



WILTSHIRE COUNTY GOLF UNION

87th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
6th December 2011 @ 7.00 pm

Marlborough Golf Club

Notes and Minutes of Meeting

Present

Executive: G Titt (President), M Nixon (Immediate Past President), D Walker (Treasurer), K Phillips (Captain), D Bauer (Vice Captain), A Northall (EGU Representative), R Law (Junior Organiser), P Andrews, N Chapman, Mike Inskip, Roy Langridge, D Lewis (Secretary).

Council and Other Attendees: Steve Kelley (Kingsdown), Phil Hodges (Kingsdown), Colin Beresford (Broome Manor), Clive Waldron (High Post), Peter Bicknell (High Post), Paul Scrivener (Chippenham), David Langley-Hobbs (Woodbridge), Matt Lewis (Woodbridge), Paul McLean (Bowood), Ian Wood (Cumberwell), Ted Querzani (The Wiltshire), Mark Davies (The Wiltshire), Gordon Blagborough (Upavon), Eddie McConnell (Ogbourne Downs), Keith Burke (Ogbourne Downs), Barrie Reardon-Smith (Marlborough), Les Trute (Marlborough), Geoff Morgan (West Wilts), Jack Nicholas (Whitley), Peter Cannon (South Cerney), Mark Sealey (Manor House), Brian Daniel (Golf Partnership).

1. **Apologies:** Colin Withers (Cricklade), Geoff Marsh (Highworth), Jim Thomas (Erlestoke), Paul Lye (Chippenham), David Hopkins (Wessex League Captain), Jerry Gegg (Seniors Captain), Chris Bell (Westbury), Gary Renshaw (Tidworth),
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 7th December 2010:** The minutes were approved and signed by the President, there were no matters arising.

3. Reports

- a. **President:** The President paid tribute to the performance of the Captain and his team in winning a clean sweep of trophies at South West Week and in becoming English County Champions for the first time in our history. He also pointed to the recognition achieved by Wiltshire with four players having been selected for England squads. He congratulated both individuals and teams for their successes in County competitions and highlighted the successful introduction of the Charity event which raised £3,000 for On Course Foundation. He also announced the introduction of a Divisional Championship in 2012 open to all Wiltshire golfers. The County was grateful for the support of a new sponsor, Norman Basson, of Premier Training, who would assist the County in 2012 and in closing the President thanked the Executive for their hard work and in particular the retiring Captain, Kevin Phillips, the Immediate Past President, Malcolm Nixon and the outgoing Council representative, Mike Inskip for their contributions to the County.
- b. **Treasurer:** A report and audited accounts were circulated showing the County had achieved a small surplus in 2011, despite the additional costs of the County Finals success, and an improvement on 2010 by approximately £15,000. He praised the tight control of individual budgets and restraint on spending which had achieved such a positive result. The decline of 250 members in the year will be offset by the application by South Cerney GC to join Wiltshire with

overall member numbers slightly up in 2012 as a consequence. The Treasurer sought approval for a modest increase in affiliation fees for 2012 of £0.33. This was proposed by Malcolm Nixon, seconded by Ian Wood and carried unanimously.

- c. **Captain:** the Captain thanked the Executive for the support he had received during his term of office and described the achievements of the year as the highlight of his career of playing for the County over the past 20 years. He particularly thanked his Vice Captain for his help and support and wished him well for his own tenure.
- d. **Junior Organiser:** a year of change was described with the introduction of the Order of Merit as a basis for selecting the U16 and U18 playing squads and the introduction of a voucher system to support personal coaching. The highlight of the year had been Ben Amor (Marlborough) becoming South West U16 champion and the U14 team had been unbeaten in the season. However the U16 and U18 squads had won only a single match and the programme for County education of these squads was under review with the County coaches. Questions were raised by Keith Burke, Paul Scrivener and Paul McLean about the lack of visibility and consultation before proposed changes and the Executive committed to working closely with club Junior Organisers in 2012 and enhancing communications.
- e. **EGU:** Adrian Northall reported on the vote to increase EGU affiliation fees (opposed by Wiltshire) by £1 in each of 2012 and 2013. He also covered the outcome of the merger vote approved by the National governing bodies and announced that the Union would in turn investigate the scope for merger at a County level with the Ladies Association. The Members Benefit Package was described and clubs were encouraged to help increase participation by members. Finally, the changes in rules and amateur status were described which would commence from January 2012 and which would allow National bodies to form contracts with amateur players.

4. **Club affiliation:** The President asked the meeting to support South Cerney's application to join the Wiltshire Golf Union and this was proposed by Roy Langridge, seconded by Malcolm Nixon and carried unanimously. The President welcomed South Cerney to the Union and Peter Cannon was present from the Club and thanked the Council for their welcome.

5. **Election of Officers and Executive:** The President introduced each of the candidates seeking election to positions on the County Executive.
- a. Barrie Reardon-Smith (Marlborough), proposed by Mike Inskip and seconded by Gordon Blagborough and carried unanimously, was elected for a one year term as Deputy President of the WCGU
 - b. The current Vice Captain, David Bauer (Marlborough) was elected to serve a two year term as County Captain and Peter Bicknell (High Post) was endorsed for a two year term as Vice Captain of the WCGU. These appointments were proposed by Ted Querzani and seconded by Roy Langridge and carried unanimously. Peter Bicknell was introduced to the meeting as a winner of the County Championship in three successive years and as a multiple selection for South West representation. He thanked the Union for the opportunity to give something back to the County that he considered had given him so much in his playing career.

- c. Geoff Morgan (West Wilts) was elected as the Council representative on the WCGU Executive for a two year term, proposed by the President, seconded by Barrie Reardon-Smith and carried unanimously.
 - d. Richard Law (Broome Manor) was endorsed as Junior Organiser for a two year term having been proposed by Colin Beresford, seconded by Ian Wood and carried unanimously.
 - e. David Hopkins (Upavon) who had volunteered to act as Captain of the Wessex League team for a further two year term was elected in his absence having been proposed by Malcolm Nixon, seconded by Gordon Blagborough and carried unanimously.
6. **Fixtures - Update 2012:** the Secretary had posted the fixture list to the website but particularly asked for help in launching the Divisional Championship (on 27th May at Kingsdown).
7. **County Dinner:** It was reported that David Howell had agreed to be the guest speaker at the County Dinner on Friday 2nd March at Wrag Barn GC. Information and booking forms would be sent early in the New Year.
8. **Any Other Business:** Keith Burke asked for consideration of the format of the Junior Team Shield to mirror the EGU Final format and for additional financial support for the qualifying club. The Secretary reported that the decision to match EGU format had already been taken by the Competitions Committee but that additional support for club costs would have to be considered by the Finance Committee. The implications though were far reaching with the County sending two teams and three individuals to various EGU Finals.
- 9. Dates and Venues of Meetings 2012**
- a. Annual Dinner: Friday 2nd March, Wrag Barn GC
 - b. Council: 28th June, venue tba
 - c. AGM: Tuesday 4th December, venue tba

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

David Lewis, Secretary
6th December 2011

Signed.....President

Date.....