



WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 16th January 2012 at Kidderminster Golf Club at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mrs Maryann Hayes (President & Hon Life Member), Mrs Y Foley (Captain), Dr D McKie (Chairman), Mrs N Kitson (Vice Captain), Mrs V Evans (Hon Secretary), Miss K Greenfield (Hon Treasurer), Mrs J Taylor (Competition Secretary), Ms J Kerr (England Golf Representative), Miss W Ray (Handicap Adviser), Mrs J Yates (Fixtures Secretary), Mrs M Jordan (County Liaison Officer), Mrs R Weston (Hon Life Member), Miss J Blaymire (Hon Life Member), Mrs J Harrison (Life Vice President), Mrs E Allen (Life Vice President), Mrs E Pryce-Jones (Life Vice President) and Representatives from 34 Clubs.

Dr D McKie (Chairman) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first Committee Meeting of 2012 at Kidderminster GC. Thanks were given to the Club for hosting the meetings in 2012. The Chairman announced the sad news of the death of Mrs Anne Foord of Worcester G&CC and former County Competition Secretary who had died in October, and secondly Liz Shelley of Moseley GC who had been active in the County in the past and who had died in November. Letters of condolence had been sent by the County Captain. A short silence was observed.

The Chairman introduced the new Executive Committee and Assistants. The following incoming Club Delegates also introduced themselves: Mrs D Thompson (Warley Woods), Mrs D Jones (Churchill & Blakedown), Kay Taylor (Kington), Rosie Cheeseman (Bewdley Pines), Vicki Sherwood (Ravenmeadow), Cath Robinson (Hagley), Lynne Jones (Gay Hill), Chris Benoy (Gaudet Luce), Jan Bettison & Anne Hamilton (Bransford), Helen Olds (Worcester G&CC), Lyn Robinson (The Vale), Conryn Abbott (Evesham), Liz Edmunds (Ombersley), Sue Amphlett (Droitwich), Chris Anning (The Grove), Judy Williams (Blackwell) Julia Radley (The Worcestershire).

The Chairman outlined the importance of the role of the Club Delegate; being the link between England Golf (formerly EWGA), the County and Clubs and stressed that if a delegate could not attend a County meeting then arrangements should be made for someone, preferably from the Ladies Committee, to deputise on their behalf. Apologies should be tendered to the Hon Secretary together with the name of the stand-in representative.

The Chairman then began the business of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs B Denton (Hon Life Member), Mrs E Baker (Hon Life Member), Mrs A Hunter (Life Vice President & Standard Scratch Assessor), Mrs B Desmond (Life Vice President), Mrs R Loh (2nd Team Captain), Mrs Cath Francis (2nd Team Vice Captain), Mrs R Humphries (Junior Team Manager), and representatives from the following clubs; Redditch, Dymock Grange, Cocks Moors Woods, Leominster & Cleobury Mortimer.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Amendments:

- Date of Minutes (18th July) to read 5th September.
- P1 5th para, 4th line – 'send' to read 'sent'.
- P4, last para, 1st line – 'what' to be deleted.
- P6 Item 9 Comp. Sec. Report – Centenary Cup, Winner of Quaiche to read Sheila Short, Redditch.
- P6, Mary Hampson Trophy – typographical error word 'Gaudet' transposed.
- P9 Item 13 'Miss' Freeman to read Mrs Freeman.

The minutes of the last meeting were amended accordingly and then signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Droitwich GC had played in the quarter finals of The Mail on Sunday National Golf Classic but unfortunately did not progress to the semi-finals in Spain losing 3:2.

Lucy Walton had acquitted herself well in the Midlands Champion of Champions at Cold Ashby GC on 11th September. The competition was won by Sam Meese from Enville GC.

The merger of the English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) and the English Golf Union (EGU) was approved on 16th November at simultaneous general meetings of both organisations. An update on the progress of the merger would be given by Ms Kerr under Item 7.

Changes to the CONGU Handicapping System would be covered by Miss Ray under Item 12.

4. HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs Evans gave the following report.

A number of emails with attachments had been sent direct to delegates as follows:-

12/09/11	Notice of a Handicap Seminar at Kings Norton GC on 10 th November regarding important changes to the CONGU Handicapping System in 2012
08/11/11	List of WHLCGA Officers contact details 2012 WHLCGA Fixture List 2012 Committee Meeting dates 2012 Subscription notification 2012 Club Delegate's Job Description. Club Officers' List request form (for completion and return). Request for details of players with Handicaps of 12 & Under (for completion and return)
24/11/11	Copy email from CEO of EWGA outlining vacant posts on committees of England Golf seeking applications from interested candidates.
07/12/11	County Subscription notice 2012.

A Special Resolution to change the Articles of Association of EWGA to remove the clubs and individual members as members of EWGA from 31st December had been received, duly signed on behalf of the County and returned to EWGA.

Correspondence had been received from The English Golf Union (EGU) advising that WHLCGA's application for membership of The EGU was approved by its Board on 4th January, 2012.

Mrs Evans thanked clubs who, to date, had completed and returned details of their Club Officers and players of 12 Handicap and below. Club Officers details remained outstanding from the following clubs, Belmont, Brandhall, Cleobury Mortimer, Halo, Little Lakes and Warley Woods. Handicap details are awaited from Bromsgrove and Cleobury Mortimer.

She reminded Club Delegates of the importance of relaying the information back to their clubs and members, as well as displaying a copy of the Minutes. Delegates were reminded to collect their bundle of 2012 Fixture Cards and other documentation upon close of the meeting.

5. CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Mrs Foley gave the following report.

Coaching

By the end of this week letters and e-mails will have been sent out to all prospective 1st, 2nd and Junior Team players together with players availability form, for completion and return. This year two full-day training sessions will be held at Kings Norton GC with Kevin Hayward. In addition, Alison Nicholas, the 2011 Solheim Cup Captain and EWGA Ambassador, has been engaged to give potential 1st Team Squad the benefit of her team performance experience and course management skills. Alison will accompany the county team players to the first practice playing session at Mentmore GC on 1st April.

County Match Week 2011/2012

The County Captain had attended a de-brief meeting in October at Mentmore GC, Bucks., accompanied by Maryann (President), Netty (Vice Captain) and Val Evans (Hon Secretary) when feedback was given on the organisation of the 2011 County Match Week (CMW). The comments received were extremely complimentary and as a result the WHLCGA template for CMW will be used to plan for CMW to be held at Mentmore GC in June 2012. Mrs Foley advised that Mentmore GC is located between Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard and journey takes approx. 2hrs 20 minutes; the route passing close by to the Bicester Outlet Village so it would be impolite not to call in! The Mentmore course is positioned in a beautiful part of the country, only 20 years old and quite flat and open, with water in play mainly on the back 9.

Donations

Mrs Foley advised that a Charity Bridge Drive had been held at Worcester Golf & Country Club on 21st November, which had proved to be very well supported. Part of the proceeds from that day was in aid of the junior development funds and Mrs Foley called upon Mrs Wendy Davies-Hodgkiss, the Lady Captain of Worcester G&CC, to present the cheque. Mrs Foley expressed her gratitude and asked that her thanks be given to all the Bridge players for their efforts in raising such a fantastic sum of £353.

Mrs Foley said that she had written to all other Lady Captains within the Association as well as the Captain of the County Lady Veterans, asking if they could hold a raffle in aid of the junior funds. The County will be running four raffles this year namely, The Barbara Chamberlain at Kidderminster, the County Three Ball Alliance at Kings Norton, the Team Championship at The Worcestershire and the AGM Foursomes at Kidderminster and asked that if anyone had any suitable raffle prizes they would like to donate, such items would be gratefully received.

England Golf Coaching Conference

This conference is being held at The National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa on 19th and 20th January and will be attended by the County Captain and Jenny Hartley from the Junior Committee.

Distance Measuring Devices (DMDs)

EWGA have announced that the use of DMDs will be allowed in all EWGA competitions and championships. It was left to individual counties to make their own decision and, in line with all the other counties within our region, the Executive Committee were circulated with a copy of the EWGA memo and have agreed that DMDs should be allowed in all County competitions and matches. Mrs Foley hoped that such agreement to allow use of DMDs reflects the thoughts and opinion of those present. A statement to this effect appears in the Competition Rules on the Fixture card. It was emphasised that such devices can only be used for measuring distance only and no other functions are allowed, i.e. wind speed, slope, etc. If other functions are used, the penalty will be disqualification. Recent correspondence received from the EGU has suggested additional wording to the original statement on the Fixture card, relating to the use of mobile phones and team captains. The statement therefore on the Fixture card is correct but now not complete. The revised wording is being discussed and clarification is also being sought from the EGU on the use of wrist watches as DMDs.

Junior Committee

It was announced that Su Amphlett of Droitwich Golf Club had volunteered to be the County Junior Organiser. Su is already the Junior Organiser at club level and the Junior Committee will give her every help and support in performing the duties of County J.O.

And finally, Mrs Foley informed the meeting that Mrs Pat Tattersall (Webmaster) was now recuperating at home following a successful shoulder operation. A speedy recovery was wished for Mrs Tattersall.

6. 2nd TEAM CAPTAIN'S REPORT

No report given.

7. ENGLAND GOLF REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Ms Kerr gave the following report.

Ms Kerr remarked that it gave her great pleasure to present her first report as England Golf representative rather than EWGA representative, following the successful merger of the men's and ladies' organisations last year.

In tying up loose ends in relation to EWGA business Ms Kerr was assured that all would join her in recognizing two girls from the Midlands South Region who had achieved great success at the end of 2011. Firstly, Miss Lauren Taylor was awarded The BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year which was a real triumph for girls' golf. And secondly, the tremendous success of Charley Hull from Northamptonshire who has won both the Ladies' and Girls' Orders of merit (the first time anyone has won both). Charley is currently ranked 6th in the world which was considered 'not bad' for a 16 year old!

Merger Progress

Following the decision by both the EWGA and EGU to merge from the beginning of January 2012, the two organisations will be managed as one entity from this date and will create England Golf, one national governing body to represent all amateur golfers in England. As a result the post of CEO of the EWGA ceased to exist and as such Jim Robinson, CEO of EWGA, left the Association on 31st December 2011. Ms Kerr acknowledged the huge contribution Jim had made to the EWGA in his period of office and the respect he has earned in the golfing

community. Further changes will undoubtedly take place as the new organisation is formed and friends and associates we have known and worked with may be working in new roles or not required by the new organisation. A first meeting of new management board had been held and the following was agreed:

- Nigel Evans will be first Chairman.
- Affiliation fees will be collected by EWGA for 2012.
- County Representative's term of office will be up to individual Counties.
- Voting member for AGM to be decided by Counties. Ms Kerr had been invited to the first AGM on 14th/ 15th February 2012 at Woodhall Spa.
- Regional Committees expenses for room hire etc. to be claimed in usual way for 2012.
- All present sub committees will continue until new committees are formed by Management Board (39 ladies so far have expressed an interest in taking part in Committees).
- Presentation of Silver tee award etc. will be made at AGM for England Golf in February.

Ms Kerr advised that no real decisions can be taken until first official meeting in January but needless to say, staff morale is low at present as their future is uncertain but the office will continue to function in its usual way whilst decisions are being taken.

The EWGA Trust will continue but will be outside of England Golf. Changes will be made and discussions on Trust Stableford competition etc. are ongoing.

Judi Walker will take over as LGU Deputy.

Distance Measuring Devices (DMDs)

The EWGA Operational Board has decided that, with effect from 1 January 2012, distance measuring devices will be allowed in all EWGA competitions and championships.

Over the past year the Operational Board has received many questions from clubs asking why DMDs were not allowed in all EWGA competitions and, specifically, why men could use them when women could not. They found there were many situations which could be confusing for players. For example, competitors were allowed to use DMDs in the club qualifying rounds of some EWGA events but not if they progressed to the regional and national finals.

In addition, many order of merit events in England and overseas allowed their use, while other competition organisers took the same stance as The EWGA and restricted their use.

Having taken everything into consideration the Operational Board has decided that the correct way forward is to allow the use of DMDs in all EWGA events, with immediate effect.

Individual counties must make their own decision about the use of DMDs in their events and it is entirely up to them to decide whether or not to follow the EWGA line. Ms Kerr confirmed that a decision had been taken by the County executives to allow the use of DMDs. (See Captain's Report p.1 for clarification).

Ms Kerr drew attention to The Australian Spoons competition as the County had done so well in the event in recent years:

The **AUSTRALIAN SPOONS** competition is open to players with Active CONGU handicaps of 21 – 36 at the time of marking a card in the qualifying round(s). A player may enter from one club only, but need not play with the same partner in attempting to qualify. The qualifying partnership must not change once a pair has qualified for the regional or national finals. Players whose exact handicaps drop below 20.5 are still eligible to qualify on a card marked whilst their handicap was 21 or higher.

Entry Fee is 50p per player, per round (£1 per card). Minimum entry fee per club: £5. Clubs are requested to hold at least one qualifying competition for their members but there is no limit to the number of cards which can be entered. Qualifying rounds may be played at any time from Tuesday 1 November 2011. Entries to the regional final must be received by the regional organiser by Monday 25 June 2012.

Ms Kerr had previously circulated the entry forms for the Junior Girls Championships on 14th August and requested that the same be distributed to the club junior organiser(s) and anyone else who may be interested.

Mrs R Weston queried whether there was any news as to the appointment of the new CEO of England Golf. This was not known but as soon an appointment had been made a Press Release would be posted on the EWGA/EGU websites.

Mrs Evans (Hon Sec) encouraged members to take the opportunity to register with the EGU. Once registered, club members can check their handicap online and the card also acts as a handicap certificate when playing away from

their home club. Registered members can also take advantage of golf benefits and other special deals as well as their names being entered into a weekly prize draw providing some fantastic prizes.

8. JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT

Mrs Dare gave the following report on behalf of Mrs R. Humphries.

Since the AGM in October there has only been one event that the County girls have entered. This was a competition between five counties, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire & WHLCGA. Each County entered a team of 4 boys and 4 girls in different age groups who had attended Academy Coaching. Meghan Evans 9-10 yrs (Gaudet Luce) and Ellie Lawrence 15 -16 yrs (Stourbridge) came second and Lucy Walton 11-12 yrs (The Worcestershire) and Ciara Kelly 13-14 yrs (Hagley) came 1st in their individual medal competitions and the team won the team event. We were delighted with the result and the girls all received individual medals as well as the team trophy.

There had been changes within the Junior girls committee as several long standing members stepped down at the end of the season. Retiring members Ina Murphy, Mary Bancroft, Sylvia Laws, Pat Tattersall and Sylvia Mullen were recognised as ladies who had given their valuable time and energies to getting the Junior section to where it is today. The new Committee will be chaired by Yvonne Foley with Diana Walton as Secretary and Su Amphlett as Junior Organiser). Chris Povey, Maria Jordan and Jane Nicklin will join Elizabeth Freeman, Sally Dare, Sylvia Tudor-Hughes, Jenny Hartley and Rhona Humphries on the Committee. The workload will be shared in order to avoid any one person being overburdened.

Details of the published Junior Events for 2012 were tabled for the delegates to pick up at the meeting together with an entry form relating to the Pre-Season Day on 14th February at Ombersley GC. Delegates were asked to ensure that girls in their clubs are handed individual copies of the event forms as it was felt that sometimes the girls do not frequent their Club(s) during the winter months. An Events sheet and availability forms together with entry forms can all be found on the website at www.ladies.worcestershireamateurgolf.co.uk

Coaching for the three Academy groups is continuing throughout the winter and the group at Burghill Valley GC are also making good progress. The County Junior Captain for 2012 is Suzanne Baylie from Kidderminster.

9. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs Taylor considered that it was a great honour to be appointed the County Competition Secretary and thanked Mrs Foley for asking her to take on the role. Since the A.G.M. in October one competition had taken place as follows:-

Non-Qualifying Competition

RESULT

Winter Foursomes

Bromsgrove GC - 24th October 2011

Best Gross	Sue Yau & Chris Henderson	Kings Norton	28Gross/41points
1 st Nett	Sal Harrison & Ali Greggs	Ravenmeadow	36 points
2 nd Nett	Lyn Catton & Margaret Stiles	Kings Norton	35 points
3 rd Nett	Hazel Cartledge & Liz Pool	The Worcestershire	35 points

Total Entries 42 pairs from 21 Clubs.

Mrs Taylor thanked Pauline Hadfield and Sue Woolaway from Churchill & Blakedown GC for running the competition and advised that Pauline and Sue would be running all the Non-Qualifying Competitions again this year. Mrs Taylor reminded those present that Entry forms can also be downloaded from the website, completed and forwarded to her in the usual way.

Forthcoming Competitions are:-

The Spring Foursomes at Sapey GC on Monday 12th March,

Spring 3 Ball Alliance (26-36 handicaps) at Hagley GC on Monday 2nd April

The Barbara Chamberlain Trophy (Bronze Division) at Kidderminster GC on Monday 23rd April

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

Miss Greenfield gave the following report.
The bank balances to date are:-

Current account	£ 900.45
Deposit Account	£23,822.83
Building Society Account	£11,824.67
TOTAL	£36,547.95

Miss Greenfield advised that from a contact name provided by the County Captain she had been able to secure a saving of just over £100 on the trophy insurance premium. The premium paid being £530.

11. COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP

Mrs Kitson gave the following report.

For the benefit of the new delegates, Mrs Kitson briefly pointed out the primary function of the County Golf Partnership advising that the partnership was introduced in 2007 and brought together representatives from the men's County union (Worcestershire Union of Golf Clubs [WUGC]) and the ladies association along with the professional coaches. The idea was that under the umbrella of one organisation we could work together to raise the profile of golf and develop the game and membership levels in golf clubs. With the advent of grants from Sport England and the successful introduction of coaching to juniors at all age levels, the Academy Coaching programme continues to be a success. Many other worthwhile initiatives have helped clubs and their professionals introduce the game to new golfers with the aim of also targeting women and the 16 plus age group. With the advent of the Merger between the EGU and EWGA it is anticipated we will work more closely with the men's County union.

A monthly 'County Golf Development Initiatives Update' document is received which gives information on club applications to the available initiatives. All GolfMark clubs, of which there are 33, can apply for a £500 Coaching Grant running from April 2011 to 31st March 2012. To date 15 clubs have applied, namely Kidderminster, Hagley, Droitwich, Little Lakes, Halesowen, Wharton Park, Bromsgrove, Kings Norton, Worcester, Fulford Heath, Redditch Kingfisher, Gaudet Luce, Redditch, Bewdley Pines and Cocks Moors Woods. Mrs Kitson requested that if a delegate's home club was not listed above, they should follow this up with club professionals and club committees as there was still time to apply for a Coaching Grant.

Mrs Kitson congratulated Bromsgrove Golf Centre, Gaudet Luce and Wharton Park Golf Clubs in recognition of receiving "High Achiever Status" within the GolfMark accreditation scheme. This award was announced early in January 2012. Dudley GC had attained GolfMark status in December 2011.

Midlands Golf Week

A three year grant of £90,000 (2011-2013) from Birmingham City Council was made available to Greater Birmingham and the Redditch areas. Funds have helped to promote Midlands Golf Week (MGW) which is now in its second year. This year MGW is taking place immediately after the US Masters on 9th-15th April 2012. Club secretaries will have received information from Andrew Boyd (WUGC) regarding this. The initiative is a tool for retention of members as well as recruitment. There is help by way of funding that a club can apply for. Warwick Holland, the County Development Officer, has said that he will gladly go along and talk to club secretaries and/or the Membership Committee in order to help and advise the planning of an event(s) during MGW. The website is up and running and this will be used to advertise club event(s) with a direct link to the individual club's website. Mrs Kitson urged that clubs plan early and encourage club members to act as volunteers to assist the club professional and marketing departments in organising event(s). Website: www.midlandsgolfweek.co.uk Warwick can be contacted by email Warwickholland@aol.com

The CGP Junior Conference will be held at Kings Norton G.C on Tuesday 27th March 2012. Details will follow from Andrew Boyd. Mrs Kitson requested that this information be passed on to Club Captains and Junior Organisers. The CGP AGM will also be held at Kings Norton on 26th April 2012 at 6.30pm

12. HANDICAP ADVISER'S REPORT

Miss Ray gave the following report.

As a result of the changes to the CONGU Unified Handicapping System on 1st January 2012 it was proposed that two seminars would be held for the purpose of going through the principal changes. The first seminar would take place at Kidderminster GC on Wednesday 22nd February 10.30am for 11am. A further seminar at Kidderminster GC would be held on Thursday, 1st March at 6.30pm. It was hoped that Handicap Secretaries would attend together with another committee member or Lady Captain. Miss Ray would arrange for the Hon Secretary to circulate details of the seminar by email to the club delegates marked "For the attention of Handicap Secretaries".

13. CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF

Mrs Ros Weston drew attention and advised in relation to the main rule changes to The R&A Rules of Golf which are set out on pages 6 & 7 of the NEW rule book (2012 – 2015).

Pages 11 – 17 contain a 'Quick Guide to the Rules of Golf' which basically sets out the main rules which crop up when playing golf. Mrs Weston recommended that clubs have a sufficient number of new R&A Rules books to allow one for each member and encouraged ladies to carry a copy in their golf bag. The publication was free.

It was also recommended that an up to date copy of the Decisions on the Rules of Golf be readily available for members to refer to. It is an essential tool for club managers, referees and those charged with running golf competitions at all levels. The latest edition is dated 2012 – 2013.

In response to a query, Mrs Weston confirmed that no penalty would be incurred if a ball fell off its tee.

A query was also raised regarding a change to the Rules of Amateur Status. The definition of Prize Vouchers has been expanded to allow prize vouchers to be used for the purchase of goods or services from a golf club (see Page 166 of the Rules Book). In effect, prize vouchers could be used to offset subscription fees.

Thanks were given to Mrs Weston for the presentation which was very interesting. Mrs Weston confirmed that she would be pleased to do a 'Rules Evening' for Clubs, if required. Contact: rosalind251@btinternet.com

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Su Amphlett promoted The Droitwich Girls' Open which will take place on Thursday, 5th April. 2012. Entry forms are available for download on the club's website www.droitwichgolfclub.co.uk as well as by a 'link' from the County website.

Mrs Freeman promoted the junior Pre-Season Day on 14th February at Ombersley GC 9am – 3pm which includes a 9 Hole Texas Scramble as well as Putting, Chipping and Driving Competitions. Entry forms available for download from the county website. www.ladies.worcestershireamatuergolf.co.uk

Mrs Pat Bailey (Rose Hill) promoted the Prosthesis "Hippies" Golf Society. The Society founded in 1979 provides golfing opportunity that brings together people for whom the quality of life has been enhanced by hip surgery. Eight to ten meetings are held each year at superb golfing venues and a Stableford golf competition is arranged. The Hippie Annual Trophy will be contested at The Herefordshire GC this year. Other local venues are include Edgbaston and Ross-on-Wye. Further information can be found at www.hipreplacementgolf.co.uk

The Club Delegate from Perdisswell Park had asked if EWGA could supply more of the Information Booklets to give to their new members. Mrs Foley replied that EWGA had no supplies left, and did not think they would be re-ordered in the same format.

15. DATE and TIME of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Monday, 30th April, 2012 at 2.00pm, Kidderminster GC.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3.45pm.

Signed

Dated