

LINCOLNSHIRE UNION OF GOLF CLUBS

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on the
2nd September 2015 at the Petwood Hotel, commencing at 18.15hrs

PRESENT:

J.Lammin (President- in the chair), L.Toyne (President Elect), D.Brotherton (Immediate Past President), T.Ireland (Past President), P. Rogers (Past President), H.Harrison (Hon Sec), C.Lloyd (Hon Treasurer), J.Flindall (Vice Capt), D.Price (Voting Member), K.Farrow (Lge Chairman), K.Moody (Junior Organiser), J.Hodge, J.Barley, R.Kedzlie, (Asst Junior Organiser).G. Pearce (Hon Match Sec), T.Haggerty (Schools Rep)

Club Representatives:

D.Culyer, S.Morley, S.Dickson, D.Leonard, J.P.Smith.

(1) APOLOGIES:

J.Halmshaw, JTRPrice, S.Brattan, N.Harris, A.Drennan, P.Davis, H.Castell, R.Wardhaugh, D.Jackson, K.Onyon, N.Over, R.Newns, P.Guthrie, A.Thompson, P.Martin and S.Catlow.

(2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 6th May 2015

Proposed by P.Rogers and seconded by K.Farrow that they were a true record. Agreed.

(3) MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising that were not agenda items.

(4) ENGLAND GOLF REPORT: (D.Price):

“Mr President as usual the interests of Lincolnshire have been fully represented at England level. The strategy review and consultation has dominated recent events and this report will commence with these.”

15 proposals relating to governance and affiliation were recently discussed by the PAC and a decision on our approach to each adopted. This was a thorough process and fully explored the proposals. An indicative vote of counties responses was taken on these proposals at the voting member's forum the day before the last EG Executive meeting. The intention of this was to sound out the feelings of the counties and consider any proposed amendments prior to a formal vote on these at the December meeting of EG. (I hope to have the consolidated report of how counties voted before the next exec meeting so we can circulate?) There was considerable discussion and several issues were raised.

It is fair to say that several of the proposals did not find overwhelming support from those voting and so I anticipate some more revisions before further consideration. It is likely that amended proposals will be put to the counties at various regional meetings to be held in October. A final decision by the voting members is currently scheduled for December 2015.

Other matters

- EG mileage rate reducing to 35 per mile from 1st October

- Property leases now agreed with Property Company and signed after protracted negotiations.
- John Williams to be president elect for 2016
- Active people survey and county returns give cautious optimism that the decline in members is flattening out
- Some progress towards World Wide Handicapping system with possible adoption date for early adopters of 2018
- Digital strategy now being funded by EG from core budget rather than from special projects budget after rejection at recent meeting
- Budgets for next 2-3 years look achievable as long as projections on membership are maintained
- Woodhall Spa Golf Management 2005 Ltd on budget and performing well
- Charlie Hull and Justin Rose appointed as ambassadors for EG
- Commercial strategy is progressing and hope is to develop additional income streams
- On course foundation ...developing links to assist injured service men and women to better engage with the game
- LGU and R&A merger talks are progressing
- CASC guidance issued to clubs by HMRC and 6 workshops carried out across England. Decisions required by clubs by march 31 2016 on whether they comply or want to withdraw
- KPMG have met with HMRC on unjust enrichment claim limit of 50% ...negotiations on going
- Meetings taking place with HMRC and UKGCOA ref possible lower i.e. 5% VAT rate
- EG have put in place a comprehensive system for safeguarding and ask if counties want to adopt. At 30 June 169,000 members are signed up to handicap and benefits programme

Property Company

A revaluation of assets has taken place and now reflects the fact that tenants are in situ for up to 90 years

A health and safety consultant David Price of Safety guidance Ltd has been appointed to assist the board with meeting legal obligations.

A recent merger of ladies and gents into a new company in Northamptonshire has raise some concerns as the new company does not meet the terms of the Property Company incorporation and technically could mean their share of property assets being dispersed to the other counties! Further concerns have been raised by the board that mergers or similar between Unions and Ladies County Associations could weaken the separation between the property company and England Golf which is maintained to protect assets from claims. **A view for each county is requested asap to inform discussions with legal advisors.**

Les Toyne sought some clarification regarding aspects of the Northants merger and the implications for future potential county mergers. **David** and **Hon Sec** will seek clarification and feed back.

(5) M. G. U. REPORT (H. Harrison):

Roger Barker (Past President and Treasurer of L & R) has agreed to become the treasurer to the MGU as Terry Leece is retiring at the AGM in October. David Price has been asked and agreed to become the new Chairman of the MGU and this again will be ratified at the AGM of the MGU.

(6) COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Hon Sec reported that the county first team:
Had retained their Eastern Counties Title.
Are one match away from winning the Anglian League.
Had reached the County Finals for the first time in ten years.
The Captain in his own words "is getting very nervous"

(7) COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Neil's report read as follows:

The season is now heading towards a close with only 4 events remaining.

The Roll of Honour for the completed competitions is as follows:

Eastern Inter-County Foursomes – Lincolnshire

Seniors Championship – Graham Stott (Woodhall Spa)

Amateur Championship – Billy Spooner (Woodhall Spa)

Amateur Match Play final – Rob MacKay (Waltham Windmill)

Sir Henry Lunn Shield – Kenwick Park GC

Lincolnshire Poacher – Steve Brattan (Cleethorpes)

Elsham Trophy – Blankney

Bramley Trophy – Kenwick Park

Entry levels for completed competitions weren't as low as first feared and the remaining competitions should see a reasonable level of competitors

Entries for the remaining competitions are as follows:

Open Championship - 61

Hotchkin, Taylor & Butlin Cups - 16

Jubilee Challenge - 4

Rita Hurst Salver – 1

Reminders will be issued to try and boost numbers for the last three competitions.

We have experienced a number of problems with the Club Systems scoring and when competitions have been finalised many clubs have reported scores not being returned. I have had numerous discussions with Club Systems and to date they have failed to correct the software errors and cannot provide a suitable resolution to the problem. The software we use has a number of shortfalls which involves having to carry a number of manual tasks at the various championships. For example the age divisions cannot be programmed into the software so a manual check has to be incorporated for a number of events, such as Senior and Junior competitions along with the Amateur

championship. I can foresee a similar problem in the Open Championship having to separate out the Professionals from the Amateurs. In view of the continued problems with the system I would like to recommend a change in the running of competitions next season by engaging Intelligent Golf to provide the LUGC website and competition software. This is the same system I operate for the MGU and the advantages this system provides would allow us to integrate the website and competitions more efficiently. We would also be able to employ online payments, age division separations within specific competitions and be confident that when a competition is finalised all scores will be returned to clubs for handicap adjustments. Furthermore the system allows for automatic notification of start sheets to players, results and news. We would be able to establish a stronger data base of players and would allow for a simple reminder system for up and coming competitions.

Returning to the Mid Amateur Championship our options for the future needs to be considered. If we are to remain as a "Closed" competition we could reduce it to a 18 hole event and include gross and nett prizes to attract higher handicap players. The alternative is to throw it open to players from outside the county but it would need to be a 36 hole competition to make it worth while.

The final point for consideration is to introduce an Order of Merit which incorporates the key championships along with County matches in order to encourage players to participate in the various events. This could include individual competitions such as The Amateur, The Open, The Poacher and the County League matches along similar lines as the Midland Order of Merit.

Finally I would like to thank all the officers of the LUGC for their help and assistance in my first year and would hope the experience gained this season will stand me in good stead for the season ahead.

(8) JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT (K.Moody):

"Mr President and gentlemen please accept my report to the executive for the summer of 2015 and again I am pleased to report that everything has, so far, been relatively trouble free."

Once more we have progressed through the extensive fixture list to date without any serious issues.

1. The Boys Championship at Woodhall Spa, in conjunction with the Girls Championship for the first time, was a real success and this format is expected to be repeated next year. The Boys' winner was Billy Spooner. Jake Craddock won the under 16's and under 14's Championships. They progressed to their relevant Champion of Champions events.

2. All the other junior competitions have been completed on schedule without issue and the full results have been posted in full on the LUGC web site. We still have the Patrons' Cup to contend in October at Blankney.

Again, as last year, numbers are on the low side when compared with a few years ago but the quality and enthusiasm of the juniors cannot be faulted.

3. Back in May the six man team travelled to Trentham Golf Club for the MGU Boys Qualifier. Once again we left ourselves a lot to do in the afternoon round after a relatively poor morning session. Northamptonshire were the county that progressed to the finals at Kings Lynn only last week, where they finished runners up to Wiltshire. Similarly Northamptonshire also progressed from the Anglian League Qualifier held at Rutland County.
4. Last week saw us complete our league programme. We came into the season with 'high' expectations for the season. This optimism was lifted some more when the Under 16's travelled to Ruddington Grange and came away with a 9 ½ to 8 ½ victory over a strong Nottinghamshire team. But this hope was short lived as the Under 18's and then, in the space of a few days, the Under 16's both lost to Leics & Rutland. This brought to a premature end to the Under 16's programme due to Northamptonshire forfeiting their match, due to the previously mentioned England Finals at Kings Lynn. This also impacted on the Under 18's team as Northamptonshire also forfeited both matches in the 'triangular' contest involving Lincs, Notts and themselves at Stanton on the Wolds. We did fulfill this fixture against Notts only to lose heavily with a team weakened by unavailability. Our 'senior' juniors are now moving on to work, university and others had holiday commitments.
5. So far I haven't painted a very pretty picture but our Under 14's teams have done us proud once more by retaining the Midland Boys' Under 14's Championship at Broughton Heath by the same 14 shot margin as last year. Only two of last year's team were eligible to play again this time but it does demonstrate that we do have some good golfers coming through our system. But as you can see from previous comments we do have a need to continually

introduce new players into our teams, at all levels, and also introduce them to our registration system and competitions. So, please, spread the word about our junior activities the more the merrier.

6. Peter Rogers and Trevor Ireland have continued with the successful Little Imps sessions at the various venues and again the support and work put in by our coaches and team managers Steve Cooper, Steve Bennett, Nick Hiom, Paul Spence, Tim Hutton, John Barley John Hodge and Rob Kedzlie with all junior fixtures as been tremendous. Without them my job would have been much more difficult.
7. Finally I feel I must record my own thanks to the parents of our juniors who do a sterling job supporting our players and teams. They also make sure that they reach their intended destinations on time and properly prepared.

(9) REPORT OF LEAGUE CHAIRMAN (K.Farrow)

Matches in all Divisions in both the North and South Leagues have now been completed. Final tables have where possible been uploaded to the Website. There are however just a couple of results still awaited from matches played this last weekend in the North Handicap League to enable the remaining tables to be finalised following which they too will be uploaded.

Both North & South League Subscriptions have been paid over to the LUGC Treasurer.

The South League Junior Final between Belton Woods, Greetham Valley and Spalding was played 19.8.2015 at South Kyme GC - Winners Spalding GC

The North League Junior Final between Gainsborough and Market Rasen will be played at Canwick Park GC on Sunday 6.9.2015

The Junior County Final will be held at Market Rasen GC on Sunday 27.9.2015

The South League 1st Team 1st Division winner were Belton Park

The South League 2nd Team 1st Division winners were Burghley Park

The North Scratch League Play Off was won by Cleethorpes

The North Handicap League Division 1 was won by Grimsby

The Scratch and Handicap League Finals will be held at Grimsby GC on Sunday 4.10.2015.

Regrettably there have again been instances of failure to provide a team with the usual reasons and excuses being given. Failure to provide a team Rule 9.4.4.1 is quite clear – the match is forfeit. It is important to note however that the rules also state that one player should play against two should a team have insufficient players.

Both the South and North League Committees have once more been asked to answer a few queries on various rules. Additionally we have again this season been tested to make rulings and adjudicate.

It is inevitable that these referrals invariably involve unwelcome outcomes. Particularly you will appreciate these decisions often result in penalties being applied to teams which can and indeed have again this year ultimately affected and impacted significantly on League positions.

The League Chairman together with the League Management Committee continues to review on an annual basis all Rules decisions where we have been asked to pass judgment. This practice enables us to identify and consider how we might develop processes within our League systems to avoid recurrences of a similar nature

10) REPORT OF THE HON TREASURER (C.Lloyd)

Income and Expenditure account had been circulated prior to the meeting and is also attached with these minutes for your perusal.

CL reported that sponsorship for 2 players (S.Richardson & P.Kelly) had been repaid to the players and at the moment we held no sponsorship money for any players.

CL also reported that we were still awaiting some money from an individual sponsor in relation to the County Finals.

John Hodge asked if the Patrons money could be shown in a more prominent way in the accounts (as they were currently shown in the junior accounts Keith Moody agreed to look at this).

(11) GOLF PARTNERSHIP UPDATE /COUNTY DEVELOPMENT REPORT (K.Farrow &J.Lammin)

51 Lincolnshire Clubs have been split into two so that each CDO works with 26 clubs/venues the extra one being Skegness Golf Centre. Letters have been sent to Clubs along six areas that the CDO'S can help clubs to achieve and develop.

The 6 development areas that have been identified to work with being: Get into golf, England Golf Golfmark, England Golf Clubhouse, Supporting Junior Golf, Women and Girls and Disability.

Priority in the first six months being to get all clubs linked into Clubhouse to use

the Get into golf activities page and the marketing tool Irongate.

A further priority being Women and Girls. England Golf are working to increase participation of women and girls in golf to 'Drive Women's Golf' and get them more involved and enjoying the game.

With female membership currently standing at just 15% it has been highlighted as a priority area for England Golf. We provide a variety of resources for clubs to utilise to help grow this area: England Golf recognises how important women and girls are to the game. In order to support you and your Club England Golf have produced a series of women's factsheets. These factsheets cover 10 key topic areas including recruitment, retention, membership, club environment, playing opportunities, websites and social media, club handicaps, volunteers, marketing and communications and an overview.

These factsheets also provide suggestions and recommendations across each of the topic areas and are supported by our recent focus group research and case studies.

1. The first stages of the reformed County Action plan have taken place with at the moment only two areas being concentrated on:
 - (1) More Players and More Members
 - (2) Stronger Clubs.

An additional area that's in progress being *"to strengthen the talent pathway from club to county, leading to even more county success at a local, regional and national level"*. The LUGC & LLCGA Junior Organisers have met with County Golf Development Committee members to consider areas that funding can be obtained from England Golf up to £9,277.50 for under 14 and 14 plus years of age.

This application is to be submitted by 11th September with a forecasted funding paid at the end of October (subject to receiving SE Funding).

A further area under progress being to explore more effective ways of working, including improved communications and governance, to move towards an efficient and well managed county

(12) PAC RECOMMENDATIONS:

That our affiliation fee for 2016 remain at £6.50

Agreed.

(13) AOB:

Hon Sec asked if, due to the rising cost of using the Petwood Hotel, we could look (starting next year) at using some of our Clubs as venues for our Executive Meetings.

Agreed.

(14) The next meeting of the Executive Committee will take place on Wednesday 2nd December 2015 commencing at 18.15hrs at the Petwood Hotel

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.10hrs.

