

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Held at
DORSET GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
THURSDAY 07th APRIL 2011

Present:

Douglas Pratt	-	President
Giles Legg	-	Captain
David Cook	-	Vice Captain
Anthony Eden	-	Seniors Captain
Bill Kennedy	-	Juniors Secretary
Derek Grimes	-	Executive Member
Ian Hulse	-	Secretary

Apologies:

John Calver	-	Vice President
Bill Kennedy	-	Juniors Secretary
Iain Donnelly		Colts Manager
Charlie McIntyre		Executive Member

ACTION

Meeting opened at 17:40 hours:

Item 1 - Welcome: The President welcomed everyone especially the new members David Cook Vice Captain and club member Derek Grimes. He went on to say we were all working together and their input to meetings and events was most welcome. All should feel comfortable asking questions and seeking answers, it was also stressed then any issues raised by any committee member should be through the secretary who will ensure it is distributed to all members accordingly. Apologies had been received from John Calver, Bill Kennedy, Iain Donnelly and subsequently Charlie McIntyre.

Item 2 – Minutes of the Meeting 21st February 2011:

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

Item 3 – Matters arising: No matters arising.

Item 4 – Captains Report: The captain stated he had put a full report on the warm weather training trip and the friendly match against Parkstone and had nothing to add to those. He did give the executive a quick brief on how well he thought the squad had performed and the excellent facilities that they found out in Turkey. It was disappointing to lose the friendly against Parkstone but he took heart in the fact some squad players were playing for Parkstone. None of the squad managed to get into the West of England where the cut was 0.

Secretary asked to arrange a practice round at Saunton on the Friday prior to SW Week

Secretary

Item 5 – Colt Managers Report: Due to the absence of the new manager the Vice Captain gave the following report: The squad had its first session at Iford on Mon 28th March. There was a strong turn out with 9 players joined by Martyn Thompson and David Cook. The session was split between short game and matchplay challenges followed by a discussion about the plan for the year. It was great to see as many players as we did, confirming the decision to keep the Colts squad going. Now the challenge is to convert them into 1st team potential over the next few years. April practise at Parkstone on 29th at 10am. David said he was going to play with the squad at Parkstone and will assist Iain where possible.

Item 6 – Senior Captain's Report: Nothing of real substance to report as yet, the seniors went with the Juniors to Clevedon for a practice and he confirmed that all accommodation for the events and matches had now been booked via the secretary.

Item 7 – Juniors Secretary's Report:

Squads

Both squads continue to progress. An U18 squad went to Clevedon GC for a practice round with two players from the Seniors' squad and Anthony Eden. A plan for play and a power

point presentation has been prepared. Only eight of the 12 man squad were able to attend.

Finance

The savings identified and reported at the last meeting have not fully materialised. The costs of the facility, John Jacob's time and the presence of Mark Bull have all eroded what was expected. This was decidedly disappointing.

The Under14 squad also went to Cumberwell Park on 2 April. In spite of parents sharing transport the facility and John Jacob's fees were greater than reported by MT in his original budget.

Matches/Events

The triangular match on 27 February at Knighton Heath resulted in a win for the local boys. The squad for the SWCGA Four Counties Championships has been selected. Travel will be by hired mini-bus. Two matches are imminent, both for the Under14s – 12 April against Wiltshire at Ashley Wood and 15 April against Hampshire at Canford Magna. Both matches are friendlies.

Item 8 – Dorset Golf Partnership:

The mid-term report will be submitted on Friday 8th April. Progress with both the infant and junior academy coaching continues to go well with 31 Under10s and 38 in the main academies. Two seminars have been held, one with Gary Smith on short-game techniques and one by John Jacobs on the best use of technology in coaching.

The Golf Roots is staging a major event on 19 May entitled "Big Swing" organised by Darren Stratman. The SWGW events in the week after the Masters are well arranged with 11 Dorset clubs taking part.

The Partnership web-site is now in the welcome hands of Richard Murgatroyd, Manager of Wareham GC.

Item 9 – Secretary's Report:

Correspondence: Letters of thanks for the dinner had been received and passed on to committee members. The EGU President elect Mr Paul Baxter had accepted the invitation to the 2012 dinner.

Finances: The secretary briefed on the current finances and affiliation fee income to date.

County Dinner: It was felt that this was a huge success with the largest attendance recorded since taking over as secretary. The Crown had been booked for 2012 and he had provisionally booked to go back to Dudsbury in 2013.

Annual Meeting of the Council: The secretary briefed on the replies received back from clubs on the proposal to visit and brief club committees, to date four clubs had replied with two accepting the invitation. There followed much discussion on what can be done and the secretary proposed that maybe a Sunday evening with a Secretary / Manager & Club Captain 4BBB competition in the afternoon followed by sandwiches and then the meeting. Members were asked to think it over and a decision would be made at the next meeting.

All

EGU Matters: The secretary briefed the meeting that at present all merger briefs by the EGU had been cancelled, it was still awaiting EWGA to resolve its tenancy agreement problems and until that is completed the EGU will not go to print on the Proposal Document.

PROPOSED AFFILIATION FEE INCREASE – VOTING MEMBERS BRIEFING PAPER

The following had been received from the EGU:

As has been briefed at recent Voting Members meetings and recorded in Minutes, the Board are going to bring a resolution to the Voting Members meeting on 29 June 2011, proposing that the affiliation fee be increased by £1.00 to 6.25 in 2012 and a further £1.00 to £7.25 in 2013. The agenda and supporting papers for the meeting are only issued 21 days ahead of the meeting and it is evident that many County Executives are already debating and voting on this issue and as such this briefing paper is being issued to Voting Member Representatives to assist them in explaining the rationale behind the Board's proposal.

BACKGROUND:

Three events have given rise to the Board making this proposal:

The counter proposal from the floor for a greater affiliation fee increase than proposed at the VM meeting on 30 June 2010, which if given more notice may well have been approved.

The Counter proposal was tabled because there was a fear that the EGU is in danger of becoming underfunded.

Considerable support from recent communication with counties in which it is clear that they would wish to see the EGU be less reliant upon Government funding.

An indication from Sport England that we can expect a minimum of a 15% cut in funding at the end of the current Whole Sport Plan funding in 2013 if not sooner. However there must always be some uncertainty regarding the total funding package which is currently worth over £ 1 million per annum to the Union and County Golf Partnership structure.

The Board wish to be proactive rather than reactive to the possible external factors affecting our core activity income and County Unions have indicated that to have an earlier indication of future affiliation fee levels would be a considerable advantage to their administration.

THE PROPOSAL

The proposed increase in affiliation fee and the additional funding it generates will be used for 3 purposes:

To underwrite the advised shortfall in Government funding from no later than 2013. In this regard the EGU will continue to accept Government funding, but it may become more selective on the funding streams it accepts whilst wishing to be able to continue to support activity already established which is considered valuable to achieving our objectives.

To meet justifiable increases in revenue requirements for core activity. To a large extent it is expected that core activities will continue as is currently the case. The level of justifiable revenue increases will largely depend on future falls in affiliation numbers, inflationary pressures on costs and other variables in legislation such as VAT increases.

Any remaining funds will be credited to the Special Projects Fund within reserves. The Special Projects Fund which was largely generated from the Golf England Project is set aside for projects outside of the normal activities of the Union and expenditure has to be approved by the Voting Members in general meeting. Thus any expenditure will have to be justified to Voting Members on a business case basis.

Although it is difficult to categorically estimate what the core activity revenue requirements will be for 2012 and 2013 it can be reasonably predicted that 30-35p per annum would be needed to maintain the status quo. Assuming that we have as an average 635,000 members for the two years, approximately £430,000 will be added to Special Projects in 2012 and assuming that the best case scenario in 2013 is a only a 15% cut in Government funding a further £700,000 in 2013. The reality of the situation may be that from 2013 the shortfall in Government funding could be anything up to £1 million.

THE FUTURE

As at 31 October 2010, the total reserves of the Union stood at £ 1.465 million, of which general reserves amounted to £ 837,000 or just 25% of a year's total affiliation fees. The Special Projects Fund stood at £ 628,000 and under this proposal it is possible that this could rise to £ 1.75 million in 2013.

The proposed increase in affiliation fees if approved may also possibly provide the Union with other benefits going forward:

The issue of dual membership may well be able to be addressed should this be desired by the counties.

Should merger with EWGA go ahead then the harmonising of affiliation fee levels for men and women will be easier to facilitate with our fees starting closer together.

It should be possible to provide County Unions with at least a year's notice of changes to future affiliation fees.

If the proposal is accepted, from 2012 onwards the Board will annually consider the level of affiliation fees and its reserves policy and make proposals to Voting Members accordingly.

After discussion the Executive members all agreed to support the increase and instructed the voting member accordingly.

Item 10 – Any Other Business (AOB):

- a. **SWCGA v Midlands:** After the last meeting of the SWCGA executive it was decided that at the AGM a vote would be taken on whether the match should be retained or

dropped. The executive discussed this fixture and felt it was an important that our golfers have a chance whilst playing at SW Week to be selected for the SWCGA team and therefore all were in agreement that the fixture should be retained and Dorset should vote for it being retained.

- b. **Junior Secretary:** The secretary informed the meeting that the announcement from the Junior Secretary at the Annual Meeting had come as a shock as he nor the Junior President were aware he would be making such an announcement. It was therefore important to start now on finding a suitable replacement. It was felt that maybe it was also the time to see if a secretary is the right job title or should we move to team managers? The Executive were happy to allow the Junior Sub Committee to take this forward and will support what ever they may wish to do in seeking a replacement for the current Junior Secretary.
- c. **Executive v Ladies Association:** To celebrate the Ladies Centenary a match between the two Executives has been arranged and will take place at Broadstone GC on Thursday 26 May 2011. Members were asked to let the secretary know soonest their availability.

Item 10 –Next Meeting: The next meeting is to be held at DG&CC Thursday 23 June 2011 at 1700 for a 1730 hour start.

All

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18:50 hours.

Signed as a True record:

Douglas Pratt President 23 June 2011