

ENGLISH WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operational Board held on Monday 30 November 2009 held in the EWGA Board Room, 11 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3EB at 10.00 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
Mrs S Rawles	South West
Mrs S Goulds	Midlands North
Mr M Hall	Finance Director (interim)
Mrs J Clink	LGU Councillor

In Attendance

Mrs C Slater	2010 North
Mrs J Wright	2010 Midlands North
Mrs L Walker	Minutes

Action

- Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Angela Allsopp, LGU; Jim Robinson, CEO; Anne Pyke, East Regional Chairman; Margaret Gliddon, 2010 Regional Chairman, South West; and Judi Walker, 2010 regional Chairman, East. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman congratulated Holly Clyburn who won the Faldo Series and Brogan Townend (Lancashire) won the U16 title in Brazil. In the new year both players will go to Mission Hills, China, to compete in the Asia grand final. Holly will also start in a professional tournament next year. Holly and Rachel Jennings represented England in the USA in the Spirit International Amateur Championship. Our team led the Women's tournament after the first round but finished 4th overall. The England team finished 5th.

Congratulations were also extended to Jodi Ewart and Rachel Connor. Jodi had a good finish in the US Futures Tour Qualifying School which will entitle her to her card next year. Jody hopes to compete in the Curtis Cup and intends to turn professional in June. Rachel had three excellent rounds at the Futures Tour Qualifying School but following a poor 4th round finished in 68th position, hopefully this will entitle her to some invitations next year.

Congratulations also went to Charlie Douglass (Hertfordshire) and Holly Clyburn (Lincolnshire) who won the EWGA's Order of merit and Girls' Order of Merit respectively. Both players have been selected for the Curtis Cup squad.

3. Approval of Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2009 were approved following minor amendments and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Matters Arising a) Payment of County Affiliation fees – 13 Counties have asked EWGA to collect their affiliation fees on their behalf and another 2 are expected. CT asked that a list of clubs that have paid their subscriptions be included on the website in order that Regional Chairman can keep track of the clubs in their Counties. This was agreed.

b) Welcome Booklets – The booklets have now been distributed to all clubs, based on their membership numbers.

c) Central Handicap Database – Work is progressing on this to match all our golf clubs to the correct counties. A list of clubs operating under a manual system has been given to Wendy Taylor, Chairman of the Handicap Committee.

d) Future Captains – a letter of acceptance has been received from all 2010 Captains. JR is in the process of drawing up a new Captains' job description in conjunction with Linda Bayman.

JR

e) Rules Committee – The recommendation to set up a separate Rules Committee has been agreed by the Management Board.

f) Rules Seminars – All questionnaires have been marked and the successful candidates will be invited to attend one of the three seminars being held at either Burnham and Berrow, Harpenden and Huddersfield Golf Clubs.

Rolex have advised that they will not be able to sponsor these seminars.

g) Website – A meeting has been held with Nemysis outlining our expectations and their ability to deliver in an attempt to move this forward. Nemysis will talk to OCS regarding database integration following which a further meeting will be arranged to include Nickie Clarke as an expert for EWGA on golf and IT.

h) Consequence of non-payment of LGU subscriptions – After discussion, it was agreed that the Board should be supportive of the LGU and that their work should be supported. EE volunteered to produce a report to be sent to golf clubs in support of the LGU, attempting to answer questions that golf clubs may have, to be sent to all club delegates and placed on EWGA's website.

EE

The LGU are 46% self funding and of the remaining 54%, 31% of their income coming from England the remainder coming from the other Home Countries. The LGU have committed to being self-funding by 2020.

5. To Receive Correspondence a) Letters of thanks – letters of thanks had been received from: Harriet Beasley, Holly Clyburn, Jodi Ewart, Pauline Frazer,

Georgia Hall, Bronte Law, Shelby Smart, Julie Otto and Chris Williamson.

6. AGM Update

All AGM paperwork will be mailed to Clubs and Counties on 30 November 2009. All other arrangements are in place for the venue, Board dinner and Operational Board Meeting on 14 January, these will again be held at the Arden Hotel. Staff presentations will be available prior to and after the AGM as last year, together with a presentation from the Golf Foundation.

Members of the Operational Board were asked for names of County members who would be prepared to propose and second various items on the agenda and these were noted. Members of the Operational Board as well as staff will be asked to assist with registration, telling and roving microphones – a running order showing who will be responsible for these tasks will be issued as soon as it is available. Invitation letters to England players, Captains, Sponsors, Home Unions and Associations will be sent out week commencing 7 December.

The EWGA Trust raffle draw will be made prior to the AGM.

7. Distance measuring Devices

A paper providing feedback from the EGU had previously been distributed. MHB asked for the views of all Regional Chairmen on the use of this equipment and after discussion it was agreed that providing a club has a local rule in place allowing their use, distance measuring devices will be allowed at club level only, including EWGA medal competitions and the PING competition, with effect from 1 January 2010. However the devices will not be allowed at Regional or National level. Counties will be advised that EWGA does not recommend the use of this equipment in any County competition.

Sue Rawles did point out that the R&A are concerned about 'de-skilling' the game of golf and have issued a joint statement with the USGA that further development of this equipment will not be allowed.

8. Silver tee Award

After careful consideration of all applications received, it was agreed that this award should be given to Sian James for 2009.

It was also agreed that the Silver Tee Application form should be revised to allow for a character reference and more academic information. Counties will also be asked to provide Regional Chairmen with background information on any candidates being put forward.

9. Reports from Regional Meetings
- North
- Felt that cost of entry to Australian Spoons should be increased to £10 per club with a charge of £1 per person to enter.
 - Northern Counties had also expressed their disappointment that the blanket public liability insurance with Towergate Insurers did not go ahead.
- South West
- The Australian Spoons organiser for the EWGA felt she was poorly supported by the EWGA office.
- South – CT made the following comments:
- that the sign-up form for the EWGA e-newsletter should be available as a .pdf file.
 - Operational Board Minutes should be page numbered
 - Requested that Regions be provided with plastic tee markers – MHB advised that this was not possible.
 - Requested additional funding for County Finals – it was agreed that this matter will be discussed with the Management Board.
- Midlands North – SG made the following comments:
- Although the Australian Spoons competition starts on 1 November, the paperwork is not sent out until the end of the month, therefore needs to be sent out earlier.
 - Regional trophies are not insured by EWGA
 - It has been suggested that it would be beneficial if the due date for EWGA subscriptions and County subscriptions were brought in line i.e. 1st January. This matter would be looked at in 2010.
- Midlands South
- Sue Whittaker has attended the Regional Meeting
 - A trophy has been requested for the second team, it was agreed that this is not EWGA's responsibility
 - BB&O hold a Junior County week and wanted to include three other counties, unfortunately they were not in favour.
- No representation from the East Region was present at the meeting.
10. Regional Championship Loses
- This matter was deferred to the next meeting.
11. Chief executive Report
- The Report had been previously distributed and there were no further questions.
12. Finance Report
- The full year shows a profit of £152k but this is subject to adjustments and accruals. MH issued a more up to date report that showed a figure of £98.5k, £54k of which is attributable to

negative goodwill, therefore giving an actual operating profit of £44k. Next year we will be budgeting for a break-even situation and MH will report on this at the next meeting.

Investments will remain as they are until the stock market begins to improve.

If approved at the forthcoming AGM, Auditors, Godfrey Man sell, will be appointed for 2010.

13. EWGA Trust Criteria for Trust awards are being reviewed to ensure that trust money is awarded to those most in need. A more detailed presentation will be made early in 2010.
14. LGU Report The report had been previously circulated, the main points being:
- Although ILGU, SLGA and GUW are in agreement with the proposals put forward for the LGU reorganisation, EWGA still had some queries. The updated documentation is available on the EWGA website.
 - Catriona Matthew will be sending a letter to each member of the Curtis Cup team as LGU Ambassador
 - Junior Vagliano Match – meetings have been held with the EGA and R&A in order to facilitate this match. It is hoped that this can be held together with The Jacques Leglise Trophy and therefore funded by the R&A. The LGU and EGA will work towards a proposal to put to the R&A.
 - England should appoint a Deputy LGU Councillor.
15. Health and Safety Issues There were no Health and Safety issues.
16. Any Other Business The retiring Regional Chairmen, following the AGM, Sally Goulds, Sue Rawles and Barbara Brooke thanked the Board for their support and friendship over the years.
- Margaret Berriman, as retiring Chairman, following the AGM also thanked the Board for their help, support and friendship throughout her term of office.
- Elizabeth Earnshaw also gave her thanks to the Chairman and all the retiring Regional Chairmen for their hard work and commitment to the Association.
17. Date of Next Meeting The next meeting of the Operational Board will be held on Thursday 14 January 2010 at 0930 hrs at the Arden hotel, Solihull.