

## England Golf Report

I think there are 3 main areas I would like to mention from England golf.

Firstly, I cannot give an England Golf report without mentioning the change in collection of affiliation fees. England Golf have forced us to move to a real time collection process, which means collecting the affiliation fees 6 weeks after you've paid them to your Club, meaning we now have to collect the fees throughout the year rather than doing it all at once in January. This has improved our cash position, but has resulted in additional work for the office. Luckily we have been able to share this load with the men.

Secondly, whilst it does not really affect us, but in order to maximise funding from Sport England, England Golf are having to reduce the number of directors on their board, as well as having to include a minimum of 3 independent directors. This process should be complete by early next year.

The third area to report on is the one which will affect us all. This is the move to the worldwide handicapping system, on track for implementation in 2020. Apart from the ongoing work to rate all the courses, the next impact of this process is the CONGU change from January to allow official handicaps up to 54. This does not prevent clubs from running competitions only open to certain handicap ranges.

England Golf are currently in the process of reviewing all national and regional events, and I have been invited to be on the working group to look at this. Watch this space.

This year the week of the England Golf week, which features many of the finals of Club and individual competitions for handicap golfers as opposed to elite players was held at Woodhall Spa in August. I'm not aware of any of our Surrey ladies being involved in this, but hopefully some of you will be involved next August when the week is held at Frilford Heath.

Helen Atkinson and Tina Thomas from West Hill won the Plate final of the National Ping 4BBB competition at Gainsborough.

Several counties have followed the lead set by England Golf, the R & A and the LGU and are moving towards merging of their ladies and men's organisations. As I mentioned earlier we are looking to share process and resources with the Surrey men, although at this time we have not discussed an actual merger.

Within our region we held the regional Australian spoons final at West Byfleet with 54 clubs competing. This was won by the ladies from Meon Valley Golf Club. We also held the South region championships at Banstead Downs. This was won by Holly Standing from Ashford in Kent, who broke the Banstead Downs ladies course record with her 69 in the morning. However, the number of entrants for this championship and the junior equivalent has been low in recent years, so in 2018 there will be a single championship which will be run by Kent.

That completes my report from England Golf. Thank you.