

Somerset Golf Union

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Held at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club
Tuesday 5 May 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	G.Yates	Immediate Past President
S.Haines	Captain	A.King	Secretary
J. Atkins	Vice Captain	J.Cunning	Elected Member
M. Curtis	Elected Member	M.Lazenby	Elected Member

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from B.Whittock, B.Evans, D.Hughes and D.Compton

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 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. Although it is not yet fully complete, the available information will be sent to the Somerset Archives within the next month

Action Dennis AP 1/2/08

- 3.2 para 3.2 AP 8/2/08 the quiz was won by the Somerset Over 35s team. The President has written to the referees to thank them for their contribution to the success of the event. It will be run again during the coming winter and Executive members were encouraged to arrange for a team to be entered from their club to ensure the event receives greater support.

Discharged

- 3.3 para 3.6 the policy document has been circulated to the Executive

Discharged

- 3.4 para 5.1 Fosseway have now paid their affiliation fees.

Discharged

- 3.5 para 5.2 AP 3/3/09 the last invoice received from Adrian Bishop was dated 23 March. The golf balls, Spanish trip and several coaching sessions have been paid.

Discharged

- 3.6 para 9.2 AP 7/3/09 The C&D committee will await contact from EGU before doing any further work on a bid for funding. The Coaching framework is in place as a basis of working up a proposal

Discharged

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4. SECRETARY/CORRESPONDENCE (Alan King)

- 4.1 The arrangements relating to Terry Linden, 'Sportraits' being the official SGU Photographer have been finalised with the 'Memorandum of Understanding' having been signed and a letter of authority issued to him.

Information

- 4.2. There has been no progress to date on the Fullers sponsorship issue despite requests for a meeting. Lynne Fraser at EGU has been requested to establish contact.

Information

- 4.3 The Annual Dinner has been booked for 12 November at the Holiday Inn, Taunton. Cadbury were unable to accommodate us on the date. The possibility of changing the day to a Friday for future years was discussed and it was agreed that John, Stephen and Alan would consider the issue and report to the next meeting.

Action Alan, Stephen, John AP 1/5/09

- 4.4. First Aid training was completed over two evenings and certificates were handed out at the meeting.

Information

- 4.5 Meetings have been held to plan the Tillman Trophy and the SWCGA Under 16/Under 14 competitions which are being held at Burnham & Berrow and Taunton Vale respectively.

Information

- 4.6 The Centralised Database of Handicaps (CHD) is progressing with Handicap Master now tested. The testing of Club Systems is currently taking place but it is not anticipated that clubs will be fully loaded onto the database before the end of June. It is recommended therefore that we, and clubs, continue to feedback away scores in the traditional way until advised. EGU will be issuing an update to all clubs shortly.

Information

- 4.7 A proposal concerning the courtesy arrangements for members of clubs hosting certain SGU events had been drawn up with the help of 3 club managers. This has now been circulated to clubs and 10 have signed up to date, none have declined. A reminder will be sent shortly to those clubs who have not responded.

Action Alan AP 2/5/09

- 4.8 A letter from Peter Cossins was read to the meeting. The Secretary was asked to reply

Action Alan AP 3/5/09

- 4.9 The arrangements in respect of players depositing vouchers with us for later offsetting against allowable expenses were debated. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would design and publish a process to be followed. This would only apply to players in the squad.

Action Finance committee AP 4/5/09

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TREASURER'S REPORT (Derek Hanson)

5.1 The financial position is on track and going to budget. Some reallocations have been carried out to ensure expenditure has been allocated to the correct heading. All subscriptions have been received from clubs and the EGU levy has been paid. The Junior Coaching budget is currently underspent but there will be some expenditure in September and October.

Information

6. CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Steve Haines)

6.1 Review of activities:-

Match Reports. The first Channel & Wessex League matches were held on the 19th April away to Gwent. Unfortunately, hampered by some absences to the first team and the knock on effect to the 2nd team, both teams were unsuccessful. The 1st team lost to an experienced Gwent side on a course where local knowledge certainly helps. I believe that individual matches were closer than the final result suggests.

The 2nd team contained a good core of players from the squad, but the lack of depth of players showed in the end result.

Squad update. A squad day was held at the Mendip on Sunday 29th March. This aided the assessment of player form for selection for the first matches of the season and gave us an opportunity for foursomes practice. Some new foursomes pairings have been tried and results of these pairings from the County Scratch Foursomes are now looking promising.

Information

6.2 South West Week Update

So far, 10 players have visited Broadstone for a mid week practice primarily aimed at course familiarisation. 16 players have been shortlisted for SWW and the squad practice on Sunday 10th May. Shortlisted players are:

Alex Kippen	Craig Adams	Cutis Edwards	Jeremy Larcombe
Matt Kippen	Phil White	Stu Ponfield	Max Brittan
Matt Lea	David Gregory	Ellis Cook	Craig Cook
Justin Lane	Laurie Canter	Charlie Cossins	Matt Parham

Laurie Canter will be absent from this practice due to another tournament commitment.

The County Coach has not been invited to SWW for the week, but has been told we would be delighted to see him there and that we would be willing to cover travel costs for any visits during the week.

All other preparations for the week are on track.

Information

6.3 Andy March at Brean Golf Club has provided costs for county kit. Executive members requiring kit will need to confirm requirements.

Information

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- 6.4 A debate was held on the Youth Development program. The response from some of the players invited to take part had been disappointing. It was agreed that the Captain would speak with one of the players who had missed a specially arranged and worthwhile session.

Action Steve AP 5/5/09

7. COUNTY JUNIOR ORGANISER (Derek Hughes)

- 7.1 No report was available but the CJO had advised that all relevant information on recent events had been posted on the website.

Information

8. COMPETITIONS SECRETARY (Dennis Longden)

- 8.1 The Under 14 Championship was held at Long Sutton where everything went smoothly until the last two combatants, Ben Davis and Josh Knight, tied on gross 76. Unfortunately the committee decided the winner with a card count back and awarded it to Josh Knight. Later examining the conditions of the competition it was noted that the winner should have been decided with a play off on the day over such holes determined by the committee. I have notified Ben Davis and advised him that I will speak to both players at the Junior Championship on Sunday with my decision. Essentially I have decided to engrave both names on the trophy as tied winners, present Ben with an identical silver medal showing winner 2009 and increase his voucher amount by £10 to make his prize comparable with that won by Josh.

Information

- 8.2 The Foursomes Championship was held at Burnham & Berrow on the 3rd May with the winners being Alex Kippen and Matt Lea. Once again we had an incident that required correcting after the competition had been closed. The last two pairs in had not exchanged cards and therefore their scores had been incorrectly recorded on the wrong card. The committee took advice and disqualified both pairs awarding third best gross to Larcombe & Cook. Subsequently it was pointed out that on page 109 of the Decisions Book, decision number 6-6d/4, the mistake was an administrative error and should have been corrected by the committee. On reinstating their scores White & Kippen would have won the third best gross prize. Once again I have decided to issue vouchers for £40 each to White & Kippen without asking for Larcombe & Cook to return their vouchers.

Information

- 8.3 This Sunday is the Junior Championship at The Mendip with a field of 57 players. The committee is determined that this competition will not provide any unfortunate mistakes.

Information

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- 8.4 As at 8:30 am this morning we were still outstanding two Somerset Bowl results, Bath v Mendip Spring and T&P v Oake Manor. The Seniors Bowl first round is complete and, mainly thanks to a newly trained Elizabeth, the results on the web site are posted the same day they are received.

Information

9. COACHING & DEVELOPMENT (Adrian Deakins)

9.1 Winter Program Review

Men – Comprehensive review carried out where discussions focused on the formal squad meetings, the informal squad meetings, the voucher system, Spain and the SWW preparations. A positive program put together by SH/JA, with areas that could be developed going forward & which would form part of the expected strategy review that will be carried out at our next meeting in May. The areas in question read: Voucher System, Player Ownership, Fixtures/Calendar, Player Profiles/Feedback and National Events.

Youths – with this being the 1st year that this has been run everyone has been interested in its development. There have been disappointments with 2 players falling out of the program. Equally the remaining 5 have got significant benefit from G Brand Jnr. The results of which we will see through the season & will be reviewed with the players in August 2009.

Juniors – the formulae that DH has developed over the years has worked well again. The real issue being the depth and quality of the players that we have. U18's are not as strong as previous years but the time and investment of the coaches in the U14 and U16 levels are seeing encouraging signs for the future.

Information

- 9.2 C & D Budget – for 2010 and with the Finance Committees blessing we would like to develop the budgetary model. Assuming there is approval at the Exec then SH & DH will develop specific codes such that the accounting process is a lot easier & that items are accounted for more accurately.

Information

- 9.3 South West Week 2009 – plans are well underway. Key topics to date read:
A SWW Costings Model has been developed, where all aspects listed will deliver to the £9k budget.
Presidents Dinner – DL is speaking with the Club to confirm details for the 2009 dinner.
Foursomes Pairings – developed & proposed pairings have been entered this year by the Captain/Vice Captain for the County Foursomes Championship.

Information

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10 SOMERSET COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP (Alan King)

10.1 Activity is continuing at clubs to help them move forward with GolfMark accreditation. Several clubs are holding Taster Sessions/Open days and we are helping them with a pack of promotional material.

Information

10.2. We are still waiting to hear from EGU/ EWGA Development Department on the decision in respect of central funding for County Development Officers. I am advised by Jamie Woodford, the Regional Development Officer that he has been advised that there will be an announcement on 5 May (the date of our meeting) so I may be able to report further at the meeting. There are some issues raised if the post is funded centrally, not least what are the precise reporting arrangements for the person, direct to EGU or still to the County Partnership?

Information

10.3. Club and Coach Fund activity is continuing at the 4 sites. Additional funding is likely to be available shortly which will enable us to not only expand the Coaching numbers but also to bring more PGA people into the scheme to help develop their skills. Again there are organisational and resource issues involved which Derek Hughes and I are conscious of and once we have a clear picture of the overall funding package for the Partnership and Club and Coach Fund we will be in a better position to move forward.

Information

11. MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP (Matt Lazenby)

11.1 Nothing specific to report at this stage. In view of his other commitments, Adrian Deakins was unable to continue on the committee. Graham volunteered to join in his place. A meeting of the group will be held before the next executive meeting

Action Matt AP 6/5/09

12. EGU REPRESENTATIVE (Dennis Longden)

12.1 The issue regarding VAT is being progressed with a test case involving Chipping Sodbury going to a tribunal in October.

Information

12.2 Dennis encouraged Executive members to go back to their club and promote the Business and Marketing Support Package which is being rolled out by EGU. It is virtually free and contains invaluable sessions from some high profile experts.

Information

13 PRESIDENT'S REMARKS (Dennis Longden)

13.1 Nothing to report

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14. EGU/EWGA MERGER.

A paper had been issued relating to the possibility of a merger between the two organisations. A wide ranging debate was held on the subject in order for the views of the Executive to be made clear so that the Voting member could accurately reflect those views at the EGU meeting on 1 July.

The overall view was that the merger would happen at some stage so the reality needed to be accepted. There are benefits to be gained from a streamlining of the administration with only one governing body and the probability that Sport England funding for Golf Development would not be jeopardised. However, concerns were expressed as to whether it would be forced onto Counties to follow suit and merge at their level and there is currently a lack of information on the detailed arrangements of how it would all work.

As for some specific questions, it was felt that a single HQ at Woodhall Spa would be preferable and that representation on committees, certainly in the early days, should be proportionate to the respective membership numbers. It was recognised that there is currently an imbalance between the affiliation fees paid by the Men and the Ladies and that over time this would need to move to parity.

The Voting Member, Dennis Longden, undertook to present the views expressed at the meeting.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Stephen and John are arranging a match between Cannington and the Executive. After checking diaries, it is hoped to organise this for 2 June with the Executive meeting to follow at Cannington

Action Stephen to advise

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.30pm

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 2 June 7.15pm

Venue to be advised

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

Approved

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Dennis Longden President