



Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the Cambs & Hunts Ladies' County Golf Association which took place on **Monday 27th April 2015** at Girton Golf Club at 2.00 pm

Present:- Mo Poole (President), Jacque Richardson (Hon Secretary), Maureen Mansfield (Junior Organiser), Edie Douglas (Vet's Captain), Trina Miller (East Region Delegate), Jaine Fieldhouse (Asst. Competition Secretary), Fiona Whitney (Competition Secretary), Wendy Cox (Handicap Advisor) and Club Delegates from March, Ramsey, St Neots, Cambridge Meridian, Girton, Lakeside Lodge, Abbotsley, Gog Magog, Cambridge Menzies, Saffron Walden, Old Nene, Royston, Brampton Park, Bourn and Links.

Apologies: Sue Corbett (Cromwell), Jennie Hardie (St Ives), Ros Grey (Ely City), Marilyn Handscombe (Heydon Grange), Jane Skerry (Treasurer), Jane McGuffog (Training Officer), Tina Broadley (SS Assessor), Cindy McIntyre (2nd Team Captain).

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Approved

Matters Arising from the Last Meeting: Vets Championship was asked about, this is still ongoing re integration with County Champs. This will be discussed further by Competition Secretary re a new Proposal to be put forward

Correspondence: Letter received from Jan Stockholm regarding her receipt of the Julie Walters Trophy.

President: Since the AGM I have attended a number of meetings including County Training sessions for the A & B squads which are proving to be very successful. Jane McGuffog our Training Organiser along with Alan Fletcher our professional are working very hard to bring the squads together and to make up winning teams for both County week and the second team matches.

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! 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 January, held at Brampton Park Golf Club. 34 new captains and vice-captains turned up. 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.

We had a light lunch and then a chance for the captains and vices of all the clubs to get a chance to meet each other. This year was the second 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 go forward in the future.

Presidents Day posters for August 27th were also included in the information packs and I have received quite a few entries already, so don't forget to get the forms in quickly if you would like to put in a team.

In your Folder today I have 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 put it up on your ladies notice board.

Lastly, I'm not sure if many people are aware, but St Neots is celebrating their 125th anniversary this year and I'm sure you, like the committee wish them all a very successful year.

Treasurer: Main Account £34835.33, Daphne Haddock Fund £23652.97 and Junior Account £2575.72

Clubs with outstanding affiliation fees are:- Heydon Grange, Meridian, Abbotsley, Barkway, Ely City, Kingsway, Cromwell

Secretary: Co-Option of Training Officer and East Region Delegate

Proposed: Jane McGuffog (Training Officer) AGREED

Proposed: Trina Miller (East Region Delegate) AGREED

Blue Books have been given out and no amendments have been received.

Captain: No report

Training Officer:

Background: At the AGM in November 2014 we introduced the role of training officer. This has started well with past captain Jane McGuffog working closely in the role with golf professional Alan Fletcher of Girton, who is in turn working with Emma Prentice of Gog Magog GC to implement a new approach for the county. Alan has laid out his goal to build strength and depth throughout all of the teams such that Cambs and Hunts are competing to win at all levels- 1st team, 2nd team and junior. Ultimately to prepare a squad able to compete and win regional county match week. To enable this, it was proposed that the county look to support the development of players from ~12 handicap down who are keen to improve, and to encourage an environment where players can learn that everyone can improve with the right attitude and coaching.

Jane has been helping Alan liaise with a working group comprised of the 2nd team captain Cindy McIntyre, Junior Organiser Maureen Mansfield President Mo Poole and helpers Sue Hill and Edie Douglas to help do some of the ground work and support the sessions.

Progress to date: January 8th Open Evening

This event was an opportunity for all ladies to meet coaches and officials and a chance for Alan to communicate what he is looking for in county players, what the program is designed for. Players currently involved in the county set up were invited along with players identified through current contact /knowledge of players of 12 handicap and under who would be interested in representing the county, and hence interested in developing their matchplay skills and game.

The evening focussed around an interactive presentation from Alan Fletcher about approaches to coaching and what players might expect from him. Also what he would expect from them. The training will NOT be technical golf swing coaching, but more about how to get teamwork going for team and foursomes,

on course strategy and course management etc. The session was received very well.

Training session 15th January

A first on course session was held on at Girton, where 21 players were able to attend. All played an informal 9 hole Texas scramble with a twist, which was fun and got the players to know more about each other. Future on course playing sessions will be on Sun 19th April, Sat 2nd May, Sat June 6th, one of these hopefully being a training day. 30 players have signed up so far. There will be a plan to filter new player into the system, if they come in mid year- ideally filtered into sessions, but otherwise join again in the autumn.

The squads were then split into two groups to enable training to be delivered to optimum group sizes, but continue to train at the same venue and on the same day.

27th April 2015

Following our pleasing start to the year with good levels of interest and attendance with over 30 ladies signed up, I am pleased to report that the first session at Lakeside Lodge, Pidley on Sunday 21st went very well. Alan put together two great sessions.

The first was a series of short games skills practices designed to challenge the players club and shot selection and their ability to adapt. This was held on the par 3 course which was booked out for the 2 hr session. Working groups of 2 pairs the players worked hard, with some fun, screams of frustration and delight along the way. Feedback showed that most players had learnt something new and the levels of enthusiasm for the new season are high.

The second group played 9 holes on the manor course in foursomes matches with a twist. This is a young course that is deceptively challenging and on top of that players were limited to either playing without their wedges, without fairway woods, or with some other restriction to make them work and think harder.

Thanks to Mo, Maureen and Cindy who enjoyed informally surveying the players with me and supporting them and Alan in the session. Next season reverses the groups activities on Sat 2nd May, and will see Sue Hill and Emma Prentice joining us, in the support group, and coaching with Alan respectively as we come closer to the run up to the County Champs, County week and the 2nd team season of matches.

Sessions booked so far;

19th April Lakeside Lodge - completed successfully

12-2pm Short Game B squad

2-5pm On course A Squad

Coaches – Alan

2nd May Lakeside Lodge

12-2pm Short Game A Squad

2-5pm On Course B Squad

Coaches – Alan & Emma

6th June Girton

12-2pm Short Game B Squad

2-5pm On Course A Squad

Coaches – Alan & Emma

2nd Team Captain: Early in the season the County B Team had their first match at the end of March at Links, Newmarket. It was a friendly against the Cambs and Hunts Vets with Edie at the helm. Although we all know each other and the day is always good fun, none of us are able to rest on our laurels. The day didn't disappoint and was as always a competitive affair. The weather was notable (thanks Edie for organising the wind) we had 3 club winds with at times 50 mph gusts, and most of the players struggled to stand up let alone swing a club. However the standard of play was excellent and we are looking forward to next year and hopefully better weather! The score was two and a half to one and a half to the B Team, a good start to the season.

County Training is also going well and we had our second session this time at Lakeside, Pidley. It was well attended by the players and it gave us a good opportunity to evaluate short game standards and foursomes' pairings. Alan Fletcher is an excellent coach with very good ideas designed to challenge the players to improve whilst having fun. Thanks to Alan Fletcher and Jane McGuffog for organising and running a great day, and to Mo and Maureen for their evaluation and support.

Veterans' Captain: Vets lost to 2nd team, played Essex and lost 4-0. 12th May there is a match at Oundle, (this match includes high handicappers 17-30 handicaps are encouraged to enter), can you bring this to the attention of your Ladies. In July need 8 low and 8 high handicappers for a match at St Neots. Vets have a 55 years of age minimum.

Junior Organiser: Although this is our first County meeting of 2015, the Junior Section has already been very busy. The year started with our Parents and Junior Girls evening way back in January. We had 30 girls and their parents in attendance. Our Junior County Coach, Alan Fletcher, outline his programme for bringing all the girls forward and helping them to achieve their potential and goals. Rosemary Hay gave a brief report on the Development Squad, Greta gave a report on funding from England Golf and I outlined our aims on our training programme for this year and the way we see all our sections moving forward. It was once again a very successful evening and enjoyed by all who attended. Our next event was the Junior Get Together at Girton on Sunday 8th February. 32 Junior Girls attended playing various team games and taking part in team quizzes, Trophies and prizes were presented. Some of the Girls were awarded their County Colours. The events were run by my normal helpers from Girton and those of my Junior Committee. We had a thoroughly enjoyable tea provided by our caterer and the ladies provided the cakes. All the girls enjoy this event and from my point of view it is good to see the older ones helper the younger girls.

The Girls training weekend for the 1st and 2nd Teams was held at Lakeside Lodge

on the weekend of 21/22 March from 9-4pm on both days. 14 Girls participated in this event and the aim was to improve their short game skills, fitness and game awareness on the course. The whole weekend was extremely successful and the girls although tired at the end of each day learnt a lot and realised how important fitness was. It is hoped it will help their golf to improve during the year and their handicaps will come down.

Our next event was the Spring Meeting which was also held at Lakeside Lodge on the 2nd April. 33 girls attend this event and we were particularly pleased that 10 of these were new to golf and the first time they had attended any of the Junior events. Apart from the 13 girls that played 18 holes for the Lesley Ford Trophy, all the others participated in coaching, putting, chipping and tri golf before either going out on the 9-hole course or the Par 3 course. This was followed by lunch and prize giving. The Lesley Ford Trophy was won by Anna Guest from Gog Magog Golf Club with Jordanne Sillitoe from Ely City as runner-up. Prizes were awarded for both the nine hole course and Par 3 course as well as all the activities. However, all the girls go away happy as they all get an Easter egg even if they haven't won any of the main prize.

Several of the girls also attended the Cambridgeshire Schools Event, which is organised by Marcella Tuttle and this year was held at Girton. 49 children took part in this event, the day was enjoyed by all who entered and the standard of golf was excellent. I was very proud of all of girls who attended as The majority of them went away with one of the prizes, either individual or a team prize.

Unfortunately, a lot of the girls were busy with exams so were unable to enter. The first of our monthly training sessions were held yesterday with Alan. The Development Squad had over 20 girls attending for their morning session which included several of those that attended the Spring meeting for the first time. Our 1st and 2nd Team training, which was held in the afternoon was a little depleted because of revising for exams, but once these are over I am sure they will be back in abundance.

Our next event is the Junior County Championship at Ely at the end of May which hopefully will have a very good turn out.

Some of our girls have also been invited to attend the main team squad for some of their training sessions which I am sure will help benefit all the County Teams in the future.

Competition Secretary: Division 1 tomorrow 28/04/15 at Links. Over 50 entries, next event is the County Championships at St Ives, entries are down and we need to look at how we go forward with this event. We need a minimum entry of 32, as entry is lower the County Plate entries may be fast tracked to the quarter final stage. For next year a suggestion has been made of combining the Division 1 and County Championships (20th-22nd May 2016), could have a tick box to enter both comps, or just one on the entry form. Can Delegates please go back to their clubs to ask if they think that Ladies would enter both comps if on same day. Fiona would appreciate feedback at next meeting. Mo explained the situation and considerations to take into account. Gogs have already had to amalgamate comps to get more entries and this has worked.

Draws will be taking place for next year's Inter Club Comps shortly.

Trophies have been returned for Division 1 and Fiona will be emailing out to delegates for return of trophies for future events.

Delegates were reminded to use bcc option when emailing to other clubs etc.

The Vets Meeting at Old Nene was questioned and Fiona explained that she is in email dialogue with Amy Brown, we will await further information and let everyone know as soon as possible. Due to looking at Div 1 and County Champs

the inclusion of a Vets Championship is on the back burner

Assistant Competition Secretary: Jean Wilkinson and Grace Norman have commenced. Scratch Foursomes Knockout has been sent out to entrants.

Handicap Advisor: During March we held two meetings for Handicap secretaries, which were very well supported with 18 clubs represented in total. We had much discussion on various handicap topics and I hope the new handicap secretaries found it useful to meet other club secretaries.

On the 7th April Elaine and I attended an England Golf Handicap Workshop at The Gogs. The meeting turned out to be very informative about changes to the CONGU handicap system that will take place during the next few years. I have conveyed this information to each of your clubs' handicap secretaries but here are some of the main changes:

1. We are working towards a World Handicapping System which England Golf hopes will be in operation in 2020.
2. To bring us in line with Europe the maximum handicaps will increase to 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women. The category boundaries may well be altered.
3. A player will have a period of 12 months to reinstate his membership without losing any previously held handicap. Handicaps marked 'c' will also be reinstated.
4. One fixed date of 1st January will be used as a reference date for all aspects of the handicap system.
5. Supplementary scores from players' away clubs will be accepted.
6. From Jan 2016 the handicap allowance for 4BBB will be 90%

The only topic that was not agreed by the CONGU Board was the Reduction Only idea, further research is required. An additional proposal was put forward to permit the introduction of Reduction Only competitions at the clubs discretion. It was referred back to the board as a decision could not be made. The finer details of all the expected changes will be released at the end of July this year.

Regional Delegate: England Golf Governance & Affiliation Review Meeting
Stoke by Nayland – 6th February, 2015

I attended the above meeting and this is a brief synopsis of the discussion areas covered:

Governance.

How England Golf works with the structures that are in place at present, and the challenges faced. Discussion was around:-

- A. Greater communication between England Golf, the counties and clubs.
- B. Greater transparency of the governance processes. More accountability
- C. Revenue issues - Not enough funds coming in to make a real difference. England Golf partnerships have lost some Sport England funding due to missed targets.
- D. England Golf appointments of part time County Development Officers to work with clubs

Generally the presenters were asking us how we thought changes could be made

Affiliation

Mainly a discussion around where club, county and England Golf affiliation fees go

- A. One standard England Golf fee for all, regardless of size of association/union. Not well received !
- B. What did the club golfer get for their fee? Official handicap, general thought was not much else.
- C. How to affiliate independent golfers

England Golf Annual Conference, AGM and General Meeting

Hinckley, Leicestershire – 16th April, 2015

The morning session was taken up by the Annual Review. It was divided in to 5 sections:

More Players – £1.4 million allocated in 2014 from Sport England to increase participation. As of 2014, 700,000 players of 14 years + play once a week, 44,000 14- 25yr olds play once a week. Priority for 2015 is to further re-focus the County network to increase regular participation and club membership.

More Members - £80,000 is invested in to The Golf Foundation to increase junior membership. As of 2014 golf club membership is 678,000. Women and girls is 98,185.

Stronger Clubs – England Golf are looking to support clubs to attract and retain members. 1377 clubs are currently registered with England Golf.

Developing Talent - £1 million invested in national coaching and competitions. £325,000 is invested in County Talent Pathways

Improving Image – To change the perception of golf and improve communications

The next session was the Annual General Meeting

Chairman's Report – Major priority was halting the decline in membership and participation to ensure continued funding from numerous partners.

Elections of Board Members proved interesting. We were asked to select from 5 ladies. My top two preferences were both slightly younger than the other three, but with forward looking CVs. Sadly the vote went with the establishment so no new female faces on the Board

Finally, I attended the General Meeting

South West Ladies Counties, Devon and Somerset, raised the issue of the £2.50 levy, and requested additional information on how the levy is used (Total is approx. £200,000 per year). They tabled a proposal for the levy to be terminated by 2020 at the latest. No resolution was reached as it was felt that more consultation was needed.

Special Projects Fund - One major developing partnership is with Skylab to develop a digital strategy for England Golf. Voting members were asked to approve £250,000 - £500,000 for work on this project. Members voted against this proposal as there was not sufficient information on the breakdown of how the money would be spent. It was felt that, if granted, this money should come from the core budget rather than the Special Projects Fund

Governance & Affiliation – See other report

Summary

This was a very long day which resulted in the final presentation of the day (Governance and Affiliation) being reduced from 2.5 hours to just over 1 hour, not great planning!

Still much in the consultation process although England Golf has come a long way in two years, it should be time now to apply all information gathered and put this in to practice and move forward.

The day gave me a very good feel for personnel and attitudes within the England Golf set up

Junior Girls County Championships – Saffron Walden – Thursday 30th August

1. Sent out forms to Junior Representatives of each County in January, 2015
2. Second reminders sent out start of April
3. 6 entries received so far. Need to chase up Junior Reps again in near future
4. Meeting with Delia Roberts from Saffron Walden Golf Club on 22nd April to discuss details and planning for the event
5. Forms are on England Golf website – April 2015

Cambridgeshire Golf Partnership Update Trina and Sheila Withams to attend the Partnership Meeting on behalf of Cambs & Hunts on 8th June 2015. We need to prepare a development plan.

Mark Smith (Development Officer for the Golf Partnership in Cambs 2 days a week and Beds 3 days a week), gave a short presentation. Golf Partnership is the development arm of the County. Since 2004 lost members about 20% in Cambs in last 4 years, works with clubs to address this. Golf Foundation and Living Sport are also on the committee and CAGU, CHLCGA and PGA. Sue Hurren is on committee as Secretary and Treasurer. Targets include adult participation, etc. Mark has focused on adult participation e.g. setting up Get into Golf Centres. Had 170 ladies through the beginners coaching course over the last year. 134 have had further coaching. Girton had 24 ladies on coaching and 6 became members. In conjunction with Living Sport there were 46 ladies attended a 6 week course and 36 have continued into follow on activities in golf. This year the focus is on supporting clubs to increase their membership through having a pathway at the club through from taster sessions to club membership. Mark and Steve Peet are here for Golf Clubs to support the growth of numbers of members. CCGP have an operational plan to work to. Questioned as to who pays for funding of Mark and Steve, this comes from Sport England Funding.

Club Delegates:

- Abbotsley: Sarah Rennie, knows affiliation fees have been collected from members
- Bourn: Melanie Owers, thanked Jacquie for email re defibrillator and now have one at club. New Junior Organiser at club and would like to know if there are any meetings for him to attend.
- Brampton Park: Shirley Osborne. Foursomes comp in September 10 entries so far.
- Cambridgeshire Menzies: Shelagh Byrne, organising free and fun taster sessions at Menzies, will contact Mark Smith CDO.
- Gog Magog: Julie Stephenson. New ladies entered into Div 1 for first time. Jan Stockham entering for last time. Gogs changing Old Course in winter 2015 so will need reassessing in March 2016. Chased ladies for County Champs.
- Links: Margaret Beckley Need one more lady for tomorrow at Div 1 Meeting

- March: Margaret Butt. Hosting Div 3 on June 26th only had 10 entries so far. March not joining Jean Wilkinson next year. Suggested maybe look at North/South split for competition. Can delegates please chivvy up ladies to enter Div 3
- Old Nene: Anyta Francis. Amy Brown has played first 9 holes since having had her baby. New Club house under construction.
- Ramsey: Hazel Suswain to celebrate 50 years of the club they had a speaker who brought the Ryder Cup. Everyone was invited to events to celebrate as well.
- Royston: Pam Bonnett Officials Cup 1 entry. Can everyone ask Scratch League Ladies to get into touch with Royston to arrange matches. You can play in inter county comps in different counties
- St Neots: Sue Cook Anyone got comments on 9 hole qualifying comps for certain people. St Neots have a lot of people entering 9 holes comps. 3 x 9 hole comps count for handicap. Shortened forms of golf being looked into.

Any Other Business

Meeting closed at 4p.m

The next meeting will take place on 27th July 2015 at **2 pm** @ Girton Golf Club