



Leicestershire & Rutland Golf Union

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2015 at Park Golf Club at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

Officers & Players; Graham Webb (President, Kirby Muxloe - in the chair), Oli Willson (Captain), Kevin Whitfield-Green (President Elect, Honorary Match Secretary, Stapleford Park), David Dalby (Honorary Treasurer, Whetstone), Keith Elliott (Seniors Organiser), David Bentley (Handicaps Advisor & Welfare Officer, Melton Mowbray) Keith Tripp, (Immediate Past President, Lingdale), Terry Walker (Honorary Secretary, Lingdale).

Past Presidents; Gordon Upward (Lingdale), Michael Potter (Birstall).

Vice Presidents; Graham Fox (Lingdale)

By Invitation; Peggy Remington, Ian Lyner (L&R County Golf Partnership).

Clubs Represented by;

Beedles Lake -
Birstall - Gerry Hyde
Breedon Priory -
Charnwood Forest - Chris Reilly
Cosby - Tom O'Shea
Forest Hill -
Glen Gorse -
Hinckley - David Stott
Humberstone Heights -
Kibworth -
Kilworth Springs - Terry Redmond
Kirby Muxloe -
Kyngs -
Lingdale - Terry Ballard
Longcliffe -
Lutterworth -
Market Harborough -
Melton Mowbray - Pat Lee
North Luffenham -
Park Hill -
Rothley Park - Philip Askew
Rutland County -
Rutland Water -
Scraptoft -
Six Hills -
Stapleford Park -
The Leicestershire - David Bull
The Luffenham Heath -
Ullesthorpe Court -
Western Park -
Whetstone - Peter Seddon



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Willesley Park - Mike Norris

Minutes

50/2015 County Golf Partnership

Peggy Remington & Ian Lyner presented a joint update on the CGP's latest activities and plans. Their Report is included in the reports section appended to these minutes. They then left the meeting.

51/2015 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from 17 and these have been recorded.

52/2015 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 14 April 2015

KT proposed, TB seconded, that they be accepted as a true record. This was agreed unanimously and the President duly signed them off.

53/2015 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none not covered by the agenda.

54/2015 Minutes of Officers' & Players' Meeting held on 19 May 2015

There were no questions although the following points were brought to the meetings attention;-

- a) Contact is ongoing in relation to hosting a World Ranking Event.
- b) The Jackson Trophies were cancelled due to a lack of interest. Options are being explored as to their future hosting.
- c) The possible Colts fixture with Nottinghamshire has been shelved due to fixture congestion.

55/2015 Captain's Report

There was nothing to add following the report submitted to the Officers & Players meeting and there were no questions.

56/2015 Honorary Secretary's Report:

The only issue to add following the report submitted to the Officers & Players meeting was the meeting was brought up to date with regard to England Golf's Governance & Affiliation Review.

57/2015 Honorary Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer submitted a written report and up to date spreadsheet on the night and these were discussed with the meeting. All Clubs had now settled their Affiliation Fees.

58/2015 Honorary Match Secretary's Report

A written report had been submitted and there were no questions. Positive comments had been received about the County's reception at Kyngs and it has been recommended that they are used again. Club Admin Forms are still being chased - 8 clubs.

59/2015 Juniors' Organiser's Report

A written report had been submitted and there were no questions.



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60/2015 Seniors' Organiser's Report

A written report was provided on the night and there were no questions.

61/2015 Handicaps Report

There was little to add following the report submitted other than to confirm that changes to the CONGU Unified Handicapping System had now been agreed and would be published shortly. to the Officers & Players meeting, other than the following;-

62/2015 Health & Safety / Welfare / Safeguarding Report:

There was nothing to add to the report submitted.

63/2015 Greenkeeping Report

No report.

64/2015 Course Assessment Report

No report.

65/2015 Any Other Business

Michael Potter suggested that an Over 80's category be included in the Seniors Handicap Competition.

Concern was raised about the lack of representation at clubs in the County.

66/2015 Date of next Council Meeting

13 October

67/2015 The President closed the Meeting at 20:37.

SIGNED:.....DATE:

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Graham Webb
President

Future Meetings - For Information

Council - 13 October, 12 January

Officers & Players - 19 May, 18 August, 10 November

AGM - 25 February

All venues will be advised with the agenda nearer the meetings.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS - 7 JULY 2015



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County Golf Partnership (Peggy Remington)

As Golfmark Co-ordinator for the County I am very pleased to tell you that we have our first Club accredited. Hinckley Golf Club who have worked very hard through the winter and spring. Thanks to their team led by Adam Dewfield and latterly Ray McColgan. Hinckley are very happy with GolfMark and the strategies put in place, have certainly helped them recruit many new members and make their club stronger and more successful. I understand they have recruited around 50 members since implementation. Ian and I will be at Hinckley on Thursday evening for the formal presentation, which is taking place during their New Members evening, so new members can see that they have joined a pro-active club, which in turn will hopefully encourage them to stay.

Under the old GolfMark, Beedles Lake, Cosby, Forest Hill, Kibworth, Park Hill, the Leicestershire have successfully completed their 12 month reviews. I am at Humberstone Heights tomorrow so hopefully they too will complete their review. Those signed up for the new GolfMark are Breedon Priory, Glen Gorse, Lingdale, Longcliffe, Lutterworth, Melton Mowbray, Rothley Park, Scraftoft, Ullesthorpe Court and Willesley Park. I hope to have Melton successfully through early autumn followed by Lutterworth and Glen. Other clubs are in the infancy of their paperwork. Let's hope GolfMark does for them what it is doing for Hinckley. It is definitely not a tick boxing exercise, it is there to help clubs grow and be more successful.

I am happy to report that several clubs have had excellent Open Days (OR better named Family Fun Days) this year which the partnership has supported. Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Humberstone Heights and Cosby have all held very successful Open Days. We have a template which many of the clubs have used as I am not in favour of just having a few free lessons on the day and nothing else - if you do that no-one will come! All four clubs had many enquires on the day about coaching for both adults and juniors, plus membership enquiries which has led to people families. It can only be good to open your doors to get new people through. Lutterworth gc went to Lutterworth Carnival last Saturday and again gained new enquiries. I think the way is to get into the community and that is what Ian and I intend to do a lot more of next year.

The Union, Ladies Association and Partnership have held its first meeting to formulate the One County plan - if we all work together and know more about what each of us does it will surely reap dividends

I attended an England Golf Governance and Affiliation meeting in May when many county clubs were represented having rounded up the troops via email /telephone/visits. Ours was a lively session and we were reassured that whatever incentives England Golf give to bring the independent golfer into the fold, it will not include a handicap. Good to hear. We are currently waiting for the outcome of all the road shows when we will see the final draft of the new Governance and Affiliation changes. I understand the roadshows are scheduled for October.

Social Media

Both Ian and I are very active on Twitter and this week we are back on Facebook. I also keep our website up to date with news stories and photos of Open Days, Membership details etc. If your club has a good story, a membership deal, let me have it together



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with a photo if possible and we will push it around all our social media links. Our website is www.lrcgp.co.uk, Facebook is Leicestershire & Rutland County Golf Partnership, and our twitter handle is @lrcgp . The more we are out there the better we will get people into golf.

Clubhouse

Back to one of my favour topics “the Clubhouse” site of the England Golf website. Clubhouse is all about “Club Support” a an online platform for golf clubs (staff and volunteer officials) to access all specific support, websites, tools and initiatives

There is so much information on there, not just for your secretary/manager, but handicap committees, Women & Girls, Marketing Committees, Juniors, Case Studies, Surveys. As I’ve said before, ask to be given access. The headings covered were : **Xact** - providing clubs with Free Health & Safety, Human Resource and Employment Law compliance, through specialist golf service providers. **England Golf CDH** - A system that allows clubs to verify the playing handicaps of any player who is a member of an affiliated club in England, as well as transmitting any qualifying score back to the players Home Club. Your handicap secretaries will already be using this site, great for verifying handicaps when you hold an Open.

Get Into Golf - Ian Lyner will explain further. **Safeguarding Children in Golf** - again hopefully you are all aware of this great website to help you t ensure that children & young people involved in golf can thrive and flourish in a safe environment. **England Golf Competition Guidance** FAQ’s, updates, advice and information on everything from course set up, rules, pace of play and managing start times to competition conditions and allocating prizes **GolfMembership Survey** - a biennial study completed by Sports Marketing Surveys on behalf of England Golf designed to help understand the membership situation nationwide and within each county. There are glossy printed books and if anyone wants the latest one, let me know. **Club Marketing** - A section which gives guidelines on everything from writing a marketing plan to data collection. **Case Studies** - the four home unions are working together to provide best practice from clubs across GB&I covering all areas of the strategy. (Raising Our Game). **59 Club** - Benchmarking tools focusing on member surveys and mystery shopper audits to help clubs provide customer service excellence. This is only available currently to GolfMarked clubs and at a 50% discount. I think this is a great idea and being trialled I think at the moment in Warwickshire. **Recruitment & Retention Toolkit** - a flexible guide which contains resources and best practice examples covering 9 key areas to help clubs recruit and retain members - you can view for free on line or buy a booklet for £15 (it would cost around £100 in inks to print out!) **Greener Golf** - An interactive website that provide golf specific environmental advice.. It is part funded by the R&A and developed by STRI

That gives you a flavour - and I think goes to show just how much information is out there.

Captain (Oli Willson)

Anglian League

NORFOLK



Leicestershire & Rutland Golf Union

As we are all aware Leicestershire & Rutland got off to the flying start we needed by beating Norfolk away at Brancaster, 9 an half, 2 an half, with the first team winning there match at home by the same margin. The team sprit on the practice round, and on match day was fantastic with all the players high on confidence on playing such a good golf course.

The warm up session on match day drawn a lot of attention from the opposition and i believe this was one of the factors which gave us the upper hand on winning the game..

SUFFOLK

Having getting off to the perfect start we then moved on to bungay & Waveney Golf Club where we had our match. On Saturday we had the practice round which was shortened due to having late practice round times of 16.20 and 16.30. I made the decision to do this thinking that it would take much longer to get back to the hotel which was situated in Norwich. This would have made eating arrangements quite difficult if we had got back to the hotel later.

On match day the sprits were high, the warm up was performed on the putting green for all to see, and we were ready for battle. unfortunately we didn't get off to the start we wanted by losing the foursomes 3-1, and in the singles we lost 5 an half to 2 an half. This was very disappointing!!, but most of the good golf i saw played was by Suffolk, so on the day we were beaten by the better side.

NORTHAMPTON

Knowing this was going to be a BIG game, we arrived early at Northants County Golf Club for our practice round on Saturday which proved invaluable, the test of golf was difficult, the course was playing long, and the greens were firm. This practice round gave us the winning formula as none of the Northampton squad took the opportunity play.

On Sunday morning i asked the squad to get there early so that we could get the preparation done ready for this big match, all the squad were there by 8.00am, warm up performed, chipping and putting practice done. The foursomes in the morning didn't go to plan losing 3-1, this gave us a lot to do in afternoon, but the lads dug deep and won the afternoon session 5 an half 2 an half, this shows to me the that all the squad members showed tremendous character to come back and win the match. This made the captain very proud indeed.

6 MAN

Having never been to the tournament before i was not knowing what to expect, the buzz around Gog MaGog was fantastic, all the players milling around waiting to get off on the practice round was brilliant. I went out and followed our squad on there round, and the golf i saw was impressive and they all looked the part in full county colours. Moving on to match day i was lucky enough to caddy for Rich Wale, to which he knocked it round in 65, the easiest 65 I've ever seen, unfortunately he didn't have the same success in the afternoon but a quality performance on the day. All of the other squad members had respectable scores as well on day which put us in 5th position over all.



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I personally had a fantastic week end with the squad and am looking forward to being a part of it next year.

Honorary Secretary (Terry Walker)

L&RGU

Started the Anglian League match against Suffolk.

County Golf Partnership

Attended a meeting held on 4 June at Scraptoft re; One County Plan.

Minutes from the following have been received and distributed;

- Biannual Review Report
- CGP Impact Report

England Golf

Minutes from the following have been received and distributed;

- Woodhall Spa Land Holdings Ltd
- Handicapping & Course Rating Committee
- Governance & Affiliation Review Recommendations
- Increasing Membership & Participation Update
- Marketing & Sponsorship Committee
- Performance Committee

Midland Golf Union / League

Minutes from the AGM received and circulated.

Anglian League

Minutes from the AGM received and circulated.

Eastern Inter-Counties Foursomes

No report.

Other

No other issues to report.

Honorary Treasurer (David Dalby)

No report submitted.

Honorary Match Secretary (Kevin Whitfield-Green)

Fixtures

2015 Fixtures complete and posted on website, I am making amendments when required this means that the website fixture list is accurate.

Staffordshire match is now 3rd April 2015.

Warwickshire match is now 17th April 2015

Nottinghamshire match now clashes with Spring Tournament, need to change date.



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I have received a letter from T Harper (Past President) commenting on how well the U16 Boys match at Kyngs GC was supported by the club and its members, they are keen to hold future fixtures. I will try and arrange another fixture for 2016 or earlier.

We are due to host the MGU Closed and AGM, I am awaiting an answer from a club I should know by time of meeting.

A more comprehensive list of the 2016 Fixtures has been published on the website I will continue to update it as fixtures are confirmed.

Competitions

Spring Tournament

Was won by Coby Cartwright (Cosby), we had a full field (60) with twelve reserves, two were needed. The number of entries is the highest for over 15 years.

Jackson Trophies'

Cancelled due to lack of entries, we to look at this tournament as this is the second year it has been cancelled.

Seniors Handicap Championship

We had 81 entries this year, this is the largest field since taking over the tournament. Peter Robinson (Glen Gorse) won the handicap Championship with 41 points, with the Team Shield going to Glen Gorse, P Robinson, N Oldman and B Fagin on 108 points.

Amateur Championship

I have received 67 entries with 59 online, 7 reserves. This will be played at Kirby Muxloe GC on 12th July, followed by the Wykes Bowl at Hinckley the following week.

Seniors Championship

To date we have 29 entries.

John Cheatle Foursomes

The Presidents invitations have been sent out they also include invites to Anglian League Counties and MGU Counties.

Scratch League

All matches are up to date with no outstanding games.

Club Administration Forms

I have sent a further reminder to clubs.

Amateur World Ranking Points

I should be able to advise the Officers and delegates at the next meeting if any of our tournaments qualify.

Website

A meeting still needs to be arranged to discuss way forward and improvements. In the meantime I have been able to update the website with contact details which can be used to email members.

Junior Organiser (Iain Clarke)



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May I first tender my apologies for not attending the tonight's meeting as I will be away on holiday for the week .

Since our last meeting there has been a friendly match between our and Worcs U-16 boys at Lutterworth GC , once again there was a very good showing from the L&RGU side in the foursomes coming out 3 - 2 winners in the morning , however in the afternoon singles Worcs staged a strong comeback that was only stemmed mainly in the later order with our boys coming out on top 9 - 6 .

A practice round for the Anglian League West has been arranged for the 11th of July at Rutland County which will be used for a final selection for the team on the 15th of July.

After discussions with Ian Bailey this week plans have been put in place for a three way match following the same format as the But Trophy only with handicap allowance between the U-18, U-16 and U14 at Kyns GC on the 26th of August, this is deemed to be more cost effective and of greater value coaching wise than additional friendly matches.

Arrangements are also in place for the U-18 v Staffs at Newcastle u Lyme on Fri 17th July, MGU U-18 League v Lincs at South Kyme on the 20th of July and the U-16 friendly v Lincs at Spalding on the 23rd of July.

After discussions with Richard Binnie I will be organising and running the U-14 match at Ullesthorpe Court against Notts on the 30th of July due to continued growth of his business commitments.

Seniors Organiser (Keith Elliott)

No report submitted.

Handicaps (David Bentley)

I have continued to answer queries and deal with Clubs problems regarding the Handicapping System.

There have been a number of Clubs changing their software recently. Ten have now moved to the new Club Systems product, Club V1 which is proving popular and reliable after initial installation glitches. One club has moved to Intelligent Golf.

Handicap workshops are now completed and discussion points are being collated. The slides from the presentations are now online at www.englandgolf.org and follow the links through the handicapping pages. Disappointingly less than a half of our Clubs sent a representative with some having to travel because they were unable to get on a local workshop.

There will be local handicap meetings towards the end of the year, and I have sent out notes to all Clubs as requested at the Council meeting although there have already been some changes as a result of further meetings. It is pointless at this juncture making any comment except that there is possibly a re-think on handicap limits/categories.

The new Handicap Appeals Procedure was used in Gloucestershire on 12 May. The appellant "on legal advice" chose not to attend and lost his appeal but rumour is that he is considering appealing to England Golf.



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The returning of “Away” scores through CDH from Golf Union Wales has had a problem which is hopefully resolved. If clubs are aware that a player has entered a competition and they do not receive results through the system, I should be advised. Clubs are reminded that scores from R&A and LGU events are not returned through CDH.

I am auditing CDH slowly. Our registers are pretty good but there are some software issues that are being pursued. There is also a problem with players who hold more than one membership. I will be producing guidance notes for Handicap Committees shortly.

H & S / Welfare / Safeguarding (Kevin Whitfield-Green)

The Committee met on the 3rd June 2015

Present; K Whitfield-Green, Chairman- Hon. Match Secretary, D Bentley, Welfare Officer, I Clarke, Junior Organiser

Reportable Incidents

There have been two incidents reported recently.

On more than one occasion, Junior Teams have been left without a supervising adult at matches. Clubs involved have been reminded of their legal obligations, and the matter is closed. ALL CLUBS are reminded that the supervising adult should have emergency contact details to hand along with any special information regarding medical need.

There has been a difference of opinion between one of our players and County Officials regarding selection policy which has escalated. This has been referred to England Golf Safeguarding Office for advice and is on-going.

Documentation

We are currently drafting a new procedural document as a result of issues identified by the H&S Safeguarding committee.

Insurance Cover

We are in receipt of the insurance cover, we need to clarify one item with EG advisor.