

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Held at
DORSET GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
On THURSDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2009

Present:

John Smith	-	President
David Lock	-	Past President
Bill Kennedy	-	Colts Manager
Anthony Eden	-	Seniors Captain
Iain Donnelly	-	Vice Captain
Alan Barlow	-	Executive Member
Ian Hulse	-	Secretary

Apologies:

Jack Roberts	-	Junior Secretary
Stuart Elliott	-	Executive Member
Chris Dennis	-	Captain

ACTION

Meeting opened at 17:00 hours:

Item 1 - Welcome: The President welcomed everyone to the Executive meeting. Apologies have been received from Jack, Stuart and Chris.

Item 2 – Minutes of the Meeting 18th December 2008: No Amendments.

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

Item 3 – Matters arising: The meeting was informed the unfortunately Colin Legg was unsuccessful in his nomination to the EGU Board.

Item 4 – Captains Report: In the absence of the Captain Iain explained how well the pre-season training was going with 3 out of the 5 sessions completed. Martyn Thompson was very pro-active and had been well received at the sessions. All was in place for the warm weather training with a local professional being used. Iain looked forward to the start of the season.

Item 5 – Juniors Secretary's Report: In the absence of the Junior Secretary the Secretary reported all was going well with the Junior coaching. Every thing was now in place for the warm weather training and the administration instruction regarding the Four Counties had been sent out to the other counties. The under 14's coaching sessions have been well received by those attending and we hope the young talent we have will bear fruit in the future. The secretary then informed the meeting that he had tasked the County Coach to undertake a full review during the summer on all county coaching policies and to bring forward to the committee suggestions and new initiatives to enhance and take forward our Coaching programmes. It should be noted that whilst Jack Roberts is unable to carry out his role as Junior Secretary Ian Clark, County Secretary and Bill Kennedy will cover the Juniors events with much of the administration falling to Bill for the year. Under 16 golf was discussed and every effort will be made to involve Under 16s where feasible and practicable in the golfing calendar, Bill then stated it was his intention to continue with the Triangular matches during the next winter season with the possible involvement of an Under 16 squad where possible. The Triangular matches, 4 in all this winter, have proved a great success for the Under 14s, County Girls and visited club's junior teams alike. Ian Hulse and Ian Clark

were thanked for their great assistance throughout.

Item 6 – Senior Captains Report: Had very little to report, he was awaiting certain information regarding a couple of fixtures before going out to the squad giving details of the coming season, expectations are high as we are on home soil for the EGU Qualifier and additional practice rounds will be sought.

Item 7 – Colt Managers Report: Again very little to report, having sent out emails to 20 plus players asking for availability to date 5 replies had been received. The first fixture is the BB&O friendly which will be run in conjunction with the Vice Captain who will be responsible for team selection which it is hoped will generate some enthusiasm from the youth element. The president then asked that the Vice Captain elect be asked to produce a coaching report on the recently attended EGU seminar giving and his views on the County system and enhancements that may be made.

Item 8 – Secretary’s Report:

Correspondence: DCLGA -Thanking the executive for its continued support in allowing them to sell County Cards.

Finances: Secretary briefed the meeting that the accounts had been audited by Graham Mounce and were presented for approval prior to forwarding to clubs.

Proposed Alan Barlow - The audited accounts be accepted as a true record of the Unions financial statement for 2008.

Seconded David Lock

Carried.

The secretary went on to present the current financial situation and explained that currently only 13 clubs had sent in their affiliation fees, the trend in membership appears at this early stage to be reasonably stable.

EGU Matters: The secretary informed the meeting he had recently attended the AGM and prior there had been a Voting Members seminar at which the issue of secretaries being voting members was discussed, the meeting were asked for their view and are happy to continue with the secretary as it lends to more continuity. He handed out to members the EGU Structure. Future Funding was then discussed and a paper was presented to those present, comments on this paper should be made to the secretary who will feed back to the EGU. The new Central Handicap Database was discussed and is currently being rolled out by the software manufacturers which it is hoped this will be completed by the end of 2009.

EGU Golf Central an exciting initiative, developed by golf club secretaries/managers which has been introduced as an integral part of the EGU website to assist EGU clubs, their members and the wider golfing community. The key objectives of EGU Golf Central are:

- To provide EGU clubs with a powerful web marketing tool - giving clubs 100% control
- To promote membership vacancies within England’s golf clubs - helping to grow the game and encouraging golf club membership
- To promote club open competitions within England’s golf clubs - making competitive golf more accessible
- To promote visitor golf - giving clubs the power to determine and market your own promotional offers
- To promote golf clubs through a recognised national body and website - adding the strength of the EGU brand to golf clubs
- To make accessing up-to-date information on England’s golf clubs and courses as easy possible - one stop shopping for golfing needs

The EGU have a Strategic Plan and once the secretary receives an electronic version he will

pass to all members

The next secretaries meeting in March will once more discuss the following topics:

How would we draw up the regions nationally if there was not a regional system already in place

Are County Leagues within Regions a positive aspect or an administrative/cost burden

Would a series of "friendly" geographically based matches determined by each county make more sense

Is the method of qualifying for the EGU County Championship finals correct or is another method more appropriate: a draw, seeding based on previous year

Any thoughts on the above should be passed to the secretary before the 16 Mar 09

County Dinner: Numbers are slow coming in, the secretary had to make payment which he did for 140 but to date only a 128 places have been sold. Secretary hopeful of making the 140.

Item 9 – Any Other Business (AOB):

- a. Annual Meeting of the Council: from the returns received so far the move to a week day seems to be well received.
- b. The president expressed his sincere thanks to Alan Barlow and Stuart Elliott who both leave the Executive at the Annual meeting for their contribution and input over the past two years at meetings. He then went on to say a sincere thank you to David Lock for stepping in and being a steadying influence and safe hands wishing him well in his second retirement phase.
- c. The meeting was updated on the SE group who are looking at a "SE Week" this was at an early stage and other ideas such as the SE League winners going to the EGU finals had also been floated, we will continue to monitor the situation.
- d. The secretary had been visited by Time Systems regarding the photocopier and if we would like to upgrade to colour. The view was that we should keep the current copier and look to purchase a colour A3 printer for the limited colour papers needing to be produced.
- e. The following up date on CGP Conference held 24/25 Feb 09 was given by Bill Kennedy:

General

The above two day conference was attended by Bill Kennedy for the County and Chris Holmes CDO for the partnership. This is the second of the annual conferences on this topic.

The overall impression gained was that CGPs have really taken off with only three counties in England that have not begun forming one. It would appear that most are in their infancy, and that almost all have experienced a very slow start up period. The most successful CGP to date is probably the giant BB&O CGP which was well presented during the conference.

Emergent facts

The Sport England grant to golf at almost £13M places the sport very high in the overall pecking order for the country, but below such apparent anomalies as badminton with a grant of £20M made because their business case was excellent! The EGU expenditure of this grant was proclaimed to be roughly as follows:

Growth —6%; Sustain —63%; Excel — 31%

Some interesting pointers emerged which should enable CGPs to become more effective and possibly better funded through appropriate grants. Chief of these were the involvement

of the County Sports Partnership, School Sports Coaching Partnership and the Partnership Development Manager. The latter appears to be a Government funded person at regional level with good access to a multiplicity of funds not all related directly to topics such as coaching or equipment. Also relevant was the need to break down CGPs into smaller working areas keeping a much smaller and manageable steering group whose key responsibility is strategy.

Here and there were mentions of various sources of funds that could be used to develop facilities. One such was Sport Unlimited with the additional comment that succeeding to obtain grants for major ventures of the order of a few to some tens of thousands takes a great deal of time and paperwork.

Heavy emphasis was laid upon the acquisition of GolfMark and RangeMark with its prize of guaranteed funds for coaching. Note that up to £400 is available to clubs that are not GolfMark but only to the first 350 that apply in 2009.

Possible future actions

Some future actions for our CGP present themselves, some of which may well be already under way:

- Bring the CSP and PDM into the CGP
- Liaise closely with Active Dorset
- Set targets for achievement of GolfMark
- Explore RangeMark in the county
- Consider a GolfMark seminar to drive forward GolfMark for current applicants
- Consider policy templates for clubs to adapt for their use
- List relevant funding sources, conditions and applications for easy access & understanding
- Attempt to obtain greater take-up of Junior Club and Free Golf coaching grants
- Ensure our CGP makes best use of web-sites, media, publicity and possible role models

This is a fairly daunting list, and inevitably each may generate more actions. We have a challenging but worthwhile task ahead!

Item 10 –Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Executive Committee is to be held at Knighton Heath Thu 30 April 2009 at 1700 for a 1730 hour start.

All

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1900 hours.

Signed as a True record:

John Smith President 30 April 2009