

ENGLISH WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operational Board held on Thursday 15 January 2009 at the Arden Hotel, Solihull Birmingham at 09.30 am

Present:	Mrs E Earnshaw	President
	Mrs R Whitehead	Chairman, Operational Board
	Mrs S Whittaker	Chairman, Management Board
	Miss M Sheepy	Midlands South
	Mrs B Brooke	North
	Mrs M Berriman	South
	Mrs A Pyke	East
	Mrs S Rawles	South West
	Mrs S Goulds	Midlands North
	Mrs A Allsopp	LGU Councillor
	Mrs J Clink	LGU Councillor
	Mr J Robinson	Chief Executive
	Mr J Green	Finance Director
	Mrs L Walker	Minutes

- Action
- Apologies for Absence There were no apologies for absence received
 - Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Sue Whittaker, Chairman of the Management Board; Margaret Sheepy, Regional Chairman for Midlands South; and Jenny Clink, newly appointed LGU Councillor.

The Chairman extended congratulations to the following:
Holly Clyburn who secured a top 10 finish in the Harder Hall Invitational, a tournament that starts the Orange Blossom Tour in Florida.
Amelia Taylor, aged 13, who was runner up in her age group in the US Kids Desert Shoot-out in Phoenix, Arizona.
Viv Monument and Linda Bowden from Wiltshire who won the grand final of the Golf 4 Women Salver in Spain.
Melissa Reid who is the Rookie of the Year on the Ladies European Tour.
The five England players who qualified for the final round at the LET Qualifying School held at La Manga, Spain, which resulted in Holly Aitchison, Florentyna Parker and Claire Aitken earning full LET cards and Liz Bennett earning tour membership in category 10b.
 - Approval of Minutes of 15 October 2008 The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
 - Matters Arising
 - Company Car Policy – A meeting has been arranged with General Motors to discuss leasing of company cars and further meetings will be arranged with other suppliers. Jim Robinson (JR) and John Green (JG) reported that although administratively it is easier to lease company cars it may be

prudent to offer staff a car allowance rather than a leased car. The possibility of a cheaper deal if cars are logo'd with suppliers' details will also be discussed.

b) Public Liability Policy – JG has asked Counties to supply details of their Public Liability Policy but to-date only a few replies have been received. A meeting is arranged in February with Insurance Brokers to progress this matter.

c) CONGU Statistics Committee – Any nominations will be discussed at the next Handicap Meeting.

d) Website – JR reported that a meeting has been held with Nemisys and work will start early this year and will take approximately 14 weeks to complete. The cost of the work will be in the region of £45,000, plus VAT. JG feels that the work can be financed out of cash at bank rather than pulling on investments. Should a merger with the EGU come to fruition then the new EWGA website could be the website that goes forward for the merged association as it will be a CRM based system rather than the EGU's bespoke system.

e) Pearson Trophy – Elizabeth Earnshaw (EE) had produced a paper based on her research into this trophy. It was agreed that EWGA would donate £100 in the Pearson Trophy Centenary year as a goodwill gesture, making it clear that this will no longer come under the EWGA banner and the trophy should be handed back to the organising committee.

JR

f) Trademark of Logo – In response to the British Tourist Board's objection to our trademark application, JR has written to them stating that we will continue to use the Rose but will remove our trademark application.

5. To Receive Correspondence

a) Letters of thanks – No thank-you letters had been received.

b) Sue Westall – A letter requesting a Manager for the Senior Home International matches, making a team of 9 – 7 players, Captain and Manager was considered. After discussion it was agreed that a Manager will travel with the team.

JR

c) Nominations for Buckingham Palace Garden Parties – Following discussions a list of nominations was drawn up. JR will contact the nominations in order of preference.

JR

6. AGM

The Chairman thanked everyone for their involvement in the running of the AGM, also Sue Whittaker for her excellent report and handling of the meeting, John Green for his contribution and report and Lynn Walker for the organisation of the day.

Actions arising from the Meeting:

- John Green will distribute figures relating to the 'ring fenced

pot' to all Regions, which will be discussed at the Management Board Meeting. Although some money still remains in the ring-fenced pot after year end it must be remembered that last year the 'pot' was based on four Divisions rather than the six Regions.

- There were many questions around the level of Accounts information given at the AGM. Although all legal requirements have been adhered to it should be decided what level of detail will be provided at future AGM's.
- It was agreed that details of any Resolutions for the 2009 AGM will be sent to Clubs and Counties by end November. The Agenda will be sent following the normal timeframe.
- JG will review to process under the Companies Act for Counties who wish to put forward resolutions prior to the meeting.
- Some members had expressed disappointment that a pre-meeting lunch had not been provided this year, however AGM's will be run on a Company line and lunch will not be provided in the future.

JG

7. Central Handicap Database

Paul Keeling from the EGU and Kevin Fowler from Nemisys presented the Golf Central website and the Central Handicap Database, its functions and its advantages.

The initial cost of build to the EGU was £40,000 with an annual hosting cost of £30,000. If EWGA decide to participate the cost to EWGA would need to be discussed, although it is hoped to gain sponsorship for the database.

After discussion, it was agreed that EWGA should participate in this initiative but not until later in the year, once the CDH had been tried and tested by the EGU and when potential sponsors were on board. EWGA would pay a nominal cost towards the capital costs ie branding but would contribute an amount to be agreed towards the annual hosting cost of £30,000.

8. EWGA Competition for Scratch Golfers

Vivien Saunders has offered the courtesy of one of her golf courses and a trophy for the next three years for EWGA to run a gross score competition for low handicap golfers. Vivien's suggestion has gathered a lot of support from our membership of low handicap golfers.

After discussion, it was agreed to go ahead with this but review after the first year and, if continued, a different course should be used each year. The Championship, Venues and Rules of Golf Committee will discuss format and administration and the matter will be outlined at Regional meetings.

9. EWGA Trust Charity Day

Letter, Poster, entry forms, terms and conditions will be mailed to all clubs and counties on 26 January 2009. The day will be held at the Cambridge Meridian Golf Club on 17 April.

Lisa Di Placido and Sandra Holden are dealing with the

promotion of the Charity Day and have already received the following for the Auction or Raffle:

- 4 PING golf bags
- DVD and photograph Jasper Carrott
- Golf Balls Titelist
- Arsenal FC home game tickets Peter Hillwood
- Signed clothing Ian Wright
- Signed Book Nick Faldo
- Magnum of Claret Linda Bayman

All Regional Chairmen were asked to encourage all Counties to promote the event to clubs and business people.

A maximum of 22 teams will take part and there will be a guest speaker at the Gala Dinner.

10. LGU Deputy Councillor

At present there is no Deputy LGU Councillor but Angela Allsopp reported that changes within the LGU will be announced next week, in relation to their business plan, that may change the structure of the LGU Councillors. The Chairman asked the Councillors to discuss this matter at the next LGU meeting and report back to EWGA via Jim Robinson.

AA/JC

11. Northern Regional Chairman Replacement

Barbara Brooke will retire at the end of this year and a replacement needs to be appointed but a decision needs to be made as to whether a Chairman will be appointed to complete Barbara's term of office (1 year) or whether a Chairman should be appointed for a three year term.

Elizabeth Earnshaw suggested that the appointment of Regional Chairman and their terms of office should be clearly defined within the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

12. Memorandum & Articles of Association

The changes outlined in resolutions 14.1, 14.2 and 14.3 at the AGM must now be incorporated into the M&A's. As Bates, Wells and Braithwaite drew up the original M&A's it was agreed that they should have responsibility for incorporating the changes. Once this has been done JR will look at other Sports based Solicitors to act on our behalf.

JR

JR

The information given by Mike Townley at the AGM in respect of what constitutes a quorum and voting procedures will be taken up by JR.

JR

13. Anti Doping Policy

It has now been agreed with the EGU to sign up to this policy which came into force on 1 January 2009. A letter will be included in the January mailing to all clubs and counties and the policy will be available on the website together with the list of banned substances.

14. Financial Update

The accounts up to the end of November show a loss of £55,000 due to budgets not being completed and no income

has yet been received from subscriptions. JG is working on these but there is still work to do and end of year adjustments need to be worked through. It is envisaged that end December accounts will be more accurate although a loss will still be shown as subscriptions do not start coming in until after end January.

JG will do a budget model, focussing on cash flow and a forensic analysis of membership will be introduced in order to be able to predict more accurately to the end of the year and enable proactive measures to be taken quickly.

The investment portfolio is to be reviewed on a monthly basis.

15. Chief Executive Report

Jim Robinson outlined the main points being worked on since the last meeting.

- Website – covered earlier in the minutes
- Held 1-1 meeting with Vivien Saunders. Vivien had come forward with many suggestions and JR will address each one individually.
- Isle of Man Ladies have confirmed that they will remain as part of Lancashire
- PING have confirmed that they will supply 24 golf bags, flight bags and clothing carry bags for our European teams this year
- Team uniform will again be supplied by Cross as we are able to top up last years stock therefore enabling us to cut costs on uniform this year. A supplier/sponsor will be sought for 2010.
- Distance measuring devices – many enquiries have been received in the office due to the fact that the EGU are allowing their use but EWGA are not.
- EWGA Handbook – The handbook will be in full colour this year and our printers have agreed that this will be at no extra cost. Angela Allsopp is to ascertain whether the LGU are producing a handbook this year.
- Whole Sport Plan - £14m Club and Coach award for golf has been agreed. A meeting is to take place next week when EWGA's portion of this will be agreed. The money is expected to be in place by April.
- Use of Buggies in EWGA Medals – the ban on buggies, other than on production of a medical certificate, has created a great deal of discontent. It is recommended that the use of buggies should be allowed, the matter will be discussed by the Championship, Venues and Rules of Golf Committee.

16. Any Other Business

County Conference 2009 – to be held on 31 March 2009 at a venue to be confirmed. The invitees will be County Delegates, County Representatives, two further County officials and the Operational Board. The day will include break-out sessions in the afternoon.

County Match Week expenses – Margaret Berriman has been looking into the fairest way to account for these expenses and after discussion it was agreed that an amount of £1,200 will be given to each host county from the ring-fenced pot, this will be in addition to the facility fee.

Regional Posters – In future years it was agreed that a date will be set for all information to be included on the Regional posters to be received in the office in order that the posters can be included in the December mailing.

Handicap Seminar – 27 January 2009 – members are of Operational Board are not expected to attend.

Mail on Sunday – Sue Rawles confirmed that the Mail on Sunday have now agreed to adopt full difference allowance in handicap to comply with CONGU regulations.

Rules of Golf presentations – a video has been received from the R&A. Sue Rawles, Sonia Harvey, Anne Pyke, Sally Goulds and Ruth Whitehead will discuss running more rules seminars targeting counties where there is the most need.

Changes to the Rules of Golf for 2012 – the following changes were suggested

- Embedded ball through the green
- Status of stones in bunkers

Suggestions for change should be sent directly to David Rickman at the R&A. The EWGA hard card should be updated with any changes agreed and be made available at all championships.

As this was her last Operational Board meeting, Ruth Whitehead expressed her thanks to all the Committee for their support and companionship throughout the year and wishes the committee luck for the coming year.

Margaret Berriman gave thanks to Ruth, on behalf of the Committee, for her Chairmanship in a very difficult year.

Sue Whittaker added her thanks to Ruth for her support throughout the year, both on a personal and professional basis.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Operational Board will be held on 1 April 2009 at 10.30 am in the EWGA Board Room, 11 Highfield Road, Birmingham B15 3EB.