

# SUFFOLK DELEGATES MEETING

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Aldeburgh GC

Sheila Boath welcomed the ladies to the first delegates meeting of 2024 then started by thanking Lizzie Johnson for her sterling work over the years and for her support in the handover of this role. She also introduced the members from the Suffolk GB who were in attendance, thanking Di Hegarty in particular for continuing for another year.

1. **Present:** Aldeburgh (Penny Gaunt); Brett Vale (Hilary Archer); Bungay (Christine Ashe); Bury (Melanie Lesser); Diss (Diane Leeder/ Philippa Bridges); Felixstowe (Carol Deslandes); Flempton (Claudia Robins); Fynn Valley (Sally Crosbie); Gorleston (Maureen Duckett); Halesworth (Rita Fossey/Cathy Chandler); Hintlesham (Karen Perridge by Zoom); Ipswich (Vanessa Adams); Newton Green (Margaret Hills); Rookery Park (Frieda Waldon/Sandra Churchill); Rushmere (Patsy Long/Mandy Read); Seckford (Yvonne Southey); Southwold (Ruth Kemp); Stowmarket (Jane Jewers); Thorpeness (Kate Chapman); Woodbridge (Roz McKenzie)

From SLCGA: Vicki Hunt (President); Emily Evans (Vice Captain); Di Hegarty (Secretary); Jan Fawdry (Handicaps).

Apologies: Bramford, Haverhill, Royal Worlington

## 2. The 100 Club

Sue Cook started by thanking the ladies for their continued support and Emily Evans for her campaign promoting the 100 Club. We now have the highest number of ladies involved. We have increased the prize money by £10 a quarter, increasing the £40 to £50.

Prize	Number	Name	Club
£100	16	Ladies Section	Halesworth
£75	75	Ladies' Section	Aldeburgh
£50	63	Sarah Driver	Ipswich
£50	556	Karen Hubbard	Bungay
£30	36	Marianne Haines	Diss
£30	533	Sarah Wales	Fynn Valley
£20	560	Pam Delaney	Bungay
£20	204	Yvonne Horne	Bury St Edmunds
£20	414	Ladies' Section	Aldeburgh

Would the delegates please ask the "winners" to email our Treasurer, Carol Deslandes ([carol.deslandes@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.deslandes@btinternet.com)) with their bank account details so she can transfer the payment.

Please also note there are 3 outstanding payments from the January AGM if delegates could ask them to contact Carol asap! Sheila thanked Sue Cook for all the work she does for the 100 Club.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting on 13 October 2023: Agreed

### 4. Matters Arising

- a. Competition card requirement for County Handicap competitions: GB agreed to continue with 5 cards but this will be reviewed again in future. Jan Fawdry highlighted that this could be any five cards from either 18 or 9 hole qualifying competitions (as set up by Club).
- b. Special Dispensation from 5 card rule: where genuine reason (eg injury or family reason etc.), please email Di Hegarty with details ([secretary@suffolkladiesgolf.org.uk](mailto:secretary@suffolkladiesgolf.org.uk))
- c. Jubilee Shield organiser: the SLCGA thanked Sally Crosbie for stepping up to this role.
- d. 100 Club surplus funds: the SLCGA and attended a First Aid Course in March. Delegates were asked for any ideas for using this year's funds. There is about £1000 to be allocated. Any surplus will be given to England Golf Trust which supports junior golfers
- e. Triangular Friendly matches: there is considerable interest in setting up such friendly matches. Please email Sheila Boath ([sboath@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:sboath@btinternet.co.uk)) if your club is interested and we will set up a database pool of interested clubs.

### 5. County Competitions

- a. Weston: 5 competition cards are NOT required as play off scratch. All players to go out in handicap order, ensuring same format across all divisions. Also, should a course have to close during a match, games already played will count from the last hole completed.  
The GB decided that the winning club of the Division 1 final will represent Suffolk in the EG Women's Champion Club competition. This year, last year's winners Bury will travel to Hessele GC Yorkshire (w/e of Aug 31<sup>st</sup> – Sept 1<sup>st</sup>). Each team is made up of 3 players, playing a Scratch Medal, with the best two scores from each day counting. There is some financial assistance available from the County to meet the team's costs. Should Bury not be able to send a team, then the runner's up will be offered the opportunity to go; and if they are unable to go, it will be opened up to the other Division 1 clubs.
- b. Stearn: GB declined the request to reduce the handicap limit to 18. The format of a squad of 8 and facility to mix and match pairings in afternoon is to remain this year.
- c. East Region Competitions:
  - County Match week is at Felixstowe from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June if you would like to come along and support Suffolk Ladies;
  - Senior Ladies Championship is at St Ives GC on 18<sup>th</sup> July. Entry on [www.chwgl.co.uk/competition2.php?tab=details&compid=27](http://www.chwgl.co.uk/competition2.php?tab=details&compid=27)

- Ladies 36 hole stroke play Championship is at Stoke by Nayland GC on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. Entry on East Region page of SLCGA website or [www.essexladiesgolf.org/competition2.php?tab=details&compid=207&](http://www.essexladiesgolf.org/competition2.php?tab=details&compid=207&)
  - Girls Championship is at Bawburgh GC on 16<sup>th</sup> August. Entry on Norfolk Ladies golf website but link not available at moment;
  - Junior County Match days 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August at the Melbourne GC Herts.;
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Trophy at South Beds GC on 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August;
  - Junior Team Trophy at Apsey Guise GC Bedfordshire on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept.
- All support very welcome.

## 6. New County Competitions

- a. Senior Scratch InterClub competition: Vicki Hunt gave a full explanation of reason behind setting up this new competition. There followed a lively exchange of individual club's views of the possible formats which would work from their perspective. This included a greensome or foursomes format, a one day event rather than a league (it may be difficult to find a club to offer their course for a full day), the maximum handicap permitted, a handicap cap at the lower end or fielding a team from 2 clubs. It was felt that 50 was a good minimum age limit (but then play may need to be at the weekend). Also, 4BBB would not work for Aldeburgh nor was it felt to be equitable for a 14 or 16 handicap to play a very low handicap player off scratch. All points will be discussed by the GB at their next meeting
- b. 9 hole competition: this came out of feedback from the Captain's Roadshows. The competition would be open to all but has been requested by those who usually only play on a 9 hole course or beginners who are just getting into competitive golf. The initial idea will be to piggy back onto the Division 4 meeting. There was much support so the GB will look into this further for 2025.

## 7. County Technology

- a. Di Hegarty announced that Club V1, the software package we have used for our county competitions have increased their charges from £175 to £900. Di has been unable to find a cheaper option but is reluctant to spend this amount. One solution is for the County to use the individual club's software when running a County competition at their club: Di will contact the clubs directly.
- b. Competition App: Di has set up a competition app for the interclub competitions. This has been emailed to each competition organiser to share with the individual club organisers. Hopefully will make it easier to access this contact information.
- c. Quick reminder to keep the Contacts and Competition Contacts lists up to date, especially where any changes mid-year. Thank you.

- d. Sheila thanked Vicki, Di and Eunice for all their efforts in revamping the SLCGA website. Please send any feedback, or suggestions for additions or changes to the Secretary for consideration by the GB.

## 8. New Handicap Rules

The main change is the way “shots given” are calculated.

Your Course handicap is now calculated to two decimal points and this figure needs to be used for calculating 95% for medals and stablefords. For example, at Woodbridge GC, a player with a Handicap Index in band 20.4 to 21.1, playing off the silver tees gives a rounded up/down full Course Handicap of 25. But, if calculating a competition Playing Handicap of 95%, you need to calculate this before any rounding:

	H.I.	Unrounded CH	PH of 95%	Rounded PH
Example 1	20.4	24.57	23.34	23
Example 2	21.1	25.40	24.13	24

This will affect the Divisional meetings as playing handicaps will be a percentage of the exact Course handicap.

In 4BBB, you should determine your Course Handicap for the course you are playing from the boards at the club then calculate the exact difference from the player with the lowest handicap. You then take 90% of this figure as your shots. This value is the only one which is rounded up or down. This will affect the Jubilee Shield only. All other match play formats remain unchanged.

4BBB match-play does not count for handicap purposes.

Please ensure you have updated your apps, including the EG app, as only the latest editions include the new handicap calculations.

## 9. England Golf updates

- a. **iGolf:** 43k members and growing. By end 2023, over 7,700 golfers subsequently joined a club. Surplus funds from this programme are distributed back to Counties, with Suffolk Ladies eligible for up to £4,167.
- b. **iPlayer:** new App launched in October 2023 which is aimed at leisure and recreational golfers using driving ranges, simulators, crazy golf parks etc.
- c. **Get into Golf Rookies:** is the new programme aimed at getting boys and girls aged between 5 and 18 into golf. Runs parallel to Girls Golf Rocks programme. 2024 schemes have already been launched but EG are looking at a summer holiday programme, details to be announced.

- d. **Women on Par programme:** supporting new female golfers to get out onto the golf course. [www.Englandgolf.org/women-on-par](http://www.Englandgolf.org/women-on-par)
- e. **Young Ambassadors scheme:** aimed at young people aged between 14 and 22 on application who have a passion for golf and want to get involved and inspire other young people. May be of interest to young people who are looking for a career in the golf industry or who just want to get more involved. [www.Englandgolf.org/young-ambassadors](http://www.Englandgolf.org/young-ambassadors)
- f. **Community Golf Instructor:** a new training programme across the UK to help create a team of people who can help develop the game in communities. [www.Englandgolf.org/community-golf-instructor](http://www.Englandgolf.org/community-golf-instructor)
- g. **England Captains membership programme:** "club" for past and present Captains offering competitions, concessions, newsletter and prize draws
- h. **Black Tees:** England Golf say they have all the information required to do this without revisiting golf clubs. They will be contacting the Counties in due course.
- i. **New Handicap Boards:** there is limited funding available to each club towards the cost of new boards following the handicap changes.
- j. **EG apparel:** you can purchase EG clothing online. A contribution form each purchase is given to the England Golf Trust which supports young golfers at grass roots level. <https://Englandgolf.myshopify.com>

## 10. Visit to Bramford

Vicki and Tanya visited Bramford GC in February with their SLCGA roadshow. They joined in with their Chicks with Sticks session and were very impressed by the enthusiasm and atmosphere at the golf centre. Sarah provides extensive and detailed coaching, especially on course training and is doing a fantastic job of getting new ladies into golf. It is recognised that the course is not easy, especially the back nine, and that you have to play very accurately to play to your handicap. Vicki thanked Sarah for a very warm welcome to the club.

Sheila reported that England Golf have just announced this year that they are starting a review to identify clubs where their results are at either extreme of the general average as a result of the introduction of the WHS. They will then look at data available to them (through the EG App) to establish whether there are issues with the slope, course rating, the way or when qualifying competitions are organised, etc. and then work with clubs to constructively address these issues.

## 11. Speed Dating meeting September

This is the meeting for Lady Captains/Vice Captains/Friendly organisers to meet ladies from other clubs and to confirm/arrange their interclub matches for the next couple of years. This year it will be held at **Diss GC on Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 2pm. Thank you very much to Diane Leeder for agreeing to host this.

12. AOB

- a. Jo Winn Trophy. This was discussed at the GB meeting and clarified that the calculation is the player with the lowest total relative scores (compared to Course Rating) of:
- Gross Score Round 1 County Championship
  - Gross Score Round 2 County Championship
  - Gross Score Division 1 meeting
  - Best 2 Gross scores from 18 hole Medal competitions held on any affiliated Suffolk Course, between April 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October that year. Supplementary scores are NOT accepted)
- b. Hilary Archer from Brett Vale was very pleased to announce that the club had a new owner and that the future now looked a lot more positive. The course will remain an 18 hole golf course and the new owner has already started work on improvements. She encouraged Suffolk ladies to come and play. They have a Ladies Open in August and you are all very welcome.
- c. Issue over tees being booked by Clubs for Interclub competitions. Di Hegarty writes to the clubs with all the potential county competitions dates and the Club Secretary should respond with any dates the club cannot facilitate. Then she confirms
- d. Melanie Lesser described how Bury GC had been promoting a rules game all through the winter. She volunteered to forward the sheets (which they had been posting on back of doors) as there was substantial interest in sharing this. Thank you Melanie!

13. Date and Venue of next meeting:

**Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Woodbridge Golf Club** (followed by 9 holes of golf on the Forest course)