

Somerset Golf Union

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Held at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club
Tuesday 24 March 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
B.Whittock	Immediate Past Captain	J.Cunning	Elected Member
M. Curtis	Elected Member	M.Lazenby	Elected Member

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from G.Yates and J.Atkins,

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 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 final of the quiz will be held at Burnham & Berrow GC on Tuesday 31 March between Clevedon, Taunton Vale and Somerset Over 35s. The qualifying rounds had all been very enjoyable evenings with the referees maintaining a good balance between the informal atmosphere and the required formality of a serious quiz. Members were encouraged to support the final evening.

Action Alan AP 8/2/08

3.3 para 3.3 AP 2/9/08 The website is now live. Dennis will arrange training for those who will need to input information onto the site.

Action Dennis AP 2/9/08

3.4 para 3.4 AP 5/12/08 The 2nd team game versus Wiltshire has been arranged for Sunday 9 August at Taunton Vale. It had not been possible to obtain a venue for the date of the 1st team fixture 19 July. Wiltshire will apply to join the Wessex League in 2010

Discharged

3.5 para 3.5 AP 1/1/09 The County Card inserts have now been distributed

Discharged

3.6 para 14.1 AP 5/1/09 The policy document has been reviewed and circulated to members. An amendment was suggested to the section on sub-committees and the Secretary will complete that and then publish the revised document.

Action Alan AP 1/3/09

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4. SECRETARY/CORRESPONDENCE (Alan King)

4.1 I have met with Terry Linden who did the photography at the Annual Dinner and he has agreed to be our 'official photographer'. He will attend championships and take photographs of competitors on the course as well as the prize giving ceremony. He will make all the photos available for us to use on our website and will send photos to the press from which he will receive a commission from the newspaper. He is also hoping to be able to sell to players and/or family members. This arrangement is not costing us and we will have a professional photographer at our events.

I have cleared the CRB issue and I will be drawing up a 'Memorandum of Understanding' which will specify the details of the arrangement. I will also produce a letter of authority for Terry to carry on the course should anyone challenge him.

Terry helps with the Juniors at Enmore Park and his son plays for the County Under 14s. His company is called 'sportraits' so if anyone needs an event covered it would be good for us to support him.

4.2 I have agreed after consulting the appropriate people that Richard Maunder can represent Wiltshire this season.

4.3 I attended a meeting, along with some other County Secretaries and a couple of club managers from around here, with Fullers who sponsor EGU and are keen to explore opportunities to complete the link through Counties and down to clubs. The meeting explored what might be appropriate and a further meeting is planned to focus specifically on how we as a County could benefit, a date is being arranged via EGU.

4.4 I have circulated the minutes of the meeting of the SWCGA. DMDs are to be allowed in their competitions this year.

4.5 A letter has been received from David Kent in which he apologises for not being able to attend the AGM but congratulates the Committee on a very good year and thanks everyone for the consideration and kindness shown to him throughout the year but particularly at South West week.

4.6 The Category 1 handicap return has been despatched to EGU. We have 20 players in the County at scratch or better, interestingly not all of whom are in the County set up.

4.7 A course rating has been carried out at Minehead, the provisional SSS, (agreement has not yet been confirmed from EGU) is 70 from the White tees and 69 from the Yellows which in both cases is an increase of 1. Further assessments at Clevedon and Burnham & Berrow Channel Course will be completed before the meeting.

4.8 I attended the Secretaries and Treasurers conference at Woodhall Spa. On the first day working groups considered 4 subjects: - The Regional Structure, Affiliation fees, The Volunteer Pathway and the merger with EWGA. As expected a variety of views were expressed and John Petrie undertook to examine all the feedback from the groups. Secretaries were handed a paper listing questions relating to the merger which County

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Executive Committees are asked to consider. This paper was distributed to the Executive and it will be a high priority agenda item at the meeting on 5 May.

Subjects discussed on the second day were:-

Future Funding of Golf – Feedback has been gathered from participants at the Heart of Golf Conferences and approximately 1000 responses will have been received which is considered to be a statistically reliable sample. This issue revolves around how we can get the nomadic golfers to contribute to the development of the game and the fairest and most practical way of achieving that aim.

County Cards – An ever increasing number of counties are now coming on board with Hampshire now signed up which fills the South of the country. Yorkshire and Lancashire are progressively signing up clubs and some of the smaller counties e.g. Derby, Norfolk are also participating. The next challenge is to structure a system to obviate the need for a thick booklet.

Golf Central – This has been redesigned and is well worth a look. At the end of the day though the system is only as good as the information entered onto it by the clubs.

Centralised Handicap Database – This is progressing and all the ISVs have developed the software and tested it. It is now a question of getting clubs to load their data on to the system in a structured way. It is anticipated that the vast majority will be loaded by the end of April 09. However until we receive confirmation that all has been loaded satisfactorily and we have assurances that we will receive error reports if scores are not delivered to clubs we will continue to advise the clubs of scores returned in our championships.

Sponsorship Agreements – The EGU now have agreements with specifically 3 companies where Counties and/or individuals can obtain the benefits of discounted products. Canterbury clothing, Sky Caddie and Level 4 (bags, hats, clothing). Anyone requiring details please talk with me.

Development issues – The background to the award of £12.8million from Sport England and its implications were presented. Discussions are ongoing and will shortly be concluded and an announcement made about the detail of how funding will be allocated across various initiatives. Of specific interest was the future funding and structure of the County Development Officer role within the County Golf Partnership.

Also debated briefly were the current position in relation to the VAT situation and there was also an update from the Championship department.

Information

5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Derek Hanson)

- 5.1 The Treasurer reported that Fosseway had still not paid their affiliation fees despite repeated requests. Dennis Longden undertook to speak with the club to try to resolve the situation

Action Dennis AP 2/3/09

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- 5.2 No invoices have been received from the County Coach for 3 months. The price for the golf balls which have now been received has also not been advised. Adrian Deakins undertook to speak with Adrian Bishop to correct the position.

Action Adrian Deakins AP 3/3/09

- 5.3 The Treasurer explained the rationale for the adjustments to the budget which had been published. The reduction in income from reduced affiliation fees and bank interest had caused the Finance Committee to propose reductions of £1k on each of the Adult and Junior Playing budgets as well as reducing by £2k the provision to reserves against qualifying for the County Finals. This would enable a neutral year end position to be returned. The Junior Organiser felt it would be difficult for him to achieve those savings as his winter program is now finished and any savings would need to come from matches, the cost of which is already determined by the venue and costs supplied by clubs. The Treasurer clarified that the revised figures are a target that budget holders should aim to achieve. The Finance Committee will listen to representations to exceed the revised figures. It was accepted that all sections of expenditure, including administration, need to be examined critically. It was agreed that a further meeting of the Finance Committee would take place when more up to date information is available.

Action Treasurer AP 4/3/09

6. CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Steve Haines)

- 6.1 Review of activities - No matches since last meeting.

A squad day was held on Saturday 28th February at Farrington. The squad again worked on short game and performance psychology.

- Availability commitment forms were distributed to players for return by the end of March
- Availability of Sky Caddy via EGU/County promotion
- The importance of handicap accuracy and player responsibility was raised

Some squad players have been asked to arrange 3 or 4 ball mid week squad practice sessions at Broadstone in April / early May. (in addition to the 4 Tee Times for 16 players at 12 noon on Sunday 10th May for Broadstone practice that have been confirmed.)

The Mendip Golf Club will host the next squad day on Sunday 29th March, squad practice (Foursomes AM) and triangular match (PM) against the County Pro's (Still TBC due to difficulties with pro availability due to Devon match on 30th). If the pro's are unable to play, we will play an inter squad match. The format either way will be stableford matchplay in order to assist with gauging performance for the first league matches in April. It is proposed to announce the teams at the end of the day. This will also provide course practice for the Channel League match to be held at the Mendip later in the season. Coaching vouchers continue to be received from various Pro's around the County and the voucher scheme appears to be working well.

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6.2 Other Business

South West week - Investigations into Accommodation have been completed and accommodation venue agreed (The Bridge House Hotel www.citylodge.biz) and booked. Price is £69 per room per night. They are happy to be flexible on Breakfast and evening meal times and menu's and will basically do whatever we want.

A local range has also been found open from 8am to 9pm with an excellent short game practice facility only 5 minutes from the Hotel (Canford Magna). A supplier of filled rolls has been found and we need to confirm orders a couple of weeks before SWW. I have met with the pro, steward and secretary.

The relatively close location of Broadstone will allow some to visit for short periods. The basic contingent is expected to be 10 players plus the Captain and Vice Captain. No decision has yet been made on whether the coach will accompany the team.

The sub-committee that met last year to review all the detailed arrangements for the week will be reconvened this year.

Hotels have been booked for other away matches throughout the season.

Adrian Bishop has been asked to provide costs for County Waterproof (Sunderland) and Shoe's (MyJoy's). A 2009 design is being considered. Steve will pull together quotes for these items and circulate to the Executive. The current budgetary constraints mean that the contribution from the Union would be minimal and the project would need to be underwritten by sponsorship and /or payment by the players.

Action Steve AP 5/3/09

Quotes are also required for hats. Investigations in to http://www.level-four.co.uk/level4_products.html as promoted by the EGU would also be good and the Secretary will identify costs.

Action Alan AP 6/3/09

- 6.3 Warm weather training – The Captain had produced an initial report following the squad's return at the weekend. The C&D committee will review the activity and Executive members were asked to study all the reports in advance of a discussion at the next Executive meeting.

Information

7. COUNTY JUNIOR ORGANISER (Derek Hughes)

- 7.1 The U18, U16 and U14 winter coaching programme is now complete and the boys look forward to taking the skills learned on to the course.

The first event for the U18s is the 4Counties at Weymouth the team is as follows:

Ellis Cook (Burnham & Berrow) Captain

Nathan Bateman (Weston – Super- Mare) Vice Captain

Matt Pearson (Worlebury)

Alex Clapp (Enmore Park)

James Popham (Taunton Vale)

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Ben Jones (Mendip Spring)

Warren Knight (Minehead)

James Holl (Burnham & Berrow)

This is closely followed by the U14 V Gloucester on 9th April, Ellis Cook in The McEvoy at Copt Heath on 15th & 16th April, the U14 Championship on 17th April and the U18s V Gloucester at Filton on 17th April, a busy couple of weeks, let's get started!!

Information

- 7.2 On the 12th March Graham and I met with Ed Vahid of Bath University to discuss their application for inclusion in the AASE programme. AASE is the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence and embarking on the programme enables young athletes to follow their dream and at the same time obtain vocational skills and educational qualifications on to college, university or out to work. A number of other colleges are seeking an allocation of funding, Filton, Bridgwater and Richard Huish. Richard Huish has piloted this scheme over the past two years. Our offer to Bath was to facilitate in any way we can the golf element of the programme e.g. point them towards possible PGA Coaches, open discussions with clubs etc. As many will know we have had many discussions in the past with Bath and each time we leave we are enthused only for it to disappear in the ether this time there may be a better chance. If they are successful Bath will know the funding available before they look for students. Before they were reliant on TASS where the student applies for the grant after they have the university place and they may be unsuccessful. I will keep everyone posted on progress.

Information

8. COMPETITIONS SECRETARY (Dennis Longden)

- 8.1 The season has yet to kick off and I therefore have nothing to report. The Pickeridge Bowl draw has been made with 20 teams entered. More entries are required for the first championship of the season, the Under 14 championship at Long Sutton on Friday 17th April, and Derek agreed to have a word with Geoff Collard to make sure all Under 14 squad players are entered.

Information9.COACHING & DEVELOPMENT (Adrian Deakins)

- 9.1 The minutes of the Coaching & Development meeting had been circulated and the dates for 4 further meetings had been arranged.

Information

- 9.2 Adrian enquired whether there would be an EGU Coaching Grant this year as there had been for the previous two years. The Secretary undertook to research the issue.

Action Alan AP 7/3/09

- 9.3 South West week sub-committee formed to ensure all aspects and preparatory work are done so that SGU are organized and can focus on the golf. First meeting 9 April.

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10 SOMERSET COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP (Alan King)

10.1 I attended the Golf Development conference at Woodhall Spa on 24/25 February. The principal speaker was Jennie Price the Chief Executive of Sport England. She explained the rationale for the funding allocation of £12.8million over the next 4 years and put into context the bid from golf and how it compared with bids from other sports. She was clear in that although this award was not conditional upon the EGU/EWGA merger, if no progress is made in that area 'we may look at the nature of the award in the next funding round'. The implication was clear.

The other keynote speaker was Pete Ackerley from the England & Wales Cricket Board. Cricket has a very much more structured approach around clubs and the development process of young players. Funding and Coaching resources are much better targeted and there is clear evidence that the buy-in from clubs is more committed than is currently the case in golf.

There were presentations from various people on progress with initiatives within County Golf Partnerships and also some syndicates work on Targets, Communication, Club Development and Club & Coach Fund.

10.2. At local level, good progress is being made in expanding the number of clubs progressing towards GolfMark. We now have more than 50% of our clubs involved and with the message given by this year's Coaching Grant allocation, £800 for clubs with GolfMark and only £400 for non GolfMark clubs; I believe we will move quite quickly with the remainder. Assessments are now being carried out by the County Development Officer which is helping enormously in speeding up the process.

10.3. Support packages have been put together to help clubs who wish to run Open Days/ Taster Sessions. This includes poster and flyer production, help with advertising and publicity.

10.4. Club and Coach sessions have been ongoing through the winter.

10.5. I have recently met with Steve Scott-Bowen from the Golf Foundation. He is now starting to develop the programs in schools through the School Sports Partnerships and is beginning to involve the Clubs with the Professionals being invited into the Schools to assist on a paid basis. The response from the Pro at one club in particular has been disappointing and this has been followed up with the club.

Information

11. MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP (Matt Lazenby)

11.1 Nothing specific to report at this stage. Mike Curtis will join this sub-committee. Dennis suggested that the group should take on the responsibility for selling the tee times at the Am-Am, the Competitions committee would continue to organise the competition on the day. Matt undertook to consider this suggestion.

Action Matt AP 8/3/09

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12. EGU REPRESENTATIVE (Dennis Longden)

- 12.1 The Board have now formally approved the use of Distance Measuring Devices in EGU championships and tournaments for 2009 and at the same time have announced a sponsorship deal with SkyCaddy. County Unions can also obtain a discount on SkyCaddy equipment.

The English Golf Union annual accounts for the year ending 31st October 2008 show a pre-tax profit of £78,608 compared with £171,896 in the previous year. The shortfall was attributable to the drop in Affiliation Fees, the closure of the Associated Members Programme and an increase in irrecoverable VAT. It is understood that the coaching budget is likely to be cut by £100,000.

The “CHD” now running live and clubs are being invited to upload their handicap records and return scores. When the system is up and running it would allow the EGU and County Unions access to Playing Records, Away Scores and Year End Reports.

Junior Champion of Champions to be played in conjunction with Men’s tournament from 2009.

A change in the qualifying format for the Brabazon Trophy from 2010 has been agreed by the Board. Two separate qualifying rounds – one in the north and one in the south – will take place prior to the tournament. Thirty qualifiers from each venue will join the exemptions for the tournament. Players will be able to enter either at either venue.

Norman Forrest from Lancashire was elected as President of the English Golf Union and Mr. Elwyn Ellis of Cheshire was installed as President Elect.

David Croxton of Northamptonshire was elected to the Board of Directors for 4 years and Ivor Bellas of Yorkshire for 3 years.

Philip Parker of Devon was elected to the EGU Property Company for 4 years and David Atkinson of Durham for 2 years.

Voting Members agreed to put an arbitration process in place for clubs wanting to change their county affiliation if one of the counties disputed the move.

Information

13. PRESIDENT’S REMARKS (Dennis Longden)

- 13.1 The President had attended the Wiltshire and Dorset Annual Dinners which had been very enjoyable. At this stage of the season there was nothing else to report.

Information

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 14.1 There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.10pm

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 5 May 7.15pm

At Burnham & Berrow G.C.

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

Approved

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Dennis Longden President