

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Held at
DORSET GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER 2009

Present:

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

Apologies: David Steward Executive Member

Meeting opened at 10:35 hours:

Item 1 - Welcome: The President welcomed everyone to the final Executive meeting of the year and apologies had been received from David Steward.

Item 2 – Minutes of the Meeting 13th October 2009: Two amendments had been sent in, these were explained and agreed.

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

Item 3 – Matters arising: The President briefed the meeting on the discussion regarding Item 4 that took place between the President, Vice and County Coach regarding administration. The Captains / Managers were asked to ensure all correspondence goes through the Secretary and the Coach was briefed to ensure when not available to attend as required he should ensure he has a suitable replacement who is fully up to speed and aware of his coaching programme.

Much discussion took place on what events the Coach was to attend as per his contract requirement, the Captains were asked to look at their requirements and pass to the Secretary who will then speak with the coach.

Item 4 – Captains Report: The captain reported the letter had been sent to the squad detailing the proposed training sessions starting in January. The sessions will be at the Iford Golf Centre and Cumberwell Park, he is also taking his SW Squad to Trevoise in March. The Captain was up beat and looking forward to both the training and new season.

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

Item 6 – Senior Captains Report: A triumphant seniors Captain reminded the meeting of the successful season they had, the down side was the Foursomes play and he then went on to say this needs to be addressed. The VP stated it was something all teams struggled with. Much discussion then took place on how to address this issue with proposals on the lines of a winter league between the 3 squads to perhaps arranging friendlies with our neighbouring counties. For the first team squad they may be able to arrange a friendly when training at Cumberwell. Captains to organise.

The captain then went on to state he felt it important to arrange Practice rounds prior to SE League matches and asked the this year they be allowed to travel the day before to Chislehurst for the Kent match and stay over night. Much discussion took place on this matter and it was agreed that for the Kent and Sussex away matches if the distance was prohibitive then overnight accommodation the day prior could be arranged allowing for a practice round to be played. Secretary to arrange.

ACTION

ID GL BK AE

Discussion took place as to the friendlies which are all completely played at the players own expense and it was perhaps felt there was an imbalance here. After much discussion it was agreed that friendlies would stay as they are for the coming season with a full review of the cost to be carried out during 2010 so that a proper budget proposal can be put forward for 2011.

Accommodation for the SW Seniors at Lanhydrock had been booked.

Item 7 – Juniors Secretary's Report: The last meeting of the Juniors Sub Committee was on 28 Nov 09. The key items raised to take forward to the Executive Committee are coaching, proposed foursomes event and County colours.

Coaching

The overall coaching programme is progressing well for all three squads – Under 14s, Juniors and Elite. The Under14s and Elite squads had a full day with John Jacobs at Cumberwell Park. This is an excellent short game venue and was enjoyed by all. The Elite Squad has since had a follow-up session at Sherborne GC which has almost as good short game facilities. One major disappointment was the Juniors' turn out on 6 Dec when 7 of the squad failed to arrive. Corrective action has been taken – and a second failure earns dismissal from the squad.

All the Junior and Elite squad have been encouraged to enter as many County, regional and national relevant events as possible in 2010 in order that the benefits of the intensive coaching can be measured by achievement.

The Juniors coaching expenditure is already over budget. The County Coach has agreed to get spend back to budget by end FY2009. However he is also proposing additional coaching. This is to be costed and may be covered by his earned 10% of sponsorship money from Mr Scully.

County Foursomes

In order to encourage foursomes play at Junior level BK has proposed a County Foursomes Juniors Championship played over 36 holes and has offered to put up a trophy. Knighton Heath GC has agreed to host the inaugural event on 19th August. The approval of the Executive Committee was requested. The executive agreed to the proposal. It was suggested that the batting order be changed over the two rounds.

Secretary

County Colours

County colours in the form of a blazer badge, tie and cap are awarded to County players who are selected for 3 or more league matches or are in the SW Counties team. Under14 matches are league matches in 2010 and the SW Four Counties event is in effect an inter-county league.

The Junior Secretary proposed that the Executive Committee agree:

- a. The present colours rules apply to all juniors.
- b. Any junior representing the County should wear a County tie.

Much discussion took place on this subject it was eventually agreed by all that the players tie be awarded to junior players who have played in 3 representative junior events. Junior players who do not meet this criterion are to wear the normal County Tie until such time as they gain the players tie.

It was not agreed to give Juniors Blazer Badges but the secretary was instructed to source a metal lapel badge, which is to be presented along with the tie once the player has represented the County on 3 occasions. Blazer badges are only for full County representation. Secretary to amend the schedule accordingly before the next meeting.

Secretary

Item 8 – Secretary's Report:

Correspondence: The secretary briefed on the various correspondences received.

Finances: Secretary briefed the meeting on the accounts. He also presented the meeting

with the draft budget proposal for 2010, Captains and managers should look at their respective budgets to ensure they met the requirements.

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

Merger

An update was given on the merger discussions where it was emphasised that no decisions have yet been made and that the input from counties has been extremely valuable to the Steering Group. It was highlighted that if discussions reach agreement then working groups would be established to focus on specific detail leading to a prospectus for counties to consider. The counties would have ample time to digest and discuss any prospectus before the counties would decide on any proposal in General Meeting. This was being made clear in the Club Liaison meetings and any rumours to the contrary were incorrect.

Club Liaison Meetings

An update was given on the meetings held to date. The aim of reaching 50% of clubs had been met in 21 counties to date and the feedback has been that the format and content has been relevant and useful. The meetings had helped to accelerate the registration of CDH with over 1100 clubs now registered. The aim is to register all clubs by the end of 2009 but it is recognised that a few clubs are likely to need assistance in January.

Managing Handicaps Commercially

The EGU had received a proposal from a company called GMM Ltd to manage a non-member handicap programme. The EGU Board had rejected the proposal as the counties previous direction was that this was not an area to be supported (noting the unanimous decision of counties to disband the Associate Membership Scheme). The proposal from GMM Ltd was raised with Voting Members as the estimated revenue from the proposal was £110k per annum. The full proposal had been circulated to all members for discussion. It was emphasised that the EGU Board is not proposing any system of non-member handicaps, but simply felt that having rejected the offer the counties had a right to know that decision had been taken because of the level of potential funding involved

After discussion it was agreed by the Executive that this proposal be rejected at the next Voting Members Meeting by Dorset.

Golf Forum Output

Points from the recent Golf Forum included:

- Grants received from the R&A (Development £15k and Home Internationals (Boy's) £11k). The R&A highlighted that one reason for not supporting other applications was because the EGU affiliation fee was perceived to be low when compared to other countries and that the EGU had the capacity to increase its revenue if it wished to do so.
- Distance Measuring Devices. The EGU has agreed to continue using DMD's in its championships. The other Home Unions will not do so until the R&A allows them in R&A Championships. The R&A and the USGA have also issued a joint statement of principles regarding the use of electronic devices, including distance-measuring devices. *"The R&A and the USGA first allowed the use of distance-measuring devices by Local Rule in January 2006 and are reaffirming that these devices may be used to measure only distance and must not be able to measure other conditions such as wind speed or direction, the slope of the ground or the temperature. Neither the R&A nor the USGA anticipate adopting the Local Rule at any of their championships"*.
- The EGA has raised the question of whether the age of senior's golf for amateurs should be reduced from 55 to 50. There was concern at the Golf Forum that this had not been widely discussed. The EGA has now circulated a questionnaire to all

countries to collate views. The general consensus of Voting Members was to retain the age of 55, but equally there was a majority view that if the remainder of Europe was to support a reduction to 50 then England would probably have to consider following suit.

Item 9 – Any Other Business (AOB):

- a. Partnership Update: The partnership met last week on 10 December at Bournemouth University. It was well attended by Active Dorset, the new CDO - Marcus Urbye, Golf Foundation, PGA Regional Organiser, Martyn Thompson and his deputy - Duncan Driver, Michael "Tom" Watson of the Wessex Academy, Dee Wood and Ian Hulse. Of particular interest was a presentation on the Golf Foundation and its work. Funding has just been received permitting the partnership to fund the part-time employment of the CDO. He is in the process of learning about his job and making contact with all those he really needs to see before launching into action. He starts in January by focusing on the Golf Mark programme in particular. The Academy Coaching programme is now well under way under the energetic guidance of Dee Wood. Two of the eight scheduled coaching sessions have been completed with virtually 100% attendance. Apart from the initial meeting with interested PGA professionals three seminars have taken place covering the EGP Coaching documentation, Long term Athletic development and Mind Training. More are in planning for early 2010. Funding for this part of the programme is still to arrive but we are assured is imminent! A present concern, being addressed, is the relatively poor attendance of the seminars by PGA professionals and PGA Level 1 Coaches. Reporting time to the EGP is due in March 2010 so our next tranche of work is to meet that requirement. The CGP has now to look at being more active in introducing golf to more beginners, especially youngsters.
- b. The Vice Captain asked that a letter be sent congratulating Kevin Spurgeon on his maiden victory on the European Seniors Tour winning the Mauritius Open.
- c. Anthony Eden made the meeting aware the proposed change to the County Seniors Championship had been well received and asked if there was to be a Handicap equivalent, the secretary informed the meeting it would just be Scratch this year but the whole event would be looked at closely to see if the 2011 championship could include a handicap knockout stage.

Secretary

Item 10 –Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Executive Committee is to be held at DG&CC Thursday 25 February 2010 at 1700 for a 1730 hour start.

All

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

Signed as a True record:

Original Signed

John Smith President 25 February 2010