

LINCOLNSHIRE UNION OF GOLF CLUBS

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on the 4th September 2013 at the Petwood Hotel, commencing at 18.15hrs

PRESENT:

D.J Brotherton (President- in the chair), T Ireland (Immediate Past President) H.Harrison (Hon Sec), A. Hurst (Hon Treasurer), C.Lloyd (Comps Sec), D.F.Price (Voting Member) , P.Morrison (County Captain), PJ Rogers (Junior Organiser), J.Hodge, R.Kedzlie (Asst Junior Organisers), G.Pearce (Match Sec), T.Haggerty (Schools Representative)

Club Representatives:

D.Culyer, L.Toyne, S.Forth, J.Smith, R.Boot, K.Onyon, T.Moody, P.Martin, D.Carter, D.Manson, D.Andrews, A.Drennan

(1) APOLOGIES:

J.Halmshaw, JTR. Price, S. Graves, J.Lammin, R.Burnnell, R.Newns, G.Kirk, S. Farren, R.Reid, J.Barley, D.Jackson. A. Thompson, S.Dickson, S.Bennett

(2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 1st May 2013

Agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Chris Lloyd and seconded by David Culyer. Agreed unanimously.

(3) MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising that were not agenda items.

(4) ENGLAND GOLF REPORT (DF PRICE)

As usual my report will attempt to incorporate relevant matters from the various meetings of England Golf. The LUGC has been represented at all relevant meetings. The new CEO of England Golf David Joy is now in place and is leading on a review of the **Strategic Plan** for EG. This plan is wider in its scope than the existing Whole Sport Plan and will extend to 2020. The review will

- Present a clear vision to 2020
- Articulate key ambitions and goals for the next 3 years
- Present action plans
- Include PIs
- Identify how interested organizations can best work together

A consultation process has been devised and this has commenced. The first phase was completed end August and clubs /unions have been given an opportunity to comment. A first draft plan will be discussed and reviewed via an online survey as well as via workshops in Sept. /October.

A second draft plan will result and will similarly be consulted on November to January 14 and considered at the November voting members meeting.

Final Draft for approval at Feb 2014 voting Members meeting and implementation from April 2014 onwards.

Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey will be repeated every January will be sent to Unions, voting members, Club managers etc. intended to build feedback into action plans.

Disclosure and Barring ...likely to mean a single certificate for individuals. EG are considering the government review and will advise clubs accordingly.

Staffing changes Various changes were outlined at E Golf

Budgets... finance director confident budgets for England Golf will be achieved. However, Woodhall Spa Ltd has some challenges to budget achievement due to exceptionally poor weather at start of the year, some changes have been made and with better weather it is hoped that the budget will be achieved.... We will have to wait and see.

Affiliation Fees ...general decline in numbers continues with Men – 2.6% and women –1.0% . Of concern is that there is anecdotal evidence that junior numbers may have declined to a greater extent. Something for all Lincs clubs to be aware of.

Vat E Golf and Scottish Golf met HMRC in June and seeking confirmation of 2000 concession that allows exemption for all clubs regardless of constitutional make up. E Golf will keep clubs and unions informed of developments and also any proposed changes to collection process e.g. real time collection.

CASC status HMRC possibly looking to tighten up and may impact on 500+ clubs if deregistration occurs. Again E Golf will keep clubs informed and are arguing the case.

Junior Player Pathway ... Agreed at last meeting to enable funds for under 14 development....£175K , this equates to approx £4.500 back to LUGC and Ladies. There is a bidding process for this and is funded from special projects fund. Is intended to for 12 month period only but is likely to be extended. Junior player pathway in Lincolnshire is already well established and E Golf idea is to make arrangements across England more consistent as some counties not so well set up. Will need close collaboration with Ladies and Lincs PGA.

Supporting the Golf Foundation ... Agreed at last meeting as a one off trial to support golf foundation with £150k for 12 months only after which it will be reviewed and is subject to conditions and a service level agreement. Again funded via special projects fund.

Disciplinary Procedure.... This is being reviewed to take into account the merger with the ladies and the current infrastructure within golf.

(5) M. G. U. REPORT (H. HARRISON)

The counties had agreed that it was desirable to have commonality of match dates between the Anglian League and the Midland League. Further discussions will take place later in the year.

The senior's league remained a "work in progress" with no firm proposals as yet from the senior delegates. There seems to be some confusion as what form the league will take and the impact it will have on current fixtures, particularly those with Norfolk and Suffolk.

Dates and venues for 2014 fixtures have been confirmed.

(6) COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT (P. MORRISON):

We have reached the end of what has been a disappointing and frustrating season.

Anglian League

Following the 1st team's defeat at Hunstanton on Sunday last, we have gone from Champions in 2012 to Wooden Spoon in 2013. We amassed a total of 3 points from the 5 games with 1 win, 1 draw and 3 losses (all on the road). Trying to pick a competitive 1st team this season has been almost impossible. Only one player has made all 5 matches and we have only had one foursomes pairing that remained the same for 4 out of the 5 matches. It was mentioned to me at the Northants match that Lincolnshire are the team that everyone else aspires to be. Unfortunately, other teams in the Anglian League have achieved that aspiration and possibly are leaving us behind. On a brighter note, I can report that the 2nd team won their last match to finish third in their league, recording 3 wins and 2 losses. Steve has done a great job with the limited resources available to him.

Eastern Inter County Foursomes

We arrived at Seacroft looking for our fifth straight win and following a couple of late changes, we had probably the strongest team there on paper, all 10 players with plus handicaps. An unusually poor start on Saturday morning left us propping up the table but a slight improvement Saturday afternoon moved us off the bottom. Sunday morning saw further movement up the table but with a lot to do to overhaul Cambs. In the afternoon we missed out on a maximum 10 by half a point, our last match losing out on the last hole. We finished runners up by only 3 points.

Six-man Qualifier

I entered this year's event with some optimism as we had as near to the best side as possible with our highest handicap being +2 and again a very strong team on paper compared to the other counties. However, with some disappointing scoring from quality players and none of the team breaking par, we finished 17 shots behind the winners Leicestershire on 43 over par. On the day, only 2 players in the field broke par.

As you may know, Nathan Kimsey is currently in the US for the Walker Cup, a great achievement and fitting reward for the excellent results Nathan has had over the last couple of seasons. Our other 'superstar' Ashton Turner captained the GB&I team to victory over Europe in the Jacques Leglise Trophy last week at Royal St David's another great achievement at the end of a very good season for Ashton and he will no doubt feature heavily in the Men's events next season when he steps up.

I mentioned earlier that other teams in the Anglian League aspired to be as successful as Lincolnshire and whilst this may have been the case in the past, sadly I feel that we are no longer the force to be reckoned with. Success tends to come and go in cycles, though my concern is that we seem to have a diminishing pool of players with very little coming through from the Junior ranks. I feel that we need to re-address the priorities of players with regard to representing their County and to attach some pride to doing so. A classic example occurred this season where players from two sides in the South League opted to play a club match against each other on the Saturday afternoon rather than turn up for a practice round in a County match. Most of

the players seem to lack a competitive edge in matches, with too much focus on their score against the course rather than the opponent. Soapbox moment over. Since taking over as 2nd team Captain in 2002, I have been involved with the County teams for 12 seasons now and despite my earlier ramblings, it has been a great experience and I have many fond memories. The highs have certainly outweighed the lows and I have been privileged to witness the emergence of some very talented golfers. I have also been fortunate to have the backing of a really great team from the 'Saga Green Jackets' who have given me the ability to focus on leading the Team and I am sure that Steve will enjoy the same benefits when he takes over next season.

President David thanked Paul on behalf of the LUGC for all his time and devotion over the past 12yrs.

(7) COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT (C. LLOYD):

It is pleasing to be able to report that there has been overall a slight increase in numbers entering County competitions this year.

The Mid Amateur Championship was held at Sleaford with 39 entrants, almost double 2012. It was a closely fought affair with Steve Dixon of Forest Pines prevailing after a play-off from Richard Latham of Woodhall Spa.

The Seniors Championship was held at Boston West attracted a field of 41 and was won by debutant Richard Latham of Woodhall Spa, a springboard for further success.

The Amateur Championship was held at Belton Park with a maximum entry of 60 and after a play off Simon Richardson of Spalding took the trophy from last year's winner James Burnett of Sleaford.

Twenty one clubs entered the Henry Lunn Shield at Grimsby and a new name was added to the trophy with Mark Lonergan, Dane Duffin and Michael Cook representing Normanby Hall taking the honours. Phil Jackson of Kenwick Park won the R & A Trophy for the best individual score.

The one major disappointment this season has been the fact that we had to cancel the Lincolnshire Poacher due to lack of entries of which there were only 23 and of these only 5 were from within the county.

Twenty one Captains enjoyed the hospitality of the Union on Presidents Day at Woodhall Spa. With the new format of betterball stableford the pairing of Steen Catlow of Sutton Bridge and Dave Culyer came out on top. Sam Whitaker of Blankney won the matchplay title from Sam Done of Kenwick Park and Rob Mackay of Waltham Windmill won the Presidents Trophy with William Walker of Woodhall Spa winning the U18 Salver.

The Elsham and Bramley finals were held last month. Spalding won the Elsham defeating Sleaford but lost to Cleethorpes in the Bramley in a very tight affair. As I said in my report last September we would be looking again at the format for the Bramley final. For the past 3 years we have had the two finalists playing over 36 holes with no semi-finals on the day – the 36 hole format will continue but for next year's competition there will be 3 finalists competing on finals day in the same way as the Eastern Inter-County foursomes is played.

Four competitions remain this season – the Open at Woodhall tomorrow which has a maximum field of 66, the HTB at Market Rasen on Sunday has attracted 23 entries, the highest since 2004. Whether this is due to moving the

competition date from July to September only time will tell. The Rita Hurst Salver on 22 September is being played at Sudbrook Moor for the first time and the final competition, the Jubilee Challenge, will be held at Blankney on 13 October.

A discussion ensued about the potential new format for the Bramley trophy and it was agreed that Chris would meet with Les Toyne to look at the matter in more detail

(8) JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT (P.ROGERS):

Peter thanked all the officers, officials and friends who have helped him with keeping junior golf on the right path this year at a time when numbers are declining and costs still rise. Particular thanks to John Hodge, John Barley, Rob Kedzlie and Steve Bennett.

Steve Cooper, Steve Bennett, Paul Spence, Nick Hiom and Tim Hutton have provided a continuous coaching service throughout the year and we are most grateful.

Jordan Wrisdale and Billy Spooner (Boston GC) represented England at home and abroad and deserve our congratulations. Special mention must be made of Ashton Turner (Kenwick Park GC) who has been a permanent member of the England Squad playing in Australia, Arizona and Europe. He played in the Boys Home internationals and Captained the GB & Ireland team in the Jacques L'Eglise trophy at Royal St David's.

Peter worked through the years Competitions winners.

Whilst the season has produced some outstanding individual results the match results in inter county games have been disappointing. The numbers of Junior Boys under 18 handicap registering for county Competitions has declined markedly and Girls have all but disappeared.

Peter and Trevor Ireland ran a shortened Little Imps tour in the absence of Joan Would and plan to offer five competitions in 2014.

Publicity at Club level varies from excellent to non-existent- nine clubs have no junior organiser at all and at the last count eight junior opens have been cancelled for lack of entries.

(9) REPORT OF LEAGUE CHAIRMAN

The report from Jim Lammin had been previously circulated by the secretary and there were no questions raised.

Belton Park GC won both the Scratch league and Handicap league in the South.

In the North Cleethorpes Gc won the Scratch league with Laceby Manor GC taking the Handicap league.

The junior final will be contested by Spalding GC and the winners of the North finals which are being played on the 14th September.

Junior League finals day is at Holme Hall GC on Sunday 29th September whilst the League Scratch/Handicap finals are at Elsham GC on Sunday 6th October.

(10) REPORT OF THE HON TREASURER (A.HURST

Alistair gave an overview of our current financial situation and said we should be in a position to make a surplus this year.

England Golf affiliation fee to remain at £7.25 for 2014.

(11)GOLF PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Jims report had been previously circulated and there were no questions raised.

11 Golf Centres now in place with 7 fully active, they have driven 495 participants from April. All centres have Get into Golf leaflets with a Golf Beginner Coaching Course £25 for 4 week group coaching.

19 activities have so far taken place; these include Events 10 / Workplaces 2. / Golf Clubs Offer 4 / University 1 / Colleges 2

In total Participant Monitoring shows a total of 1,214
male 853 / female 361

Age 14 – 19 = 223

Age 35 – 44 = 169

Age 16 – 65+ = 574

Marketing Products, wristbands, key ring loops and zip drives have been given to participants.

A disability project with Linkage Community Trust has been taking place during April, May and June with guidance at Toynton All Saints College and then moving on to Woodthorpe Hall driving range.

Boston College have run a student Get into golf project during April, May and June starting at the college and then moving on to Boston West Golf Academy.

Lincolnshire Cooperative Distribution Unit Taster Day

WEB SITE REPORT

The Get into golf website has recently undergone developments with formatted activity pages now available for CGPs to input activity details onto. To accompany the new website an updated Get into golf website template form reflecting the new website fields which can be sent to clubs who want to put their information/ events onto the Get into golf website.

(12) PAC RECOMMENDATIONS:

That our affiliation fee for 2014 remains at £6.50.

Proposed by P.Morrison and Seconded by DF Price. Agreed unanimously.

(13)AOB:

Trevor Ireland asked whether the MGU had looked at the question of standardising the county card, Hon Sec reported it was to be discussed at the November meeting.

Les Toyne raised the question of fixture congestion at all levels and not just the county. It was agreed that we all must do what we can to resolve this perpetual problem

(14) The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th December at the Petwood hotel commencing at 18.15hrs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.17hrs