

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Held at
DORSET GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2009

Present:

John Smith	-	President
Douglas Pratt	-	Vice President
Iain Donnelly	-	Captain
Bill Kennedy	-	Junior Secretary
Anthony Eden	-	Seniors Captain
John White	-	Executive Member
David Steward	-	Executive Member
Ian Hulse	-	Secretary

Apologies: Giles Legg - Vice Captain

ACTION

Meeting opened at 17:30 hours:

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

Item 2 – Minutes of the Meeting 09th July 2009: No Amendments.

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

Item 3 – Matters arising: The secretary had informed the SE League of its decision to stay in the Colts League as per Item 7 of the August meeting.

Item 4 – Captains Report: The captain reported that he felt it was a good finish to the season with a win over Surrey and a halved match against Sussex at The Ashley Wood GC, he also briefed the meeting on the Matt Hector incident in not attending for a practice round prior to the Sussex match being the reason he was dropped and the matter has been dealt with.

Iain then raised the subject of our County Coach and his concerns regarding his administration and time keeping. He felt the job was perhaps too much for one person and should be split with Martyn developing the Juniors and the Colts County team having some one different so that he has the time. Having had a meeting regarding County Coaching and the wish to start early October this had not been achieved by the Coach and it now looked like the start won't be till mid November which was disappointing.

Much discussion took place around the table and the decision from the floor was that the President along with the Vic president and Secretary should meet with Martyn to discuss soonest so a clear way ahead can be sought for the winter training programmes. President to arrange a suitable meeting

President

Item 5 – Vice Captains Report – Colts: Nothing to report.

Item 6 – Senior Captains Report: We have had a much better season than perhaps could have been hoped for at the start. There are obvious weaknesses in the team but hopefully an influx of about five stronger players who are just coming of age will enable us to go to even better heights next year and provide that magic element of competition to get selected. It was very obvious at Tandridge that we needed to be able to rest players without greatly weakening the team and we certainly missed John Nash and Campbell Boal. I feel very positive about the future for the Dorset Senior Team.

Hampshire Match: The day started with a forecast of heavy rain in the afternoon and although we started a little earlier than arranged the entire match was played in heavy rain with a strong wind. The course and greens stood up to it very well. Unfortunately from a Dorset point of view the Hampshire first four got off to a very fast start and by the 8th green they were substantially ahead in every match. Lower down we were just about holding our own but as we clawed a little back at the top of the order so the tail weakened. It was a

match which might have gone either way but just as against Sussex we won the matches that were all square with a handful of holes to go this time Hampshire won them. We needed to win this match to win the league for the first time, but now Hampshire and Kent will fight it out next week. Never the less with 2 ½ points from our matches it has been our most successful league season ever.

First a little background. The EGU started the team finals five years ago and so Cheshire qualified from the North, Staffordshire from the Midlands, and Kent from the South East and Dorset from the South West. The format is round robin with each match consisting of three foursomes in the morning and six singles in the afternoon. Tandridge is a lovely course in an area covered with chestnut trees and with some very tricky holes. The greens had some very difficult pin positions, which with fast true greens made three putting all too easy. All in all the course was in marvellous condition even with the bad weather and was enjoyed by all the players.

EGU County Seniors Final: Dorset made a nervous start on Tuesday in the match against our old foes, Kent, losing the foursomes 0 – 3. Much better was to come in the afternoon in the singles and at one stage we were leading by five matches to one, much to Nick Allen, the Kent Captain's consternation. In the end we managed a very creditable 3 – 3 score line to lose the overall match 3 – 6 with John Smith beating the English National Champion, Chris Reynolds. Brian Medlam also won with David Lock and David Backhouse each gaining an half point.

Wednesday pitted us against the mighty Cheshire team and once again we lost the foursomes 0 – 3. By this time the weather had decided to take a hand with miserable driving rain all afternoon. At one stage it was uncertain whether the matches could be finished. This time we did not cope with the elements and the opposition losing the singles 1 – 5, and the match 1 – 8. This time our only victor was Rob Clapp.

Thursday dawned to clear blue skies and saw Kent playing Cheshire for the Championship and Dorset playing Staffordshire for the 3rd and 4th spots. At least we finally broke out duck in the foursomes with John Smith and Rob Clapp gaining our solitary point. In the afternoon we needed to win the singles by no less than 4 – 2 to secure that third spot and for most of the afternoon we were doing just that. Suddenly after fourteen holes Chris Dennis went back to all square and Brian Medlam from three up went to one down after fifteen holes. The EGU give the Captains a radio which tells them the state of every match after every hole. Suddenly my comfort zone was badly dented, however they both managed to stay tough and win by one hole. David Lock had a comfortable win and David Backhouse was also one up, but his opponent managed a really good four on the last to gain an half. Thus honour was satisfied for both Captains and we were jointly third.

In the Championship match Kent finally managed to beat Cheshire 5½ - 3½ after years of falling at the last hurdle. As far as Dorset are concerned it was a great learning curve and we know the areas we have to improve on, foursomes play obviously being one. We cannot afford only one point from nine games. With a stronger team next year we will do everything we can to qualify once again and will then do better.

Item 7 – Juniors Secretary's Report: Last meeting of the Juniors Sub Committee was yesterday. Primary objective was to discuss and amend where necessary the Juniors' coaching programme for 2009/2010 produced by Martyn Thompson.

Coaching

The overall coaching programme is attached. It costs £3940 excluding the Warm Weather training in Spain for the Elite Squad and any extra sessions not yet included but these would be minimal. The Warm Weather training is to be booked for 14 – 20 March 2010 at Hacienda del Alamo as for last year.

The programme covers the Elite Squad, the Under 14 Squad and an additional Juniors squad made up from likely County Team players and the better players in the Under 16 group.

Sponsorship funding may be available from JM Scully Ltd and to a much lesser extent from Steve Pockneall from Dudsbury GC for balls for the Under 14 squad.

The Elite Squad comprises the top eight from the OOM 2009 and the Under 14 Squad is at most 16 strong as is the Junior Squad.

Golf matters

The last Juniors match of the season is on 30 Oct at Ashley Wood GC against the Dorset Captains.

The Quadrangular matches commence next month.

Because of the resignation of the Junior Girls Secretary and Fred Smith who managed the Under 18s team, we have agreed to take under our wing the Girls Alliss Trophy competition for this winter, managed in conjunction with the PAYM.

Andy Parsons is now managing the Under 14s and Dave Steward and I manage the remainder of the Juniors.

Item 8 – Secretary's Report:

Correspondence: The secretary briefed on the various correspondences received along with a £500 donation from the SWCGA towards the Seniors English Final.

The secretary had sent letters of thanks to Tandridge GC and Mr Ray Saunders EGU Championship committee regarding the Seniors County Final.

Finances: Secretary briefed the meeting on the accounts.

EGU Matters: The secretary informed the meeting on the following correspondence:

EGU donation towards the Seniors £2645
EGU Coaching Grant which in future will be tied in with money given to County Partnerships.
Presidents Day

All

Item 9 – Any Other Business (AOB):

- a. Club & Coach update: The last Partnership meeting was on 1 Oct at Bournemouth University. We have lost two members but are actively seeking replacements. At the meeting it was agreed that Jamie Woodford would put the final touches to the Development Plan and submit it with the signed papers to the England Golf Partnership for the release of funds. We are still waiting for this to occur in spite of numerous prompts. Meanwhile the Golf Academy work has progressed in spite of the lack of funds. We work in hope and trust! Three assessment sessions have been held resulting in a selection of 39 youngsters for the programme. There are only 9 girls when we should have a minimum of 10 (25% of our targeted figure for the year). I have asked Dee for suggestions for the inclusion of the tenth girl. The three Academies have been selected bearing in mind the geographic spread of the children. Those chosen are Canford Magna GC, a joint arrangement between Iford Golf Centre and Dudsbury GC, and another joint arrangement between Bridport GC and Dorset Golf & Country Club. The team of professionals are aware of these arrangements. Invitation letters to partake in the coaching programme have been sent to all the children. We have also identified a group of 9 year olds and under who will receive some coaching provided gratis by the professionals. In parallel a programme of courses/seminars has been launched with the EGP Toolkit presentation on 18 Sep at the Dorset Golf & Country Club, and the Long Term Athletic Development presentation on 19 Oct at Iford Golf Centre. More talks/seminars are planned. The hard work and dedication of Dee Wood has to be highly commended as should the active support of the panel of PGA professionals.
- b. EGU Club Liaison Meeting: Attended by about 20 people and presented by Jon Petrie, CEO EGU. Covered a number of key items briefly reported below.

Central Database of Handicaps

Must be registered by 1 Jan 10. Simple system for registration at meeting. Number did so. Expected most will register and upload data in Oct/Nov 09.

Future Funding

At Heart of Golf seminars in 2008/09 topic was covered. Issue is 72% regular golfers are nomads and contribute nothing to golf development. A few schemes were put forward, including licence fee and addition to green fees, but all to be

debated by an EFWG.

Schemes then considered included a Green Fee supplement, Tee Time national booking scheme, a Golf Licence and some form of Loyalty Card. The Green fee increment and Licence are discarded as unworkable. A combination of the other two is now under examination. Under the booking scheme the EGU would get 50p for every booking, however Clubs operating the scheme would be paying £250 pa for the privilege (with some advantages it is thought).

The Loyalty or Golf Advantage Card may well go ahead but will need industry buying in to do so. Watch this space is the message.

VAT reclaim

Cases forging ahead with a company called VATABILITY Ltd. Cases to be heard. Over 300 clubs registered with the company. KPMG also involved with other clubs. EGU believes best result would be no repayment but a reduced VAT payable by sports clubs. Again watch this space.

EGU-EWGA Merger

General county votes were in favour. Detailed discussions right now. If agreed to proceed then prospectus to counties for debate and then a vote by counties at a general meeting. Same goes for the EWGA.

Equality Bill

Intended to draw together all equality legislation into one bill followed by the formal act. Bill in place Autumn 2010 and Act in force by Spring 2011. Effects at club level could be far reaching. Gave a number of FAQs highlighting possible effects.

Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)

New authority acting in parallel with the current CRB checks. ISA is a vetting & barring scheme. ISA will determine suitability of a person to work with vulnerable people; CRB advises on suitability for a particular role when doing so. Both cost money. ISA would be £64 per person on paid staff. In force by November 2010. New people in post must register then. Current people must register by 2015. If appointed in a new role before Nov 2010 then new registration is required.

Golf Development

Merely updated on general England Sports Partnership initiative as applied to golf. 21 of 34 counties now registered. Not all yet fully active. Enclave in NE/NW of England seem to be uninterested in the scheme.

- c. Golf Autoscore Automated Statistics Solution: The secretary briefed the meeting on this solution and all had been sent the literature after discussion it was decided the County would invest in this solution to help highlight and focus future Coaching to those areas where most required.
- d. Anthony Eden asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded from the seniors to the Secretary for his administration in ensuring the Seniors Final went according to plan and the team were kitted out on time.

Item 10 –Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Executive Committee is to be held at DG&CC Thursday 17 December 2009 at 1000 for a 1030 hour start.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:55 hours.

Signed as a True record:

John Smith President 17 December 2009

All