

Somerset Golf Union

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Held at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club
Tuesday 6 January 2009 at 7:15pm

PRESENT

G.Yates	President	B.Whittock	Captain
D.Longden	Senior Vice President & Comps Sec	D.Hanson	Treasurer
J.Perkins	Junior Vice President	D.Hughes	Junior Organiser
J.Scott	Elected Member	B.Evans	Elected Member
S.Haines	Vice Captain	A.King	Secretary
R.Metcalf	Immediate Past President	A.Deakins	Elected Member
M.Lazenby	Elected Member		

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from S.Palmer and D.Compton.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2008 were discussed and agreed as a true record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING (not covered in later minutes)

3.1 para 3.1 AP 1/2/08 This activity is continuing with Dennis assembling the necessary information.

Action Dennis AP 1/2/08

3.2 para 3.2 AP 8/2/08 More interest has now been shown and it was agreed that the aim should be to get 6 teams which would facilitate two evenings of 3 teams in competition with the winners proceeding to a final. The target is to complete the final before 31 March.

Action Alan AP 8/2/08

3.3 para 3.6 AP 2/9/08 Work is continuing on the building of the site with the assistance of Mark Caswell. It is anticipated that the site will go live by 31 January 2009.

Action Dennis AP 2/9/08

3.4 para 9.2 AP 5/12/08 A response is awaited from Wiltshire on whether they wish to play a 2nd team match next year.

4. SECRETARY/CORRESPONDENCE (Alan King)

4.1. Preparations for the Fixture Card and County Card are well advanced. Clarification is now required on next year's sponsors so that their advertising material can be incorporated as necessary. Matt and Adrian will follow up with the potential sponsors identified and liaise with Alan where inclusion on the literature is needed. It is intended that Fixture Cards and County Cards will be available for distribution at the AGM on 8 February.

Action Matt/Adrian AP 1/1/09

Somerset Golf Union

- 4.2 The notices for the AGM will be sent out this week. Two candidates have indicated they will be standing for the vacant places on the committee.

Information

- 4.3 The First Aid certificates will expire in March 09. A list of 16 people was identified who require training. The Secretary will make the necessary arrangements.

Action Alan AP 2/1/09

5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Derek Hanson)

- 5.1 The accounts have been audited and show a modest surplus of £2,700. County card income is shown as slightly less than 2007 but that figure included some carried forward from 2006. Some costs from the Boys Finals at Royal Cromer were also carried into this year.

Information

- 5.2 The flight costs for the trip to Spain have been paid and the full cost of the hotel and resort will be paid shortly to avoid any exposure to adverse movement in the exchange rate.

Information

- 5.3 The Treasurer confirmed to the Captain that details of expenditure against specific headings will be available to him. The final budget figures will be re-examined when precise details of income are known shortly.

Information

6. CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Bradley Whittock)

- 6.1 No matches since last meeting.

15 Squad members attended an informal squad get together at BBGC on the 13th December. Many of the squad took full advantage of the facilities for the whole day. The get together was centred around a 9 hole roll up in the afternoon. Notable scores were Matt and Alex Kippen, both 3 under par and Stu Ponfield, level par, on a cold, wet under foot and blustery afternoon, (although BBGC was probably one of the only courses in the county actually open on this day!).

Following the success of the informal get together at BBGC, a further informal get together is now planned for Saturday 17th January at BBGC.

Consideration will be paid as to the merits of getting all squad members winter 9 hole membership at BBGC for winter 2009/10.

Several members of the squad attended Wells GC on Saturday 20th December for individual sessions with Adrian utilising the Total Golf Analysis system (Biometric vest type training aid. Please note this is not the "K vest". The K vest is about £2.5k worth of kit, this aid is £50k worth of technology, as now being utilised by the EGU squad I believe among others.). Feedback received from the players who attended was that this was excellent and extremely useful. This is something that would have been very

Somerset Golf Union

difficult for individual players to have done under their own remit. (See Derek's report for further details!).

The next formal squad training day will be at Farrington on Saturday 14th February.

Coaching vouchers are being received from various Pro's around the County and the voucher scheme appears to be working well.

Sweater, shirt and slipover requirements have been provided for ordering.

Information

- 6.2 The President asked about the merit of having such a large squad and the value of retaining certain players within the squad whose performance last year had been poor.

A wide ranging discussion ensued on the development process and the need to ensure that everyone was involved, understood and was contributing to the achievement of the objectives laid down by the Executive. Although certain players had underperformed recently, the challenge was to motivate them and find ways of maximizing their contribution. Somerset is a small county and all the resources available need to be fully exploited in order to give us a chance of success.

Information

- 6.3 **Other Business**

It is proposed that we will go ahead and play Gloucestershire at Clevedon, for difficulties in changing venue at this stage. With the squad we have, I see no reason that we should not beat Gloucester wherever we play! We will look at venue's for 2010 early.

Information

- 6.4 The timing of the selection of the squad for South West week was also discussed. The C&D committee will consider whether there is merit in advancing the selection process and announcing the squad prior to the traditional way of County Championship day.

Action C&D committee AP 3/1/09

7. COUNTY JUNIOR ORGANISER (Derek Hughes)

- 7.1 Monthly winter coaching sessions for U18, U16 and U14 continue at Farrington and Burnham Driving Range. The U18 squad each had a session with Mark Bull of Total Golf Analysis. Mark's computer based analysis system provides a 3 dimensional biodynamic report breaking down the kinetic chain of the golf swing. The report highlights any inconsistencies in the timing sequence of the pelvis, torso and hands which provide the power at impact. With Mark's expertise in biomechanics and Adrian's expertise in the golf swing the players were given verbal feedback on where their swing could be improved. This verbal feedback was followed up with an emailed report from Mark and Adrian. Further information on Total Golf Analysis is available at <http://www.totalgolfanalysis.co.uk>.

Somerset Golf Union

The U16s monthly session focused on putting with the 'SAM Put Lab' and also the importance of a repeatable routine over every shot. In the afternoon they played some golf and interestingly after playing a shot they were unhappy with, there was a different routine for their next shot, which invariably was another poor shot.

One of the putting mats has now been taken to Burnham Driving Range for use by the U14s. Geoff has produced a rules information diagram which has been blown to A2 and laminated. The boys have found this very useful.

Information

8. COMPETITIONS SECRETARY (Dennis Longden)

8.1 The posters for the Championships had been circulated to the Executive for comment.

They have been redesigned this year to include photographs of the venues at which each event is to be held.

Information

8.2 Orchardleigh are happy to move the date of the Chimera Cup to fit in with our schedule and improve the availability of County players to enter the event. Some dates in May are identified and Dennis will go back to the club. It was stressed by Jim Scott that the event needed to stand on its own merits and gain its reputation in order to attract players.

Action Dennis AP 4/1/09

9. COACHING & DEVELOPMENT (Bradley Whittock)

9.1 Following some debate, the proposed trip to Spain is to go ahead, even with the deteriorating Euro rate, due to lower costs from Desert Springs. 12 players (at a cost of £400 per player) will be accompanied by 2 pros and the Captain elect. The trip is due to come in on the budget agreed, £6K, and is thought by all members of the C and D committee to be money well spent. The flights have now been booked and the accommodation reserved at the resort.

Information

9.2 With this being the last report of the year, Brad thought it would be a good time to capture the main highlights of the year from a C and D point of view. These have been:

- Relaunched the C and D meetings on a regular basis and agreed new terms of reference.
- Produced the 2008/09 coaching plan for onwards submission to the EGU. This has allowed the county to secure a further coaching grant over and above the one secured the previous year.
- Conducted a post investment review of the activities cited in the 2007/08 plan, and again submitted this to the EGU (with the SGU being the first county to do so). A review of the 2008/09 plan will be carried out when the time is right.
- Produced for the first time activity based budgets for submission to the finance committee, to secure the necessary funding.

Somerset Golf Union

- Carried out training activities in the year ended October 2008 within budget.
- Mens squads have had the county goals and objectives cascaded to them at a recent Farrington squad day.
- Coaches terms of reference / contract has been agreed and signed by both parties. The previous contract was long overdue a re-write.
- Established a break out “South West Week” planning group, which met monthly prior to South West Week to cover softer, logistical issues for the week, including pre week training and nutrition.
- Proposed and introduced a Youth Development squad to ensure the smooth transition from junior to adult golf, through offering further specialist coaching and mentoring to players.

Information

- 9.3 The amount of investment on each player was discussed and the possibility of measuring its effectiveness against some measurable yardstick. Steve will examine the issue and consider the value of any process and its viability.

Action Steve AP 5/1/09

10 SOMERSET COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP (Alan King)

- 10.1 The annual review had been completed and confirmation had been received that the £6k funding for 2009 has been authorised. The review has been circulated to the Executive. It has recently been announced that Sport England has awarded a grant of £12.8m to England Golf for the next 4 years. It is not known at this stage how this will be distributed or the implications for the partnership.

Information

- 10.2 Courses for Children in Golf and PGA Level 1 coaching have been organised and there is to be a National Development conference at Woodhall on 24/25 February.

Information

11. MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP (Matt Lazenby)

- 11.1 Nothing specific to report at this stage. Executive Members were encouraged to identify people within their own organisations and circle of contacts who may have access, or influence, on the granting of sponsorship.

Information

12. EGU REPRESENTATIVE (Jim Scott)

- 12.1 Nothing to report.

Somerset Golf Union

13 PRESIDENT'S REMARKS (Graham Yates)

13.1 Graham identified that we needed to nominate a new Voting member as Jim had indicated that he would not be standing for re-election at the AGM. The meeting supported the appointment of Dennis Longden to be the Voting Member for a one-off term of 3 years. The Secretary was actioned to advise Jenny Hardy at EGU

Action Alan AP 6/1/09

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Bradley raised the question of pace of play in the matchplay at South West week. He proposed that we write to SWCGA and ask that they consider at their next meeting the proposal that players should not be allowed to take practice puts on the hole just completed. This delays movement to the next tee and slows the pace of play. This rule had been used successfully in the recent Ryder Cup. The meeting supported the proposition and the Secretary was asked to raise it with the SWCGA Secretary.

Action Alan AP 7/1/09

14.2 It was confirmed by the meeting that County Cards could only be purchased by golfing members, social members who did not pay an affiliation fee are not eligible.

Information

14.3 Rick Metcalfe in confirming that this is his last meeting after 20 years on the Executive, thanked everyone for the support he had received during his period of office. He had enjoyed his time enormously. Jim Scott spoke similarly of his appreciation of the friendship he had met.

Information

14.4 The President thanked Rick and Jim for their outstanding contribution to the progress made by the Union during their time in office. He also similarly thanked Mark Biddle in his absence. Graham said that his year as President had been an absolute pleasure and he knows he is passing the reins to a safe pair of hands in Dennis. The SGU is highly regarded within the administration of the game in England and its reputation for being 'responsibly adventurous' is well deserved, long may it continue.

Information

14.4 On behalf of the Executive, Dennis thanked Graham for his 10 years of service to the County. His time as Secretary had been one of great change and development and he had also been an excellent President.

Information

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 10 February 2009 7.15pm

At Burnham & Berrow G.C.

Dates for meetings for 2009 are as follows:- 24 Mar, 5 May, 2 Jun, 14 Jul, 18 Aug, 22 Sep, 3 Nov, 8 Dec.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Approved

.....

Dennis Longden President

