

SOUTH REGION – ENGLISH WOMEN’S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting of the South Region Committee held on Monday, 26th April 2010 at The Oriental Club, Stratford Place, London at 11.00 am

Present: Mrs Catriona Tremlett – Chairman
Mrs Chrissie Owens – EWGA Non Executive Director
Mrs Margaret Northcott – Regional Administrator
Mrs Gill Staley – Hampshire
Mrs Dorothy Featherstone – Kent
Mrs Diana Rowlands – Middlesex
Mrs Debbie Edginton – Surrey
Mrs Susan Carey – Sussex

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Mrs Chrissie Owens, EWGA Non Executive Director. Mrs Tremlett invited Chrissie to make contributions to the meeting if she so wished and stated the Committee were looking forward to hearing about her work later. Introductions were then made round the table

- 1 **Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence. Action

- 2 **Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on February 8th 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

- 3 **Matters Arising not on the Agenda:**
 - a). GS referring to Affiliation Fees collected by EWGA, commented that the list received from Head Office showed the clubs who **had not** paid , when our February minutes showed reference to the clubs who **had** paid. Gill asked if EWGA would be producing a list of clubs who **HAD** paid, which the Chairman thought was not necessary. In due course CDH will show all subscribing members belonging to each affiliated club. Some representatives concurred, but others had reservations. It was also pointed out that not all clubs had sign up to CDH.
Chrissie indicated there was a lack of clarity at the moment. Some anomalies were now showing in the number of members at clubs.

 - b).Job Descriptions – the update for the Regional Representatives and Club Delegates is in hand.

- 4 **Matters Arising from the Operational Board Meeting held on March 23rd not on the Agenda**
 - a).After further meetings with Nemysis, earlier problems with developing the new website are said to be solvable, Chrissie stated there had been difficulties with merging the different systems. The update is now on going.

b).The e-newsletter – Sign up to this is continuing albeit slowly. Chrissie pointed out that approximately 10,000 out of a membership of 115,000 had sign up so far. Anything we can do to help encourage members to sign up could make significant differences, the larger the data base the more potential there is for advertising revenue.

Ideas were floated as to how this could be achieved:

The use of email addresses of entrants to last years competitions and this years. There were reservations regarding this as committee members thought this could not be done without the individuals' permission.

It was pointed out that all these players were members of EWGA so this should not be a problem as the information was only for internal use.

The sign up forms should be made available at Regional and County Competitions, also at County meetings.

A request was made for a down load attachment of the sign up forms to enable placement on county websites and club notice boards.

Everyone agreed it was an on going situation which would hopefully improve as members became more comfortable with the idea.

It was hoped that the 2011 diaries would be available earlier in the year possibly by the Open.

AGM documents - the suggestion that these should be 'specially flagged up' has been agreed.

At this point the chairman stated the Curtis Cup Team was to be announced today at 4pm.

The distribution of the 2010 EWGA Handbook seems not to have been received by all clubs. It was suggested the Representatives should ask their club delegates to check and inform them if the Handbook has not arrived. Representatives should inform MN who will then make enquiries.

MN

5 Affiliation Fees

These had been discussed earlier in the meeting. The Chairman reminded the committee that if there was to be a change of date for payment, it would require a change to the Memorandum and Articles of the Association.

6 Merger Update

Chrissie indicated there had been positive feedback. The working groups were to produce their recommendations to the Steering Committee by the end of April.

A document in the form of a Prospectus, for review, will be distributed to all EWGA members in preparation for the Delegate Meetings in September/October.

There are to be Road shows in August/September, held at central points around the Country open to EGU and EWGA members.

Voting on the merger by the EGU and EWGA must take place at the same time, possibly in December.

Agreement to the merger must be made by a vote in favour, by 75% of the membership of both organisations.

7 **Appointment of Martyn Evans** The Chairman announced the appointment of Martyn Evans as Financial Director and Company Secretary. Martyn is a Midlands based business man and accountant. His full CV can be seen on the EWGA website.

8 **Ring Fenced Pot** Information from the Regional Competitions country wide has shown huge differences between the income and expenditure of the Regions. The smaller counties in the regions appear to have greater financial difficulties when hosting competitions and sending teams to Regional events such as CMW and the County Finals.

A member of the Operational Board has suggested greater financial support for the less well off counties. Some discussion followed. It was agreed that the Chairman should put forward to the next Operational Board meeting the possibility of introducing a conditional Financial Assistance Grant, to included the following :- the applying County should divulge its financial situation, including the level of the County Capitation Fee.(There are huge differences between counties e.g. from £2 to £10). The amount of the award made available should be capped.

CT

There was a further suggestion to possibly increase the Club Levy. This had been held at £15 for sometime.

The now agreed increase to the grant of £1,000 to £2,000 made to the qualifying county teams for the County Final was warmly received, but a point made was that this is still not enough. A less well off county may find it difficult to finance its team for the week.

However it was thought this subject should be revisited in the near future.

9 **DMDs in Order of Merit Events** EWGA has reiterated that they do not recommend their use. They will not be allowed in County Match Weeks, this will also apply to junior competitors. Should counties choose to allow their use in their County Championships, the players will not qualify for the Order of Merit.

Kent allows their use but competitors are given notice of the restrictions.

Surrey allows their use as they currently have no players who qualify for the Order of Merit.

The Chairman stated there was a list of qualifying competitions where DMDs will not be allowed, at the back of the EWGA handbook.

10 **South Regions Competitions** The flag, tee markers and the 'thank you plate' for presentation to the host club were held with Catriona. Arrangements would be confirmed for their transportation to Sussex prior to County Match Week. SC to liaise with Catriona for 2nd June. SC to confirm she does hold the list of available accommodation required by the winning county.

CT
SC

DF made a suggestion of a 'welcome banner' to be used at Regional Competitions. All agreed this was a good idea. The Chairman would make enquiries.

CT

The Chairman confirmed that the Region would pay for trophy engraving this year.

The 2009 winners should be reminded by the host county organiser to return the cup/trophy in time for the 2010 competitions.

a). **The Championship.** 13th-15th July to be held at Bush Hill Park Middlesex.

Arrangements are in place. To date less than one dozen entries have been received.

b). **Girls Championship** 10th August to be held at Canterbury Kent.

Arrangements are ongoing with only a small take up so far, but it is early days yet.

c). **The Foursomes Championship.** 29th July to be held at Hindhead GC, Surrey.

There has been an encouraging 21 entries so far.

The Medal Final will be held on 17th May at Wrotham Heath Kent.

The Australian Spoons will be held on 5th August at Hendon Middlesex.

Entries have been slow so far.

Dates for 2011.

The Championship – Sussex are still negotiating a venue,
Girls' championship – 5th August at Stoneham GC
Hampshire.

Foursomes Championship – 8th August at Bearsted GC Kent.

Australian Spoons – Sussex to arrange.

Medal Final – 13th April at Petersfield GC Hampshire.

11 Marketing

The Chairman invited Chrissie Owens to speak to the meeting.

Chrissie began by stating how delighted EWGA were to have Virgin Atlantic in partnership with them sponsoring the English Counties' Championship.

Virgin Atlantic will be present at the County Finals on 13th-17th September 2010 at Kedleston Park Golf Club.

This year the team photographs will be taken on the first day of the tournament.

Chrissie asked if the Virgin Atlantic Logo could receive as much exposure as possible in the promotional material during CMW. Maybe in the event programme, on the daily team sheets and result sheets. On the welcome notices, in the cloakroom area and wherever feasibly possible.

An exciting new overseas event, to be published at the beginning of May, will be the English Women's Golf La Manga Club Challenge. To be held on 10th – 15th October 2010, at the La Manga Club in Spain.

Details will appear on the EWGA website and in other publications.

Any EWGA member with an active Congu Handicap may enter. It is hoped to have a minimum of 40 up to 120 participating golfers.

The golfing format will be,

Day 1 - Four ball team event.

Day 2 - Individual Stableford Round 1.

Day 3 – Individual Stableford Round 2.

Day 4 – Fourball Better Ball.

Prizes will take the form of vouchers to be redeemed in the UK.

The record of entries may be used for sign up to EWGA link to the database.

Chrissie discussed the idea of seeking 'Ambassadors' to raise and improve the profile of Women in Golf. Suggestions included using celebrity female sports personalities such as Gabby Logan, Hazel Irvine and others.

Chrissie was shortly due to visit the Knightsbridge Golf School and Stoke Park, where celebrities are known to frequent.

Chrissie ended by reminding the committee of the draw offering tickets for the Open, when signing up for the monthly e- letter. We were told that all the members who have already sign up would now have their names placed in the draw.

The committee appreciated the enthusiasm shown by Chrissie and were impressed by her dedication, hard work and commitment to the EWGA.

12 AOB

DF queried the 50years age entry to the Seniors Competitions suggesting that it should be raised to 60years. The Chairman reminded everyone that 50yrs was parity with Europe.

It was thought that perhaps after the EGU/ EWGA merger results, a competition might be suggested for members of minimum 60 years of age.

GS queried the omission of Di Stock from the 2010 qualified R&A referee and observer Referee list.

The Chairman replied it had been noted and she would make further enquiries.

The full lists have been circulated to County Secretaries, but there had been some errors. When these had been corrected the updated lists would be sent to the Committee.

The feed back from the Rules Seminars has shown they had been well run and very successful.

CT

MN

The meeting closed at 2pm.

Date for the next meeting is Monday June 28th 2010.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date

