

ENGLISH WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operational Board held on Wednesday 3 June 2009 held in the EWGA Board Room, 11 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3EB at 10.30 am

Present:

Mrs E Earnshaw	President
Mrs M Berriman	Chairman, Operational Board
Miss M Sheepy	Midlands South
Mrs B Brooke	North
Mrs C Tremlett	South (part)
Mrs A Pyke	East
Mrs S Goulds	Midlands North
Mr J Robinson	Chief Executive (part)
Mr J Green	Finance Director
Mrs A Allsopp	LGU Councillor
Mrs J Clink	LGU Councillor
Mrs L Walker	Minutes

Action

1. Apologies for Absence Apologies had been received from Sue Rawles, South West.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman congratulated the following:
Charlie Douglass (Hertfordshire) for winning the English Amateur Championship at Lindrick, defeating Tara Watters (Middlesex) in the final. This win takes Charlie to the top of the order of Merit.
Chris Quinn (Hampshire) has won her third English Seniors Matchplay title at Hunstanton.

Hayley Davis (Dorset) won the Scottish U16 title, where the two English teams finished 1st (Hannah Turland, Bronte Law and Jamie-Leigh Voss) and 2nd (Hayley Davis, Lauren Taylor and Heidi Baek) in the Nations Cup. Sian James who won the R&A Foundation Scholars Tournament against an international field. Rachel Jennings, Kelly Tidy and Charlotte Wild who finished second in the St Rule team event with Kelly finishing 7th individually. In Europe, Holly Clyburn won the French U18 Championship.

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In the USA – Jodi Ewart is on course to become the best ever golfer at the University of New Mexico, from 7 starts she had 2 wins and 4 top seven finishes. She has been named Player of the Year in the Mountain West Women's Conference. Nicola Race (Essex) has retained that National Junior College Championship; Carley Warrington (Derbyshire) has had her first win at the Larry Nelson Invitational and Katie Mundy (Hampshire) won the Coca-Cola Spring Invitational at the 7th hole of a play-off. After a number of good finishes, Hannah Burke (Hertfordshire) was

named Golfer of the Month for April for the Big 12 Conference.

The Chairman wished the English teams luck in the coming months – The Nations Cup Team, Royal St Davids (Jodi Ewart, Rachel Jennings and Charlie Douglass) : The Irish Ladies Open represented by Kym Larratt and Charlotte Wild : [for](#) The European Team Championship in Slovenia [where we will be](#) represented by Hannah Barwood, Emma Brown, Holly Clyburn, Charlie Douglass, Jodi Ewart and Rachel Jennings. The Girls' team to compete in Finland has not yet been announced.

The Chairman also congratulated 13 year old Kate Frankham of Leicestershire who has raised more than £1,000 for Comic Relief by playing 54 holes of golf non-stop.

3. [Approval of Minutes of 15 January 2009](#)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. [Matters Arising](#)

a) Company Car Policy – Volvo have offered sponsorship plus the provision of one free leased car. It is their intention to enter into a long-term relationship with EWGA and a letter of intent has been received. All company cars will be leased from Volvo as and when they become due for exchange. Three cars will be leased now (2 ordered plus 1 free), Volvo V50 estates to be supplied.

b) EWGA Trust Auction and Diaries – To date £362 has been raised through the Auction of items originally donated as prizes for the Trust Charity Day. Other items, including 2 Arsenal tickets for any home game have now been added to the website for auction.

Other items originally donated for the Charity Day will be used as prizes in a Grand Draw, to take place at the AGM. Tickets are presently being printed and will be on sale as soon as the licence is received from Birmingham City Council.

The final proof for the content of the EWGA 2010 diaries has now been received. Advertisements will be in full colour and 5,000 [diaries](#) will be printed for sale. An order form will be produced and sent out to Club Delegates as soon as possible. The diaries should be available at Championships from mid-August.

c) Nominations for next Honours list – Previous correspondence is not available but BB may have some paperwork in respect of [a previous application](#).

d) Ampleforth College Golf Club – The club is still adamant that they will not pay affiliation fees despite EWGA's offer to waive the 2008 fees. The club will be advised that Ladies handicaps and their SSS will be withdrawn if the fees are not paid. JR to contact the Lady Captain before proceeding.

[JG will write to Birch Hall \(Derbyshire\) who is](#) also refusing to pay affiliation fees.

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In future, we will find a way to suggest to clubs that they should show affiliation fees separately from club subscriptions on their invoices.

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e) Warwickshire County Match Week – The Chairman advised that she has written to Bev Belcher, Warwickshire Captain with an explanation of County Match Week dates [and Bev now accepts the rationale](#).

f) CONGU Statistician – Liz Gaertner of [Burford](#) Golf Club has been appointed to sit on the CONGU Statistical Committee.

5. To Receive Correspondence

a) Letters of thanks – letters of thanks were received from: Nickie Clarke, Hayley Davis, Cicely Goldsmith, Kathie Gillin, Diana Jaynes, Bronte Law, Elizabeth Mallet, Bridgett Patrick, Charlotte Taylor and Hannah Turland.

b) Dymock Grange Golf Club – This golf club has requested permission to change County from Worcestershire to Gloucestershire. Both Counties agreed with this change therefore the Operational Board gave their permission for this change.

JR

c) Elstree Golf Club - This golf club wishes [to move from Middlesex County to Hertfordshire. They are to be advised that they need to write](#) to Hertfordshire to seek their permission for the transfer.

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d) Captain, 2009 Girls' Home Internationals – Faye Sanderson has accepted the invitation to Captain this team, Faye will also Captain the European Team Championship in Finland.

e) Roger Wornell, 'The Rainbow Concept' – This matter has been discussed by the Handicap Committee and CONGU have also written to Mr Wornell stating that his concept would be fine for social golf but not competition golf. It was agreed that no further action [need](#) be taken.

f) Margot Horsburgh, English Schools' Golf Association – A letter of thanks for the grant of £2,500 had been received. EWGA will continue to support ESGA in the future.

g) Nancy Lopez Award – Jodi Ewart has been put forward for this award but there is a lot of competition from American players. The winner will be announced at the Rolex Junior Championships.

h) West Hill Golf Club – The Chairman is unable to attend the Centenary celebrations at the above club therefore Catriona Tremlett will represent EWGA.

6. Chief Executive Report

This will be discussed later in the meeting.

7. Finance Report

a) The half year is showing around £50k ahead of budget. Current forecasts show a profit of just under £40k for the full year but accounting profits do not automatically mean that an equivalent amount of cash is available, therefore careful monitoring of cash flow continues.

The full year subscriptions forecast (including April and May) is around £1.2m but there are still 60 clubs that have not yet paid their subscriptions, which represents approximately £20k of net income.

We have now changed Insurance Brokers to Towergate who have negotiated cheaper insurance with enhanced cover on all our insurance policies. JG has discussed with Towergate the possibility of covering all 35 Counties' Public Liability cover

The cost for this cover would be £100 per county (less than any county currently pays) but it would mean that all 35 counties need to agree in order for cover to be placed. JG proposed that that the premium be paid from the 'ring fenced pot' which at the end of April showed a surplus of £20K. The Regional Chairman will discuss the matter at their Regional Meetings and ask the CRRs to liaise with their counties report back to them by end of July so they can inform JG. A start date of 1 October 2009 was suggested.

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b) Web-Site Development Meeting – The Home Page is more or less finalised and the detailed specification has been agreed. Lloyds Bank has approved the Cardnet application to allow credit card payments. JG is hopeful of an Autumn launch.

c) Public Liability Insurance – this has been covered in a) above.

d) Voting Procedures – The last meeting held was in March and following feedback from the working group, an updated set of Articles are in the process of being written for ratification at the AGM in January. JG will lodge the changes with Companies House. MHB pointed out that inclusion of LGU Councillors on the Operational Board was not mentioned in the present M&A but should be included.

AA promoted some debate concerning the roles of the Operational Board and Management Board and that in some cases the Management Board Chairman is attending functions/events rather than the Operational Board Chairman: she cited the Golf Forum in particular which she considered a 'golfing matter'.

e) Next year's Budget – JG has produced a financial model for JR to adjust as thought fit. JG asked Regional Chairmen to email to him any items that they felt should be included in next year's budget 'wish list'.

8. Brainstorming

The Chairman led a brainstorming session on 'How to ensure to

Session

EWGA is no longer a mystery to Club Delegates'. This item was not minuted.

9. Marketing Plan Presentation

JR introduced the presentation of the Marketing Plan and showed the Board a copy of the 'Information to Members' booklet which is expected to go to all members, if finances allow; if not, it will be sent to clubs for issue to new members. JR informed the Board that brand guidelines have been developed that will be used consistently on all publications produced. Vectora typeface will become the new standard rather than Arial as used at the moment.

Chrissie Owens, Non-Executive Director, presented the Marketing Plan. A copy of the presentation is attached to these Minutes. She emphasised that EWGA could charge far more to advertisers if we have a wide distribution for items such as the electronic newsletter. All the regional Chairman were asked to encourage their CRRs to get members' email addresses captured.

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10. LGU Report

The LGU Report was distributed, the main points being;

- Vagliano – 24-25 July 2009 Hamburger Golf Club
24-25 June 2011 Royal Porthcawl Golf Club
The 2011 dates will become the permanent timing for the event.
- Ricoh Women's British Open - 30 July – 2 August
Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Club
The BBC will be showing live coverage.
- The LGU are supporting the LET in their request for a review of the Rolex Rankings point distribution system.
- Pace of Play will be strictly observed in an effort to speed up play.

Chief Executive's Report

The report had been previously distributed. JR went through the main points of the report:

- Merger Talks – The usual topics have been debated but no agreement on specific points has been reached. John Petrie is keen to produce a discussion paper on Governance, JR will meet with him and Bill Richards to discuss the paper once produced.
Responses to the merger questionnaire are being collated. The next meeting is scheduled to take place at Royal Birkdale.
- Whole Sport Plan II – the first quarter's funding has not yet been received.
- Chris Sparks has resigned from EWGA to take up full-time employment.
- Membership Numbers – A comparison of membership numbers shows a decline of 3.4% since 2008 against a budgeted decline of 3.5%.

11. Tournament Matters
- a) Inactive/Active Handicaps for EWG Medals – this matter will be discussed at the October meeting.
- b) Use of Buggies – the transportation policy has been redrafted and has been looked over by a solicitor both from a Disability Discrimination Law and Health and Safety perspective. Unless a course is unfit for buggies (these reasons need to be defined) it would be unwise to ban a person from using a buggy as a court case would always lean in favour of the player or caddie. There is no legal obligation to cover temporary incapacity ie injury.
- KJ suggested that all Counties be written to explaining that a transportation policy should be in place at County level and invite them to adapt or adopt our policy for their Competitions. It was agreed that CMW 2009 and all Regional Championships would adopt the new transportation policy. The only competitions run under the aegis of EWGA not to be affected will be EWGA Medals run at club level – where buggies will be allowed if permitted under club rules. The Transportation Policy will apply at Medal Finals.
- The new policy will be implemented from 8 June and will be available on the website, a notice will also be displayed at each EWGA Championship. KJ will email all Regional and County Committees and well as the Championship and Venues Committee, Operational Board and Club Delegates.
- c) Medal Format – 2009 is the trial year for the new medal format. MHB asked all Regional Chairmen to collect ideas on capturing the feedback from Regional Representatives.
- d) Format of Regional Women’s Championships - When first set up, Linda Bayman did not want these events to take preference over other events therefore they do not carry Order of Merit Points, whereas County Championships do. MHB proposed that these events are now brought in line with County Championships. This was agreed. It was also suggested that in future the event could be altered to 36 hole medal rather than 36 hole plus matchplay to encourage more entries. After discussion, it was agreed a firm decision would be taken at the next meeting when the 2009 Regional Championships would be reviewed.
12. Proposal for President
- Elizabeth Earnshaw presented her proposal for the 2010/11 President. After discussion, it was agreed that two nominees will be taken to the Management Board for decision.
13. Rules Seminars
- Preparatory work is underway and a meeting of the Committee will be scheduled. AA to check how many places will be available for the November Rules School.
14. Updates from Regional Meetings
- The following points had been raised by Regional Committees:
- All information sent out from Head office should include a distribution list

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- The general feeling of why the Trust Charity Day failed was because the price was too high.
- The English Schools Competition clashes with County Week which has caused some problems. SG is to ask the English Schools Association to be mindful of our fixture list in the future.
- South commented that the left over funds from the County match week allowance could be used for junior golf. However, it was noted that at this time we do not know how much of the 'ring fenced pot' will be needed to support the 6 sets of Regional Championships this year and into the future.

15. Sub Committee Minutes

a) Handicap Committee – Draft Minutes were previously distributed and taken as read.

b) Selection Committee – Minutes were previously distributed and taken as read.

16. EGU Club Services Committee

Notes from this meeting had been previously distributed. As MHB is unable to attend the next meeting scheduled for 30 June, it was agreed that JR should attend if available.

17. Health and Safety

A Health and Safety Meeting had been held earlier in the day. A company had been found to provide Manual Handling Training and it was agreed that any spare spaces on the training course should be offered to volunteers on the Championship Committees. DSE Assessor Training will also be put in place.

Stress Management training has not been sourced due to the costs involved, however Margaret Sheepy offered to look into this as she has some personal contacts who may be able to provide the training required.

18. Any Other Business

It was reported that Alan Booth, a journalist from the East, had taken time to express how much he has been impressed with the contact and liaison he has had with Lyndsey Hewison.

It was agreed that 2010 Operational Board Meeting dates will be set at the August meeting.

At the EWGA Trust Meeting held on 6 April 2009 County grants of £4.9k were awarded. This was ratified by the Operational Board.

John Green reported that he is looking into changing the office telephone supplier to Midland Telecom which should give a saving against the existing contract.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Operational Board will be held on Monday 17 August 2009 at 10.30 am in the EWGA Board Room, 11 Highfield Road, Birmingham B15 3EB.

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