

Minutes of the Representatives Meeting held at Woodhall Spa Golf Club on Monday 7th September 2015

PRESENT:

Mrs Tracey Stobart (Chairman/ Kenwick Park), Mrs Cindy Ireland (Treasurer/Woodhall Spa), Mrs Helen Hewlett(Captain/Seacroft), Mrs Judith Ainsworth (League Secretary/Elsham), Mrs Pat Jones (Junior Organiser), Mrs Terry Macarthy (Handicap Advisor/ Blankney), Mrs Wendy Ramsden (Competition Secretary/ Waltham Windmill), Mrs Margaret Jacobs SS Assessor/ Ashby Decoy), Mrs Clare Welfare (Fixture Secretary/Seacroft), Mrs Ann Lyon (Representative South/ Sleaford), Mrs Stella Goldstein (Representative Central/ Lincoln), plus representatives from Blankney, Woodhall Spa, Humberston, Spalding, Seacroft, Kirton Holme, Belton Park, Burghley Park, Louth, Lincoln, Canwick Park, Seacroft, Manor Laceby, Belton Woods, Waltham Windmill, Kenwick Park, Elsham, Ashby Decoy, Tydd St Giles, Market Rasen, Greetham Valley, Janet Smith, Toft, Gainsborough, Boston, Stoke Rochford, South Kyme, Woodthorpe Hall, Boston West, Immingham, Sudbrooke Moor.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Executive Members.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Julia Sales County President, Barbara Haycox, County Secretary, Helen McDougall, County Vice Captain, Sutton Bridge Golf Club, Pottergate Golf Club, Forest Pines Golf Club, Beryl Clay, Delegate Tydd St Giles and Di Smith, Secretary, Lincoln.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Tracey announced an amendment to the circulated minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th September 2014. In item 8., A.O.B. The sentence beginning Mrs Macarthy (County Handicap Advisor) confirmed - should read that all betterball competitions must be played off ¾ handicap until Congu decided otherwise. The minutes were then accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Sarah Harris (Elsham) and seconded by Christine Vickers (Spalding).

3. Matters arising:

The Chairman informed the meeting that it had come to the Executive Committee's attention that clubs were putting on competitions, and not adhering to the Congu handbook guidelines for these competitions. Tracey stated that these guidelines were mandatory, saying we as a County couldn't do anything, but Congu certainly could – the ultimate sanction would be to withdraw the handicapping system from that club. She asked clubs to be vigilant in this matter.

4. Election of Divisional Representatives:

There was no election of Divisional Representatives for this year, as the three representatives all have another year to serve.

5. Standard Scratch Score Assessors Report:

Margaret started by saying that they have had several practice sessions rating winter courses last October. They had learned a lot from Joy Hunter, who had helped with many aspects of course distances, carries, observations etc at Pottergate golf club. Margaret went on to say that Elaine Johnson from Ashby Decoy has joined as a third member of the North team together with Jenny Ricketts of Kenwick Park. Milly Thorold has joined Di Platt and Pat West to complete the South team.

She went on to say that practice sessions had to be cancelled on two occasions due to the fact that the County Men no longer have a working team, as Paul Guthrie has dropped out. Until the men have a working team we are unable to start rating courses.

Margaret finished by reminding delegates that any alteration to courses, whether it is bunkers, hazards, plantations, carries or yardage changes must be reported to the Standard Scratch Assessor. Contact details for both Margaret and Di can be found on the website.

6. League Secretary's Report:

Judith was pleased to announce that Elsham the handicap league winners in the North played Lincoln, winners of the South at Holme Hall on Tuesday 1st September. It was a very exciting match, played in great spirit, and finishing all square. Elsham A team eventually won on the second hole of a sudden death playoff – she congratulated both teams. Judith went on to announce the results for the handicap league, which had been sent to all participating clubs. There would be no relegations from Division 5 North as Holme Hall B have withdrawn from the league, leaving only three teams in Division 6 North for 2016. She asked that all results are sent on the correct result form, and clubs with two teams are reminded to include a copy of their handicap list when sending their sheets, as soon as possible after the match has been played, specifying whether it is the A or B team results.

There was a rule amendment to be included for 2016, asking clubs if possible to include a weekend date when arranging matches, encouraging working ladies to play.

Judith had circulated to all clubs a number of alternative proposals (attached) for the reintroduction of the scratch league for 2016. She read out an alternative proposal from Pam Watson (Stoke Rochford) suggesting that the County run a knockout along the same format as the men's Elsham Foursomes, where a draw is done at the start of the year, with a deadline given, with 3 foursomes pairs playing match play off scratch, the results are then added together to get the winning team. This format would put the emphasis on each hole played, and mean that you are working as a team. Handicap bands could be introduced. Stoke Rochford's thoughts on running on a league basis were that matches should be home and away, with teams consisting of no more than 3 players. They felt that introducing handicap bands was a good idea, as long as the clubs could field their best available team. They felt that the idea of a mini county week would not work in the already busy calendar. Judith invited comments from the floor on the proposals. Sarah Harris (Elsham) favoured option 2 of the attached proposals, to include higher handicap ladies. Chris Vickers (Spalding) favoured option 1, as matches are difficult to fit in. Judith Hutton (Sudbrook Moor) and Kelly Hadland (Kirton Holme) both stated they thought the men's format worked quite well. Ann Lyon (Sleaford) felt clubs didn't have enough players 0-5 handicap. Fran Grant (Boston) felt that they had no young players. Cindy Ireland(Woodhall Spa) thought that having bands would restrict lower handicaps who want to play. Clare Welfare warned that it might be difficult to find clubs willing to host these events, Flick Felton (Blankney) suggested 2 scratch teams 0-10 and 10-20 with 2/3 players in each, and Bev Dolman (Greetham Valley) suggested 4 matches in 2 days was not viable.

Judith asked for a show of hands from the clubs who would be interested in a scratch league – 10 clubs raised their hands- Belton Park, Blankney, Bughley Park, Elsham, Cleethorpes, Greetham Valley, Lincoln, Louth, Sleaford and Woodhall Spa, although some said it would very much depend on which format was chosen. Judith thanked the floor saying she would take back these comments to the Executive Meeting.

7. Dates and venues for 2016:

The competition Secretary thanked all Representatives for bringing their Open dates to the meeting, these would be put on the diary page of the County Website, clubs can always send details to the secretary at a later date, and reminded clubs that they could advertise their Opens, at a cost of £15 for as many competitions as required, by sending copies, in PDF format to the secretary. Wendy asked that clubs refer to the County Website before choosing dates, in order to avoid clashing with County Competitions.

8. Any Other Business:

Helen Grinham(Market Rasen) asked if all Representatives of clubs could be listed on the website to help Captains contact the appropriate person when arranging matches, and that it would be a good idea if everyone attending the Representatives Meeting was asked to wear a name badge.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked Woodhall Spa for the use of their facilities. The next meeting would be Monday 5th September 2016, and closed the meeting at 11.15 a.m.

Signed..... Date.....