



DEVONGOLF

**Glad
You
Came**

The Members' Meeting at Exeter Golf & Country Club on 25th January had some 240 people attending. Nick James, Chairman, welcomed everyone to this first members' meeting of Devon golfers since the unification of Devon men and women's golf in April of 2018. The meeting was the opportunity to learn of the progress made so far and, as importantly, meet up with golfing friends across the county.

Development Director Wendy Stanbury gave a presentation on progress in the first 12 months' of **DevonGolf** and future plans. From the communication point of view, this meeting being a case in point, much had been achieved. The new website, which should be the first port of call for all Devon golfers) and Twitter (sign up @DevonGolf) and occasional newsletters all played a part. Plans for Instagram and Facebook are in the pipeline. A communications network to ensure information got through to all golfers was in place from the **DevonGolf** office to Golf Managers and Area Representatives (2 from each North, South, East and West) and Club Representatives. Two Club Representatives, one male and one female, had been sought from each club who would then ensure that communications reached the individual golfers in their clubs.

The new logo had been launched and it is hoped to phase in new **DevonGolf** County colours across the teams from 2020. **DevonGolf** are hosting the SW Women's Inter-County Match week at Woodbury Park in July and Wendy encouraged everyone to come along give their support to our ladies.

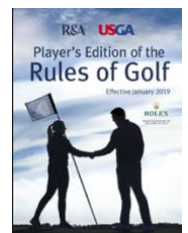
DevonGolf Director Liz Turner talked about handicapping and will be sending an update to clubs as there have been many changes along the way. However, her main point was that all **players must know their responsibilities**.

- A player will endeavour to make the best score he can on each hole in every qualifying round he plays and will report all such rounds for handicap purposes.
- When scores from any Qualifying Competition or Supplementary Score are entered into the computer the actual gross scores for all the completed holes should be input. The software will calculate the adjusted score for those holes not completed. In no circumstances should 'no score' (i.e. zero) be entered for every hole.
- Under the averaging approach of the World Handicap System (WHS) such a practice may have an adverse impact on the calculation of the new Handicap Index.
- IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CLUBS TAKE ACTION NOW to eradicate this practice and educate players on the significance of ensuring that scores are entered accurately into the computer.

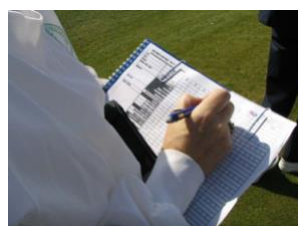


Safeguarding is an issue affecting all clubs which Paul Cloke, Operations Manager, briefly covered. Safeguarding is important across all age groups and genders, adults can be vulnerable too. Training availability for clubs is ongoing and Paul is available to assist wherever needed. Paul can be contacted at info@devongolf.org.uk, 01822 610640 or 07779 990393.

Lead Referee David Smith has the unenviable task of updating his own knowledge of the many new rule changes now in force (don't worry, he seems to thrive on it!) and helping us individuals do the same. Players should now have a copy of the new rules, available at their club for free, and committees should ensure that their local rules have been overhauled and conform. Holiday reading for David in February will be the "Rules Bible" so he is fully up to speed for us all when we ask him those pesky rules questions.... **DevonGolf** are running Rules Schools for levels 1 & 2 later this year. If you are interested, please contact David at davidgolf2019@gmail.com or Paul Cloke at info@devongolf.org.uk.



Kate Field, Ladies' Competition Secretary, told the meeting that all competition entries should now be made online. Competition information and rules and are on the website – www.devongolf.org.uk. **DevonGolf** is running a new 9-hole competition for higher handicap players at Bovey Tracey in July. The Men's & Ladies' County Championships are now being held together on 18th & 19th May at Exeter Golf & Country Club. The format remains similar with a subsidiary "fun" event to run alongside the semi-finals and finals on the Sunday. Kate encouraged everyone to enter the County Card competitions, open to all, at clubs across the county throughout the season.



Course Rating Leader Pip Lee outlines the work that **DevonGolf** continues to do to ensure all courses are USGA rated for a slope figure in preparation for the Worldwide Handicapping System (WHS) coming into force. The **DevonGolf** team are halfway through the 41 Devon clubs with 7 more planned for 2019. To rate a golf course it takes a team of at least 9 people and a minimum of 45 man hours to complete – a huge commitment from lots of volunteers.

County Support Officer Andy Jack said how **Get into Golf** programmes can be an effective way for clubs to recruit new members. He showed a typical Get into Golf pathway which aims to create more regular players and more club members. Across Devon in 2018, 15 clubs ran GiG programmes, there were 817 on a Beginners' course of which 82 converted into members. He discussed how membership conversion rates can be increased with the recruitment of further volunteers to help participants integrate into the club.

Another part of Andy's brief is Junior Development and he showed how Great Torrington Golf Club increased their junior membership from 5 to 55 last year - remarkably with no full-time member of staff or PGA professional at the club. There is much other clubs could learn from their amazing effort from all club members.

With the support of **DevonGolf** and the Golf Foundation, a **DevonGolf** Sixes pilot league aimed at supporting the progression of junior academy players into club membership, plans to grow in 2019 with the addition of a further 4 clubs.



<p>Colin Nolan - Yelverton Parker Trophy</p>	<p>Wendy Roberts - Wrangaton Sheelah Creasy Bowl</p>	<p>Marilyn Firkin - Torquay Still Cup Trophy</p>
		<p>Joint Presidents Carolyn Maynard and Richard Pascoe presented Inter-Club trophies played across the county in 2018. The Parker Trophy (Yelverton), the Still Cup (Torquay), the Doris Willes-Little Trophy (East Devon), the President's Trophy (Okehampton) and the Sheelah Creasy Bowl (Wrangaton). Carolyn & Richard have been visiting clubs throughout Devon in 2018, supporting competitions and clubs wherever they can.</p>
<p>Frances Harbron of Okehampton President's Trophy</p>	<p>Deirdre Mackness & Joy Wisdom - East Devon Doris Willes-Little Trophy</p>	

After a very convivial Q & A session, Nick James closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their time and looked forward to a very successful golfing year in 2019 for all.



Don't forget to visit www.devongolf.org.uk to find out the latest news and enter competitions. County Card competitions are open to all – **NEW** 9-hole competition for men 29 and above and ladies 36 above at Bovey Tracey Golf Club in July.

Twitter is alive and well @DevonGolf. Why not sign up now?



Coming soon – Facebook and Instagram. Your **DevonGolf** keeping you informed of events around the county. Watch this space....

