

Minutes of Aboyne Ladies Committee Meeting

Held on Thursday 17 May 2018

Present: Val Bruce, Janice Innes, Liz Taylor, Carmeen Eakin, Karen Bradburn
Fenneke Wolters-Sinke, and Janette Wright

Apologies: Tamara Sebire and Janette Wright

1 & 2. Welcome & Apologies

Liz welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

3. Approval of Minutes 18 April 2018

Minutes proposed for approval by Fenneke Wolters-Sinke and seconded by Karen Bradburn.

4. Matters Arising/Actions

Competition Handicaps limit amended to 54 – Carmeen was completing this on a month by month basis. ACTION COMPLETE

Handicap limits for Opens – Janice had checked with Fraser and there was no issue with the online booking system in terms of the higher handicaps. ACTION COMPLETE

Women's Golf Day event – Following Janice's discussions, the Putting Challenge has been set up in conjunction with Fraser and Colin R to mark this day. ACTION COMPLETE

During discussion of the actions around handicaps and the Opens – the matrix used for Greensomes was considered and this will need to be expanded to cater for the higher handicaps. Hopefully an online version will become available. Following the council agreement to apply actual handicaps for all club competitions each section was to discuss what to do for their own section's opens. This was discussed at the meeting and as a committee it was decided to allow actual/up to 54 handicaps being applied for Ladies Open competitions.

The ensuing Mixed Open on 27/5 was discussed and Karen and Val both indicated their ability to volunteer on the day.

ACTION: Liz to e-mail Justin to advise of this availability.

5. Correspondence

A letter had been received from Miss Designer Golf in terms of assigning their brand to a medal competition during the year. This will be considered for future years but the fixture list is set for this year.

A note of an Open at Strathmore had been received and placed in the Opens folder in the locker room.

6. Reports

Captain's Report/Council/Greens

We currently have 145 lady members, which is much the same as previous years. 55 of them have signed up to play in competitions. Many of the remainder are social members.

It has been a busy month as the golf season has got underway, with many of our ladies playing extremely well. The weather hasn't been great but no matches have been cancelled and it was great to see so many ladies out in the rain a couple of weeks ago!

The course continues to look well, though there have been problems with burst pipes around the 17th and the sprinkler on the 15th green has been problematic. The blue flags were discussed by the council as many members have complained they are difficult to see. The Council are looking at ways this can be rectified without no much expense.

The Council agreed all members of the club will play to the new handicaps suggested by Scottish Golf (54 maximum for all members). The ladies committee have to agree what the maximum handicap will be for open competitions. The President is exploring a 50/50 club to raise funds for specific projects across the club and course. It is not clear yet how this will work but expect more information soon. Club V1 are putting out a data protection survey to all members. Unfortunately, we have already done this but will ensure we have all the members signed up.

Our young ladies are continuing to play very well. Carmen won the County Championship at Banchory against a very good player. County opens have been very fruitful for many of lady members. I have passed on my congratulations from all the ladies to Shannon McWilliam for her team place on the Curtis cup.

Competition Secretary

Results

Sat 14th April The Coronation Foursomes was won by myself Carmeen Eakin and Susan Davies with 32 points. 6 pairs entered.

Wed 18th The fun 3 Ball Better Ball was won by Fenneke Wolters- Sinke, Heather Simpson and Mary Burgess with a nett 64. There were 7 teams entered.

Sat 21st and Wed 25th The Lucy Gordon Quaich was won by Kay Powrie with a nett 70. The Par Competition was also won by Kay Powrie with a score of +4.

Sat 28th The Stableford was won with 38pts by Sandra Findlay (silver) and Marie Findlater (Bronze).

2nd May SGL Medal was won by Susan Davies nett 68 and Janice Innes(bronze) nett 74.

6th May SGL Medal was won by Joanna D'Onghia nett 69 and Karen Bradburn (bronze) nett 75.

9th May Stableford The winner again was Kay Powrie with 44 points although Carmeen Eakin and Sandra Findlay both had 37 points. Bronze was again won by Janice Innes with 42 points.

Competitions have been fairly well attended on Wednesdays and some extra times were added on 25 April and 9th May, but Saturdays are not so well attended and on several occasions tee times have been given back to the club. Results continue to be sent regularly to the P&J and Piper for publication.

Nine Hole Competitions

Since 11 April there have been 1, 2 or 3 people entering the 9 hole comp, mostly in the evenings. This may now tail off as light now allows them to play a full 18 holes.

Other Matters

The pictures I took of the committee at the last meeting have now been uploaded to the ladies' section of the website.

Some time was spent closing competitions where various issues arose. It all provides a good learning opportunity but hopefully closing the competitions for the rest of the season will be smoother!

Following the outcome of the Council meeting where it was decided to apply actual handicaps for all players up to 54, I have amended the competition criteria for all ladies' club fixtures in May and criteria for all further competitions will be updated in due course. In addition amendments are being made to allow players to view a live leaderboard on ClubV1 members' hub.

Having been advised of changes of the dates for 2 ladies' fixtures I have updated these on Club V1 accordingly.

I received the labels with the correct ladies' SSS which I had organised for the large score cards. These were used for the County Open last week and I would recommend that these are now used for ladies' competitions and any external competitions.

Handicap Secretary

There are currently 78 ladies on the handicap list. Since last month's meeting we have had the following changes:

New members:-

Katherine Emeleus (full member, home club Hazlehead, 48 yr)

Rhona Goodenough (full member, 65 yr, handicap 45)

New/re-instated handicaps:-

Maureen Craigie: 47.0

Nikki Gibb: Re-instated to 18.0

Heather Simpson: re-instated to 32.0

Handicap decreases

In Bronze division it's our very own Janice Innes who is playing very well. Her handicap has been cut with -3.2 to 21.3. We expect her to be in Silver before not too long now.

In Silver division it was Kay Powrie who was able to cut her handicap with -2.0 to 13.4. Congratulations to both!!

CONGU changes 2018:

We currently have 2 ladies playing in category 6.

On Monday 16 April I met with representatives from the Seniors and Gents section to discuss the implications these handicap changes might have for our competitions. Both wanted to keep the current maximum (28) for both club and open competitions. As the ladies section is already being affected with the addition of new members, I included our view in the recommendation to Council:-

- Changing current limit for club competitions to 54 so that people who play off higher than 28 (men) or 36 (ladies) can play their actual handicap (note: the Gents and Seniors section don't want to change this, the Ladies do). It might not be practicable to do it this year as the competitions have already been set up. To make a smooth transition to the new WHS system and to encourage higher handicappers to join and stay with our golf club my personal view is it's something we have to adopt eventually.
- No special competitions for people who play off a handicap higher than 28 (gents) or 36 (ladies).
- Handicap reviews will be performed periodically (continuous hc review and annual review) by the handicap secretary of each section. A handicap increase beyond 28 (gents) or 36 (ladies) will be applied according to the CONGU guidelines should this be appropriate. There is currently 1 senior and 2 ladies falling in this category.
- Keep the maximum handicap for open competitions for gents, ladies and mixed as it is now. Higher handicappers are welcome to play but they will play off a maximum handicap of 28 (gents) or 36 (ladies).
- Set up an official Club handicap committee with representatives from each section who meet on a regular basis to discuss upcoming changes in CONGU and facilitate the transition to the new World Handicap System (may be adopted as early as 2020). (Note: since 2014 when I became handicap secretary there has never been a meeting like this one, or I was unaware of that).

I have now been informed that Council supported our view and that ALL competitions will have the new maximum handicap limit of 54 (for both gents and ladies), where people can play their actual handicap.

9 hole >75 members:

Lou Nisbet approached me on the 17th of May after the Medal saying that it's not correct that some ladies under this membership have a competition handicap and she hasn't. For example, Jane Penny and Jennifer Walker put in a few supplementary scores over the last few weeks and are playing in senior opens. Checking the ClubV1 system I noticed that all playing members in this category have a competition handicap, including Lou so she could have put in scores for handicap!

Lou approached Council end of last year and was told she was not allowed to have a competition handicap in this category. She emailed President Justin a few days ago as she hasn't received a formal reply yet.

CONGU (2018) recommends the following:” Clubs should provide 9-hole qualifying competitions (Stableford or Medal) to encourage players with limited time or physical restraints to return qualifying scores for handicap under competition conditions.”

“With the new World handicap System being adopted in 2020, it is likely that scores from 2018 and 2019 will form the basis of the new handicap allotted on transition. It is important that players who wish to bring forward a realistic handicap use these two years to build up a track record of scores. Ideally this will be achieved through organised club competitions. However, this is not always possible due to work/family commitments. Pre-registered Supplementary Scores can now be returned any time”.

In light of these developments I really think Council needs to reconsider not giving these members the ability to play for handicap.

Following this being added as a late agenda item Carmeen had spoken with the president, Justin Grant prior to the ladies' committee meeting.

She clarified the position to the ladies committee meeting that in fact the 9 hole membership category was clearly established in order to retain ageing members by allowing over 75s who may not be fit to play 18 holes and had no interest in playing competitions, to continue being a member, play 9 holes at a reduced rate but without the facility of maintaining a handicap. Carmeen explained that this was because allowing this category to play for and maintain a handicap in club competitions would risk the club's financial survival as it could potentially lose up to £10,000 if most seniors switched. This was clearly stated and voted on at the EGM and AGM in Jan 2017, when new membership categories were introduced. Matrices showing what the benefits of the varying types of membership were issued to members. The twilight membership, at £55 more than 9 hole membership, allows a member to have a handicap and play in competitions on Wednesdays after 2.30pm.

Lou refers to supplementary scores by other over 75s, and Carmeen discussed this with Justin. He confirmed that the other over 75 ladies should not have their handicaps maintained nor should they have supplementary cards processed. Carmeen informed

the meeting of this, and that Justin will be writing to Lou and members in this category to confirm.

At the meeting Carmeen also stated that there is ample opportunity for club members to play 9 holes for handicap provided they have the correct membership category. However, the 9 hole ladies' competitions are very poorly attended and frequently have zero entrants. Despite the poor uptake she continues to spend considerable time to set up these competitions on Club V1 and compile results for 9 hole competitions. Contrary to Lou's assertion, the club does indeed provide 9 hole competitions to encourage those limited by time or physical restraints to maintain a handicap.

County Representative

Aboyne county on the 3rd May went well with 68 entries slightly up on last year. Carmen Griffiths won scratch again this year. In silver division Joanna D'Onghia was second and in bronze Division Janice was first with Tamara in second well done ladies. Thank you to all who helped me on the day.

Friendly Matches

The Friendly against Torphins had gone ahead on Monday 14th and Aboyne won 2.5 to 0.5. It is likely that the friendly versus Deeside will be rescheduled due to the clash with the Watt Duffus. Still slow uptake for some matches.

Treasurer

We now have 55 ladies who have paid to play in medals, an increase from 51 last year and for interest 56 the previous year. Which is an indication the ladies section is picking up again. We currently have 19 ladies paid deposit for outing but have spaces for 25. Otherwise, our financial position is much the same as previously.

7. Women's Golf Day – Tuesday 5 June 2018

The putting challenge has been arranged via Fraser for 7-8pm – idea is to bring a non-golfing friend along if possible £5 per head which includes drinks/nibbles. This will be advertised to the ladies section via a newsletter and Fraser advertising too. Committee members to be there from 1830hrs if possible.

8. Outing

A total of 19 ladies have signed up. Outstanding balance to be paid by end of June.

9. Jamberry Social evening

The outstanding action from last year in relation to organising a social evening incorporating the Jamberry nail wraps has been progressed by Janice, with a view to tying this in with the Captain v Vice Captain golf evening on 22 June. There will be something for all ladies and the option to do a lucky square draw for a person to win the 'host' prize on the night.

10. Suggestions Book

There were no new entries in the suggestions book since the last meeting.

11 .AOCB

Fenneke – she highlighted the new GDPR and the ladies telephone contact list. This matter is being debated by the Seniors too. It is likely that a stand alone form will be required to progress this.

Karen – highlighted the limited number of entrants into the Club Championship. The clash with the County Jamboree was noted and also that Shannon was going to be away on a hen weekend, so our young players were unlikely to be playing. It was decided that some work needed to be done and perhaps an EGM held so any change in format could be included in the fixture list for 2019.

Carmeen – raised the potential of a new members pack and that this should be considered by the Council for all new members.

ACTION: Liz to raise with Justin for next meeting of Council.

Janice – welcome card and chocolates for visiting parties in the ladies locker room – recalling a similar treat/welcome from Edzell a few years ago – could be a nice gesture.

Liz and the committee wished everyone well for the Watt Duffus next week. Carmeen was nominated as point of contact given Liz's absence on holiday.

There was some discussion around fixture items between now and Liz's return :-

ACTION: Janice doing the draw re Ladies & Swannies for 22/5 and participating

ACTION: Janice to do sign up sheet for Captain v Vice Captain

ACTION: Janice to contact Janette re availability and buggy requirement for Finals day.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20 June 2018, 1330 hours at the Golf Club.