

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Held at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club
Tuesday 12 April 2011 at 7:15pm

PRESENT

S.Butterfield	President	N.Long	Chairman
J.Parker	Treasurer	A.King	Secretary
P.White	Captain	G.Gregg	Seniors Captain
M.Rossiter	Elected member	G.Yates	Co-opted member
C.Nicholls	Elected member	B.Evans	Elected member
J.Cunning	Elected member	T.Hoskings	Elected member
K.Purdy	Vice-County Junior Organiser		

1. Welcome and apologies
The Chairman welcomed the members of the Executive committee. Apologies had been received from Ian Pamplin, John Keight and Brian Evans.
2. Minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 11 were agreed.
3. Matters arising (not covered in later minutes)
 - 3.1 para 3.3 AP 1/2/10. The draft revision of the Policy Document will be presented to the Executive committee prior to the next meeting
Action Nigel AP 1/2/10
 - 3.2 para 4 AP 1/2/11 The Secretary had written to Colin Edwards and Colin had replied.
Discharged
 - 3.3 para 10 AP 3/2/11 The number of volunteers for the Brabazon is now adequate and Alan will confirm the detailed roster nearer the date.
Discharged
 - 3.4 para 11 AP 4/2/11 The Players Diary booklet has been circulated.
Discharged
 - 3.5 para 12 AP 5/2/11 The Junior Four Counties booklet has been circulated
Discharged
 - 3.6 para 20 AP 7/2/11 The Secretary had agreed with the Burnham & Berrow Secretary a reduced entry fee for club members entering the West of England Seniors.
4. Captains report
The Chairman congratulated Phil on the team's winning start to the season against last year's champions. Phil reported that after being down 3-2 at lunch a fightback in the afternoon culminated in Max Brittan holing a long putt on the last to secure victory. Some promising performances came from Tom Small, who also had a hole in one, and from Jamie Clare. There had also been some good performances in the West of England and in the Duncan Putter.

The 2nd team had also won their 1st Wessex League match. Chris reported that the margin of victory would have been higher than the 8.5-6.5 but two matches had lost to birdies on the last hole having been all square on the tee. Sam Day and James Sinclair both scored maximum points and everyone in the team contributed at least half a point. Chris expressed some concern that the team had not stayed overnight and this had caused some problems with early travelling.

Information

5. South West week.

A further practice day has been organised for 24 May. Phil confirmed that he would like the Players Diary produced again this year. Arrangements are in hand and the Secretary will be making a pre-visit to Saunton to finalise the details.

Information

6. Future of County Golf.

A wide ranging discussion was held on the current arrangements and included how the players viewed the various events. It was very clear that everyone considered that South West week was special and should not be altered. However, the Channel League was not seen as an attractive event with no recognition for the players and the matches largely duplicated the SW week matchplay shield event. With so many national events that players were entering to obtain ranking points, weekends where League matches were scheduled were seen as an opportunity to rest as opposed to being an opportunity to play. Graham outlined some thinking at EGU which was examining the possibility of having an end of season tournament where the qualification for entry would be performances in County matches during the season. This is still at an embryonic stage. There was also a view that matchplay did not prepare the players for the rigours of the national strokeplay tournaments in the higher levels of the amateur game, or indeed if players move into the professional ranks.

The Chairman summarised the discussion and the Secretary was asked to write to the EGU Director of Coaching to convey our views. These can be listed as follows:-

- i) Channel League and Wessex League teams should be reduced from 10 to 8.
- ii) The format should be changed to qualifying strokeplay with matches being played between 3 teams therefore reducing the number of weekends and the number of venues required.
- iii) A recognition system to be introduced, this is easier to implement in a strokeplay format.

The possibility of reducing the numbers in the teams and moving to a strokeplay format could also be examined for the Junior and Senior Leagues.

Any changes would clearly need to be adopted by the other counties and the Secretary will write to the Counties concerned.

Action Alan AP 1/4/11

7. SWCGA Match v Midlands.

The Secretary had circulated a paper outlining the arguments in favour and against the retention of this fixture. The view was that the event was costly and the players did not support it. It is held at the end of the season and the players selected for the team at South West week are invariably not the team that finally plays. It was decided that the County would vote against the retention of the fixture when the issue is debated at the SWCGA AGM.

Information

8. Forthcoming events.

The various events over the next few weeks were identified and queries were resolved.

Information

9. Treasurer.

Affiliation fees are still awaited from two clubs The Treasurer is still in discussion with a third on the issue of an adjustment for previous overpayments. Because of the revised county card and affiliation fee collection arrangements, this year will be one of transition with year-end outturn of income difficult to predict precisely. It was important therefore that expenditure was controlled within budget. Grants to Avon Schools and Somerset Schools were approved. Some minor variations between the published figures and the original circulated budget will be resolved between John and Graham.

Action John /Graham AP 3/4/11.

10. Juniors.

Kevan reported on the recent trip to Spain for Warm weather training. The week had been very successful with all the boys working hard to improve their skills under the guidance of the County coach Adrian Bishop. The accommodation arrangements were much improved and he recognised the contribution that had been made by the people at the resort. Kevan went on to detail the scores for all the players and discussed their individual progress. 8 of the 9 boys who went to Spain will represent the County in the forthcoming Junior Four Counties tournament. Jamie Clare and Lewis Casserley have both gained entry to the McEvoy Trophy.

Information

11. Seniors.

The first fixture is against Devon and apart from one player the strongest team is available.

Information

Somerset Golf Union

12. Somerset Golf Partnership

There is currently a lot of activity in clubs as part of the South West golf week and free coaching and introductory sessions are being held for various groups. The outcomes will be analysed to formulate policy for the second week that will occur in July in the week after the Open Championship.

Nigel advised that he had met with the Chair of the Partnership to discuss the constitution and consider whether any revisions are necessary. Any changes will be advised to the Executive for approval.

A review of the County Academy will take place in the autumn and will be led by Derek Hughes. This will need to consider the way the academy will operate when direct funding from the partnership ceases in 2012.

Action Nigel 4/4/11

13. Correspondence.

All correspondence received had been circulated.

Information

14. President.

The President echoed the Chairman's congratulations to Phil on his appointment as Captain and presented him with his embroidered shirt and sweater.

Information

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 10 May 7.15pm – Burnham & Berrow GC

Approved

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Chairman Nigel Long 10 May 11