

**Greener Golf Network
Leicestershire and Rutland**

***Advisory Group ZOOM meeting notes
Monday 8th July 2024***

Please note: these are not minutes, but a record of main points.

Present:

Advisory Group members: Helen Buckingham (Hinckley); Jon Coleman (Beedles Lake) and Adi Porter (Greetham Valley)

Apologies: Will Bevan (Cosby); Jim Jacobs (MHGC)

GGN Board members: Bob Roberts (Market Harborough), Janet Hartley Byng and Cirhan Truswell (Ullesthorpe Court)

1. Introduction and welcomes

Bob welcomed everyone to the first meeting of this group. There was a brief explanation of the purpose behind the new group, to provide a continuing link between the expanding 'Network' and Leicestershire golf clubs, and to ensure greater transparency and accountability.

2. Advisory group: Terms of Reference

The draft Terms of Reference for the group had been circulated beforehand. The members present were happy with them as they stand, at least for the moment.

3. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (LRWT) – Proposition

The proposition from LRWT had been circulated to all golf clubs in the area, and the initial deadline for Expressions of Interest (EoI) in the scheme had been extended to 28th June. Sixteen clubs out of 25/26 clubs had lodged EoIs. The GGN will be meeting with LRWT management on 11th July to finalise the scheme. Some comments had been received from clubs and the GGN sought feedback from this AG:

- The proposed annual fee - £500 – was regarded as very reasonable indeed, perhaps too low, given what is being offered, although it might entice more clubs to join
- What the clubs want, above all, is a bit more detail on what they will get for their money, and what they will get out of it. In clubs where decisions on expenditure are made by committees, rather than clubs privately 'owned', these sorts of considerations were important
- More information about possible additional funding streams
- Some more clarity about management and 'governance' arrangements
- If the proposed joint funding bid with LRWT to the Lottery did happen and was successful, it was agreed that a simple, equal, "division of the spoils" between member clubs was NOT the best way forward. Allocation would need to be rooted in the surveys themselves, and the wider benefits to nature and wildlife.
- There was discussion about what would happen if, after the deadline for joining the scheme, more clubs decided to join....this needs clarification. Although it might seem a good

idea to welcome more in, this might weaken the provision for those that had originally joined. If there was clarity that clubs could NOT join at a later date (or until a date laid down in advance), this might tip more clubs into joining in the first place.

The GGN Board agreed that the final scheme would be run past the AG before distribution.

4. Site Visit to Stratford (Welcombe) – 2nd July 2024

- This had not been a success. Although 10-12 were expected, only 4 people took part, 3 of them GGN Board members
- Going out-of-county had probably been a mistake. The AG did not take the view that Site Visits should be dropped from an annual programme, but the timing of them should be reviewed: the Summer months were always the most busy for club staff of all kinds, although best for seeing biodiversity developments.

5. Water Audits (Severn Trent)

- The advertised water audit and upgrades from Severn Trent were only available to existing Severn Trent customers. Three clubs had taken advantage already. It needed to be stressed that this was not about course irrigation, but about water efficiency and cost savings on water usage in other areas of a club's estate e.g. changing rooms, toilets, kitchens.
- BR was seeking to establish a similar scheme with Anglian Water, through the offices of Jacob Tompkins.

6. Funding and finance

- BR shared information about the network's attempts to secure funding. This was proving difficult, and costs were rising. (N.B. The GGN board members were unpaid volunteers and claimed no expenses.)
- Adi suggested we consider an accreditation scheme for L and R clubs. (Something like the GEO scheme, but not as time-consuming or as stringent.) Clubs might agree a small fee to be able to use some form of local kite mark. (Board to consider. Forum discussion?)

NEXT MEETING ---- AGREED TO PENCIL IN THURSDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2024. (ZOOM)

With apologies for any errors or omissions.

BR 10 July 2024