



**Minutes of the Delegates Meeting held at Dummer Golf Club  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 1.00 pm**

**IN THE CHAIR:** Kay Walshe – County Captain

**PRESENT:** 64 ladies including 9 committee members

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for the delegates meeting were received from 4 committee members and 5 delegates but some had sent representatives – many thanks.

**2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Kay Walshe**

Kay welcomed all and introduced the 9 committee members present

**Jackie Keay** (County President and England Golf Regional Course Rating Advisor), **Debbie Tapply** (Vice Captain) **Di Stock** ( Handicap Advisor and Chief Referee), **Catherine Hargaden** (Safeguarding Officer), **Linda Eales** (Veterans' Captain), **Hannah Holloway** (Press Officer), **Judy Andrews** (Honorary Treasurer) and **Ann Younger** (Honorary County Secretary and Competition Secretary)

**3. CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

Kay stressed the importance of the role of club delegate in transmitting information back to all club members and asked for ideas and suggestions how the communication could be even better. She recently attended a Junior Organisers' meeting where most of the attendees had not seen the HLCGA posters for the academies (4 of them running throughout 2018) and the festival day coming up soon. At some of the events in 2018 ladies had not appeared on the day as they had not realised the start sheet had been published and they had a tee time. Jill England had experienced some clubs in the 3 inter-club knock outs not being aware of where the draws were located on the website and had not got in touch with opposition to arrange matches.

Ideas from the floor included:

- Highlighting HLCGA pages on noticeboards with a big red arrow and
- Several clubs now have blogs and use Facebook pages with all new information

Kay continued with the importance of finding a new County Junior Organiser quickly to promote golf in the young and said that Hannah Holloway is interested in switching to take this on.

This will mean that Hannah's current role of Press Officer and Webmaster will need to be taken on by either one, two or a team of willing volunteers and if anyone would like to approach Hannah at the end of the meeting Hannah will explain what the roles involve.

**4. VICE CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

Debbie read a statement about Incorporation: -

Earlier this year the Executive Committee met with England Golf to discuss the benefits of becoming Incorporated as a Limited Company and the possibility of unifying with the Hampshire Golf Union. A subsequent meeting with HGU determined that it was of no benefit to either organisation to unify at this time and so we have not taken this option any further. England Golf has been advising Counties to look at the benefits of being incorporated and more and more counties are looking at incorporation to avoid the personal liability of committee members. Many of you will be from golf clubs that have already considered and taken steps to incorporate. As a County Association, we are owned by the members and run by mainly elected officers. The main difference in incorporating is that the County will have a separate legal identity allowing it to enter into contracts in its own right and therefore offers protection for the Executive and its members. The type of company being considered is known as a company limited by guarantee. All this means is that no shares are issued but that if the company were to become insolvent, the members would be asked to contribute their guaranteed amount, usually set at £1.

You will all no doubt be aware of the recent incident at the Ryder Cup where a spectator was hit and seriously injured by a wayward tee shot. The woman concerned is not suing the player, nor the host venue, but the organisers of the competition. Whether this case is successful is not yet known but if this was a competition run by HLCGA, it would be the individual members of the Executive Committee who are sued and would have to defend the case. The costs and time involved could be horrendous. However, incorporation would mean it is the company that is sued not the individuals. We are just at the beginning of looking into

this and have another meeting with England Golf later this month. We will keep you updated on progress and if we decide that it would be in the best interests of our organisation to go ahead with incorporation we will share the details with you. This would include details such as costs, including one off legal fee, ongoing financial costs and the constitution of the Board. Nothing can go ahead without the agreement of the members and any such change will need to be voted on at a further meeting. Nothing will change for the members as the basic structure of our association will remain the same and all competitions will continue to be run the same.

Dorothy Shore of Bramshaw asked why a merger with the Union is not being considered presently. Debbie replied saying all felt that the men and ladies had differing aims, as the men concentrated on the elite golfer and the Association was relevant for all standards of golfing ladies. She explained both ran well separately as they are but that both are looking to incorporate on similar terms so the prospect of merger may be easier in the future.

Another question was has the Association have public liability insurance; yes, we do and up to £10 million both public and private liability.

## **5. RULES UPDATES**

Di Stock presented 4 very informative videos made by the R&A explaining the new rules coming in to force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and urged all to take back to their clubs and share.

Jackie Keay and Di will be presenting a couple of seminars on the rules at Dummer on November 26<sup>th</sup> and Cams Hall tba, one on the IOW and one on CI before the end of the year.

Karen Sprunt of South Winchester said there is a useful summary on YouTube of the 20 most common rules and she promised to send link to Hannah.

## **6. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Ann reminded the assembled of the new courses visited this year including Barton-on-Sea for the Veterans' and the Junior Championship, Skylark for the Centenary Foursomes and South Winchester for Autumn Division 2 meeting. All 3 venues put on wonderful days and everyone playing was treated to some fine course conditions.

Weather-wise we have been unlucky this year with a complete wash-out for the Foursomes Championship at Hayling in May but the re-run will be better on 17<sup>th</sup> October and the Autumn Division 1 meeting at Stoneham had a 2-hour fog delay. However, again most of these courses continue to support the HLCGA and are prepared to host events time after time for which we are very grateful.

Perhaps a highlight of 2018 was County Championship week at the spectacular Royal Jersey Golf Club, where we had sunshine every day with a light breeze! All those who came know how good the week was it has encouraged the Jersey ladies to consider coming over to Hockley in 2019. Juanita Adlington, our CI rep has to be congratulated on organising the other Jersey clubs to offer rounds at their clubs to our ladies and many spent a happy week playing and eating their way round the island.

At Hockley next year the Bronze Championship will become a stableford competition as will the Division 2 Autumn Meeting at Romsey in September 2019. This will help those playing to complete their rounds quicker on the tough courses chosen for these events.

It is Hampshire's turn to host the SR Final of the Australian Spoons at Basingstoke GC on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July so you are all urged to get your clubs to play qualifying rounds and submit the winner for next year's event. There is a maximum of 64 pairs and it is open to winners from Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Middlesex too. All 2019 fixtures have been on the website for many months so you can display these in your changing rooms now (along with South Region events) and entry forms will appear on the HLCGA website in January. The Australian Spoons entry form is a separate EG form but all will have Kathryn Mclaughlin's address and contact details on as she has very kindly agreed to help with entries next year.

Ann announced the sad news that Southwood GC had closed and ceased trading. She then listed and thanked all the delegates at the clubs visited in 2018, who had been so helpful to her with running the various events.

## **7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

This time last year I spoke to you about our budget for the upcoming year. I am pleased to report that we are looking to be on target, being 11 months through the year and will present the final accounts at the AGM.

David Wheeler at HGU is working hard at chasing clubs who have not yet paid their affiliation fees – and there are quite a few!

The main differences in costs are the inclusion of honoraria of £3,000 and higher than expected costs for running the championships in Jersey, an additional £3,000. This is offset by a saving on what was spent on teams.

Secondly, I want to give you the chance to provide feedback on the new version of the competition entry form. So far we have heard comments such as you like the fact that all competitions are on one page; that some of you have had difficulty in submitting the form and are not sure if we have received it or not; some have resorted to printing and either e-mailing or posting it; you don't like paying upfront when you have entered a lot of competitions as it's rather a large amount.

Hannah then commented that we are looking at ways to improve the system and have had a volunteer who would write an app that will confirm an on-line entry.

Anne Morris from Blackmoor said her experience was it worked very well. Liz Eady from Barton highlighted there was no address on the form to send postal entries to. Judy's details do appear on the website under How to Pay.

#### 8. **A.O.B.**

Connie Huntington (Shanklin & Sandown) asked if an away member at S&S can play in their Stoneham Cup Team? This is permitted as long as she hasn't played for her home team in the same competition that year.

Liz Eady (Barton-on-Sea) asked where the form to list new officials had gone and had these to be submitted still. Since the introduction of the GDPR in May, we no longer feel we can collect this data but there is a list of all the clubs and GM/Secretaries under the Delegate tab.

Karen Sprunt from South Winchester informed the meeting she would be unable to attend the AGM in November as she continues to work but having witnessed an event at her club last month wanted to extend her thanks to all on the committee who do so much to organise these days.

Kay Walshe thanked her and said it was the second thank you she had received today

#### 9. **CLUB KNOCK OUT DRAWS FOR 2019 & KO SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Read in Jill England's absence. Firstly, thank you to all clubs in ensuring the various knockout matches were played on time particularly given the wet start to the season when a number of matches had to be cancelled and re-arranged.

**Frequently asked questions** – I intend to review and update the FAQs which are currently on the website based on the type of questions I've received throughout this year. Can Delegates please ask their Team Captains to check the website prior to the start of next season for the latest version of rules and FAQs.

An envelope has been produced for each club who has entered any of the 2019 knockout competitions with a copy of the respective draws in it. Clubs not present or represented (Paultons, Burley, Southampton, Southwick Park) can view on the website.

8 committee members then distributed the envelopes in the 8 groups for the Stoneham Cup and delegates were encouraged to swap contact details so arrangements for matches could happen quickly in next few weeks.

There being no further business Kay thanked everyone for attending, requested their attendance at the AGM on 22nd November at Otterbourne and the meeting closed at 2.15 pm.

n.b. 2019 Delegates' Meeting is on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at Dummer GC.