

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Held at
DORSET GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
TUESDAY 09th JULY 2009

Present:

John Smith	-	President
Bill Kennedy	-	Colts Manager
Anthony Eden	-	Seniors Captain
David Steward		Executive Member
John White	-	Executive Member
Ian Hulse	-	Secretary

Apologies:

Douglas Pratt	-	Vice President
Iain Donnelly	-	Captain
Giles Legg	-	Vice Captain

ACTION

Meeting opened at 17:35 hours:

Item 1 - Welcome: The President welcomed everyone to the Executive meeting and apologies were given for the above.

Item 2 – Minutes of the Meeting 26th May 2009: No Amendments.

The minutes were signed by the President as a true record of events.

Item 3 – Matters arising: None.

Item 4 – Captains Report: Since the last meeting I attended we have had the SW Week and 2 SE league matches. SW Week, hectic and dramatic as usual! 2 wins and a half gave us the chance to win on the last day, the first time since 1972. On the playing front... solid foursomes pairings established and maintained throughout week, fragile finishing in some of our singles play as the week progressed. SW Strokeplay, 30 shots behind Wiltshire as usual. Their strength lies in very effective youth development creating international players. Our own coaching focus needs a complete rethink, perhaps a sub committee needs to be created once Martyn Thompson has presented his recommendations.

The whole week was well supported by the players, exec and others, we should be proud of our efforts.

Kent match, Ashford. Lost 9-3. Being four nil down in the morning foursomes highlighted how jaded the guys were after SW Week. A good response in the afternoon gave us 3 singles wins. The bottom line is this fixture is played to soon after SW Week and we should possibly move to fit it into the Surrey spot if we move that to September.

Surrey match, played at Came Down, where we won 6.5- 5.5 easy. Great attitude from the players wanting to get this win, with pin positions set to our liking we came out 2 all in the foursomes, the worst it could of been. In the singles Hector continues to lead well by beating Andrew Cooley 2/1. Tom Leech put us all out of our slow play misery by finally winning 3/2 to get the point that mattered.

Kit... the new jumpers from Ashworth appear to have a knit failure and the secretary will look into this with Ashworth once they have relocated.

Secretary

Coach... Martyn has not attended the last two SE matches for varying reasons. We need him to ensure a back up coach is available as per his contract.

Secretary to write

Item 5 – Juniors Secretary's Report: News to date - Scott Heap won the Category 1,2,3,4 Play Off Championship on 1 June at Broadstone.

The next junior event is the SW Boys Championship at Woodbury Park GC on 14/15 July, also known as the Six Counties Championship. The eight man team selected is:

Jackson Bowes
Jake Broughton
Corey Coshan
Rob Cunningham - Captain
Scott Heap
Alex Kerr
Harry Mitchell
Harry Shaw

Of these six count on the day. Dave Steward and I will take them down, Jackson Bowes travelling separately. Practice day is 14 July. Ian Hulse will also be there for the two days and Ian Clark for the Wednesday. The boys will be staying overnight on 14 July.

The next Under 14s event is the match against Devon on 30 July at Honiton GC. This is a six man team comprising:

Billy-Joe Bugden
Joe Lovery
Oliver Stocks
George Long
Chris Evans
Nathan Lake
Reserves: Harry Willsher and Jack Fairhall (non travelling).

Andy Parsons and I will take them down, with parents, and officiate at the match.

One other nice item is that through Andy Parsons we are staging a triangular match at Remedy Oak GC on 16 August. We'll have a team of Under 14s, Under 16s and County Girls. It should be a great experience for them all.

Item 6 – Senior Captains Report: Since my last report we have had the most successful period since the Seniors started playing in the South Eastern League.

On Wednesday 17th June we played Kent at Knighton Heath. Despite the fact that they fielded this year's winner and second in the English Seniors' Championship as well as the winner of the Irish Seniors' Championship in a very strong line-up we beat them 6 - 4. As we had never even been close to getting a half with them it was an epic day for Dorset Seniors' golf. The highlight was David Backhouse coming from four down with six to play to win one up on the last against a very seasoned performer in Howard Moxon.

On Wednesday 1st July we played Surrey at West Surrey which is near Godalming. This was a match we seemed to be winning and then desperately needed a half from the last match on the course to get a half overall. Hero was David Topp and his twenty yard bunker shot to fifteen inches to get a half in birdie four at the last.

Thus we have won 2½ points from our three matches this year and you may be interested to know that since we lost the first match last year against Kent we have played six matches, won four, halved one and only lost one. i.e. 4½ points from 6. The team has now gone from hoping they can win to believing that they will win. A very different state of mind, in fact I have told them that I believe that we did not win ½ point against Surrey so much as dropping a ½ point.

Our last match is against Hampshire at Sherborne on Wednesday 2nd September. We have beaten Hampshire in our last two matches which they will be very keen to avenge. They have also just beaten Sussex by 9 — I so we must take them very seriously. However if we do beat them we win the league. Sherborne have agreed that we may have a practice round which I will organise shortly.

On the other fronts the teams for the friendlies against Devon, Wiltshire and Somerset are in place, as is the team for the Southern Area Foursomes at Lansdown on Monday 17th

August. I hope that my next report will be able to contain even more good news.

Item 7 – Colt Managers Report: There have been no Colts matches since our last meeting the Vice Captain has taken on team selection and seems to be getting a better response from the players and we go into the Hampshire match with a good side.

Item 8 – Secretary’s Report:

Correspondence: General correspondence out with thank you letters.

Finances: Secretary briefed the meeting on the accounts. All affiliation fees had been received and we are down 543 (4.9%) down on last year which does not include the loss of Rushmore GC. Secretary has sent out the sweep up letter.

EGU Matters: 2010 subscription increase of 50p. Dorset voted against the increase but it had a majority in favour and was carried at the General meeting.

The secretary briefed the meeting on the two topics discussed at the last voting members meeting so he may respond to the CEO EGU as requested below.

Funding.

Please try to keep discussions on the long term strategic funding rather than immediate economic concerns. The aim of Funding Men’s Amateur Golf is to ensure sustainability going forward. There are two main questions to consider:

1. What is it that you the EGU (the counties) want us the National governing body to deliver for you? Is it pretty much what we are doing now or do you want the NGB to deliver more for counties and clubs?
2. The £5M question. The generous benefactor giving us £5M per year every year so we don’t need to worry about how to raise funds. What would you wish to see that money spent on? You could identify specific projects or particular areas for increased expenditure. You can consider areas outside existing core areas or within those areas.

Merger

I think the merger discussions were most helpful as you now have a better understanding of how other counties are thinking and how they interpret merger going forward. The initial questionnaire was to stimulate thought and it is clear that counties came to the meeting with a picture in mind of what merger would look like. The discussions may have resulted in you picturing additional options for consideration. I think the original questionnaire with minor adjustment is still a good guideline for discussions to work around and perhaps the slides will further stimulate discussion.

Could you please send me written notes in whatever form suits you by 30th September 2009 so I can consolidate before we meet again in October.

All

Item 9 – Any Other Business (AOB):

- a. DLCGA Request: The secretary has received a request from the ladies for a prize donation towards their Grand Draw to help raise funds for Centenary year, the meeting after much discussion agreed to give the DLCGA a donation of £500 to help with the draw.
- b. Dorset Golf Partnership: Last full partnership meeting was at Broadstone GC on 23 June attended by Martin Kimberley from Active Dorset. It was the last meeting for the CDO, Chris Holmes, and for Chairman Chris Dennis. I’d like to record grateful thanks to them and Ian Hulse for playing such a major part in launching the County Partnership two years ago. I have now assumed Chairmanship. After much negotiation we have now formally submitted to the EGP our bid for £20K for 2009 - 2011 with a Club and Coach Development Plan and associated budget. Although we have some misgivings in the detail we feel that we have a workable plan. In parallel, chaired by Dee Wood, the C&C sub-committee has held a general briefing evening at DG&CC for interested professionals and PGA Level 1 qualified coaches, followed up by a request for CVs for the Head Coach and Academy Coach appointments. Two candidates for the Head Coach were interviewed on 23 June,

Secretary

Martyn Thompson and Duncan Driver. Martyn Thompson was selected for the appointment. Tomorrow we meet at Knighton Heath GC with Martyn Thompson to select a shortlist of professionals who have applied for the Academy Coach posts. We are looking for eight at present. Our next step is to launch the PR for likely candidates for assessment for the lucky 40 youngsters who are considered to be the most promising for the 2009/2010 start of the full C&C programme. Of the 40 at least 10 have to be girls. We hope to start the actual coaching programme in late September, early October. In parallel with all this we must also launch the Coach Development programme. This covers PGA Level 1 and above courses, child protection and specialist subjects such as psychology. There may be additional funding for coach development although the source is not yet clear. To obtain funding a Coach development Plan is required together with an associated budget. I have drafted both and passed it to Ian Hulse and Dee Wood for initial comment.

- c. SEBO: The secretary asked the meeting to agree to raise the age limit from 17 to 18 from 2010 so he might again try to get the event into the Ping Junior OOM, he had now registered the event with the R&A so it may attract the World Ranking Points.
- d. County Cuff Links: The secretary had been researching firms that could produce a County Cuff Link and it was agreed these would be purchased and sold to members.
- e. The entertainer Russ Williams had been booked for the 2010 County Dinner to be held at the Crown Hotel Blandford.
- f. The meeting then discussed if players should be allowed to claim travel expenses for home fixtures and after discussion this was unanimously rejected by all present.

Agreed

Secretary

Item 10 –Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Executive Committee is to be held at DG&CC Thu 27 August 2009 at 1700 for a 1730 hour start.

All

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:35 hours.

Signed as a True record:

John Smith President 27 August 2009