

Minutes of the Representatives Meeting held at Woodhall Spa Golf Club on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**PRESENT:**

S. Mitchell (Chairman), B. Haycox (President), G. Grant (County Captain) C. Ireland (Treasurer), B. Dawson (Past Captain), M. Jacobs (Course Ratings Assessor), D. Cunnington (Competition Secretary), P. Brettle (League Secretary), K. Johnson (Secretary), A. Scurr (MNR Representative), H. Long (Divisional Representative South), Margaret Yelland (Divisional Representative Central), Tracey Stobart (County Welfare Officer)

Representatives from the following Clubs:

Ashby Decoy, Belton Park, Belton Woods, Blankney, Boston, Carholme, Cleethorpes, Elsham, Greetham Valley, Grimsby, Holme Hall, Kenwick Park, Kirton Holme, Laceby Manor, Lincoln, Louth, Market Rasen, Seacroft, Sleaford, South Kyme, Spalding, Stoke Rochford, Sudbrook Moor, Thonock Park, Toft, Waltham Windmill, Woodhall Spa,

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

**1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from: S. Beardsall (County Vice-Captain), H. Grinham (Divisional Representative North) S. McNicholls (Junior Co-ordinator), S. Bowker (Fixtures Secretary), T. Macarthy (Handicaps Advisor), W. Hill (Waltham), M. Burnett (Millfields), C. Lee (Toft), K. Hadland (Kirton Holme), B. Dolman (Greetham Valley), K. Gillett (Sutton Bridge), L. Collins (Lincoln), S. Hickling (Sleaford), V. Lister & A. Craven (Ashby Decoy), J. Baker (Cleethorpes), P. Hayward (Kenwick Park), K. Hircock & J. Siggers (Belton Park)

Forest Pines, Gedney Hill, Holme Hall, Horncastle, Humberston Park, Lincolnshire, Louth, Messingham, Millfields, Normanby Hall, North Shore, Pottergate, Seacroft, South Kyme, Sutton Bridge, Tetney, Thorney Lakes, Thorpe Park, Toft, Tydd St. Giles, Welton Manor, Woodthorpe,

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by E. Moses (Belton Woods) and seconded by C. Fletcher, (Thonock Park)

**3. Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. Election of Divisional Representatives (report by Helen Long):**

The past couple of years has been a strange time for golf clubs and golf competitions, and like many organisations, the LWGA has started to look at the Committee roles and the types of competitions we offer as a County.

As you know, the LWGA is wholly manned by volunteers, this is similar to many roles in a lot of golf clubs, but I think it is fair to say that we've not been inundated with volunteers. This is a shame, as in my experience over the past 3 years, I cannot stress how fantastic and supportive all the ladies have been on the Committee.

Over the years the role of Divisional Representative has changed and the main focus now seems to be on organising the Betterballs, in the North, Central and South.

Dawn has done a fantastic job for the last 5 years as Competition Secretary, but again we looked at the work that role did, together with timings, etc. The implementation of Golf Genius also changed the tasks that fall within that role.

From this analysis we feel that you and the County will be better served by having a team of ladies working with the Competition Secretary and that the role of representative moves to be part of the Competitions Team. A team of 3 reporting to the Competitions Secretary.

Benefits would be:

- Share the workload
- Succession planning
- Potentially less travelling
- Ensure that all LWGA Competitions could be completed in case of illness etc

We currently have Helen Grinham in the North, who will leave that role at the end of 2023. Margaret Yelland in the Central Region who will start a handover in November 2022. So we need someone who is probably more southern based for me to handover.

We need someone who is not afraid to work with computer and IT systems, as quite a bit of the work is computer based, but full training will be given to anyone joining the team. It's great fun and you meet all the lovely Lincolnshire ladies who play golf. If anyone would like a copy of the job description, please ask me and it will be going on to the website.

Thanks for your time and I look forward to seeing you all again at one of next year's competitions.

The proposal to change the Constitution to reflect the above was proposed by Tracey Stobart and seconded by Judith Gorman, it was carried unanimously with no abstentions. The Constitution will be amended.

#### **5. Course Ratings Assessor's Report:**

This year we have rated Lincoln G.C. for ladies to play from the yellow tees and men from the red tees. We were booked for both Kenwick Park and Market Rasen Golf Club, but these visits had to be cancelled for various reasons.

We completed a visit to Holme Hall G.C. for a marathon rating session. We were asked to rate both gender of golfers for four different tees! This exercise involved an all day visit by a team of 8 people. The paperwork is still being completed and, hopefully, will be submitted to England Golf this week. We are booked for a 10 year re-rating to Pottergate G.C. later this month and are trying to arrange a visit to Lincoln G.C. in October to rate a winter course for them.

Just a reminder, if clubs want a rating for different tees and genders then the cost will not be met by England Golf, they will only pay for re-rating when scheduled. If your club needs a 9-Hole handicap qualifying course, generally a phone call to England Golf will be sufficient.

On a personal note, I am still looking for volunteers to take over my position. We are meant to have a ladies team of three, I'm on my own at the moment and have to borrow from the men's teams to help me. There is one lady from Elsham G.C. who has shown some interest and joined us to observe the Holme Hall visit. If anyone wants more information I would love to explain what we do and invite them along to a ratings visit.

If your club is unhappy with their course and/or slop rating there is a designated appeals procedure. Waltham Windmill G.C. have done exactly this and a senior national rating team will visit them this month. We await the outcome with interest. The club are saying that the Greenkeeper has made the fairways wider and the rough shorter, which make the course play easier. Hopefully we will have their answer in time for the AGM.

In the south of the county, Di Rafferty and her team have re-rated Woodthorpe Hall G.C., and Seacroft G.C. which was only a paper exercise to reflect quite a large number of shortened holes. They have rated Seacroft for a junior course and are visiting South Kyme G.C. next week for a 10 year re-rating exercise.

Di will, for the south, be attending the AGM and would be happy to answer your questions.

## 6. League Secretary's Report:

This is my sixth year as League secretary and I would like to thank all the County Executive members that have supported me this year. Through ZOOM Meetings and emails we have managed to keep up and it has been great to get fully up and running again.

This year for the first time I decided to save resources and not print out result sheets received over email. Out of the 270 results received only 26 were hard copy which is an excellent saving on valuable resources. Digital records are now kept so that results can be checked. Consequently, the recording of results has been more challenging this year as many more team captains send in results via email. Result sheets are now saved in digital folders and also on a master spreadsheet before being posted on the website. Without this level of record keeping it is difficult to check on errors. Thank you to those of you that have let me know of any errors .... it's the Belton Park, Belton Woods and Burghley Park results that usually get me confused. It would help me a great deal if you could ensure the result sheet has the document name of the match so I don't have to rename it when I save it.

Whilst it is preferable to save precious resources it does take longer. As the workload has increased Gilly Grant when her term as County Captain ends in November, has kindly offered to receive and post results for the South Handicap Divisions for next season so will be advising South Teams of her new email address, where they should send their results. The Handicap league final will be played on Friday 23rd September at Belton Park Club. The winners of Division 1 North, Cleethorpes will play the winners of Division 1 South, Toft. Tee off at 11.00 am. Spectators and caddies are very welcome to come and watch excellent golf. Good luck to both teams.

The results of the Handicap League 2022 are as follows:

Division	Winners/Promoted	Relegated
1 North	Cleethorpes	Kenwick Park B
2 North	Kenwick Park A	Forest Pines
3 North	Louth	Waltham Windmill A
4 North	Grimsby	Millfields (Withdrawn)
5 North	Elsham C	Seacroft
6 North	Cleethorpes & Waltham Windmill B & Ashby Decoy B (joining the league)	
Division	Winners/Promoted	Relegated
1 South	Toft	Lincoln A
2 South	Spalding	Blankney A
3 South	Woodhall Spa B	Blankney B
4 South	Burghley Park B	Lincoln B
5 South	Boston	Belton Park B
6 South	Kirton Holme	

There will be 3 teams in Division 5 and 6 North this year with the addition of Ashby Decoy (B) in Division 6

Congratulations to all the teams promoted and commiseration to those relegated. We are sad to see Millfield withdraw from next year's league and hope to see them again in future years. The Handicap League results for 2022 will be sent to all participating clubs together with the list of the new divisions for 2023 to enable clubs to arrange their matches for next year. Please can team captains ensure the results are sent to me on the correct result form, making sure they state which division and fill in winners at the bottom. I do need the full result sheet in the event of a count back.

The results pages will be amended on the website ready for 2023 and will include the new leagues in divisions before the AGM.

Clubs are reminded that the county cannot interfere with individual club's policies on league matches, we can only set out the conditions and rules of play. Please make sure you confirm your matches in writing and verbally nearer the date to avoid any confusion. Please remember that if buggies are required that they are booked well in advance of the match being played to avoid disappointment.

The Handicap league and Scratch league rules are in the process of being revised this year after a consultation process.

Proposed changes are as follows:-

To ensure dates offered for matches are fairer the home team should offer three dates to include both a weekday and a weekend date.

Approval system easier for buggy users -To make it simpler to record who has used a buggy, prior permission from the League Secretary will not be required. At least one day's notification to the opposing team Captain must be given. The home team Captain will make a note of any individual buggy users against their name on the results sheet.

The Scratch league was re-introduced in 2017 and has been very successful with some hard-fought matches. We introduced a new format this year to include 3 pairs in each match rather than 3 singles match play. This was to enable more players to have the opportunity of playing scratch matches. If anyone wishes to join the Scratch league for 2023 please let me know as soon as possible so that we can include any new teams.

Scratch League matches

- We anticipate there being 10 clubs in the scratch league next year.
- The scratch teams will be split into North and South.
- To avoid playing 4 home and away matches, (total of 8 matches) which most clubs would find difficult to fit in to their calendar on top of league matches, a draw will be made for a home or away match, so only 4 matches in total. The draw will be made before the AGM and clubs notified as soon as possible.
- A North vs South final will be arranged at a neutral course on a weekend date.

The final of the Scratch League will be played on Friday 9th September 11 am at Waltham Windmill Golf Club. The three division winners were Holme Hall, Lincoln and Greetham Valley. Caddies and supporters are very welcome, well done to those clubs.

Thank you to all the teams who participated in the leagues this season and good luck to everybody for next year. As a last word also thank you to those of you that kept me on track with the results on the website.

Please would all the division winners ensure their club send a representative to the AGM to receive their awards for the year. There is no necessity to return pictures as new pictures will be presented this year. As Sheilah has already mentioned, Kathryn will be giving you highlights from the scratch and handicap league questionnaire next. If you do have any questions about next year's formats or handicap index limits, could I ask you to hold on to those until Kathryn has finished. Some of your questions may be answered during her presentation  
Happy golfing everyone!

## 7. LWGA Questionnaire

Kathryn Johnson presented the results from the recently completed questionnaire that was sent to all clubs. This was followed by a Q/A session:

- Q. Why should the paperwork and team selection be sorted prior to the match?  
A. This started during the Covid pandemic, when teams were not allowed to enter golf clubs prior to the match. Although this is, for now, not an issue, it was felt that the amount of preparation prior to the match, i.e. sorting out handicaps etc. it was often less time consuming on the day, to have the team sheets prepared in advance.
- Q. Why should there be an upper limit on the HI for the scratch league, when everyone plays off scratch?  
A. It was felt that there should be a limit as a guideline; however this will be discussed further.
- Q. Could the maximum number of times played in the league be reduced to 6 rather than 8.  
A. It was felt that 8 matches gave some flexibility to clubs when selecting a B team, however, ladies commented that if a club only has 1 team in the league, then they are only playing 6 times. A vote was taken and the majority was in favour of reducing to 6 times.
- Q. Why should the Handicap Index be capped at 20.4?  
A. Margaret Johns made the point that all ladies who want to play for their club in a league match must stretch themselves to get their handicap down to gain a place within the team. This is a challenge for all ladies and this comment was well supported by the audience.
- Q. The rules state that all ladies playing for the leagues must have a minimum of 5 qualifying scores on their handicap record, how is this policed?  
A. It is up to the Team Captain to check this prior to selection of the team, and ultimately it is up to the player to make sure that she conforms to this rule, the information is also available to the opposing team captains to check.
- Q. Why do the finals have to be played on a weekday?  
A. This is something that we will look into, but it depends on individual clubs policies and availability to host a final on a weekend date.

In conclusion, all the comments and questions raised at the meeting will be looked at in detail by a Working Group set up in the New Year, to discuss ways forward for the future of Scratch and Handicap Leagues in 2024.

## 8. Role of the LWGA Club Representative (report by Sheilah Mitchell)

As a committee we've been re-evaluating Who We Are? What We Do? and What We Are Trying To Achieve? How best we can serve you, our county members. Broadly speaking we decided our mission is:

"To provide fun and competitive golf in Lincolnshire for amateur female players of all ages and abilities".

To be able to do that, we need to listen to our county clubs and golfers' views and perspectives. That's going to require good communication channels between ourselves and the 42 affiliated clubs and 2,000 plus female golfers in the County.

That's where you come in! Our current methods don't reach everyone, for instance only 670 female members are signed up to Golf Genius which along with our website, is what we use electronically to keep you informed of what's going on. Plus of course by sending information to our Reps for you to see.

I'm a member of Market Rasen GC and I was surprised, when I asked a number of our ladies, that very few of them knew who our LWGA Club Representative was. It's possibly the same at your own Clubs.

How many ladies here today are their LWGA Club Rep? Have any of you ever seen written down what's required of you as the Rep? What do you think we expect of you? What do you expect from us?

So we think before we can communicate better with all of the affiliated members, we need to communicate better with you, our representatives.

Of course, not everyone is surfing the net and checking out our tweets and facebook page and we need to address that.

Early next year we will be holding a seminar on "The Role of the LWGA Club Rep", along with the help of the County and Club Support Officers from England Golf, where we will define the Reps roles and how we will support them in helping us. To that end, we are going to be asking all Clubs to reappoint their LWGA Club Rep and to inform us who they are and how to contact them.

We'll be in touch with your Club soon with more details. Thank you.

**9. Any Other Business:**

Q. Liz Moses (Belton Woods) asked if the AGM's and Reps meeting could be held on a weekend or evening  
A. This has been looked into but unfortunately we are not able to use the facilities at Woodhall Spa on a weekend or evening, and unless we could find a venue that could accommodate the number of ladies without charge then the cost, including tea/coffee etc. would be prohibitive. We could try to set up zoom meetings; however this is very difficult to manage with such large numbers. The Chairman did ask if anyone knows of any venue that could host this to please let us know.

The subject of hosting competitions etc, on weekends has been looked at, but again many clubs are not able to host such large events during the busy summer season at their clubs. The County Captain commented that the County Championships in 2023 do include a Sunday date.

Alison Cargill (Holme Hall) advised that as the Scratch Finals were being played on a weekday, and therefore, Holme Hall would be unable to field a team, however she thanked the LWGA Executive for taking on board the comments and appreciated that this will be discussed in 2023

There being no other business the President, B. Haycox, thanked all those attending, the ladies of the Executive Committee, and Woodhall Spa for the use of their facilities. Barbara encouraged all ladies to sign up to Golf Genius, as this will be the method of signing up for competitions etc. in the future, although 600 ladies have signed up, that leaves around 2,000 who have yet to do this.

The next meeting will be Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and the meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.

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