

CGP Report 5.9.2011

The report today will be based on your questions and queries following the presentation at the last meeting. There were various concerns from the floor and I will attempt to enlighten you with updates.

1. Sally Dare (The Worcestershire GC) asked why the flyer on Midlands Golf Week was sent out so late. This has been discussed with Sharon Heeley who apologized. The delay resulted because Sharon applied for a lottery grant to support the campaign. The decision on this took longer than anticipated and unfortunately was unsuccessful. With limited planning time Sharon decided to pilot the initiative anyway, collecting funds from each participating CGP, supported by £1,000 from The England Golf Partnership. To avoid this being repeated she gave me an update on the proposal for next year. A letter will be issued to all clubs in October 2011 confirming the date for next year's event - 9th -15th April 2012. This has been re-scheduled from July to avoid the build up to the Olympic Games, as well as benefit from the momentum generated this year. Clubs will be invited to an orientation evening before the end of the year (December) with a view to getting activity details finalised by 22nd January so that we have two full months to market the initiative (in February and March). This should be a better time of year to get co-operation from the pro's and your marketing / secretarial departments. However 87 clubs supported this year's project with a strong input from The Vale, Abbey Park, Bromsgrove and Cocks Moors Wood Golf Clubs. 171 people attended taster sessions in Worcestershire. 1,000 new participants took part across the region, supplemented by several existing golfers paying green fees at those clubs who offered discounted green fees. Testimonials and success stories are currently being collated and will be posted on the web-site to coincide with the letter to clubs (in October) www.midlandsgolfweek.co.uk

The EWGA promoted Midlands Golf Week via their web-site and The England Golf Partnership Regional Press Officer issued numerous press releases in the 8 week build up. It is fair to say that regional press coverage was poor and local contact proved more successful, where the County Development Officer and the clubs themselves secured column inches by contacting their local papers directly. Local radio covered the event very well with many CGP's securing interviews and Sharon was interviewed on BBC WM during The Open.

2. Gillian Miller (Halesowen GC) asked for feedback on the ways in which the Club Coaching Grant (£600 in 2010) was being used by the professionals. From 1st April 2010 - 31st March 2011, 1,099 participants received coaching in Worcestershire – 605 adults, 494 juniors, 55% male, 45% female. Please find attached the National overview of the 2010/11 campaign showing how the grant tends to be utilised. In 2011/12 a £500 grant is available to GolfMark accredited clubs. This funding is used to support 20 hours of coaching. £300 MUST be allocated to sessions for adult beginners and up to £200 can be spent on either coaching for young people 14-25 years old, follow on sessions for new golfers and/or priority groups (e.g. women and girls). Some clubs choose to supplement the grant with their own funds and/or per person charges from the participants, allocating a proportion of the total fund to marketing their taster sessions.

3. In answer to the observations made about the monies held by the CGP the Treasurer, Karen Greenfield has been asked to prepare an updated set of accounts. This was unfortunately not available at the meeting last week. A CGP Budget Summary showing Budgeted Expenditure from 2009-2013. Copies have been handed out and if you would like to see a current balance sheet let me know. Application for further grants have been successful this year. The bi-annual review accounts have to be submitted to The England Golf Partnership by 31st October. Once available, this will provide a half-year overview of the accounts (April-September 2011)
4. In answer to the suggestion raised by Biddy Denton (Stourbridge GC) about sending a letter to the CGP collating your concerns. At this stage I felt a letter was not appropriate. In view of the current Chairman, Andrew Boyd wishing to resign and no immediate successor, discussion in the first instance was the better way forward. This has taken place with several members of the CGP Steering Group and 'action' has followed. At the last CGP meeting on 23rd August a request was made for monthly progress reports from the County Development Officer, Warwick Holland. This was strongly supported by Sharon Heeley. This information is readily available verbally but there is currently no written evidence. Facts and figures on a regular written basis should be forthcoming and pressure to commit to this exercise has been reinforced from the men's union and ladies association.
5. Further questions raised about Academy coaching and success rate have also been discussed and it is anticipated that we will receive detailed progress reports after the Academy Assessment Sessions which take place on 10th, 17th and 24th September. There will be a member of the Exec. Committee present at each session. We do not receive written progress reports at present. We are sure the pro's set targets and monitor development showing progress with goals attained or failed. Players have an Evidence File to record their targets and results. Volunteers (PGA Level 1 coaches) from the Junior Committee are present at all coaching sessions and liaise with Rhona Humphries on a regular basis. It is encouraging that Graham Farr (Worcester Golf & Country Club GC) has agreed to chair the County Academy/Player Pathway. Current performance reviews (handicap and event performance) of players on Academy programmes along with exit strategies for those not kept on the programme, will be forthcoming. Education workshops are scheduled for pro's and will be open to volunteers helping with county squads. Dates t.b.a.
6. You raised concern over the future of the County Golf Partnerships, with reductions in funding and the forthcoming merger vote. Sharon Heeley has clarified that the vote on merger relates to the National Governing Bodies the EWGA and EGU. County merger is something to consider for the future although county bodies are already working together under the banner of the CGP. Many County Unions and Associations have already had preliminary discussions about this. Sharon has also suggested that even within a merged county body there would always be a need to focus on the development of the game, particularly the recruitment of new players. With reference to funding, although there are no guarantees at this stage, County Golf Partnerships are a key part of the national 'Whole Sport Plan.' There is a forecasted 15% cut in government's funding of sport, however this does not mean that golf would receive a 15% cut

and as lottery ticket sales are increasing, The England Golf Partnership is optimistic that Sport England will continue to fund golf from 2013- 2017. May I add that recently The England Golf Partnership has secured £616,977 of additional funding to support CGP's. £11,850 is available for The Worcestershire and Herefordshire CGP, upon completion of an Action Plan - to be reviewed on 22nd Sept.

It is important to point out that the current County Academy funding (previously secured as a one-off lottery grant), will cease in March 2012 and therefore the future of this programme rests with securing funds from elsewhere. WHLCGA have addressed the financial implications of this for the near future.

I hope this information gives you a clearer picture of the current situation with regards to the future and progress of the partnership. Unfortunately there is currently a void from the administrative angle but we hope this will improve.

Further information is available if you wish to contact (myself) Netty Kitson or Sharon Heeley Regional Development Officer Mob: 07734 088319. Email: Sharon.Heeley@englishwomensgolf.org

Attachments tabled:

- i) Club Coaching Grant Report 2010/11
- ii) Club Coaching breakdown of activities (dated 23.6.2011)
- iii) CGP Budget Summary April 2009-March 2013

Netty Kitson

(CGP Steering Group Committee)