

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Held at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club
Tuesday 25 October 2011 at 7:15pm

PRESENT

S.Butterfield	President	N.Long	Chairman
J. Keight	Elected member	A.King	Secretary
B. Evans	Elected member	G.Gregg	Seniors Captain
K. Purdy	Vice/County Junior Organiser	C. Nicholls	Elected member
P. White	Captain	J. Parker	Treasurer
I. Pamplin	Vice President	T. Hoskings	Elected member

1. Welcome and apologies
The Chairman welcomed the members of the Executive committee. Apologies had been received from J. Cunning, M. Rossiter, G. Yates and D. Hughes.
2. Minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 11 were agreed.
3. Matters arising (not covered in later minutes)
 - 3.1 para 3.1 AP 1/2/10. A meeting to review the Policy Document had been held and significant progress made. In view of the length of the agenda, discussion of this item would be held over.
Action Nigel AP 1/2/10
 - 3.2 para 3.2 AP 1/8/11 The Secretary had passed the information on how to access the information to the Captain
Action Alan AP 1/8/11
 - 3.3 para 8.2 AP 4/8/11 In the absence of the County Junior Organiser on holiday, the Secretary had discussed the issue of Farrington becoming a Somerset Performance Centre. The details of the arrangement had been confirmed in writing with the club. The only outstanding issue is whether we wish to utilise the gym facilities and the Secretary was asked to continue negotiations with the club. It was not felt that the full package on offer was needed but something more tailored to our needs may be useful.
Action Alan AP 1/10/11
 - 3.4 para 11 AP 5/9/11 John Keight now has details of all the Championships and home 1st team games and will attempt to gain sponsorship for some of the events. It has been decided to accept the offer from Weston-super-Mare to host the Wyvern Trophy next year.
Discharged
4. EGU/EWGA Merger.
A seminar had been held on 22 September to which all clubs had been invited. The feedback from clubs had been positive and their view was that the County should vote in

favour. Some queries in the documentation were discussed by the committee but the view was that there was no need to go back to clubs for a formal mandate as the overwhelming opinion of clubs was in favour and the Voting Member would vote that way on 16 November.

Information

5. Aims and Objectives of the Union.

- 5.1 The Chairman read out the list of Objectives as stated in the Constitution. There was a general feeling amongst the committee that we perhaps needed to do more to support clubs and be visible and relevant to the members of clubs. One specific area of concern was the interpretation at clubs of some of the guidance on handicapping. The Secretary informed the committee that the software used for handicaps was strictly in accordance with the requirements of CONGU and the opportunity for clubs to go outside that were limited, particularly for Category 1 players. It was agreed that the Secretary would offer to visit all clubs to discuss their handicap issues, the Annual Review would be an opportune time.

Action Alan AP 2/10/11

- 5.2 The perception among the committee was that the average club member does not know what the County Union do. A leaflet describing our activities had been produced 3 years ago and had been widely circulated but it was felt this area was worthy of more attention. Suggestions included reissuing the leaflet, putting a detailed page on the website and asking clubs to put a link on their site to the SGU. It was agreed that Alan would produce a list of all the SGU activities and, together with Nigel, identify things that we can do to communicate better with members. This would then be discussed at the next meeting.

Action Alan/Nigel AP 3/10/11

6. Number of players in teams.

The numbers in the range of teams we support were discussed. It was agreed that in order to continue to provide opportunities for Juniors the numbers in their teams should not be changed. With the adults, there were some cost savings to be achieved if numbers were reduced but this was not pressing. It was agreed that we would reserve our position and not initiate any action.

Information

7. Seniors League/ Senior Scratch knockout

- 7.1 The suggestion to organise a Seniors League had arisen from comments made to the President at the final of the Seniors Bowl. However, there was little enthusiasm for the proposal from the club secretaries that had been canvassed and it was decided not to progress the issue.

The Competitions committee had considered at its recent meeting the issue of Seniors' competitions and had recommended that a Seniors singles scratch club knockout along similar lines as the Pickeridge Bowl should be initiated. The Seniors Captain supported this initiative as he felt it would help to identify players for the County team. The recommendation was supported.

Information

- 7.2 Graham advised the meeting that he had identified someone to take over from him as Captain of the County Seniors. The committee endorsed Geoff Ogden from Bath and agreed that he should be proposed at the AGM as Seniors Captain.

Information

8. Treasurer.

Three clubs affiliation fees are still outstanding. Contact had been made with each club and payment had been promised. The draft of the 2011/12 budget had been circulated and all the constituents stated that the proposed figures would meet their anticipated needs. It was probable that the Junior squad would not go to Spain in the spring but instead identify some practice weekends at venues in this country. The Treasurer proposed the budget which was seconded by Brian Evans and passed unanimously.

Information

9. Safeguarding

There were no outstanding safeguarding issues.

Information

10. SWCGA issues. Match versus Midlands Group.

- 10.1 Match v Midlands group

The continuation of this fixture would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the SWCGA Executive committee. The Captain and President recalled their experience of this year's match which had been played recently in Wiltshire. The changes to the selection arrangements to ensure each County was represented in the team had been a success with 9 of the original 10 selected appearing in the match. There had been a feeling among the players that the number of officials was perhaps excessive but that was a consequence of all Counties supporting their representative(s) in the team. The view taken was that providing the costs are controlled the County delegates should vote in favour of retention of the fixture.

Information

- 10.2 Revised method of assessing fee

A proposal will be discussed to change the basis on which the fee from counties to the SWCGA is assessed. Currently it is a flat rate, the same for each County. The change

would see the fee each County pays be based on the number of members in the region divided pro rata between the counties based on their individual membership numbers. This was felt to be a more appropriate method and was in line with the way fees to EGU are assessed. The delegates were mandated to vote for the change.

Information

11. Any other business

11.1 Annual Dinner. The arrangements are well advanced, Phil will advise the number of players attending as soon as possible. The Secretary will organise a pre-visit to the venue for himself, the Chairman and the President.

Information

11.2 Discussions had been taking place recently with representatives of the Somerset Junior League to try to support the organisation; it is currently suffering from a reduction in the number of participating clubs. It is apparent that there are opportunities for us to help and the Secretary has made some proposals to them concerning the use of our technology to help promote and support them. The Chairman felt that we needed to take an interest as we have a stake in the development of competitive golf for Juniors within the County. A replacement Secretary is required for the League and Alan was asked to establish the amount of time involved in fulfilling the task.

Action Alan 4/10/11

11.3 It was agreed that the Rules Quiz which had been run a couple of years ago would be resurrected.

Action Alan 5/10/11

11.4 The Secretary reported that Vivary Park GC is currently in negotiation with Taunton Deane Borough Council regarding charges being applied by the council that are having a detrimental effect on the membership numbers. The Secretary had written to the council supporting the Golf Club and had received an update on the negotiations which are continuing.

Information

11.5 A letter had been received from EGU Championship Department thanking the County for their support at the Brabazon Trophy.

Information

12. Presidents remarks

The President advised that he would be attending 5 dinners in the next 18 days. He had attended the Champion of Champions tournament at Woodhall Spa and congratulated Sam Day and Jamie Clare on their performance, both finished in the top 10 of their respective competitions, and the manner in which they had represented the County.

Somerset Golf Union

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm
NEXT MEETING Tuesday 6 December 7.15pm – Burnham & Berrow GC

Approved

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Chairman Nigel Long 6 December 11