



WILTSHIRE COUNTY GOLF UNION

85th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8th December 2009 @ 7.00 pm

Marlborough Golf Club

Notes and Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Executive and Co-optees: M Nixon (President), D Walker (Treasurer), G Titt (Deputy President), A James (Captain), K Phillips (Vice Captain), D Wakley, B Daniel, A Northall, P Andrews, N Chapman, D Lewis (Secretary).

Council: Geoff Marsh (Highworth), Colin Beresford (Broome Manor), Paul Lye (Chippenham), Colin Withers (Cricklade), Ian Wood (Cumberwell), Clive Waldron (High Post), Chris Bell (Westbury), Roy Langridge (North Wilts), Danny Kaye (Ogbourne), Mark Sealey (Manor House), Ted Querzani (The Wiltshire), Gary Renshaw (Tidworth), Gordon Blagborough (Upavon), Don Spratt (West Wilts), Mike Inskip (Wrag Barn), David Smith (Kingsdown), Richard Pickles (Marlborough).

Other Attendees: D Bauer (Marlborough), D Hopkins (Upavon), G Buckland (Cricklade), W Pidgeon (West Wilts), Jeff Kearley (Highworth), Paul Stringer (Chippenham), Kevin Pickett (Ogbourne), Cliff Benson (Kingsdown),

Item 1. Apologies

Jim Thomas (Erlestoke), Peter Hickling (High Post), Geoff Morgan (West Wilts),

Item 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2008 and Matters Arising

There were two matters arising: the criteria for selection of coaching centres by the Golf Partnership, which is under review and a paper on the County Card which had been produced by Brian Daniel and which was the subject of proposal in the agenda.

The minutes were unanimously approved by the meeting and signed by the President.

Item 3. Reports

President:

The President congratulated the 1st Team on another outstanding season and thanked his Deputy, Geoff Titt, for his support with the 2009 programme. He announced the reformation of the 2nd Team in 2010 and introduced David Hopkins (Upavon) who will act as Captain of the team for the next two years.

The President urged delegates to support County events and noted that the Spring Meeting and Foursomes championship in particular were not well attended. He also urged clubs to support the Annual Dinner in March

Captain:

The Captain highlighted the continued success at both an individual level and team level resulting from the investment in Junior talent over many years. Four individuals, Miles Mackman (Broome Manor), Sam Matton (Bowood), Ben Loughrey (Wrag Barn) and Ben Stow (Rushmore) had been involved in England squads during the season.

As a team, new players had been tried in the Channel League as part of the squad development towards achieving our primary objectives at South West week and 24 players in total had represented the County, Wiltshire finishing fourth in the League.

At South West week, Wiltshire just failed to defend the matchplay title, finishing second but, for the third year running, won the strokeplay championship by 10 shots, Ben Loughrey finishing second and Miles Mackman third in the individual event.

As South West champions, Wiltshire then went to the English County finals for the third year and after beating Cumbria and Staffordshire on the first two days played Essex on a “winner takes all” final day. The contest went to the final hole of the final match which Essex won with a birdie to take the title but the Captain underlined the achievement of the second smallest English county in coming so close.

The Captain thanked everyone for their support and said it had been an honour to captain the County for the last two years.

Treasurer:

The Treasurer’s report highlighted the impact on our reserves of the continued success highlighted above, the loss of interest income, decline in County Card income and lower membership across the County.

He highlighted the introduction of Sage accounting and a new expenses policy to control expenditure in 2010 and forecast a break-even budget for the year.

There were no questions and the report was endorsed by Council.

Junior Golf and Golf Development:

David Wakley outlined the continuing investment in Junior talent and the creation of an elite squad who are receiving enhanced training, including psychology and bio-mechanics, with the objective of winning the South West Championship in 2010.

Individual Junior successes had included Ben Stow’s selection for the England squad and Jordan Smith’s winning his Faldo Series event to travel to the final in Brazil for the second year running. The Under 18 team had won the Channel League for the second year running, winning all of their matches.

EGU Report:

Adrian Northall underlined that the EGU operated at the direction of the counties and described the success of the Club Liaison meetings which had been attended by 50% of the country’s clubs. He also highlighted a number of areas of EGU activity, in particular, the imminent introduction of the Central Handicap Database, merger talks with EWGA and closed by adding that EGU staff are able to support on a wide range of issues and if help is required to contact him.

Item 4. County Card Scheme and proposal on Affiliation fees

The Treasurer outlined the need to secure an increase in affiliation fees to cover cost increases highlighted in his report and made the following proposal: “The overall subscription collected by WCGU will increase by £2.00 to include 50p increase payable to the English Golf Union. The County will issue a County Card to all Affiliated Members for no extra charge.”

Some debate on the county card scheme about benefits to clubs, preventing use for society visits, payment for cards and use by members with inactive handicaps took place before the proposal was seconded by Mike Inskip and was unanimously supported by the meeting.

Item 5. Election of Officers

1. **Council nominations for positions on the Executive:** There had been only two nominations for Council representatives for the two posts on the Executive and they

were therefore elected: Roy Langridge (North Wilts) for a single year and Mike Inskip (Wrag Barn) for a two year term. Secretary will liaise with the representatives about roles they might fulfil during their terms of office.

2. **Treasurer:** David Walker had performed the role during 2009 after Brian Daniel stepped down from the post. The meeting voted unanimously to appoint him to the role.
3. **Captain:** Ali James proposed his Vice Captain, Kevin Phillips (Broome Manor) as Captain for 2010-11 and the meeting unanimously supported his proposal.
4. **Vice Captain:** Kevin Phillips thanked the meeting for endorsing him and expressed his desire to continue the success of recent years before introducing David Bauer (Marlborough) as his proposed Vice Captain. The meeting once again unanimously supported the nomination.

Item 6. Fixtures Update

The Secretary thanked the clubs for their continuing support in scheduling fixtures which had been aided by the introduction of a rota of events for the coming years. All but a few dates were now in the diary which is updated regularly on the website.

Item 7. County Dinner

Peter Andrews announced the arrangements for the Annual Dinner at Salisbury and South Wilts on 5th March. Guest speaker would be Philip Parker from Devon, cost would be £30 per head with numbers budgeted at 140. Golf would be available at Salisbury on a “first come first served” basis prior to the dinner, for a nominal £5 contribution to the club charity. Participation in the dinner by all clubs was sought and posters would go out to clubs in the New Year.

Item 8. Any Other Business

David Hopkins asked for club representatives to request support from players within their clubs who might be candidates for the 2nd Team. A match was fixed between his home club and 2nd Team squad to serve as a trial in the early part of the season.

The President highlighted the outstanding service to golf performed by Brian Daniel over many years. Brian had served as President, Treasurer and South West Counties President, had represented the South West at EGU and was now chairing the Wiltshire Golf Partnership. The President presented Brian with a token of the County’s appreciation for “outstanding service to Wiltshire golf”.

Item 9. Dates and Venues of Meetings 2010

Annual Dinner: Friday 5th March, Salisbury and South Wilts
AGM: Tuesday 7th December, 7pm, Marlborough Golf Club

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

David Lewis, Secretary
11th December 2009

Signed.....President

Date.....