

ENGLISH WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting of MIDLANDS NORTH REGION held on
Wednesday 8th April 2009 at the Notts ladies Golf Club, Hollinwell,
Nottingham 1.00 for 1.30pm

Present:

Chairman	Mrs Sally Goulds (SG)
Administrator	Mrs Joanne Marks (JM)
Derbyshire (Derbs)	Mrs Jaci Elliott (JELL)
Leicestershire & Rutland (L&R)	
Lincolnshire (Lincs)	Mrs Pat West (PW)
Nottinghamshire (Notts)	Mrs Anne Mather (AM)
Shropshire (Shrops)	Mrs Jean Evans (Eva)
Staffordshire (Staffs)	Mrs Julie Wright (JW)

ACTION

1. Apologies Received from Mrs Carol Duncumb (L&R)
2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed the Chairman of the Management Committee Mrs Sue Whitaker who she had invited to attend the meeting.

She announced that in the English Partnership Awards – 5 out of the 7 awards went to women, and she was very proud to say that 2 of those were teenagers from Tipton Golf Club in Derbyshire. They were Danielle Kay and Robyn Furze.

Congratulations

To Holly Clyburn from Lincolnshire for winning the British Colleges Championship.

To Jamie Leigh-Voss from Leicestershire and Rutland on her inclusion in the squad for the Scottish Under -16 championships.

To Rachel Jennings from Staffordshire, Holly Clyburn - Lincolnshire and Alex Peters - Nottinghamshire for being included in the teams who will be playing in the French Ladies / Junior Championships on April 9th – 13th. That Rachel is reigning champion.

She wished them all well.

Also a big congratulation to 13 year old Kate Frankham from Lutterworth in Leicestershire and Rutland. She staged a 12 hour marathon there in aid of Comic Relief – raising in excess of £1,000. She completed 54 holes and walked all the way.
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Minutes from the Meeting on Monday 26th January 2009 were amended then approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes
 - a. Pat West (Lincs) - said that although Lincolnshire were initially against the suggestion that the EWGA/ CEO and or the Regional Chairman attend County AGM's, they were now in favour.
 - b. Trophies – The Chairman reported that she had spoken to Emma Lowe and that the MNR were having two more trophies, also one for the runner-up in the championship. There was also a query as to where the Enid Wilson Trophy was.

During this discussion there was a comparison of the differing amounts of entry fees and combined handicap limits for the Foursomes Competition, not only for the MNR but across all the other regions.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Combined H/C</u>	<u>Holes</u>	<u>Entry Fee</u>
MNR	36	36	40
MSR	30	36	40
North	30	M/P	30
South	60	36	50
S / West	40	18	22
East	40	36	40

There was a comment that possibly low handicap players may be put off entering, if the limit was raised to 40.

- c. County Match Week - Julie Wright said that regarding flag poles there were two to three options and these were being discussed. Also that the folder of information and guidelines had been sent out to the other counties.

The Chairman said that she had received numerous compliments on the presentation and information contained in the folder.

- d. Account Details – It was suggested that there should be more General Headings - with a breakdown and slightly more information within the Headings.

- e. Regional Conference – The Chairman said that everyone was sorry that it was cancelled but hopefully there will be one next year.

- f. Regional Dates 2010

Foursomes - Notts - Coxmoor - 22nd April

CMW - Lincs - Kenwick Park - 7th - 11th June

Medals - Staffs

Australian Spoons - L&R – Beedles Lake - 7th June

Championship - Shrops - Market Drayton - 12th – 14th July

Girls Championship – Derbs - Chevin -

5. Correspondance Letters had been received from Staffordshire proposing and Shropshire seconding Julie Wright as the next Chairman of the MNR.

6. Operational Board Minutes a. Public liability Insurance Policy – The Finance Director is seeking further quotes, but it appears that insurance cover is inconsistent across the Counties as some have their own cover, but these can be either separate or combined with the County Gentlemen.

The EWGA are also getting a quote that will cover everyone under EWGA insurance, but the difficulty of having one policy to cover everyone, is that no two courses are the same regarding potential problems.

Some points that were raised are that – if a County does not have a policy in place then the responsibility lies with the Club hosting the event and so the Club would be liable.

Also, if a County does not pay a Facility Fee to a club hosting an event, then the club insurance would not cover any accident that may occur, so the County would be liable.

In addition to ensure an EWGA event is covered an Events Questionnaire must be completed – these obtained from the EWGA Office.

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CONGU Statistics Committee – There have been six nominations and the names of the three most suitable candidates have been forwarded to CONGU for interviewing.

- b. EWGA Trust Charity Day – sadly this has had to be cancelled due to lack of entries - only 4 entries received.

At a recent Grants Meeting it appears, that due to lack of funds there was only enough money to give out to the Counties for coaching, no monies for anything else and so all other grants have had to be deferred.

Regarding the donations of various items given by people for the Charity Day, it has been suggested that there should be an Online Auction launched on the EWGA website. These include – season tickets for the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth in May, season tickets for the Senior Open Championship at Sunningdale in July, two seated tickets for an Arsenal home game and various items of signed memorabilia.

The Trust Diary, similar to the previous LGU diary, should be available from September 2009.

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- c. Development News – The Chairman reported that there had been tremendous success with GOLFMARK and the England Golf Partnership. The County Golf Partnerships are improving and there are now 29 County Golf Partnerships in place with two more in discussion. Within this, there are 675 golf clubs working towards GOLFMARK accreditation and 169 clubs have already obtained their accreditation.

Hopefully all other Counties and clubs will also move in this direction, because if they do not they will miss out on numerous benefits.

- d. Gender Policy – That EWGA supports the England Golf stance, which is to challenge discrimination within golf on the basis of gender, disability, ethnicity, age, religion or sexual orientation. If anyone has a query relating to any of these issues, please contact Kirsty Jennings or Karen Cassidy at the EWGA office. The law concerning discrimination within golf clubs on the basis of gender will change shortly. There is more information on the Website. Kirsty Jennings advises that each County and Club should have their own policy in place before circumstances require one.

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- e. Youth Consultation – There was suggestion that there should be encouragement to recruit some younger volunteers as junior players would respond more readily to people nearer their own age.

It was also suggested that if there was one club in an area that could be responsible as a centre of excellence then it might possibly attract more young people.

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- f. EGU / EWGA Merger –

The Chairman asked for comments, and some points raised were -

- Before the merger happens at the top it should start at club level.
- There could be a problem with funding.

- It would be helpful to have some background as to how the EGU works.
- That it should not be rushed.

Sue Whittaker the Chairman of the Management Board who was attending the meeting said that a joint committee has been set up to discuss the possibilities of a merger of the EWGA and the EGU, with 5 members from the EWGA – Sue Whittaker, Jim Robinson, Elizabeth Ernsshaw, Ruth Whitehead and Bill Richards. Also 5 members from the EGU – Nigel Evans, John Petrie, Graham Yates, John Williams and Richard Flint. With David Harrison from the R&A acting as an independent Chairman.

That they had one meeting and another was scheduled for later this month.

Some of the points of discussion were –

- Is this what everyone wants
- Governance
- Gender balance or position on merit
- A suggestion that there should be a shadow board plus a period settling in before it is final

- g. Ring Fenced Pot – There was £5182 left over but having deducted for some new trophies it is now £4436, with more to go in for this year.

This money is there for costs for regional meetings and as previously discussed for any deficit in the running of competitions.

- h. EWGA & County Subscriptions – The Chairman asked all the representatives to chase up the clubs in their county who had not paid their subscriptions. A list to be provided.

- i. Proposed New Scratch Competition – this is to be run with the EWGA Medal Competitions, scores registered in 2010 with the first final in 2011.

- j. Central Handicap Database – this will need for an 80% take up for it to go ahead, and also the correct software is required and internet connections

- k. Rules Seminars – There will be a Rules Seminar in the Autumn - it will be much stricter than in the past and applicants must be willing to travel outside their own County. This qualification only lasts 3 years, and as a Seminar has not been held for 2 years some people will find that their qualification has expired.

The Chairman asked all Representatives to enquire within their County for an eligible person and encourage them to apply. The form will be in the Ladies Links and on the EWGA website.

- l. Active / Inactive Handicaps in EWGA Medals – Ladies will be required to return 3 cards during the year to retain an active handicap. There was a query as why it was not possible to carry 2 cards over to the next year if only 1 more card was required.

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- m. Draw for County Finals –

A - Midlands north	D - North
B - South West	E - South
C - Midlands South	F - East

- n. Voting Procedure Working Group – The Chairman asked Sue Whittaker if she had information regarding the working group. She said that although she was not involved with this committee she had a report and could say that the group had had two meetings and were looking at various issues. The Working Group is comprised of Representatives from each of the Regions, Margaret Berriman, Elizabeth Earnshaw and John Green. They were examining ways in which the vote on issues for AGM's and EGM's could be speeded up so that there could be a fast and fair voting process. They have identified a number of articles that need amending – such as the timing of the Meetings, as some of the information on resolutions was not available earlier enough, and timing of Operational Board Meetings in relation to Regional and County Meetings. They are looking at proportional representation, discretionary votes and other points raised. After future meetings there will be some more information
- o. Timing of County Match Week – It would appear that some Counties are upset but Emma Lowe has tried to accommodate everyone. Julie Wright asked if a county wished to deviate from that date – who decides?
It was stated that there would always be problem of some events clashing and Counties must be mindful of this if they do change the date.
- p. Distance Measuring Devices – It was stated that EWGA were going along with the R&A policy and not using DMD's in their tournaments.
Counties were advised to do the same
- q. Regional Minutes - It was agreed that the Regional Minutes could be displayed on the relevant section on the EWGA website.

7. Points coming from Counties

Notts – Anne Mather said that she had on behalf of the County, asked Notts Golf Club to host the 2013 English Womens Close Championship in 2013 . The facility fee was £4,200 for 6 days, and the Notts Golf Club refused. The Notts Ladies were very disappointed at this decision, and the question had been asked as to why is the facility fee so low because this is such a prestigious event. The answer was that the budget is very finely tuned and that was the amount that was allocated for that event.

Derbs – Jaci Elliot reported that for the Foursomes in April, as the entry at the moment was not as many as previous years she wondered if all clubs received an Entry Form.

Although it was displayed on the website she asked all County Representatives to remind Club Delegates to put it on the notice board.

Also, why was it necessary for parents to fill in a form each time a girl entered a competition. Could there not be a simpler system for supplying information.

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That as the entry fee has been increased this year, that maybe the prize money should also be increased, perhaps from £40 to £50, and that there should be thoughts for next year to raise the handicap limit.

That the EWGA President Elizabeth Ernshaw had been asked to present the prizes.

A suggestion that there should be in "The Bag", a list of the contents. This is for information to pass on to the organiser of the next competition

8. Any other Business The Chairman thanked Julie Wright again for preparing the Guide Lines for County Match Week. She said they were fantastic and will serve as a superb template for the future.
9. Date of the Next Meeting The Next Meeting of Midlands North Region will be held on Thursday 18th June 2009 at Notts Ladies Golf Club, Hollinwell, Kirby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham - 10.00 for 10.30.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting was closed at 4.10 pm.