

## Somerset Golf Union

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting  
Held at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club  
Tuesday 10 February 2009 at 7:15pm

### PRESENT

D.Longden	President & Comps Sec	A.Deakins	Elected Member
J.Perkins	Senior Vice President	D.Hanson	Treasurer
S.Butterfield	Junior Vice President	D.Hughes	Junior Organiser
D.Compton	Elected Member	B.Evans	Elected Member
S.Haines	Captain	A.King	Secretary
G.Yates	Immediate Past President		

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from B.Whittock, J.Atkins, J.Cunning, M.Curtis and M. Lazenby

### 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2009 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 The dates and venues have now been settled. There will be 3 teams competing at Frome, Weston and Worlebury with the winners from each evening progressing to the final which will be held at Burnham. The Frome event will be on 18 February with 2 teams from the club competing against the County over 35 team. At Worlebury on 5 March, the home team will play Clevedon and Burnham whilst at Weston on 10 March Taunton Vale and the County team will visit to play the hosts.

#### **Action Alan AP 8/2/08**

3.3 para 3.3 AP 2/9/08 Work is continuing on the building of the site with the assistance of Mark Caswell. Dennis anticipated that the site will go live within a few days after the meeting. When it is live, Executive members will be encouraged to fully test the site to iron out any problems.

#### **Action Dennis AP 2/9/08**

3.4 para 3.4 AP 5/12/08 A response is awaited from Wiltshire. We have offered to play a 2<sup>nd</sup> team match against them with the preferred venue and date being at home on 19 July, the same date as the 1<sup>st</sup> team match. Wiltshire are looking to join the Wessex League and it was agreed that we should put a proposal to the Secretary of the League, John Rowe, that Wiltshire should be admitted to the Wessex League for the 2009 season.

#### **Action Alan AP 5/12/08**

3.5 para 4.1 AP 1/1/09 Fixture cards and County cards had been handed out to clubs at the AGM. Due to an oversight, an insert would be printed showing the Devon and Cornwall clubs and these would be sent to clubs who had already received their supply.

#### **Action Alan AP 1/1/09**

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- 3.6 para 4.3 AP 2/1/09 The first aid courses have been arranged and participants advised.  
**Discharged**
- 3.7 para 8.2 AP 4/1/09 Dennis had spoken with Orchardleigh and whilst we are ready to support them, it is their responsibility to decide the date for the Chimera Cup.  
**Discharged**
- 3.8 para 13.1 AP 6/1/09 The Secretary had advised EGU  
**Discharged**
- 3.9 para 14.1 AP 7/1/09 The Secretary had advised SWCGA and it has been included on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting.  
**Discharged**
4. SECRETARY/CORRESPONDENCE (Alan King)
- 4.1 The Secretary had advised the Executive of the situation in respect of Luke Collins handicap. He has now been written to by James Crampton, the EGU SSS and Handicap Manager, asking for a written explanation of why so many (13) scores were missed off his 2008 record. The final paragraph of the letter warns him that as he has committed a serious breach of the CONGU regulations, disciplinary action may be taken. This whole incident is a major regret but efforts by several people to resolve the situation by warning Luke that he needed to do something, failed to produce a response.  
**Information**
- 4.2 Course assessments have been carried out at Cannington, Mendip Spring and Worlebury (again). Cannington is being held in obedience whilst they complete some course alterations which will lengthen the course and most likely increase the SSS by one shot. Mendip Spring moved to 71 from 70, the par is 71, and Worlebury moved to 69 from 68. The EGU challenged the reassessment of Worlebury and the different result but the Secretary had been able to substantiate our position and the rationale as to why it had changed.  
**Information**
- 4.3 It was agreed that two places would be booked on the SSS Lead Assessors course. Names will be identified when the date for the course is known.  
**Information**
- 4.4 There will be an Order of Merit, administered by EGU, for County 1<sup>st</sup> team matches played in the various Regional Leagues. This will be a standalone table and will not count towards the points allocated for the PING Order of Merit. Steve will advise the Squad.  
**Action Steve AP 1/2/09**
5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Derek Hanson)
- 5.1 The final position on County card sales in 2008 was now known. There had been a slight increase over the previous year but sales had dried up in the latter part of the year due to the poor weather and the recession. Enmore Park was the best selling club.  
**Information**

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- 5.2 Nine clubs have yet to pay their affiliation fees. There was a wide ranging discussion on the issues surrounding the collection of affiliation fees. This is complicated by clubs having different renewal dates and the levy which they have raised. It was agreed that the Treasurer would ascertain from clubs which month their subscriptions are renewed and the Finance Committee would then meet to review the issue.

### **Action Treasurer AP 2/1/09**

- 5.3 It was agreed that we would send the normal donation of £200 to Avon Schools.

### **Information**

- 5.4 The issue of VAT in relation to golf clubs is a live issue with private members clubs having until 31 March 2009 to submit a claim for overpaid VAT. The EGU has set up a fighting fund of £100k to support a test case.

### **Information**

6. CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Steve Haines)

- 6.1 No matches since last meeting.

The informal get together for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January at BBGC was cancelled primarily due to bad weather. The next formal squad day is Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at Farrington.

The squad will be again working on short game and performance psychology. The squad will additionally be briefed on:

Availability commitment confirmation for 2009 season

Availability of Sky Caddy via EGU/County promotion

The importance of handicap accuracy and player responsibility

### **Information**

- 6.2 4 Tee Times for 16 players at 12 noon on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May for Broadstone practice have been confirmed. An additional mid week squad practice is being organised for late April / early May. Date to be confirmed with the squad.

Arrangements are being confirmed for a late March (Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> proposed date), squad practice (Foursomes AM) and triangular match (PM) against the County Pro's. It is proposed to ask The Mendip Golf Club if they would be able to host this day.

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

### **Information**

- 6.3 Other Business

SWW Prep – Investigations into Accommodation are ongoing. Steve hopes to visit by end of February to assess possibilities further.

Investigations into county kit (Including the Canterbury garments is on-going)

Steve will be attending the Brean Golf Club Annual Dinner to assist with the prize giving on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. He will offer thanks for their support, particularly in regard to their entry in the category 2,3 and 4 championships.

### **Information**

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### 7. COUNTY JUNIOR ORGANISER (Derek Hughes)

7.1 The U18, U16 and U14 coaching has continued at Farrington and Burnham Driving Range.

#### **Information**

7.2 Derek attended the EGU Coaching Conference at Woodhall Spa on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> January. The conference once again was an opportunity to meet up with colleagues from other counties and national squad managers. The theme this year was 'Give us back our game' which for a coaching conference was a rather novel approach. It was aimed at the coaches returning the gamer to the player and not forgetting there are many different ways to play the game of golf, its not one size fits all. One of the sessions was a question and answer session with a panel consisting of coaching experts and Peter McEvoy. McEvoy was asked what advice he would give to up and coming amateurs. His reply was, forget about psychology, forget about fitness, forget about diet and concentrate on the short game. Practice the short game for hours every day make it competitive, play for something you don't want to lose. He played against the pro every day for money he couldn't afford to lose. Being the best short game player in Britain made him the best amateur in Britain. He then amended his statement about the other elements stating that there was a time to consider all elements. There was a round table discussion session on the role of the county in the English player's development pathway, in particular the conflict between national and county. Interestingly the table that I chaired saw no conflict the role of the county was to assist the player to achieve his aims of being the best golfer he could be. I took the opportunity to talk with Hugh Marr the Surrey head coach about Surrey's success and one of the elements he considers that make Surrey successful is player profiling. He has a profile of every player on Surrey's books the profile includes, golf, life style etc. Adrian has taken a copy of the presentation Hugh made to the England coaches in Arcos Gardens in November. Watch this space.

#### **Information**

7.3 On 25<sup>th</sup> January the SW EGU Coaching squad played the England U16 squad at Cumberwell Park with a result of EGU U16 6.5 SW 3.5. One of the successes for SW was Matt Pearson from Worlebury who won 2up. Thanks to our President Graham Yates for attending.

#### **Information**

7.4 Coming up in February as well as the normal coaching is a match against Somerset Girls at Weston on 19<sup>th</sup> tee off approximately 10.00 depending on the numbers in the preceding junior competition.

#### **Information**

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### 8. COMPETITIONS SECRETARY (Dennis Longden)

- 8.1 The posters for the Championships have been distributed. The first event is the Under 14 championship at Long Sutton on 17 April

#### **Information**

- 8.2 The location of the Am Am was discussed with the suggestion that moving it around to other clubs may increase the interest and therefore the income. The venue is committed for this year but if another club came forward then it could be considered.

#### **Information**

- 8.3 Cannington have expressed an interest in arranging a match against the Executive. It was agreed that this should be pursued.

#### **Action John and Stephen AP 3/1/09**

### 9. COACHING & DEVELOPMENT (Steve Haines)

- 9.1 The minutes of the Coaching & Development meeting had been circulated. All the actions in respect of Desert Springs are being progressed.

#### **Information**

- 9.2 Steve will be briefing the players on the operation of the voucher system where players will be able to set up an account with the Secretary to which prize vouchers can be credited and expenses for golf activities debited. The Secretary undertook to design a claim form for the players to use.

#### **Action Secretary AP 4/1/09**

- 9.3 The meeting held a discussion on the need to evaluate the investment being made in Coaching & Development. The objectives that have been laid down are clear with the qualification for the EGU County Finals being the priority. It was agreed that it is not possible to analyse the outcomes of every session in detail but reviews are done at the conclusion of each event and lessons learnt. The need to keep the Executive appraised and at the same time controlling the amount of documentation required was a balance that must be drawn. The Captain and the Junior Organiser both stressed that members of the Executive are welcome to attend any of the training sessions.

#### **Information**

### 10 SOMERSET COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP (Alan King)

- 10.1 Alan informed the meeting of the arrangements for the coming year in respect of Coaching Grants to clubs. The current Free Coaching Grant and Junior Coaching Grant are being amalgamated into one Grant called the Club Coaching Grant. This will be £800 for Clubs with GolfMark but only £400 for clubs who have not achieved that qualification. The £400 will only be available to the first 350 clubs nationally who apply.

#### **Information**

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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 (Dennis Longden)

12.1 Nothing to report. The AGM is week commencing 16 February.

13. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS (Dennis Longden)

13.1 Dennis remarked that he felt it had been a good AGM and as he said there he does not see the need for any radical change in the way things are organised.

**Information**

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Adrian suggested that the Policy Document should be reviewed. This was agreed and the Secretary was asked to circulate it and include in the revised document that it would be reviewed on an annual basis.

**Action Secretary AP 5/1/09**

14.2 Graham advised the meeting of a letter he had received from the parent of one of the players on a recent trip to Desert Springs. Certain information had appeared on the internet which could be accessed through a site which included Somerset Golf Union in its title. The content was defamatory to us and the individuals and the players involved had been contacted in an attempt to ensure it was removed.

**Information**

14.3 Graham advised that Enmore Park GC are still involved in litigation in respect of an incident at the club relating to pollution of the water supply.

**Information**

14.4 The division of responsibilities for committees and attendance at matches was addressed by the President. He would take primary responsibility for the 1<sup>st</sup> team, with the SVP taking the Juniors and 2<sup>nd</sup> team. The JVP would focus on the Under 14/16 teams. The committee representation would be as last year, with Jim Cuning coming onto Competitions and Mike Curtis joining the Marketing and Sponsorship committee.

**Information**

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 24 March 7.15pm

At Burnham & Berrow G.C.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Approved

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Dennis Longden      President

