

North Region and England Golf Report March 2022

WHS

A year after launch the team at England Golf (EG) are now able to report that there over 404,000 users on the WHS System in England and 338,00 have downloaded the App and 235,00 golfers have signed up to receive communications from EG. Further over 7 million rounds of golf have been logged onto the system of which 5.2 million were in competition and the remainder for casual rounds, some 6.9 million were over 18 holes and 400,000 were for 9 holes.

IGolf

Clearly the success of the year was the launch of IGolf in July with now nearly 13,000 users have joined and it has now covered its set up costs. Although the users are overwhelmingly men they have submitted over 40,000 scores and the average handicap is 18.8. I also found it interesting that they are not all gathered around the South of England with healthy membership numbers across the country around larger centres of population. It has also been noted that a number (not yet quantified) have moved on to Golf Club Membership. More marketing is being prepared to attract more golfers to this platform

Safe Golf

Since the last Delegates meeting golf clubs in Yorkshire have completed their Safe Golf accreditation with just 1 outstanding which is being assisted by England Golf.

Across England it has been necessary to withdraw some Clubs for WHS for non-compliance. This has been a massive piece of work for the Club Support team and Jason and Rob are to be congratulated on this achievement. That said they will now be able to return to their core work of supporting Clubs and helping with the development of the Women in Golf Charter.

Women in Golf Charter

We have, I am pleased to say the England Golf Women in Golf Charter Manager Ms Lauren Spray with us this morning so I will allow her to present an update on this topic

Affiliation fees

At the September meeting at England Golf it was agreed that the Affiliation fees for 2022 would remain the same as 2021 at £9.50. It was however pointed out that with the threat of inflation rising again that we would be required to vote on a new formula for calculating our affiliation fees for 2023 and following years. **It is to be based on**

“the average of the CPI and RPI inflations rates measured with reference to June in the calendar year of the start of the relevant affiliation season (for example June 2022 for the 2023 season) which begins for Club membership starts from 1st November. Rounded to the nearest 5p. June being picked as the latest month that published inflation date will be available before the need to set and communicate a fee. “

National Golf Centre

Over the last few meetings there has been attention drawn to the fact that our National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa is in need of improvement. Over recent years the Management Company in charge of the Golf Courses have been able to invest in improvements to the course and practice facilities. The next big challenge is, however the improvement of the clubhouse facilities, which will involve a considerable amount of investment, some of which is available at this time. A Project Manager has been appointed, as has an Architect, to prepare the development plan ready for the General Meeting in April. This development will take some years to complete, and we await with interest the publication of the plans.

National Golf Centre Working Group

Following the involvement of a Voting Members working group with the Independent Golfer Development programme a similar group has been formed. It is intended that this will be in place for the full duration of the project, which could be as long as 4-5 years to assist with the development of the facilities at Woodhall Spa. It is intended that the group will meet every two months virtually. At their first meeting the main thrust of the meeting was to set in train an information gathering exercise about what we, and the ordinary Golfer knows about the facilities at Woodhall Spa. So to this end I am going to pose a number of questions to Delegates

- What is Woodhall Spa?
- Who can use Woodhall Spa?
- Have you ever played at Woodhall Spa or would you like to play at Woodhall Spa?
- If not Why not?

This type of information the group felt will give them a more informed idea of how ordinary golfers perceive Woodhall Spa and what a National Golf Centre should look like. It would therefore be useful to hear your views and opinions on this topic, and for you to suggest the above questions to Club contacts and playing partners to ensure I can feed back your thoughts to the working group.

Delegates Job Description

A Delegates Job description was circulated with the original invitation to the meeting and we would like to point out that this is very much the “Gold Standard “ and we recognise that not all clubs will be able to achieve this. The most important elements for us as an organisation are to achieve some degree of continuity and that there are methods in place within each club to disseminate information supplied by us through your ladies committees to ordinary Lady members.

Continuity is important to us because of the degree of understanding of the role and responsibilities of YLCGA and England Golf so that your lady members receive up to date and accurate information of current topics. Conversely, it is also important to us that we receive the views of all lady golfers on current issues.

Daphne Ledger YLCGA England Golf Voting Member