

England Golf Report To YLCGA Ltd AGM 18th November 2021

This will be my first report to you as your England Golf Voting member for YLCGA a role I took over from Sue Milner in December 2020, with Sue having been elected to the Board of England Golf. It is my role to represent the playing golfers of our County i.e. you all who pay an affiliation fee to England Golf to enable it carry out its function as the National Governing Body. I also assist in the running of the Northern Regional Competitions, which produce qualifiers for National Competitions.

Northern Regional Competition Results

2021 began with as you will recall much the same as restrictions as we faced in 2020 in that and all meetings required to be conducted on line but as the situation improved we began to contemplate that a season of golf might actually be possible. The first of the Northern Competitions was the Northern Ladies Amateur Close Foursomes, which was held this year Cheshire at Bromborough GC in April. This was the same venue as was planned for in 2020.

Entries flooded in and then history appeared to be repeating itself as we entered the 3rd lockdown, by the time that lockdown eased we were up to 62 entries. However - that was the highpoint. The pathway out of lockdown made it clear we would lose competitors as no overnight accommodation except self-catering and only short duration travel were allowed. The winners were Jan Keelan & Sara Meehan from Formby Ladies who won on the 21st hole from Jackie Starkie & Fiona Wood of Keighley & Ilkley and the losing semi-finalists were Jan McGowan & Margaret Nelson of Bromborough and Sue Rees & Sue Rowles from Childwall.

County Match week this year took place at Alnmouth, Northumberland at Foxton Hall Golf Club, which was also a more subdued event because of Covid with no opening ceremony and a prize presentation on the 18th green. Thanks go to the Northumberland Ladies for their hard work. After a closely fought contest the Yorkshire team came out on top and proceeded to represent the Northern Region at Denham Golf Club in September in the National Finals. The Girls fought bravely despite our team having Covid issues and managed a credible third place over all.

In August The Northern Close Championship, was held at Brancepeth Castle and congratulations must go to Amy Staveley of Ganton Golf Club for winning the Kilburn Trophy for the best 14 to 15 year olds.

Let us hope we can look forward to some sense of normality on 2022.

England Golf Meetings

Similarly all England Golf meetings scheduled for 2021 were online until the September General Meeting, which took place at Woodhall Spa. The online briefings of which there have been a number have been very useful. A few topics have dominated the discussions this year namely Safe Golf, IGolf, and the implications of the introduction of WHS.

Safe Golf

At the beginning of the year nationally there were only 300 Golf clubs who were safe golf accredited, 1000 were working towards it and 500 who have not engaged with England Golf on this topic. I can now report that in Yorkshire 153 have now achieved accreditation and 22 are more than 60 % complete. The number Clubs in Yorkshire that are less than 60 % complete are now in single figures. I am sure you will join us in complimenting the work undertaken by our Club Support Officers in achieving this. Clubs not accredited by April 2022 face removal from WHS.

IGolf The Independent Golfer

We began the year by setting up a working group of England Golf Voting members like myself to work alongside the Independent Golfer Project team to develop a suitable method of offering a WHS handicap to Independent Golfer. Those of you were lucky enough to hear EG Chief Executive give us his enthusiastic opinion at our March Delegates Meeting of the opportunities that this scheme offers to add additional value to their Golf not to mention the increased revenue to EG.

I can now report that we have now up to 9300 subscribers at as of this week and the marketing team continue to monitor their communications on a weekly basis to ensure they reach as broader an audience as possible. Additional analysis shows that the average age of IG golfer is 42 and they are 96% male and only 4% female and only 7% have been previous golf club members, and as you would expect they are largely centred around large centres of population in South but there are, interestingly sizable clusters around Liverpool Manchester and Newcastle. They have their own Handicapping Committee run by England Golf who will be monitoring their progress and offering advice on Rules and handicapping

WHS

The App has been very successful and at my time of writing with now over 282,000 downloads and 372,000 golfers on the WHS platform and now 3.3 million competitive rounds of golf have been logged. 'Unsatisfied Scores' where players register to play but don't return a score it is felt that more education is needed. EG have now been able introduce an automated penalty score for these unsatisfied score intents.

Other topics of note

From the AGM

The Annual General Meeting received and approved the Accounts with the outcome being in line with that projected at the last meeting, and the excess has been placed in a ring-fenced fund. The result of the ballot for new Board members was announced with Phil Harvey receiving 61 votes and Alastair Booth 39 and David Hawkins 22 therefore Phil Harvey and Alastair Booth were duly elected.

At the General Meeting in September

As you would expect with little or no golfing activity during 2020 EG ended the financial year with surplus which has been place in a ring fenced fund to be used in the promotion of the game and growing membership.

To this end in this September's meeting we were happy to agree to no increase in affiliation fee for 2022

Daphne Ledger VM YLCGA November 2021