

ENGLISH WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting of MIDLANDS NORTH REGION held on
Monday 26th April 2010 at Wollaton Park Golf Club, Lime Tree Lane,
Nottingham, NG 8 1BT at 10.30 am.

<u>Present:</u>	Chairman	Mrs Julie Wright (JW)
	Administrator	Mrs Joanne Marks (JM)
	Derbyshire (Derbs)	Mrs Jaci Elliott(JEII)
	Leicestershire & Rutland (L&R)	Mrs carol Duncumb (CD)
	Lincolnshire (Lincs)	
	Nottinghamshire (Notts)	Mrs Pippa Handley (PH)
	Shropshire (Shrops)	Mrs Jean Evans (JEva)
	Staffordshire (Staffs)	Mrs Cherry Loomes (CL)

ACTION

1. Apologies Apologies received from Mrs Pat West (Lincs).
2. Chairman's Remarks The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting at Wollaton Park and thanked Pippa Handley for making the arrangements, she also welcomed Cherry Loomes to her first meeting as the Staffordshire Representative.
Congratulations to
Melisa Siviter (Staffs) for making a valuable contribution to her American College Team, and winning the Kiawah Island Invitational. She also tied fifth in the St Andrews Invitational in North Carolina.
Jessica Schiele (Lincs) for winning the UMHB Lady Cru Spring Invitational.
Holly Clyburn Lincs for finishing runner-up in the girls U21 Faldo Series Asia Grand Final at Mission Hills in China.
Alex Peters (Notts) for starting her season with a four shot victory in the Whittington Cup.
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Minutes from the Meeting on Thursday 11th February 2010 were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes
 - a. The New Website - The Chairman reported that discussions re. the new website seem to be on-going, and contrary to what was said at the last meeting it would appear the Nemysis now think that it is possible to provide the Association with a single database. Further meetings are planned.
 - b. County Affiliation Fees - Re. the list from 13th April there are still many outstanding Affiliation Fees. The Chairman said that although the Regional Committee had not been officially asked to chase up the outstanding clubs she thought the Regional Reps should remind the Club Delegates from those clubs of the consequences of non-payment. That according to the Companies Act 1985-1989 in the

Memorandum and Articles of Association, Page 69 / clause 20 in the EWGA Hand Book, it states that any Member Club which fails to pay the Annual Association membership Subscription and/or levy by 31st March in any year shall;

- 20.1 have its Standard Scratch Score revoked;
- 20.2 no longer be a member of the Association and shall be struck off the membership Register
- 20.3 its members shall cease to be individual Members and shall no longer be entitled to hold a CONGU handicap

The CDH will be used to check against Club Membership numbers and also to cross check against County Affiliation numbers. The Ops. Board did discuss changing the 'due' date to 28th February to avoid non-payment issues running into the playing season. This would require a change to the M&A and will be discussed further later in the year when all the Affiliation Fees have been collected for this year.

- c. Rules Seminars - The three Seminars proved to be very successful and some very positive feedback was received.

Those who attended will be given an opportunity to act as Observers at EWGA Championships as well as County and Regional events. As all MNR Representatives have an up to date list of qualified Referees and Observers the Chairman asked everyone to ensure that those organising Regional and County Competitions should receive this information. >>>>

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A decision will be taken at the next Ops. Board Meeting as to whether these Seminars will be held next year.

There was a comment that many ladies have no knowledge of these seminars. It appears that there could be a breakdown of communication between the Club Delegates to their Ladies' Committees and then beyond to their members. It was suggested that the MNR Reps. emphasise to the Club Delegates that they should encourage the Club Representatives to advertise future Seminars to their club members. >>>>

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There were also some comments that the initial questionnaire was very difficult and some ladies found it quite intimidating, much more difficult than the previous ones.

The Chairman to put the point forward. >>>>

JW

Pippa Handley (Notts) who attended the Seminar said she thought it was superb and had much praise for all those who ran it.

- d. DMD's - it has become apparent that some Order of Merit events are allowing the use of DMD's. A letter has been sent to all Counties explaining why the EWGA are not recommending their use and making it clear that if DMD's are allowed in County Championships Order of Merit points will not be awarded.

There were some comments that when some clubs allow the use and some clubs do not, it causes confusion and gives some players an unfair advantage particularly with regard to EWGA Medal scores.

There was a suggestion of a survey to find out which clubs

allow the use of DMD's and those who do not.

- e. EWGA / EGU Merger - At meetings held at Woodhall Spa in January all participants were very positive and good feedback was received. Recommendations will be made to the Steering Group by the end of April.

There are still some operational differences and they are

- Course Rating, not all the groups agree that all courses should be USGA rated
- Still some issues with the 6:4 gender representation on the new board
- Need to establish the best process to deliver governance, championships and competitions to move forward

It appears that there is a rumour circulating within some counties that as result of the EWGA/EGU merger that the counties must merge as well, but this is incorrect.

It is the intention to present the Manifesto at a General Meeting as it is on Day 1 and then vote - a 75% positive vote will be required for it to be successful. It has been suggested that the key personnel involved in the talks continue in office to see the merger through but this would need County approval. There will be joint Road Shows in September, October and November.

The feedback from the meetings at Edgbaston from the Regional Reps. was very positive and those who attended felt that the ladies were being well represented in negotiations. The main point was that it was an opportunity to join together and take the best part from each side.

- f. EWGA Budget - The current forecast for the year shows a small profit of £640.00 against a budgeted loss of £8388.00.

A full statement of the ring fenced pot will now be issued at the end of each financial year. This will enable the Ops Bd to make fully informed decisions on future expenditure from the pot (for example - the extra £1,000.00 donation to each County playing in this year's County Finals).

- g. Regional Competition Entry Forms - The query regarding Regional Competition Entry Forms stating that EWGA conditions apply, is to be dealt with at the next Championship and Venues Committee Meeting.

After some discussion by the Ops. Board it was generally felt that players would like to know the Conditions of the Competition before entering the competition, so it was agreed that they should still be included on the Entry Form.

- h. County Finals Funding - It was confirmed that each county reaching the County Finals will receive an extra £1,000.00 in addition to the £1,000.00 already allocated and this to come from the RFP. The Chairman reported that the letter from June Miller (Chairman of Lincs.) was discussed at some length by the Ops Bd. The issue being it is not just the winning counties that go through to the finals, but also the Counties who never got through to the Sub-Divisionals in the previous Midland Division (for which £700.00 was allocated) but now have to fund five days of competition.

The Ops. Board are aware that the situation needs monitoring and it will be discussed again in the future.

- i. MNR Rota of Events - Re. the present EWGA Medal Final Rota, the Ops Board agreed that this should be changed from 2016 onwards so that the same county is not always committed to finding a weekend venue.
- j. Rose Spoon Competition - The Chairman said that she asked the question as to why the Rose Spoon Competition has four Divisions but the Medal Final has been reduced to one. The answer was - that is the way it is.
- k. EWGA Trust - a memo is to be sent out to County Secretaries, County Captains and CJO's explaining how County Funding from the EWGA Trust is being phased out. With funds reducing over the next 4 years by 75%, 50%, 25% and then nothing. This money for coaching grants is available to each County until the end of May and is based on the number of clubs in the County at £10.00 for each club. Re. this funding from the EWGA Trust only Lincs. have so far claimed for any monies. The Chairman suggested that the Reps remind the CJO's to apply. If no claim is made then each County is missing out on monies to help younger junior girls. There have been 3,000 diaries ordered for delivery in August to the EWGA and are available to be ordered online. Re. previous suggestions for items to sell to raise income for the Trust. The Marketing department are looking into various options. There was a suggestion of mittens for cold weather play. The Chairman to suggest this. >>>>>
- l. Gross Medal Competition - Emma Lowe is still working on developing a scratch golf competition. The Chairman said she would ask how plans are progressing at the next Ops Bd. >>>>>

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5. To Receive any Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. Matters Arising from Ops board minutes

- a. La Manga - Following a visit to the La Manga Golf Club by Chrissie Owens, an agreement has been made to run a competition. The details have yet to be decided but it is hoped to be a lucrative development. Care will be taken to ensure that amateur status is not broken.
- b. Youth Olympics - The EWGA is supporting the inclusion of golf in the Youth Olympics 2016. As a point of interest there will be no major golf competitions during the 2012 Olympics.
- c. Handicaps - There was a meeting of the Handicap Sub-Committee in January and number of points arose from that meeting and they were;
 - A plan to include a single CSS in the CONGU system for mixed competitions from 2012.
 - CONGU also plan to allow clubs to apply for more than one 9 hole SSS from 2012.
 - The EGU has proposed that N/R's should be accepted

for active handicap purposes providing a minimum of 13 holes have been played. EWGA position still awaiting clarification.

- Minutes stated that 'EWGA should encourage players with inactive handicaps to play in County Competitions. However, the Ops. Board did not agree with this statement.

After some discussion all agreed that anyone playing in a County Competition should have an active handicap.

d. Championship and Venues

(i) Medal Finals - It would appear that there were 1,000 entries for Medal Finals and only 600 were allowed to play. After much discussion it was felt this not only very disappointing for the players who were entered by their club and then told there was not a place but also grossly unfair.

There was a suggestion that if it was a matter of finance then perhaps if each club sent in an entry fee £10.00 with their nominations this would help to fund 2 Medal Finals per region.

There was also a query whether those players who qualified for a Final should be allowed to play in any region or be tied to their own region. It was agreed that at least 80% of entries should come from the host region.

The Chairman said an analysis of who played, handicaps and where from is being prepared by Emma Lowe and she would take the Committee's concerns forward to the next Ops. Board. >>>>

JW

(ii) County Match Week - there has been a change in the rules regarding 'late on the tee' - the 2010 EWGA Handbook has been amended to read "if a player arrives at her starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after her starting time, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in Rule 33-7, the penalty for failure to start on time is LOSS OF HOLE in match play. Penalty for lateness beyond five minutes is DISQUALIFICATION". See page 85 in the new Handbook. The Chairman asked all MNR Reps. to notify their County Captains,

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7. Any Other Business

Jaci Elliott (Derbs) - 15 entries for the Girls Championship to date and is considering e-mailing CJO's to encourage more entries.

Jean Evans (Shrops) - Only 4 entries to date for the MNR Championship and is to e-mail County Captains to encourage more entries. Even if there is a small entry it was suggested that the Championship should proceed for this year and then review it next year.

Carol Duncumb (L&R) - said she had been asked by a number of ladies what was happening re. equality and was there any feedback from the EWGA

Pippa Handley (Notts) - the Foursomes went well but was disappointed that most of the entries were from Notts and Derbs.

After some discussion of prize allocation at the MN Foursomes it was agreed that there should be consistency from year to year and although the same pair can receive trophies for both the best gross and the best net they can only receive the cash prize of one.

8. Date of Next meeting

The Next Meeting will be held at Wollaton Park Golf Club, Lime Tree Lane, Nottingham, NG8 1BT on Thursday 1st July 2010 at 10.00 for 10.30.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 12.30 pm.

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