

2014 Newsletter

Hi everyone. Happy New Year!

There are lots of things to look forward to in 2014 and quite a few changes. There's something for everyone.

A full list of dates and venues for 2014 is attached separately. Also attached is the 2014 Tracker Form. Please complete this as soon as possible and send it to Emma Howie (details on form).

From 2014, Notts County Golf Partnership, Notts Union and NCLGA are working together under one umbrella "Nottinghamshire Golf". This should make it easier for boys, girls and their families to know what is going on around the county and also prevent duplication of work!

For all boys and girls 12 years and under on January 1st without Congu handicaps, there is the **Nippers Tour** and you can play in as many events as you wish. If a girl would prefer to play in an all girls group, just put this on the application form. If you only want to play 3 or 5 holes instead of the full 9 holes that's fine too! The idea is to get out on to a course and have fun. As with the competitions NCLGA organised just for girls in the past, there will be helpers to go round with the groups.

A new **Rookies Tour** is for boys and girls aged 13 and over on January 1st without a Congu handicap.

The new **Order of Merit** is for boys and girls of all ages with Congu handicaps of 36 or less. There will be six events around the county with points awarded towards the Order of Merit. You need to play in three events but can play in all six, with your best 3 scores counting for the Order of Merit. There are separate Orders of Merit for boys and girls and for both Scratch and Handicap scores.

Coaching Although girls can attend the County Golf Partnership organised Coaching Academy, NCLGA is continuing to organise group coaching as before as many girls prefer an all girl group – this is especially important if you are a member of a club with few girls and you want to meet more girls.

NCLGA group Winter Coaching is well under way. Summer Coaching from April to October will continue at Rufford with John Vaughan and James Thompson and at Riverside with Phil Edwards on the second Saturday of the month. Jamie Jarvis is at Oakmere Park on the third Saturday of the month.

Full details of Summer Coaching will go on the NCLGA website later in the year.

Beginners and girls without handicaps as well as more experienced golfers are welcome at any coaching group.

Saturday March 1st is an important date for girls of about 12 years old and above as NCLGA have arranged for former tour pro Kitrina Douglas to come to Ramsdale Park for a practical workshop on the mental skills important in golf plus dietary information. The workshop will start at 10am. Full details will be available nearer the date. We would like as many girls as possible to come and this is especially important if you play for any of our teams. Do come even if you have a high handicap, it's for everyone – improving the mental side of your game should help you reduce your handicap. If you are under 12 and want to come, that's fine.

League Team Training: on Sunday March 23rd from 12 noon to 3pm at Rufford with John Vaughan and Phil Edwards will include a short game skills session plus 9 holes on course training. James Thompson is unavailable as he is doing boys' county training every Sunday throughout March.

Mixed AmAm Sunday 27th April at Wollaton Park. This is when the girls run the day to raise money for junior funds. Please keep the day free as we need lots of girls to help on the desk, be starters, organise a raffle, club cleaning service, putting competition etc. Last year we were short of girls!

Junior Girls Championship at Retford on Sunday May 11th. Although this Championship is to find the scratch Girls' Notts Champion, there are handicap prizes and a Bronze Division Scratch Cup (21- 36 hcp), so if you have a Congu handicap of 36 or less, do enter. You'll play with girls of similar handicap.

Matches

Midland North Region League matches start on 6th April at Notts GC Hollinwell v Lincs.

The points awarded for the Midland North Region League have been changed. In 2014, a county team will get 3 points for a win and one point for a halved match.

Keep the dates free please. We need to get off to a good start, we have won the League for the last three years but it was very close in 2013!

We are hoping to hold a Midland Final between the Midland North and Midland South Region League winners on October 11th and 12th at Greetham Valley. This will include one practice round and two matches each and of course an overnight stay which should be fun.

Friendly matches for girls with 12+ handicaps are fun but also useful experience as not all counties can bring a full 2nd team of four girls when we play the Midland North Region League. We have three friendly matches: v Mapperley Ladies, v Yorkshire and v Warwicks.

Match Availability Forms will be sent out when all dates are finalised. Please send your completed form to Emma Howie as soon as possible as she is organising team selections again this year.

Two reminders!

- If you play in a ladies club competition and a meal is part of the day, you will be expected to stay for the meal. Any doubts, speak to the Lady Captain.
- If you win a competition be ready to do the "thanks". You can have notes!

Remember the 3 Cs : Thank

Captain and Committee (for organising the day)

Course (thank course manager/green staff)

Caterer (thank for looking after everyone, meal)

PLUS you should also thank your playing partner!

From James Crampton, Championship Director England Golf: English Girls U15/U13 Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship. At a recent meeting of the England Golf Championship Committee it has been agreed to change the age groups of the above Championship from U15/U13 to U16/U14 from 2015. This decision was made to bring the Championship age groups in line with current performance squads. No further changes have been made.

Finally a reminder from Jane Fowler, County Captain, about the County 2nd Team matches: We are very fortunate to play on some wonderful golf courses. The Members of these clubs agree to give up their courses and even relax rules to allow us to have our meals and not have to change out of our golfing gear. However, when you play in shorts will you please bring a pair of trousers/skirt to change into. Many Clubs do not allow shorts in the dining rooms and out of respect and courtesy to these Clubs we should observe their rules so please will you make sure you can change out of your shorts.

Please watch the NCLGA website for all Championship and competition application forms.

Let's hope Spring 2014 is better than last year when it was so cold!

Best wishes and enjoy your golf,

Margaret Brook