookery Park |

Could the Delegates ask their “winners” to e-mail Carol Deslandes (treasurer@suffolkladiesgolf.org.uk) with their account details so that she may send payment via BAC's, or alternatively the name of their account and address so that she may send them a cheque.

4. Presentation by Chrissie Owens, Trustee, England Golf Trust

England Golf Trust (EGT) is an independent charity which provides financial support to young golfers of all ages and abilities across England from disadvantaged and financially challenged backgrounds (but not means tested) so that they can develop and enjoy the game.

Run by volunteer trustees, the EGT awards grants, bursaries, and PING Prodi G Clubs to young golfers of all ages and abilities. The PING clubs and grants are made three times a year, February, June and October, and can be used for golf essentials such as coaching, equipment, club membership, competition fees and travel costs. Bursaries are allocated in October for up to 3 years.

The Trust works with individuals, clubs, counties, and partners to raise the charity's profile with young people and increase the funding available which will help to make a difference to the lives of young golfers, enabling them to continue playing a sport they love and to reach their full potential.

Chrissie is trying to raise awareness of EGT and encouraged as many Clubs as possible to enter the EGT Women's Stableford ... and is looking forward to seeing some ladies from Suffolk at King's Norton!

For more information visit: englandgolfttrust.org

5. Notes of meeting held on 14 October 2022: Agreed
6. Matters Arising:
 - (i) Incorporation of SLCGA - Carol Deslandes confirmed that Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association Ltd are now officially incorporated. We have a Certificate of Incorporation; Company No: 14716356. The next stage in the process is to set up a bank account in the company name. This is under way but the process may take 6 weeks or thereabouts so until such time we will continue with the existing account. DH pointed out that all 2023 competition entry forms have been set up with the existing account name/number. CD advised that the two accounts will run in parallel for as long as necessary.
 - (ii) The 100 Club 2022 Surplus funds: LJ took the suggestion of a Junior Bursary to the GB who felt sufficient sums were already being contributed towards the Juniors. Jeanette Longman suggested First Aid Training for the GB, which those present unanimously supported. Di to research the cost of training courses. If costs allow first aid training could possibly be extended to a representative from each club. Those present felt that the EGT could also be a worthy beneficiary ie a percentage of surplus funds each year. LJ to take to GB.
7. Main Matchplay County Championship – 12-14 May @ Stowmarket GC, and Senior Matchplay County Championship – 4-6 July @ Aldeburgh GC

Wendy Walpole, this year's organiser of the Championships, asked that each delegate go back to their clubs and encourage their lady members to enter these competitions; and to stress that there is a net prize. Entries for the Main Matchplay CC are particularly low. Delegates asked whether this is because the County 1st and 2nd teams are not entering? The handicap limit is 17.9. Ladies can enter with a higher handicap but obviously will play off the handicap limit on the day. (The GB have had discussion about whether the competition should be played over 36 holes and opinion was divided so no decision has yet been made).

8. Independent Golfer surplus: The number of iGolf members is now in excess of 30,000 and England Golf agreed from the outset that any profit from iGolf subscriptions would be passed back to the counties. At the EG Regional meeting two weeks ago we were advised that each County Union and Association will receive £2,700 – the profits being split across the board irrespective of iGolf members in each county. It is likely that the money will be in the form of a grant but final criteria is yet to be received.
9. Junior Development:

Sue Hayward, SLCGA's Junior Organiser, recently forwarded to the GB the Pathway document put together to define "A Pathway for Junior Golfers in Suffolk" (document attached).

For such a pathway to exist it requires the Suffolk Golf Union (SGU), Suffolk Ladies County Golf Association (SLCGA), golf clubs and other golfing authorities such as the Suffolk Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and the Golf Foundation to work together with a common aim. It has been recognised that there is no defined pathway for junior golfers to progress from being 'beginners' at their clubs to a position where they are able to achieve a handicap index low enough to represent their club and/or their county.

A defined pathway will not only benefit individual players and the county associations but will also assist clubs to retain junior golfers who will eventually become full members, ie the future of their clubs.

The three clubs who will be hosting events are Culford School, Halesworth and Ufford Park.

10. Communications from SLCGA: Di distributes information to the main contact ie Captain, secretary, owner for onward distribution to all the lady members of that club. We are aware that in some clubs this does not happen. Following discussion it was agreed that future information would also be sent via LJ to the Delegates.
11. Any other business:
 - (i) List of contacts: One of the Clubs has experienced difficulty accessing the list of contacts and asked whether it was possible to have a link to the details on the website. In order to comply with GDPR this is not possible. Di updates the list 3 times a year; the next update will be 1 April.
 - (ii) Weston: to clarify, only players in Division IA and IB of the Weston can go out in any order. Everyone else goes out in Handicap order.
 - (iii) When offering dates for matches can organisers please be mindful of other County match dates ie Cranworth & Stearn. One club has recently been offered 3 dates of which two fell on county match dates.
 - (iv) Job Vacancies: There are 2 vacancies; one for Secretary and one for Venue Organiser. Could anyone who is interested please contact Di for a job description.

Sue Hayward would also be most appreciative of help/support on Junior days. If anyone is interested could they contact Sue - juniors@suffolkladiesgolf.org.uk
 - (v) LJ congratulated Seckford who, at the England Golf Awards earlier this month, won the Club of the Year award.
12. Date & Venue of next meeting: Friday 19 August @ 10.00 o'clock @ Bramford (to be followed by optional golf)

