



## SLCGA AGM – Saturday 23 November 2019

### England Golf Report

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I have attended various meetings this year so would like to give you a brief update on what has been going on at England Golf.

#### **Chief Executive**

The CEO Nick Pink resigned with effect from 17 October. He will be moving to become CEO at England Hockey. Richard Flint has been appointed interim CEO and a firm of headhunters has been appointed for the new CEO search.

#### **World Handicap System**

Final agreement has been reached with the R&A/USGA re the new master WHS licence to England Golf and the other Unions through CONGU, so the introduction of the WHS in England is on track for November 2020. Workshops have started in October.

#### **Insurance**

As you may be aware, England Golf in association with Bluefin Sport have now provided all golf club members with a £10m. personal liability insurance package. EG reserves are being used to cover the first 6 months cost and after that it will be part of EG's ongoing budget.

#### **Independent Golfer**

This is a complex and important issue which continues to be on the Agenda for discussion. As it stands the Independent Golfer pays no affiliation fee to England Golf. The number of Independent Golfers is on the increase as rising subscription costs and lack of time mean that many golfers no longer follow the traditional route of joining the club. England Golf is trying to establish a way of tapping into this market so that the Independent Golfer will pay some sort of affiliation fee and in return will be given (a) insurance and (b) a handicap. Opinions have varied on how best to achieve this and the issue is ongoing. The next step will be to engage with Clubs directly through the Club Advisory Group and County Advisory Group members will also be invited. The view is that the Independent Golfer must not be offered a package which might look more attractive than club membership, thereby threatening some golf clubs' existing membership. There is much work to be done.

#### **Club Support Team**

The club support network has been reviewed following reduced support from Sport England. The new framework will be 4 senior regional officers/4 regional officers/35 support officers. The network had been top heavy and it was acknowledged that it needs to function more with counties.

Lorna Robey – SLCGA Captain