

CHLCGA

Cambs & Hunts Ladies County Golf Association

Minutes of the CHLCGA Committee Meeting held on **Monday 18 April 2016** at Girton Golf Club at 2.00 pm

- Present** Jacquie Richardson (President), Di Nicolson (Treasurer), Val Musson (Hon Secretary), Sue Hill (Captain), Hazel Suswain (Vets Captain), Maureen Mansfield (Junior Organiser), Rosemary Rennie (Asst. Competition Secretary), Ina Hartley (Webmaster) and Club Delegates from St Neots, March, Girton, Lakeside Lodge, Abbotsley, Gog Magog, The Cambridgeshire, Cambridge Meridian, Old Nene, Brampton Park, Heydon Grange, Royston, Ramsey, Saffron Walden, Links Newmarket, Ely City and Bourn.
- Apologies** Wendy Cox (Handicap Advisor), Trina Miller (Competition Secretary/East Regional Delegate), Jane McGuffog (Training Officer), Cindy McIntyre (2nd Team Captain), Tina Broadley (SS Assessor), Greta Barclay (Press Officer) and delegates from Barkway, Cromwell, St Ives

1 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 October were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Delia Roberts and approved by all.

2. Matters arising

None

3. Correspondence received

- Notification that the Preferred Lies period has been extended to 31 May if required
- 2016 Pace of play policy for all England Golf Championships
- 2016 Hard Card (to be read in conjunction with the England Golf General Conditions and Rules)
- Main presentation at County Secretaries Conference March 2016
- England Golf Annual General Meeting of 14th April 2016
- England Golf General Meeting of 14th April 2016
- Nomination and voting papers for 3 women members of England Golf Board (completed and returned by due date)
- Club Survey 2014: Cambridgeshire (Note: the 2016 survey is now closed)
- LGU 2016 Year Book
- Notification that an agreement has been reached to merge the LGU and R&A in 2017

4. **President's report**

Jacquie Richardson welcomed all new and existing delegates to the meeting and gave the following report.

Since the AGM I have attended a number of Junior Committee meetings. Maureen Mansfield and her Committee with Alan Fletcher our professional are working very hard to develop our Junior girls. The Junior Spring Meeting, which I attended was great fun and a very successful day where I watched some excellent golf, gave out not only the prizes but a sackful of Easter eggs too! This event takes a lot of organizing and our thanks go to our hardworking junior organiser Maureen and all her team and helpers.

The year started off with the Captains and Vice Captains meeting in March, held at Old Nene Golf Club. It was a well-attended meeting and a large number of new captains and vice-captains attended. This informal meeting is a chance to meet our county committee and hear about what we all do for the county, collect lots of information about the coming year, and generally have a chat with other Captains and Vices. The County Blue books were also distributed at the meeting. This year was the third year that the Vice Captains were also invited and from the feedback we've had, they all thought it was a great idea and this will continue going forward in the future.

Presidents Day posters for August 25th were also included in the information packs and I have received quite a few entries already (13), so don't forget to get the forms in quickly if you would like to put in a team. I also included a poster for the Tombola stall that I shall be running on Presidents day to help raise funds for the Junior Girls and I would really appreciate it if you could check that it is up on your ladies notice board. I am quite happy to come and collect any bottles that you can get for this event, just let me know. I am also running a "squares" draw for which the prizes include a golf bag, Optimum Beauty Voucher (thanks Paula), £25 John Lewis Voucher, an A3 Limited Edition Print (thanks Tina Bone), Food and Beauty Hampers, 4 Ball rounds of golf at numerous courses within the County and also at Peterborough Milton Golf Club.

Last but not least I found out the other day that Bourn and Brampton Park are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year, so I would like to wish them both good luck for their celebrations.

5. **Treasurer's report**

Account balances as at 12 April:

- Main Account £13568.31
- Junior £ 4540.72
- Deposit £15013.57
- Daphne Haddock £23653.81

Affiliation fees have been received from St Neots, Links, Gogs, March and Old Nene, however due to the late initial meeting, the due date is not until 30th April 2016.

The annual insurance premium has been paid £363.04 which provides £2M Public Liability and cover for the trophies £6379.00. I have the Policy document which is a general commercial policy and not a tailored sports one. I am investigating whether a better policy could be found with a dedicated sports association insurer.

6. **Secretary's report**

Co-Option of Competition Secretary

Given that the previous nominee considered at the AGM has had to withdraw from the role. VM proposed that Trina Miller be co-opted into this role with immediate effect. Agreed by all

Val Musson reported that since taking office she had focused upon orientation to the role and main activities have been concerned with

- **preparation and distribution of the Blue Books** have been distributed – several amendments have been received and these are in your folders
- fielding and disseminating as appropriate a variety of communications, mainly from England Golf
- attending the England Golf Annual Conference for County Secretaries in March. Two key issues emerged:
 - the plan to move to a worldwide handicapping system – this is a long way off and plans are still in an early stage
 - changes to the way in which affiliation fees are collected. EG are still working through the detail of this and as soon as we have confirmed information we will be arranging to meeting with CAGU representatives and will then be in touch with clubs.

7. **Team Manager's report**

In the past few months I have been preparing for County Match Week that takes place in June. This tournament is played to find a county from our region to go to through to the National finals later in the year. Prior to 2012 our group had only four counties when England Golf restructured the golf regions, CHLCGA is in the group that now consists of six counties: Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and us.

County Match Week is where a series of foursomes and singles matches (36 holes per day) are played against each county and takes place over five consecutive weekdays in June. This, ideally, requires a squad of 10 – 12 players, since not all are able to commit to playing every day, not to playing 36 holes in a day. Our squad for match week is named on the Sunday at the end of the County Championship in May, but prior to that we need to know which of our eligible players will be available to play in match week. It is this research that I have been doing in the last few months. There have always been a number of challenges:

- CHLCGA is a small county with 21 affiliated clubs compared with counties such as Essex (74 affiliated clubs) and Hertfordshire (54 affiliated clubs). As a result we have a limited pool of county level players to draw on. The current format therefore favours the larger counties who have more clubs and greater depth in squad ability.
- county match week occurs in term time and tends to clash with exam periods. On this basis it is difficult for members of the squad in full time education to take time out
- players in full time employment may also have difficulty in taking time off for the duration of the week
- there are natural troughs in the pool of available players for a variety of reasons e.g. moving away from the area, entering university, pregnancy

At this point JR reported that unfortunately, this year these challenges have become particularly acute in that:

- a significant number of key players are, for a variety of reasons, not available to play in county match week
- whilst we have a number of up and coming players in both the junior section and in the 2nd team, there is a sense that it would be premature to promote them to the county 1st team
- any 2nd team player promoted to the 1st team becomes ineligible for the 2nd team, which would in turn be depleted.

JR confirmed that the CHLCGA Executive have had extended discussions about the challenges we face this year. There is a clear sense that we would have to field a weakened team and as such this may be demoralising to all concerned. It is therefore with regret that the Executive Officers have, unanimously, made the decision to:

recommend to the full CHLCGA committee that we withdraw from county match week this year

Members present were given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss this proposal prior to a vote being taken. JR acknowledged that it is not usual practice to seek a vote without prior notice and time for consultation, but the regional timelines are such that an urgent decision is required.

Following discussion, a vote was taken and it was agreed by all present that CHLCGA should withdraw from County Match week this year. The county squad players will be informed of this decision at the earliest opportunity and England Golf, the County match week organiser and county Captains will also be notified.

We recognise that this is a ‘brave’ decision to make and that we need to prepare a strategy for enabling us to re-enter county match week in 2017.

SH concluded on a more positive note: we have introduced a new initiative

this year and that is an Order of Merit for all low handicap players in the County. We are asking for 4 medal scores obtained from September 2015 up to the end of April 2016. This is part of our team building programme alongside events planned by our Training Officer.

8. Training Officer report

Jane McGuffog was not able to attend the meeting so VM presented a report on her behalf.

In order to support the Training Officer and Team Manager, it was agreed that a County Squad Committee should be formalized. Membership will be as follows:

- President
- Team Manager
- Training Officer
- 2nd Team Captain
- Junior Organiser
- Player representative
- Team Coach (as required)
- Veterans' Captain (as required)
- Others with suitable expertise can be co-opted as required.

The first meeting will take place on Thursday 28 April at Girton GC. The frequency of future meetings to be agreed.

The 2015-16 programme had worked well, with a mix of skills related on-course activity and evening sessions with input from selected experts. The programme was led by Alan Fletcher, Professional at Girton GC.

In order to commence planning for the 2016 -17 development programme, an indicative budget has been agreed and consideration is being given to undertaking a competitive tendering process to appoint a lead professional.

9. 2nd Team Captain report

Cindy McIntyre was not able to attend the meeting so VM presented a report on her behalf.

The County 2nd Team had their first match at the beginning of April. It was a friendly against the Cambs & Hunts Veterans at Ramsey Golf Club, and the first for new vets Captain Hazel Suswain who organised an excellent day. It was very enjoyable golf and the weather was good to us this year. I would like to say a big thanks to Ramsey Golf Club for hosting the event and looking after us so well. The golf was also good to the 2nd team as we won 3-0. It was the first County game for Morag Hutcheon from Saffron Walden who has returned to golf after giving up the game in her late teens when she played for the Yorkshire County Junior team. She played well and we look forward to her representing Cambs & Hunts 2nd team and hopefully 1st team if she continues to drop her handicap the way she has been recently. Other notable performances were from Lucy Mills-Cripps and Rosemary Walker who beat

the very good veterans' foursomes' duo of Sharren Kjenstad and Grace Eastment.

We are interested in increasing the size of the squad moving forward so that we can rebuild Cambs & Hunts County teams to the level of previous years after so many first team players have turned professional. So if there are any players at your club that are showing signs of rapid improvement, or indicate that they wish to get involved at County level, or if they are below 12 handicap then please get them to contact us, we will make them very welcome.

10. Veteran's Captain report

To date 53 eligible ladies have signed up for the veteran's matches, but we do need more players with lower handicaps and younger players. Club delegates were asked to encourage such ladies to get involved. The majority of matches are played off scratch, although there are two handicap fixtures. The first match was against the 2nd team and despite the overall result; there were some close matches.

11. Junior Organiser's report

Although this is the first meeting for 2016 the Junior Section has been very busy since the start of the year.

We had our Parents evening in January, which was attended by 13 girls and their parents. Although those that came enjoyed it, we feel if it was held on a Sunday afternoon we would possibly get more girls to attend. It is too late finishing for some of our younger girls when they have school the next day. The girls 'Get Together' was held in February with 29 girls attending. They all enjoyed a fun packed afternoon of games and quizzes which was concluded with afternoon tea followed by presentation of trophies and prizes.

In March we held our bonding and training weekend for our Junior 1st and 2nd teams. Alan Fletcher had a full two day programme, which included short game and distance control, putting processes and routines plus on course strategy for match-play and team play. He also had an hour of gym work on the Sunday. Although not all the girls were able to come we did have 12 girls attending each day. It was a hectic but fun weekend and all the girls seemed to bond well and enjoy it.

Our Junior Spring Meeting was held in early April with 49 girls entering this event, which included 11 new girls who wished to give golf a try. It was certainly the best number of entries we have ever had. Apart from the girls who play 18 holes for the Lesley Ford Trophy, the other girls are divided into 4 groups and have coaching on the range, putting, chipping and tri golf sessions. Those playing nine holes go out on the Lodge course after their coaching and putting sessions. The other girls have a try at all the other events before going out on the par 3 course. The winner of the Lesley Ford Trophy was Ella Mason with a nett 72. Prizes were given for all the other

groups. All the girls then had lunch and everyone goes home with an Easter egg, even the helpers. A tiring but very successful day.

Last weekend we held the first of our monthly training days. This was reasonably well attended although some girls were still returning from Easter holidays and others were studying hard for their exams when they returned to school. It was good to see that several of the new girls who attended our Spring meeting did come along to the training session, so our Squads are growing which is great.

At the end of April we will be taking our Development Squad on the first of their tour events, which is being held at On Par Golf at Ely. They do enjoy these events as they get to play 9-holes on a course, but on some occasions we do have to mop up a few tears when they lose their balls in the water. They all try very hard and prizes are awarded for each category.

Although our numbers are increasing, please do let us know if you have any new girls at your club who may be interested in coming along to join us in our County training and events – we will be pleased to see them.

12. **Competition Secretary report**

Trina Miller was unable to attend the meeting, so VM presented a report on her behalf.

Division 1 meeting: 49 entries, with 48 taking part in the afternoon foursomes. Prizes have been obtained and the finances are up to date. Alan Duggins will be the rules official for the day. She thanked Bourn GC and Mel Owers for their invaluable assistance.

County Championship: Entries to date are disappointing with only 18 so far. Delegates were asked to remind/encourage potential players to enter. Entries will be accepted by email. All planning is progressing well and Sue Cook and St Neots GC were thanked for their assistance. The rules officials role will be shared by Elaine Cardwell, Sue Hurren and Rosemary Hay.

Venues confirmed for 2017/18

- Division 1 2017: Ely on Tuesday 25 April
- Championship 2017: Ramsey 19/20/21 May
- Foursomes Championship 2017: Royston on Monday 3 July
- Foursomes Championship 2018: Ramsey on Wednesday 11 July
- Officials and Delegates Cup 2017: Girton Wednesday 20 Sept
- Jean Wilkinson Semi and Final 2017: The Cambridgeshire Monday 11 Sept
- Veterans Meeting 2017: Brampton Thurs 10th Aug

Other dates still to be negotiated.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the help and support I have received from Fiona, Jacquie and Rosemary

13. **Assistant Competition Secretary report**

The Jean Wilkinson and Grace Norman Trophies, Scratch League and Scratch Foursomes are underway. Sadly, there was a poor response for the Scratch Foursomes as only eight pairs entered.

Round 1 of the Grace Norman Trophy is complete and Brampton Park, Gog Magog and St Ives are through to Round 2. The Semis and Finals can now be arranged on a neutral course and clubs will be informed in due course.

14. Handicap Advisor Report

Wendy Cox was unable to attend the meeting, so VM presented a report on her behalf.

Elaine Cardwell and I held meetings with Club Handicap Secretaries at Girton and Brampton Golf Clubs in early March. On the agenda were the CONGU changes for 2016, the Annual Review of handicaps and Gender-Free Tees. Each meeting was well attended and there was much lively debate concerning the practical implications of all the changes.

Since then I have received a number of queries on various handicap matters and these have all been resolved.

I apologise for my absence today but as always I am available by phone or e-mail to answer any queries that you may have.

15. Regional Delegate report

Nothing to report

16. SS Assessor report

Tine Broadley was unable to attend the meeting, so VM presented a report on her behalf.

Work on assessing courses continues, but more volunteer helpers would be invaluable in speeding up the process. If anyone is interested they should contact TB directly.

17. Club Delegates report

- Mel Owers, Bourn – Ladies Open 25 June
- Jill Gamlin, Ely City – 19 Entries for Division 2 meeting; closes 14 May. Also noted that the Ladies section has developed a new way of working without a formal ladies committee.
- Dubi Brain, Gog Magog – 10 entries so far for the Autumn Foursomes
- Val Musson, Lakeside Lodge – the Ladies Twilight season is proving to be a very effective way of encouraging new ladies to get into club golf
- Margaret Butt, March – working with Maureen Mansfield to plan the Junior/Ladies Greensomes event
- Diana Clitheroe, Ramsey – Ladies Open 2 June
- Delia Roberts, Saffron Walden – Division 3 meeting on 1 July; 17 entries so far

18. New/any other business

None

- 19. Date and time of next meeting**
1400 hrs Monday 18 July - **venue to be confirmed**

Dates of future meetings
1400 Monday 19 September at Girton GC
1400 Monday 17 October
1400 Thursday 24 November at Gog Magog (AGM)

Signed
Date