

LANCASHIRE LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL MEETING 31ST OCTOBER 2011

EXECUTIVE REPORT

The County Association would like to thank Pleasington Golf Club for the use of their Meeting Rooms for our Executive and Sub Committee Meetings. Our thanks also go to Wellington Park for today's Council Meeting and our Annual General Meeting in November.

The total number of clubs affiliated to the County has increased to 123 with the addition of Ecclestone Park GC.

ADMINISTRATION

Once again this year I have made use of email to distribute County information. The point of contact with clubs is the EWGA delegate, so please ensure that I have a current email address to facilitate this process. Any club for which I have no email contact will continue to be sent postal information. Will delegates please see that the information sent to them is distributed appropriately within their club. On the whole I think communications between the Association and its members is good, but if you feel that we could do more, please don't hesitate to contact me with your suggestions.

We introduced a new website this year which I'm sure you'll agree is a vast improvement on the old one. I must thank our webmaster Angela Caton for the wonderful job she has done in keeping us all up to date with happenings within the county. It is also the intention to make much of the documentation for meetings such as this Council meeting and the AGM available for download from the website. If anyone has any suggestions as to other information you would like to see, please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Angela.

Any alterations that are made to the County Rules or Regulations will be available shortly by accessing the web site.

There have been a few issues this year with a small number of clubs making late subscription payments. I remind ladies that until subscriptions are paid, members are not entitled to play in any County competitions or matches. While I appreciate that these payments are usually sent from the club office, in order to avoid any problems I would recommend that ladies secretaries check that subscriptions have been paid before your club or any of its members are due to play in a County competition.

I would encourage clubs to make use of the Central Database of Handicaps. Most of Lancashire's clubs are registered but there are still some that are not updating their information regularly. This system enables us to send results back to clubs more quickly than relying on the post and should make it easier for clubs to keep their players handicaps up to date.

COMPETITIONS

I know that I've said this before but the County offers a wide variety of competitions for all standards of players; please encourage your members to enter them. They are for your benefit and we have some great courses to play. The costs compare very favourably with other Open competitions so please come along and join us.

Obviously some competitions are more popular than others and the Interclub Trophies continue to be well supported. One change we are making is that the Bronze Interclub will be played as a Stableford competition next year with the best 3 scores out of 4 to count. We have also decided to go back to the original format in that host clubs will no longer be required to travel outside their Division to play their qualifying round.

Entries for the County Championship have been creeping up of late, which is encouraging, but we can always do with more. Please encourage your eligible players to enter. The handicap limit is 15.4 and with additional nett prizes and wonderful courses to play on, the entry fee is good value. A good proportion of those who enter get to play at least 3 rounds. Next years Championship is from 28th - 30th May at Manchester Golf Club.

The Lady Derby is another competition that we would like to receive a higher number of entries. I know how popular the Shield matches are so why not enter the qualifying round and get the opportunity to play match play for yourself rather than your club? This is a handicap event and I'm sure the incoming President would love more people to play for the opportunity to win her prize.

Distance Measuring Devices - Lancashire continues to follow the EWGA ruling which means that in club qualifying competitions for Scott Leggatt and Frances Smith they will be allowed providing the club has a local rule in place permitting the use of such devices. They will not be allowed in Divisional or County finals. They will not be allowed in Shield matches or any other competition run by the LLCGA.

Buggies - players are reminded that they may not use a buggy in any County competition unless they have sought permission from the Executive Committee before the competition.

COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EXECUTIVE ORGANISATION

There has been no further progress on the discussions between the LLCGA and LUGC about the formation of a County Golf Partnership. The Executive feels that the proposed merger between the EGU and the EWGA will go some way towards filling this gap.

The date for the vote on the proposed merger between the EGU and the EWGA has finally been given as 16th November 2011 when EGMs will be held by both organisations. According to the regulations of the EWGA a vote of Lancashire county members will take place later in this meeting. It is our hope that you have taken the opportunity to discuss the proposed merger with your members and they have been able to make an informed decision. The result of your vote will then be taken to the EGM in Birmingham next month.

This concludes my report.

Elaine F. Clark
Hon. Secretary