

# CHLCGA

## Cambs & Hunts Ladies County Golf Association

Minutes of the CHLCGA Committee Meeting held on **Monday 24 April 2017** at Girton GC

- Present** Jacquie Richardson (President), Val Musson (Hon Secretary), Di Nicolson (Treasurer), Maureen Mansfield (Junior Organiser), Trina Miller (Competitions Secretary), Marcella Tuttle (County Captain), Wendy Cox (Handicap Advisor), Rosemary Rennie (Asst. Competition Secretary), Sarah Greenall (Assistant Captain)
- Christina Baxter (Abbotsley), Paula Offer (Bourn), Shirley Osborne (Brampton Park), Barbara Laman (Girton) Dubi Brain (Gog Magog), Sheila Withams (Lakeside Lodge), Shona Kent (March), Judy Freeman (Ramsey), Pam Bonnett (Royston), Vivienne Dondi & Lesley Hann (Saffron Walden), Steff Allen (St Ives), Fiona Whitney (St Neots) and Shelagh Byrne (The Cambridgeshire)
- Apologies** Cindy McIntyre (2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captain), Hazel Suswain (Vets Captain), Tina Broadley (SS Assessor), Greta Barclay (Press Officer), Ina Hartley (Webmaster)
- Sue Akers (Barkway), Shirley Longbottom (Cambridge Meridian), Jill Gamlin (Ely City), Veronica McGrath (Girton), Elaine Knobel-Forbes (Heydon Grange), Lesley Clark (Old Nene), Margaret Beckley (Newmarket Links), Paula Ewing (St Ives)

### 1 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 October 2016 were agreed as a correct record and approved by all.

### 2. Matters arising not addressed elsewhere

#### a. Co-options

**County Captain** – further to the AGM, it was proposed by JR that Marcella Tuttle be formally co-opted to the role of County Captain. Seconded by Val Musson and approved by all. MT was duly presented with the Captain's badge.

Assistant Captain - further to the AGM, it was proposed by JR that Sarah Greenall be formally co-opted to the role of Assistant Captain. Seconded by Trina Miller and approved by all.

#### b. Season Starter Am-Am

This event ran for the first time on Friday 7 April at Girton GC. 23 teams (92 players) representing 11 clubs entered. It was noted that the event was over subscribed and at least 9 teams were unsuccessful.

Feedback from all involved was extremely positive and this new initiative was welcomed. The team format, later shotgun start and relaxing of the change of

clothes rule were all considered as positives. The unanimous view of the meeting was that it should become an annual event. .

Thanks were given to Girton Golf Club for hosting the event and Veronica McGrath, Club Delegate, for all her hard work in organising the event.

### **3. Correspondence received**

Nothing other than EG communications which are reported elsewhere

### **4. Officer reports**

#### **4a. President's report: Jacquie Richardson**

- Lady Captains and Vice Captains Meeting: Well attended, lots of discussions and networking took place. County paperwork for 2017 handed out
- Season Starter Am Am: Well organised and attended event, overwhelming desire to repeat event next year from attendees
- Juniors: Attended Junior Committee Meetings, all Committee working hard to develop our juniors for the future
  - Junior Spring Meeting at Lakeside Lodge, well organised and attended, saw a number of promising youngsters for the future
- **President's Day: 24 August 2017 at Old Nene:**
  - 12 entries so far
  - Will be running a tombola (bottles etc.) and a squares raffle to raise funds for the Juniors. Lots of great prizes to win.

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- Consider running a second Am-Am at the end of the season (to be considered under agenda item 6)
- Encourage entries to President's Day
- Prize donations for the squares raffle and tombola raffle requested. Also please buy a square (s)

#### **4.b Treasurer's report: Di Nicolson**

- **Statement of accounts:**
  - Current Account: £27519.20
  - Deposit Account £15056.81
  - Daphne Haddock £22783.47

The above represent the situation at the bank to date. However the main account is temporarily inflated by competition entry fees.

- **Competitions**
  - Our Spring Opener has completed and vouchers, meals and raffle items have been accounted for, however there may be some additional expenditure owing. We will make a small profit on this event.

- The Marjory Newport entry has closed with vouchers having been sent to Jill.
- Vouchers for the County Championships have also been bought and sent to Trina.
- **New competition entry system**
  - The new system works. However, there have been some teething troubles as would be expected with any new system. The main one seems to be a reluctance to send the entry form to the delegate and the entry fee to the treasurer. The instructions on the website and in the Blue Book read quite clearly to the majority, but not to all. Please don't devise a different system to the one summarised on the entry form and in the Blue Book. Sending both fee and form to either the delegate or the treasurer results in extra work for us. The coding system has also worked well with few problems.
  - CAGU are now collecting **affiliation fees** on our behalf and these are coming in as they are received by CAGU.

#### ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

- Need to reinforce the importance of submitting entry forms and entry fees to the correct person and using the correct competition code.

#### 4.c Secretary's report: Val Musson

- **Blue Book 2017:** issued at the Lady Captains/Vice-captains meeting in January. Apologies for the inadvertent errors – full erratum sheet previously distributed. The version on the website has been amended accordingly.
- **Competition entry form** – confirmed this is now available as a word document of the CHLCGA website
- **County workshops** (December 2017): A report of the outcomes of these workshops will be considered under agenda item 6
- **EG County Secretaries conference** 6/7 March: attended this conference, but all key issues also addressed at the regional delegate/voting member meetings so see agenda item 4k for latest news
- **EG Hard Card:** 100 copies ordered and delivered> Distribution - referees for county competitions, county squad and participants in East Region Ladies Championship
- **Transport for supporters at County Match Week in June:** It has been agreed that the County will provide a coach to take supporters to County Match week **on Thursday 22 June**. Pick up points will be Gog Magog, Newmarket Links and Ely City clubs – timings to be confirmed. There will be **no charge**.
- **County handbook:** proposal to compile a comprehensive handbook, which brings all relevant policies into one place. Currently reviewing safeguarding policy and protocols.
- **Disciplinary procedures:** EG have formulated procedures/guidelines for counties and clubs. Recommend adoption – CHLCGA Executive will consider.

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- poster and sign up sheet for coach to County match week to be prepared (VM) and sent out to delegates asap.
- delegates to promote and encourage ladies to sign up.

#### **4.d County Captains report: Marcella Tuttle**

- Following feedback from County squad we have held a Christmas get-together of bowling and meal and a Pilates session in February.
- Reminded players to get noticed and enter the Division 1 and County Championships
- Requested availability from squad members for County Week
- Sorting out uniform for County Week
- Foursomes practice matches arranged against men's scratch teams at Newmarket on 5 May and St Ives on 3 June
- Team selection will be finalised at the conclusion of the county championship
- Hotel accommodation booked for 2018 County Week at Woodbridge

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- Need to recruit caddies for County Match Week. Volunteer names to MT or SG
- Transport for spectators to go to County Week (see above)

#### **4.e 2nd Team Captain report: Cindy McIntyre (apologies received)**

- 2nd Team and County Veterans match was at the end of March and held at Bourn Golf Club. It was a great day, played as always in good spirits and a really good opportunity to re-establish a County team feel good factor. Honours were even this year and the 2nd team had 2 new players Karen Cook from Links and Sonia Hyvonen of Gogs who will hopefully go forward to play regularly for the County.
- I am just getting ready for the remaining inter county 2nd team matches in July and August. The dates are in the blue book. Please note that Friday 25 August is our 2nd team finals day and it falls to CHLCGA to host the event, which we are doing at Brampton Park. This is a great day and an opportunity to watch some very good golf. Please come and support us.
- In preparation for the upcoming matches I am arranging foursome practice, one of which may be against the men's scratch team at Bourn

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- Encourage ladies to come to Brampton Park on 25 August to support the 2nd team

#### **4.f Veteran's Captain report: Hazel Suswain (apologies received)**

- Season started well with a drawn match v 2nd team

- Disappointing return of match availability sheets only 5 received to date
- Shortage of players 16+ for first handicap match v Northants. Thanks to Bourn for providing half of the players for this fixture
- planning to stand down as Veteran's Captain at the end of the year. Currently trying to recruit a replacement

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- Need three more ladies with handicaps of 16+ for the match on 22 May - volunteers to contact Hazel Suswain direct

#### **4.g. Junior Organiser's report: Maureen Mansfield**

- **Junior Get Together: 1500 -1800hrs 19 February 2017 at Girton Golf Club**
- 28 girls and parents attended this event, which was a fun packed afternoon filled with team games and quizzes and concluded with afternoon tea. Also included the presentation of:
  - prizes to the above winners
  - trophy winners for 2016 (in blue book)
  - County Colours for 2016:
    - Gold - to Chloe Ashman
    - Silver - to Elle Mason
    - Bronze - to Jessica Hollingworth
- thanks goes to all the helpers on the day: the ladies from Girton Golf Club, who helped run the events and made cakes, all the junior committee members who helped in various ways and in particular to Rosemary Hay and Greta Barclay who have always played a big part in organising this event, the Bar and Catering staff for all their help, Girton for allowing us the use of the facilities for the afternoon and last but not least to Alan Fletcher for setting up the games and for his involvement in the day.
- **County Training Day – Lakeside Lodge, 18 March 2017**
  - 1 day only this year instead of the weekend because several of the older girls have left the junior section
  - 8 girls attended and were put through their paces by Alan Fletcher
  - Plans for the day: wedge game and scoring (90yds in); measuring and evaluation proximity to the hole; putting evaluation – understanding entry speed and measuring hole out % and on course strategy and decision making
  - A tiring day for them all but they had fun, learnt a lot and handicaps are already coming down. A well worth exercise. Alan was so impressed by the younger girls. He thinks we have great potential in the making, so we just need to keep them interested. Our thanks go to Lakeside Lodge for the use of the facilities.

- **Junior Spring Meeting – Lakeside Lodge, 5 April 2017**
  - This is an annual event where we invite any girls who would like to have a try at playing golf to come along. It was not so well attended this year as last year for various reasons, but did include 2 new girls. In all twenty-seven girls attended: with 9 playing the 18-hole Lodge Course, 9 playing the 9 hole Manor course and 9 playing the par three course.
  - Training was given by Andy Fletcher (the Pro at Lakeside Lodge) to all except those playing 18 holes. Rosemary Farrow organised a putting competition, Sue Hill ran a chipping game and Rosemary Hay ran the try golf sessions
  - The day ended as usual with a lunch and prize giving, where Jacquie, our County President, presented prizes to the winners and Easter Eggs to everyone.
  - Winner of the Lesley Ford Trophy – Olivia Dyson (Barkway Park)
  - My thanks, as usual goes to all my committee members, parents and volunteers who helped for making the day so enjoyable and to Lakeside Lodge for all their help.
- **Coaching Days**
  - To date we have held 2 coaching sessions, one for the development squad and one for the County 1&2 squad.
  - The Development squad will be having 1 training session per month and some tour events on different courses throughout the summer.
  - County 1&2 will also be having on course coaching sessions on different courses, but missing out the busy months when they will have exams, play in their own club competitions and many attend Opens, or play our 2nd team matches. Our older girls are also involved in the County 2nd team events.
  - Our next big event is the Junior Championship being played at The Links Golf Club, Newmarket on Tuesday 30 May.
  - MM confirmed she would be standing down as County Junior Organiser at the end of the year. Currently trying to recruit a replacement. Noted she has been part of the junior set-up for 15 years.

**ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Nothing specific identified

#### **4.h Competition Secretary report: Trina Miller**

- **Planning meetings: contact made with first four clubs**
  - Margery Newport Trophy (formerly Division 1): Ely City GC 25 April
  - County Championships: Ramsey GC 19 – 21 May
  - Audrey Nichols Cup (formerly Division 2): St Neots 13 June
  - Long Handicap Cup/High Handicap Shield: Newmarket Links 20 June

- **County Delegates**
  - Working with County delegates has worked well with all, so far, taking on the organisation of the event with support from myself
- **Competition entries**
  - Margery Newport Trophy, Ely: 54 entries
  - County Championship, Ramsey: 14 entries as at 13 April. Hopefully there will be more by the closing date (19 April). Email sent to county delegates to raise awareness of County Championship
- **Rules Officials**
  - Rules Officials allocated for all competitions. Thanks to Rosemary Rennie for organising these
- **Venues for 2018**
  - Venues for all competitions have been allocated, but awaiting final confirmation from several clubs. Generally positive response to the County's requests
- Still quite early in the season but everything in place at the moment
- Intend standing down as Competition Secretary at the end of the year.

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- Levels of participation: not sure how successful the competition name change has been in increasing entries. Quite early in the season but no real evidence yet of significant increase in numbers. What else can be done to encourage participation? [to be linked to item 6 on the agenda]
- Replacement Competitions Secretary: need to actively recruit a replacement – volunteers would be desirable.

#### **4.i Assistant Competition Secretary report: Rosemary Rennie**

- **Grace Norman Trophy:** Round 1 has been completed. Royston, Cromwell and Ely City are through to Round 2. Ramsey Golf Club has kindly agreed to host the semi-finals and final on Wednesday, 19 July
- **Jean Wilkinson Trophy and Scratch League:** Matches are now underway but so far, not many have been played.
- **Scratch Foursomes Knockout:** Poor response again this year with only 9 pairs entering.
- **Rules Advisors:** A meeting was held on Monday, 3 April at The Cambridgeshire Golf Club. We now have 7 active Rules Advisors (5 ladies and 2 men) who have agreed to referee County Ladies' competitions throughout the year. The CAGU Secretary, who is an England Golf Referee, gave a Rules update and information on the R&A Golfing Academy Online Rules Qualifications. Online training to be a rules advisor (3 levels) is available if any one is interested.

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

- to consider running the semi-finals and finals of both the Jean Wilkinson and Grace Norman on 2 separate days
- information about training for rules advisors to be sent out to committee members.

#### **4.j Handicap Advisor Report: Wendy Cox**

- Handicap Secretaries meetings were held during March at Girton and St.Ives Golf Clubs. They were very well attended and were filled with much lively debate over a range of topics.

**ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:** nothing specific identified

#### **4.k Regional Delegate report: Sheila Withams**

- **Attended meetings in November 2016 and April 2017**
- **EG appointments:**

Chief Executive: Nick Pink – willing to visit Associations and Unions

President: John Williams, ratified at AGM. Member at Gog Magog

Chairman: Nic Coward

Finance Director: Simon Wilson

New Directors: Alastair Booth and Doug Poole(member at Brampton Park)

Re-elected Directors: Ian Watkins and Les Wilson

- **Towergate Insurance** – pilot scheme in progress. Intention to provide £10m cover for travel, liability, etc. with upgrade for personal accident, equipment, hole in one, etc. available through EG portal. Free insurance for all affiliated members automatically at implementation. Not necessary for Clubs to insure members, where this is current practice. More details after pilots
- **Governance** – new publication 'A Governance Guide for Clubs'. Not totally appropriate for proprietary clubs. CDO's delivering to Clubs, if interested. 9 holes of good governance hand out.
- **Honoraria** – need to be careful, subject to employment legislation/minimum wage if paid for 'doing' something. OK if can be explained and verified as expenses. EG guidance coming soon.
- **Performance and Talent Pathway** – Regional coaches to provide the best experience to maximise skills, developing performance skills in addition to technical skills. What to look for:
  - Golfing ability
  - Positive mind set
  - Commitment
  - Attitude



- Discipline
- 5 core elements to coaching – putting, wedge, short game, course management, ball control. Sarah Bennett from 3 Rivers Golf Club is the under 18's coach. Regional coaches employed for 20 days pa – posts advertised when a vacancy arises.
- **Safeguarding** – emphasis on Counties and Clubs having robust policies and a nominated Welfare Officer. Rod Findlay willing to deliver workshops for Associations, Unions and Clubs.
  - **Worldwide Handicap System** – to be introduced from 1 January 2020. Update document circulated. EG will provide education sessions for each County during October, November and December 2017. Key features:
    - Slope system to be introduced
    - Averaging system best 8 from 20 scores using competition, social and 9 hole scores
    - No handicap categories
    - Upper handicap limit 54 both genders
    - CSS will become playing conditions adjustment
    - Unique global number replacing CDH
  - **Course rating** – 210 courses rated, 66% within 1 stroke of previous rating. Aiming to rate 200+ during 2017. Clubs to be encouraged to consider ability tees/short courses and more 9 hole competitions.
  - **Non-qualifying scores** – intended to maintain handicap integrity on the basis that the more information available provides a more accurate handicap. Much discussion.
  - **Performance Centre, Woodhall Spa** – excellent facilities available for Counties to book. Approximately £52 per person to the facilities for a day.
  - **Affiliation Fees** – income much less than last year. Encouragement payment on time – suspension of CDH sanction being imposed or threatened has proved effective in securing payment. 35 Club audits in 10 Counties to be undertaken over the summer to identify under-declaration and/or disequity.
  - **Refreshed England Golf Strategy** – copies now available. Need to encourage Counties and Clubs to develop strategies if not in place. Principal objective is to grow the game through being customer focused. Noted increase in nomadic players who don't see the need to join a Club.
  - **Tri-North Communication Survey** – telephone survey being undertaken to identify how communications between England Golf and Counties/Clubs can be improved. Both SW and VM have participated. Report due end of April.
  - **Disciplinary Process** – developed by England Golf, suggest Counties and Clubs adopt the EG regulations, using the guidance and templates, available on the EG website.

- **Handicap appeals process** – being developed, due for completion by Autumn 2017
- **East Region Ladies' Championship, 14th September** – being hosted by CHLCGA at Gog Magog (Wandlebury course)

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

- SW to elicit names and contact details for regional coaches
- please encourage participation - entry forms already circulated, but also available on England Golf and C&HLCGA websites or direct from me

#### **4.l SS Assessor report: Tina Broadley (apologies received)**

##### **• Schedule for 2017:**

- March rated 19 April; paper work being completed
- The Cambridgeshire to be measured 21 April; date of full assessment to be confirmed
- Lakeside Lodge measured 19 April, and greens assessed; full assessment on 11 May
- Links dates to be confirmed
- Ely City dates to be confirmed
- Bourn tbc

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- Members of clubs being assessed to be asked to help with the full assessment process

#### **4.m Cambridgeshire Golf Development Group: Sheila Withams**

- **Sport England Funding** – Reduced by £8.48m affecting County Development structure. County Development Officers to become County Support Officers and focus on retention rather than recruitment. Steven Peet still Regional Development Officer and Marc Smith appointed as County Support Officer. England Golf to provide guidance on County Development Groups. Suggest that CSO's attend Executive meetings to develop working relationship.
- **Cambridgeshire Golf Awards** – further meeting 9 May

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- Marc Smith to be invited to attend the July meeting (VM) – brief to cover his specific role and responsibilities, proposed work plan and ways of working together.

## **5 Club Delegates reports**

### **5a Abbotsley**

- Reported that due to serious vandalism, the Abbotsley course has been reduced to 9 holes only (measured and approved). It is unlikely that the course will be back in full operation until 2018

### **5b Bourn**

- Due to unforeseen circumstances, a new lady vice captain has been appointed. Details to follow.

### **5c Brampton Park**

- To date 14 entries received for the Veteran's Cup to be held on Thursday 10 August. More required - closing date 13 July.

### **5d Ely City**

- Hosting the Margery Newport Trophy on 25 April. 54 entries

### **5e Girton**

- Hosted the new Season Starter Am-Am in April – a very successful event.

### **5f. March**

- Reported that the club is considering re-entry to the Jean Wilkinson
- To date only 9 pairs have entered the Autumn Foursomes to be held on Wednesday 13 September. More entries required – closing date 16 August.

### **5g Ramsey**

- Hosting County Championship on Friday 19 May – Sunday 21 May. Now closed to entries. Detailed planning underway.
- Also hosting the Grace Norman semi-final and final

### **5h Royston**

- Hosting the Holland Cup Foursomes Championship on Monday 3 July. Need to encourage more entries – closing date 5 June

### **5i St Neots**

- Hosting the Audrey Nicole Cup (Division 2) on Tuesday 13 June. 18 entries to date, but more required. Suggested specific targeting of ladies in the handicap range of 19 to 28. Closing date 16 May.

### **5j Nothing specific reported from the remaining clubs**

## **6 New/any other business**

### **6a. Return of trophies**

- Trina Miller explained that the early recall of trophies was to facilitate presentation at each of the 2017 events and subsequent engraving i.e. trophies would be presented on the day, but would be retained by county for engraving and formal presentation at the AGM.

## **6b Report from the County workshops**

The report of the two workshops held in December had been previously circulated to all committee members. VM reported that the workshops had been very productive. Overall 30 members of CHLCGA committee participated, with 15 of the 21 affiliated clubs being represented.

The suggestions for action were then discussed and it was agreed that the affiliated clubs (ladies sections) and the members of the committee be asked to consider the following proposals:

### **Competitions**

- Season Starter Am-Am – continue with this event on an annual basis
- Consider removing the afternoon foursomes element of the Marjorie Newport Trophy (formerly known as Division 1) i.e.– 18 holes individual stroke play only
- Consider changing the Audrey Nicole Cup (formerly known as Division 2) to a stableford format (currently stroke play)
- Consider dropping the Autumn Foursomes and replacing it with an end of season team event.
- If supported what would be the preferred format?
- Consider the potential for running at least one event at a weekend linked to availability of working ladies and juniors in full-time education.
- If supported which of the current competitions would be appropriate

### **Inter-club competitions**

#### **Grace Norman & Jean Wilkinson competitions**

- To consider running the semi-finals and finals of both these competitions on TWO on 2 separate days (currently the semi-finals and final are on the same day)

#### **Jean Wilkinson Inter-club competition**

- Currently 7 players divided into three handicap groups (10-16; 17 -22 and 23 – 35). Singles match play off scratch. Some (but not all) clubs have reported they 'struggle' to field teams with the appropriate handicaps.
- A suggestion has therefore been put forward that the format be modified to that used by Northants LCGA (Cecil Leitch Trophy). Key features are to continue with teams of 7 players, with the following changes
  - handicap limit 12-30 (players with handicaps 31-36 inclusive are capped at 30)
  - singles match play off handicap (full difference)
  - players go out in handicap order – lowest first

Feedback to be sent to the Secretary **no later than 19 June** so that the outcomes of the consultation can be collated in readiness for final decisions at the July meeting.

### **Other areas for action by clubs**

- Internal club communications: ladies' section to review ways in which they disseminate information to their members – linked to encouraging participation in competitions and raising the profile of CHLCGA
- Consider the benefits of inviting one of the County officers to meet members of the ladies section informally - linked to raising the county profile and demystifying CHLCGA
- Gather feedback on the design of the competition posters and the revised competition entry process

### **For committee action**

- Review the county website with the intention of further enhancing the structure and content
- Formulate a communications strategy, including a stronger Face book presence

### **7 Dates of future meetings**

- 1400 hrs Monday 10 July at Girton
- 1400 hrs Monday 18 September at Girton
- 1400 hrs Monday 16 October at Girton
- AGM: **1300 hrs** Thursday 23 November at Gog Magog

**Signed**

**Date**