

MEETING OF CLUB DELEGATES

Monday 11th August 2008

REPORT now available

This includes all information on discussions regarding the EWGA Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on 8 October. Further updates will be added from time to time.

MEETING OF CLUB DELEGATES

PIKE HILLS GOLF CLUB

Wednesday 19 March 2008

DELEGATES DISCUSSION

Background

Over the last two years there have been consultations and meetings with members, to looking at the way forward for Ladies golf in England.

A survey was done and the findings discussed at meetings throughout the country. There was a consensus of opinion that change was needed in many areas, if golf was to become more attractive to the younger members of society, and to today's more modern life style.

From these meetings a strategy was drawn up, and a plan evolved for golf in the future. If we were to succeed we had to become an Association which was fit for purpose. The first move that had to be made was to become a company limited by guarantee. This now means that in these days of litigation, individual members would no longer be liable for any damages brought against the Association. We were liable until Dec 31st 2007!

The first major change was the name of the Association. Members and the Executive Committee thought that a name which reflected a more modern and professional image would be an advantage. After all, most sports are now Women's organisations. For example, Women's football, women's netball etc. We have a sportswoman of the year. It is only fair to say that many people do not like the change of name. This was discussed at the last three ELGA Executive Committee meetings. However the decision was reached and that is what the members voted for at the EGM, therefore the decision was made to go ahead with the change to English Women's Golf Association. There will still be Yorkshire Ladies' County Golf Association, ladies sections and a Lady Captain unless individuals wish to change.

Structure

The second change that had to be made was that we had to become an organisation 'fit for purpose'. This meant we had to change the management structure.

We now have a Management Board which consists of an independent chairman, 4 non-executive directors, a secretary/finance officer and a new CEO Jim Robinson, who took

over from Pauline Perla on 28th January. The chairman and non-executive directors are unpaid. All they will receive are out of pocket expenses.

The posts were advertised in all clubs and some news paper's, there were at least 8 very strong applicants, and after interviews the following were selected:- Jane Longhorn – County Durham, Ada Parr - Northamptonshire, Carola Babcock Buckinghamshire, Carolyn Baker Cheshire.

The chairman Sue Whittaker is from Northumberland.

Further details about these members can be found on the web-site www.englishwomensgolf.org.

It is the responsibility of the Management Board to deal with the business side of the Association and the directors have been appointed for their business expertise.

The other good thing is they are also, all golfers.

The next layer of the pyramid is The Operational Board. They will deal with all golfing matters. This committee consists of the 6 Regional Chairmen, and for the first year will be chaired by Ruth Whitehead, from Cheshire. We also have representatives from the north elected for their skills on various sub – Committees.

Venues & Rules of Golf

Marian Rae

Yorkshire

Handicaps

Wendy Taylor

Cheshire

Selection

Ann Irvin

Lancashire

Congu & Course rating

Joy Hunter

Yorkshire

Talent Assessor

Cathy Bowerbank

Durham

Each Regional chairman will have six county delegates on their board. For the Northern Area, Barbara Brooke, from Yorkshire, is the current Regional Chairman, Ann

McMullen - Yorkshire, is Regional Administrator and there will be one member from each of the following counties; Cheshire, Cambria, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, and Yorkshire (which is me).

The main purpose of the regional boards is they will act as a link between members, clubs, counties and the operational board.

Communication is a two way process, and we want information to come from members and clubs up to the boards, as well as keeping you informed of what is going on in the association. It is expected that the County delegate on the Regional Board would attend or sit on their County Committee. They would be responsible for calling 4 club delegates meetings a year, and would be the link between the County, Club and Regional Board. They would also be expected to introduce any newly formed club in their area to the County and to English Women's Golf Association. We are hoping eventually to have a welcome pack which we will let clubs have to give to new members.

The voting system has also changed. In future items to be voted on will start with a vote by club members. That vote will then be taken to a County Delegate meeting by the club delegate or a substitute. All the club votes will be counted and a majority decision reached. This will then go to English Women's Golf Association as the County vote. This is the only vote we now have as a County, so in total there will only be 35 votes in England to finally decide on each resolution. In each stage the vote is a simple majority.

County delegates would also be expected to act as a link when there were any national competitions or County match week is being held in their County.

All county match weeks and regional competitions (championship, junior championship, foursomes) will be run by the individual counties where they are being held.

Help will be given by the Championship department of English Women's Golf Association if requested.

All facility fees for these championships will be paid by English Women's Golf Association from money that has been ring fenced from the subscription that you normally paid to Northern Division.

Club Delegate

It is hoped that each club will appoint a club delegate. Ideally this is someone who is prepared to do the job for about three years. They need not necessarily be on the Ladies committee; however it would be their responsibility to make sure all club members are kept fully informed.

It is recommended that if this person is not on your Ladies' committee then they are asked to become an ex-officio member, so they can at least come and report to the meetings. It is also recommended that the club perhaps help towards petrol expenses for the delegate coming to the meetings. As a guideline, Yorkshire gives 30p a mile towards petrol expenses.

The club delegate would also be responsible for keeping their County delegate informed of any issues. Without volunteers such as you, we cannot operate. You are pivotal to our organization succeeding and are much valued for the work that you do.

There is now a volunteer manager- Phil Beard- who is employed by Sport England and is looking at rewards for volunteers.

All clubs should have received a job description for the club delegate. They are the vital communication link between members and English Women's Golf Association, via the club and County. Ideally they should have access to a computer, where they can access the web-site to keep abreast of all the news. They are the key person on the two way communication system. How they operate depends on the size of their ladies section. Small clubs will possibly adopt a different system to large clubs for keeping their members informed and for the voting procedures. It is up to each individual club to devise the best system for them. It would be wonderful if every club could allocate part of their notice boards for County and English Women's Golf Association matters.

There will be 4 delegates meetings a year which they should attend. One of these will be the County AGM, leaving three others. However if they personally cannot go, then a substitute should be sent. They are our eyes, ears and mouth at club level and are extremely important.

It is stated in the English Women's Golf Association Articles of Association - Proceedings at County Club Delegates Meetings. That we need to have 33% of clubs present to form a quorum. So it is crucial that if you cannot come to the meeting you get someone to take your place

This is only a brief resume. If you require further information contact me your County delegate, or the Regional Chairman, or the Operational Board Chairman. Details are to be found on the web-site or in the English Women's Golf Association handbook available in all clubs soon.

Sue Milner
YLCGA Regional Committee Representative