

LINCOLNSHIRE UNION OF GOLF CLUBS

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on the
6th May 2015 at the Petwood Hotel, commencing at 18.15hrs

PRESENT:

J.Lammin (President- in the chair), L.Toyne (President Elect),
D.Brotherton (Immediate Past President), T.Ireland (Past President), P.
Rogers (Past President), H.Harrison (Hon Sec), C.Lloyd
(HonTreasurer), J.Flindall (Vice Capt), D.Price (Voting Member),
K.Farrow (Lge Chairman), K.Moody (Junior Organiser), J.Barley,
R.Kedzlie, (Asst Junior Organiser).G. Pearce (Hon Match Sec),
N.Harris (Hon Comps Sec) T.Haggerty (Schools Rep)

Club Representatives:

D.Culyer, B.Howard, A.Drennan, P.Davis, A. Thompson, D.Leonard,
B.Howard, R.Wardhaugh, R.Newns, P.Guthrie, P.Martin, S.Catlow and
T.Moody.

(1) APOLOGIES:

J.Halmshaw, JTRPrice, J.Hodge, S.Brattan, K.Onyon, D.Jackson,
H.Castell, N.Over, P.Morrison, J.Smith, R.Burnsnell, S.Dickson,
D.Carter.

(2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 3rd December 2014

Proposed by Keith Farrow and seconded by D.Brotherton that the
minutes be agreed as a true record.

Agreed accordingly.

(3) MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising that were not agenda items.

(4) ENGLAND GOLF REPORT: (D.Price):

The new 2 day Thursday -Friday EG AGM meeting /conference took
place in mid April at Hinckley island hotel. Lincolnshire were well
represented.

- Board of directors 2 new directors were elected
- Decline in membership.....active people and a subsequent survey by
sports marketing indicate the decline has slowed and hopefully stopped
- Estimated 2 million golfers not members of clubs
- Members benefit package now at nearly 160,000 members
- EG website ...1.6 million visits
- Social media19,100 followers on twitter and nearly 3000 on
facebook

All accounts have been audited with no adverse comments

- Extension to accounting period to 14 months.....this has made comparisons difficult due to for example profiling issues for income and expenditure streams nevertheless operating surplus was £193k better than budget .
- Affiliationincome was £4.9 million in line with projected 5% fall in numbers
- Reserves of 2.6 million have achieved growth above inflation of £70k
- Special projects fund after previously approved expenditure now at £550k
- Inter company loan The loan for irrigation system at W Spa GC has been paid back a year early as they have had a good trading year

The ladies (Somerset and Devon) are raising issues ref the LGU subscription which the ladies pay to the LGU. They are asking for a report on how funds spent and termination of the levy by 2020. Although this does not directly affect we men the LGU is under the umbrella of EG. There is some discussion with the R and A about them merging with the LGU and it was agreed a report on disbursement of funds would be prepared.

Governance and affiliation review..... Initial proposals were discussed at the meeting see later note but this whole subject will receive further consultation etc going forward. Several LUGC executive members will be attending Aston Wood in May

EG Mileage rates ...every 5p costs EG £20,000. Several views were expressed and it was agreed a sub committee would report back

Previously approved projects from special projects (SPF) fund..... The figures presented appear to show budgeted outcomes being exceeded and all 4 projects are “running according to plan”

Proposal 1 Additional proposals for SPF....additional CDO capacity for 2 years @ £60k per annum. This is tied with previously circulated proposals for CGPs. No county will receive reduced hours and all will have at least 1 officer for 4 days per week. All employed fixed term by EG. This partly driven by need to demonstrate to Sport England that we are trying to increase growth participation and membership. This was approved with large majority

Proposal 2 from SPF digital strategy.....to commit £250k in 2015/16 ...It was felt there was insufficient detail and the proposal was not approved subject to more detail being provided at a future meeting

Governance and affiliationA major review has been commissioned and initial proposals were presented by Portas consulting. A very brief summary of proposals some of which are described as enhanced and some as possible major changes (more radical) is as follows

Reducing barriers for affiliation i.e. to include driving ranges, pitch and put, adventure golf facilities and golf societies.....and trying to engage with non members ...4 categories are suggested ...club members, junior club members, independent members and subscribers

Affiliation direct to EG with county affiliation fees passed directly back to the counties. There was some confusion on this point as the presentation did not match up with the papers issued previously. The Chief Exec confirmed that county fees would be passed directly back to them. However the disbursement of any other fees arising from a wider affiliation net may well be linked to performance against the strategy targets.

Reduce board numbers 12 -8

External board members possibly non golfers

Better criteria to select board and others from to become more professional

Remove power of voting members i.e. to set affiliation fees which will be set by board

Voting members become consultative body with no real powers other than to call a vote of no confidence in the board

Board takes control of SPF

Committees replaced by advisory groups

Regional structures for men and women aligned ...6 for each

There is an obvious attempt to try and centralise control to a reduced board. This does raise some concerns and I would advocate that some explanation of the thinking behind the proposals is needed e.g. via an options appraisal paper so that any proposed benefits for the game that arise from the proposals can be clearly identified and compared with existing arrangements. There is also the issue of reverting back if the proposals are not successful and how this might be done.

(5) M. G. U. REPORT (H. Harrison):

Nothing to report as the next meeting of the MGU will take place on the 12th May.

(6) COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

County Coaching weekend:

Held at Woodhall Spa GC- EGU HQ Saturday 28th Feb and 1st March
18 in attendance

Coaches – Steve Bennett and Neil Harvey

Main emphasis on short game and putting

This was a brilliant weekend and was of much benefit to all who attended – it kind of kick started the season off with an intense practice session and got all players motivated and ready for the battles ahead.

Match v PGA – drawn 6-6 held at Spalding GC

Match V Yorkshire – Moor Allerton GC

A fantastic result achieving a drawn match at 9-9 and we have never seen Yorkshire look so worried before!!
Great individual results too

Match V RAF

Postponed because of high winds – balls moving on greens etc
This match was been used to trial new blood and look at some new faces and see how they could handle match situations

Overview:

The signs are very positive right now amongst our tight knit squad – we have all bonded well over the pre season mixing the ‘youngsters’ with the older more experienced county players has worked well

I have not struggled for any teams so far, so great news for me
Ashton Turner has committed to play whenever free so a bonus here
(Also winner of Darwin Salver at Rye)

The Eastern Counties Team will be as last year with all available for May 16/17 2015

Simon Richardson won the Selborne Salver with Sam Whitaker winning the Hampshire Hog both prestigious national events – many congratulations to them

On the negative side due to these results – we may lose both to England national events as they strive for national recognition which would be well deserved!! However this would slightly weaken our first team

So at this stage – both Jeff and I feel that tide may be turning back to more successful years for Lincolnshire

(7) COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT (N.Harris):

All entry forms have been issued to clubs for all competitions at the start of the season.

The draw for the Elsham Trophy and the J F Bramley Trophy was carried out by the President on 6th March 2015. Both competitions saw 30 entries in each. First round of the Elsham Trophy was completed on 24th April 2015. The draw and the results are posted on the LUGC website.

It has been necessary to cancel the Mid Amateur Championship due to a small number of entries. The closing date was extended to 22nd April on order to try and boost the numbers but in the end we had only 14 confirmed entries. Every effort was made to target players and clubs but without success.

Entries for the other championships are trickling in and the confirmed entries for each championship is published on the website and updated on a regular basis.

Summary of entries:	
The Mid Amateur Championship (Cleethorpes 3 rd May 2015)	14
The Seniors Championship (Ashby Decoy 11 th June 2015)	16
The Amateur Championship (Woodhall Spa 14 th June 2015)	7
The Lincolnshire Poacher (Market Rasen 19 th July 2015)	3
Presidents Day (Woodhall Spa 5 th August 2015)	7
The Open Championship (Belton Park 3 rd September 2015)	2

There have been no entries received to date for the following:

Sir Henry Lunn Shield
Hotchkin, Taylor & Butlin Cups
Jubilee Trophy
Rita Hurst Salver

Returning to the Mid Amateur Championship our options for the future could be to open the competition to players outside of the LUGC and try and make the event a part of the Mid Amateur tour schedule. In order to be considered it would need to remain as a 36 hole competition. We would need to advertise the event on Golf Empire and the Mid Am tour website. To retain the event as a closed competition we could consider reducing the event to an 18 hole competition which may then attract the senior golfers. There is a reduction in the number of Closed Mid Amateur events within the other Midland Counties but the Mid Amateur tour schedule is increasing and getting good support. The Midland Golf Union Mid Amateur championship is an Open championship and has seen increasing numbers year on year once it was included as part of the Mid Amateur tour schedule. We must decide if we are to retain the event as a closed competition or if we are to change the format in any way.

A discussion ensued on the future of the Mid Amateur – any suggestions / recommendations please contact Neil

Another consideration for the future is if we are to move towards online payments for competition entries. There is a minor cost attached to this method and therefore we would have to review the entry fees to take account of PayPal charges.

(8) JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT (K.Moody):

The regular early season county junior squad meetings and coaching sessions, coordinated by John Barley and his team of coaches, for all three of our groups have taken place at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa.

About 15 players were present on each day representing clubs from right across Lincolnshire – from Holme Hall and Market Rasen in the north to Boston and Spalding in the south and many others in between. It is from these squads that the junior teams will be selected to play for the county in several inter county team matches during the year.

Some of these juniors may even go on to represent the county in the first and second teams too.

A Boys v Girls match was held at Spalding Golf Club. The excellent contest was held in very good weather and produced some very good golf. The Boys gave full handicap difference to the Girls plus two extra shots in the four ball better ball match play format. The Girls as usual gave an excellent account of themselves and at the half way stage lead in all the matches.

But the Boys were up for the challenge and managed to turn things round and run out winners by 2 ½ to 1 ½ matches. The individual outcomes were also very close.

The competitive season started in earnest recently with a very large entry of both boys and girls contesting the very popular Roger Jennings and Peggotty Cups at its traditional home of Lincoln Golf Club.

The full result is on the web site and has been circulated to all clubs and junior organisers

The next competitive outing for the junior golfers of the county is the boys' and girls' championships which is being held jointly this year and is being played on the Bracken course at Woodhall Spa Golf Club, in May.

Entries should be made as soon as possible, please tell your juniors, their parents and the organisers at your clubs.

A few days after the championships at Woodhall Spa we take our six 'man' team to Trentham in Staffordshire – a squad has been pencilled in but the final selection won't be made until after the completion of the championships at Woodhall Spa

Communication is a little better. I'm now getting some feedback and questions from various clubs, organisers and parents but it is still an area we need to improve

Are all your juniors registered with us and do they know about the county competitions?

Trevor Ireland, Peter Rogers and their team continue to do sterling work with the regular Little Imps sessions.

Also the first of the County Junior Patrons' events was held recently at Boston West. We had a full entry for this event, and even a reserve list. Hopefully we'll keep it up for the other three fixtures of the season.

Many thanks to John Hodge and Janet Paley for their hard work in organising these events.

Finally many thanks to all the clubs of the county who have assisted the juniors by making their courses available and often having to deal with last minute changes – they have all been brilliant.

Thank you.

(9) REPORT OF LEAGUE CHAIRMAN (K.Farrow)

The usual Pre Season Meeting have now been held both in the North & South Areas on 11.3.2015 & 23.3.2015 respectively. There were no matters arising from either of these Meetings.

Matches in all Leagues have now commenced in the North and results are being kept up to date on the Website from details received.

Matches for both 1st & 2nd Teams in the South commenced 18.4.2015 with the next matches on 2.5.15. No results and tables have as yet

been distributed but it is anticipated these will be available once teams have completed their second match.

Collection of League subscriptions is now almost complete and will be passed to the Treasurer once all received.

10) REPORT OF HON TREASURER (C.Lloyd)

An income and expenditure sheet had been forwarded to all the members of the Executive prior to the meeting. Chris explained where we are with online banking and the preparation of budgets for next year. A finance sub group consisting of Chris, Les Toyne, Keith Farrow and Andrew Thompson has been formed and they will meet on an ad hoc basis to oversee our finances.

11) GOLF PARTNERSHIP UPDATE (K.FARROW)

(www.lincolnshiregolfpartnership.org). –

The Lincolnshire Golf Partnership is dedicated to creating opportunities for everyone to experience golf. The aim is to develop links between community groups and our open and accessible Golf Courses and Ranges.

We continue to work closely and receive support from our three partners - PGA, Association and Union.

The April 2015 Bi- Annual report representing Year 2 of the 2013 – 2017 Operational Plan has very recently been submitted and we await Richard Flint's (England Golf) response

Our main successes have been around structured and regular participation and the number of members it has produced. The support resources for GIG are helping and the new interactive promotional materials (Irongate) system should help even more. We are now starting to get clubs to "buy in" to the GIG programme and how it can additionally help them to devise a player pathway process that can lead to increased membership.

Overall we have delivered some good work with targets hit in the main areas of structured and regular participation.

Targets 2014-2015

14 to 25 also include Golf Foundation Figures

COUNTY	14 to 25 One off	14 to 25 Structured	14 to 25 Once per week	26 Plus One off	26 Plus Structured	26 Plus Once per week	Disability One off	Disability Structured	Disability Once per week
Lincolnshire	1,609 Actual	1,127 Actual	772 Actual	1,286 Actual	661 Actual	396 Actual	152 Actual	58 Actual	8 Actual
Lincolnshire	Target (1600)	Target (170)	Target (45)	Target (1070)	Target (650)	Target (300)	Target (100)	Target (12)	Target (4)

Membership Figures

14 – 25 = 86: 26 plus = 290: TOTAL = 376

We continue to maintain and develop good working relationships with Clubs. The numbers of new members is encouraging and it will be good to see if they

are starting to have an impact on overall member numbers when we have the full affiliation totals.

Priority areas for the remainder of 2015 are the University /College offer, which to date has been disappointing. We have attended – with the support and engagement of the educational establishments, Student Career fairs, Fresher's fairs and the like but to date with little benefit

We will be looking to expand the number of clubs involved in Get into golf work.

We are seeing more activity on the Get into golf website and continue to promote to Clubs the benefit of their individual information and Programmes being uploaded onto the Partnership website.

Current initiatives include

- 20 clubs shown an interest in the Golf Partnership "Growing Adult Participation and Golf Club Membership" 14 clubs have agreed to the initiative. It allows clubs to put their own membership offers and Structured Coaching offers (4 x 1 £20 or 5 x 1 £25) on to the Get into golf website.
- Grimsby Golf Club have been involved in a Golf Day for Sporting & Exercise Show Case Event.
- Linkage Golf Day at Toynton-All-Saints for disabilities.
- Get into golf Day at Horncastle Golf Club

Forthcoming Activities include

- Get into golf day at Cleethorpes Golf Club
- Gainsborough Golf Club holding outsource GIG day at Marshall's Yard.
- Pottergate Golf Club going to Navenby Show.

Additionally further details of the following initiatives and opportunities are available by visiting the Partnership Website.

- National Golf Month
- This Girl Can
- Lincolnshire Sports Workplace Challenge
- County Little Imps
- Get into golf offers membership and coaching

Twitter together with re-tweeting continues to be used by ourselves wherever possible and appropriate:

This can be followed on – [getintogolf5lgp](https://twitter.com/getintogolf5lgp).

We continue to work closely with the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership and they continue with their Social Media opportunities to support us typically through Facebook Twitter and local Newspaper Websites

Stacey Mitchell our Golf Foundation Coordinator delivered a Junior Golf Passport Presentation at Gainsborough Golf Club on Sunday 15th February 2015

Additionally Stacey together with ourselves delivered a Seminar on 24th March 2015 at Woodhall Spa aimed at Professionals Junior Golf Organisers and Club Managers.

Brief update on current and potential Golf Foundation initiatives:

7 x HSBC Golf Roots Centres u14

7 X HSBC Golf Roots Centres 14+

There are additionally a further two potential Centres currently in the Pipeline

5 X Satellite Clubs

Two additional potential Clubs under discussion

There is a further Satellite Club funded solely by Lincolnshire Sports Partnership

2 X Street Golf

1 x Disability (Feel Inspired)

Two additional potential Disability projects

16 X Junior Golf Passport Users

We have run Sportivate Programmes with both Humberside and Lincoln Sports Partnerships. One scheme at Normanby Hall involving work with girls - a combined project working with Golf Foundation Schools. A further 2 projects at Woodhall Spa involving a girls only and mixed sixth form projects. Additionally there are several projects for Linkage with Richard Smith for the Grimsby campus and Nikki Chantry for the Skegness Homes and Spilsby campus. Additionally Sophie Hunter with the Inspire Lincs group in the Boston area. Darren Game continues to work with disabled children in Schools the Bourne area.

We are also looking to run the much needed Inclusion in Golf Seminar on Disability in Golf as soon as possible. This will not only provide additional Certification to PGA Professionals but also consolidate develop and further enhance the delivery of their coaching sessions to participants with disabilities and special needs.

Danielle Thomas (PGA Regional County Development Officer) was now back in situ following her Maternity Leave and Matthew Ellis who had been covering her role for the last twelve months would now revert to his previous PGA Training Role and would be looking to develop a programme of Training events for Lincolnshire PGA Professionals through the Winter 2015 / 2016.

The national initiative Work Place Challenge is thriving in Lincolnshire and a Team Golf event took place at Lincoln Golf Centre - Thorpe on the Hill Driving Range on 26th March 2015. 60 adults participated and offers were given for structured coaching. There are currently in excess of 130 Companies actively involved in the Challenge in Lincoln area alone – the opportunity for Clubs to advertise Taster Sessions etc to this new audience should be an attractive incentive.

As mentioned previously the LUGC LLCGA and the Partnership have recently also been in discussions as we look to develop a County Plan. An interim Plan document incorporating The Strategic Plan for England Golf 2014 – 2017 has been prepared and we have now belatedly received a County Action Plan Template from England Golf. We will incorporate these interim Plan details into this Template and continue towards creating a complete document

.Nothing will progress however until the new Development Committee have agreed its contents and submitted to the Executive Committee.

JL went on to explain that he and Shona Dickson have been given 2yr contracts by EG to become our County Development Officers (each working approx 3 days per week).

12) A.O.B

- 1) Hon Sec reported that Skegness Golf Centre were in the process of affiliating to the LUGC.
- 2) Rob Kedzlie informed the meeting their was an U16 England V Spain match taking place at Seacroft GC on the 22nd May.

13) Date/Time /Place of next meeting:

Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at the Petwood Hotel commencing at 18.15hrs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.00hrs