



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

ENGLAND GOLF REPORT AND UPDATE AGM 2020

Throughout the year I attended a series of virtual update meetings which focused very much on the gradual re-opening of golf courses and received briefings and guidelines on SafeGolf following the latest Government Covid guidelines. A precis of the relevant issues and advice was posted on the BCLGA website and in our regular newsletters. Please do continue to visit our websites for updates throughout the rest of the year.

COVID 19 Support Fund: over 750 applications were received during July/August for the £2.555m made available by the R&A for golf clubs and facilities in England to help deal with the impact of the pandemic. Princes Risborough was the only club in our County who was successful in their application. A total of 330 clubs received on average £7,700.

In early October England Golf added a further £500,000 from their internal surplus to the fund and money is now made available to those clubs that have narrowly missed out on the original R&A fund. A further 101 clubs have now been identified as eligible to receive funding from the EG pot. They will receive notification of having been successful from Monday 19th October.

Membership Campaign: In July England Golf launched a new campaign, 'Membership: Give it a Shot', to maximise new membership opportunities from the increased participation levels that golf has enjoyed since play resumed in May.

Focussing on four core values, equality, diversity, family and community, England Golf's membership call to action of 'Give it a Shot' comes to life through three key messages:

- 'Play is Flexible': As golf continues to evolve in line with modern lifestyle choices, there have never been more ways to enjoy the game – whether that is practicing at the driving range, playing a quick nine or a competitive round over 18 holes, the choice is yours.
- 'Clubs are Sociable': A hugely popular aspect of any sport and club membership is the social benefits: the opportunity to meet in a safe environment, share stories, and build lifelong friendships through the game. Golf is a game for all generations and families to enjoy together.
- 'Golf is Affordable': Golf club membership is a lot more affordable than people perceive with many membership options to suit age, lifestyle and budget.

The membership campaign will be heavily promoted by England Golf on a national scale and will provide an opportunity for every golf club in England to connect and promote their own membership benefits for new and existing members.

For more details visit: <https://www.englandgolf.org/new-membership-campaign-launched/>

World Handicap System:

Access to World Handicap System Platform & Toolkit is now available for all Golf Clubs.

All ISV's have signed up to the licence and data migration was due to be completed by 5 October 2020. However, two of the largest ISV's (Intelligent Golf and Club Systems) have so far failed to upload their members data at the time of writing this report (18th October), which will cause significant issues for the golf clubs concerned, as their members will not be able to access their new HI unless that data is transferred in a timely and complete manner.

EG are urging all golf clubs to put pressure on their ISV's and service providers to speed up the transfer of their member data (including name, CDH number and e-mail identification markers) and thus allow the timely launch of the new system for all clubs in England.

Golf Clubs should also focus on how much their members know about the new World Handicap System (WHS) which comes into play on 2nd November. EG have a series of tools to help with the WHS education campaign which are all available from their website.

All resources are available for download, including posters, social media adverts and much more – just visit: <https://www.Englandgolf.org/download/world-handicap-system-toolkit>

AGM / GM Elections:

- Maura Page, Gill Dean, Sue Milner and Carol Alford were elected to join the EG Board of Directors.
- Nick Coward has been ratified to continue as Chairman of the EG Board.
- Philippa Cook was been appointed to Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee.
- Susanna Mitterer was elected to the Nominations Committee.
- The reduction of the number of General Meetings per year down to 3 was approved by the voting members.

England Golf Affiliation Fees: will remain unchanged for 2021 at £9.50.

**Susanna Mitterer,
BCLGA England Golf Voting Member
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18th October 2020**