

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Held at
DORSET GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
THURSDAY 08th SEPTEMBER 2011

Present:

Douglas Pratt	-	President
Giles Legg	-	Captain
David Cook	-	Vice Captain
Bill Kennedy	-	Juniors Secretary
Iain Donnelly		Colts Manager
Charlie McIntyre		Executive Member
Ian Hulse	-	Secretary

Apologies:

John Calver	-	Vice President
Anthony Eden	-	Seniors Captain
Derek Grimes	-	Executive Member

ACTION

Meeting opened at 18:00 hours:

Item 1 - Welcome: The President welcomed everyone and apologies had been received from John Calver, Anthony Eden and Derek Grimes.

Item 2 – Minutes of the Meeting 23rd June 2011:

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

Item 3 – Matters arising: The President did say under matters arising that he felt the Stroke Play championship went well at Remedy Oak with a great final round of 68 being produced by Tom Robson of Weymouth. Under item 6 he congratulated the seniors on their fine performance and second place in the SE league and finished by saying he had attended the meeting with the Secretary as per item 10f and felt it was very worth while with a good flow of ideas from both sides of the table.

Item 4 – Captains Report: The captain stated that all match reports were now available on the County web site and went on to sum up by saying his end of season report would be "We could do better." The season hinged on one or two games turning at the death and resulting in defeat, we need to compete harder and learn to close games out when the chance is there. He felt we were doing as well as we can considering the resources limitations we have compared to other counties, what we really need is for the younger element to start pushing on and getting into the team. Much discussion then took place on the player base, and the President made his feeling felt regarding the lack of commitment by some to the practice rounds. David cook felt the two youngsters brought in to the last match competed very well and Charlie McIntyre felt that more emphasis on the foursomes and being more individual on the greens was perhaps needed, no two players putt the same and sometimes confusion can be caused by to much input by your partner, certainly something to think and work on for the winter.

Item 5 – Colt Managers Report: Unfortunately our match versus Kent did not happen due to the opposition making a mistake on the fixture date.

Against Sussex our players showed good spirit. We had 3 rookies on duty that all came away with credit in establishing themselves as future stalwarts of the Colts team. In the morning foursomes Fraser Dawson (16 years old), won his first match 2/1, assisted and "fathered" around the course by Matt Hector. Their focus on minimising mistakes put the pressure on the opposition enabling them to come from 3 down after 10 to winning with a glorious 7 iron approach to the 17th by Fraser.

Our team's development is starting to show, Sussex were very business like in their approach to the match and our guys rose to the challenge. John Milne led the way and was very unfortunate to lose at the 18th to a very hot Sussex putter. Behind him another rookie gained his first point, in a compelling tussle Andy Robson won 1 up in a match to rival

anything going on at Wimbledon! Finally the two Alex's from Highcliffe won their matches with Dorset's new gutsy style of fighting back. The final result was 8-4 to Sussex.

Our squad now totals 16 players with 4 rookies getting wins in our two matches, the investment of time and money in the Colts has been worth it in 2011

Item 6 – Senior Captain's Report: A lot has happened since my last report and I will itemise things by group rather than chronologically.

National Finals Qualifying at Clevedon on 4th/5th July. This was another very successful tournament for the Dorset Senior Team. Not only did we win the qualifying by 16 shots, and for the third year in a row, but John Gordon won the individual championship following in the footsteps of David Lock last year and Brian Medlam the year before. As you know the final is at Gog Magog and whilst you have the Executive Committee meeting we will be up there having two practise rounds. Martyn Thompson is also coming to assess the course and advise us how to play it.

South East League.

Having lost to Sussex at Ham Manor, which I have already reported, our next match was against Surrey at Camberley Heath on 28th June. This was altogether more successful and we won **6 – 4**. Next up was Hampshire at Remedy Oak on 10th August. This was the sort of match to drive a captain mad. One game was dormie two up, another dormie one up and yet both contrived nightmare 18th holes to only walk off with a half. Thus we halved the match **5 – 5** when we should have comfortably won it. Our final match was at Came Down against Kent. After eight holes we were up in all of the front six matches. As Campbell Boal said to me "can it last?" Well of course it could not and holes gradually slipped away. However the bottom of the team hung on, having been three and four up, to creak over the line and give us a very satisfying victory by **6 ½ - 3 ½**.

The next day Kent played Hampshire and lost 6 – 4. I spoke to the Kent secretary and he said well of course Kent was missing four players and even their manager, Mark Singfield, had to play. That is not really much of an excuse because Mark plays off 2.3 which is better than most of our team. This meant that Sussex won the league with three points and we were second with 2 ½. It would have been nice to have that extra half point from the Hampshire game but Sussex would still have won the league with more individual games won.

Southern Area Foursomes Qualifier at Bath on 8th August. Played in windy conditions on a Harry Colt designed course with five matches in the morning and five in the afternoon Gloucestershire beat us with 13 points to our 12. It is some years since we won this foursomes qualifier and yet again the 17th hole proved fatal to our chances. The 17th is a short hilly par four and you must not get above the hole. Three times I watch us make bogey from the middle of the fairway twice to lose and once to half the hole. Three pars there would have been enough to reverse the result with Gloucestershire.

Friendlies. We now have only two friendlies and I have already reported on the Wiltshire match. We played Devon at Bridport on 20th July and lost **2 ½ - 3 1/2**. Devon as usual bringing most of the S.W league team. A draw might have been fair but their captain, Richard Brown, was antisocial enough to make two 2's on the back nine and another Devon pair had four birdies in five holes to close their match out.

Summary. The **Clevedon** result was excellent because the course was not playing well. To give you an example Rhys Francis started with a double bogey, stood on the 18th tee one under par then played a four iron for safety straight into the hedge. He dropped out, on the green for four and six putted for a 78 because the green was like a shiny upturned saucer. Often talk is of three putts but every team was talking of four, five and six putts. Nobody had ever experienced anything like it. We did well in the league once again. Second on our own is satisfying but that last step to the top still eludes us. We have not yet eliminated all of the mistakes in matches but we are now a much tougher, competent team. Fingers crossed to God Magog.

Item 7 – Juniors Secretary’s Report: The Six Counties on 27 July at Ferndown proved to be a most pleasant surprise with the County coming in second to Devon. The three practice sessions on the course were of some considerable help as was the assistance from both Martyn Thompson and Scott Godfrey. A significant factor was also that we had four Ferndown members in the squad. We missed out by only 7 shots. Both Robbie Mabb and Harry Mitchell carded 70s. Ollie Stocks played as an individual and shot a pair of 74s which against a CSS of 72 will certainly see him cut to 5.

The Donnelly Shield, which is a part of the Three Counties event with Sussex and Hampshire competing against Dorset, took place at Tylney Park GC in Hampshire. An excellent, long undulating course with fiercely contoured greens. We took what can best be described as a “scratch” team and it showed in the results. In the 9 hole foursomes we had one good win against Hampshire from Dan Oliver and Ashley Colloff and a half from Billy-Joe Bugden and Tom Parsons against Sussex. The afternoon singles were an unmitigated disaster with just one point each from Tom Parsons against Hampshire and James Dodds against Sussex. The “wooden spoon” was worth 8 points against Hampshire’s 44! A trouncing indeed.

In the first full year of the SW Counties Under 14 League for the Jack Roberts Trophy our boys came second by a very close margin. Harry Willsher has skippered the side well and now hands over to a new boy to continue the good work.

Work is now underway to finalise both the squad for the Under 14s and their coaching programme. As reported earlier a new management structure will be in place with Ian Davis taking on the Under 14s and Andy Parsons moving up to the Under 18s. With the demise of the Juniors Secretary’s post in March 2012 it was agreed by the meeting that both would join the Executive Committee after the Annual Meeting of the Council and prior to that the secretary would put in place an amendment to the constitution removing the Junior Secretary and replacing that post with the two new ones.

Secretary

Item 8 – Dorset Golf Partnership: The Finals Day at Canford Magna, courtesy of David Cooper, took place on 25th August. It was well attended by children, parents and PGA professionals. Prizes were awarded and talks given by Justyn Branton, Regional PGA co-ordinator and myself. All the academy assessment sessions have been completed with some 96 applicants from all ages, 6 through to 16. The very young will not be part of the coaching programme but plans are being made to try to cover all the rest. Venues, professionals and money will be the principle constraints on our ambitions. Major work now needs to be done on wider reaching events across the County.

I continue to be grateful to Dee Wood for her excellent organisation, Marcus Urbye the CDO and Duncan Driver with his team of PGA professionals for all their hard work.

Item 9 – Secretary’s Report:

Correspondence: Secretary briefed the meeting on correspondence received and sent.

Finances: The secretary handed round a copy of the Income and Expenditure as at the date of the meeting.

EGU Matters: The meeting discussed the Question and Answer session prior to the meeting chaired by Mr. Graham Yates EGU Board member. It was very disappointing only two of our thirty one clubs attended. Discussion on the proposal took place on the presentation and proposal along with the question as to if the executive should consult with the clubs? After much discussion it was decided the Executive would make the decision without having consultation with the clubs as their lack of commitment to the early question and answer session was in some way a good guide that clubs are not too concerned on the issue. The original email did ask for comment from clubs to be in the County office by the 27 Oct 11 and the secretary was asked to go out to the clubs to see if there is any more comment prior to the next meeting.

Item 10 – Any Other Business (AOB):

- a. **Executive v Ladies Association:** Secretary briefed the meeting that as per their decision at the last meeting the match would take place at Broadstone on the 2 Oct 11.
- b. **EGU Champion Club Event:** The secretary informed the meeting that Parkstone did not send a team to the event. The secretary is to ensure that teams entering the

Secretary

qualifier give assurance they will endeavour to ensure should they win to put a team in the EGU Champion club event.

Secretary

- c. **EGU County Seniors Final – Gog Magog** The President had circulated a paper with his thoughts regarding expenses for the Seniors, there followed much discussion on this matter and it is considered that the schedule covers most aspects regarding the finals. Regarding additional practice rounds this was considered important and the executive agreed that some help towards the additional cost should be made, it was therefore agreed to cover the players travel costs and green fee, but it is stressed were possible car sharing should be maximised.

Secretary

- d. The Captain asked for Winter Training to be placed on the agenda for the October meeting.

Secretary

Item 10 –Next Meeting: The next meeting is to be held at DG&CC Thursday 27 October 2011 at 1700 for a 1730 hour start.

All

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:22 hours.

Signed as a True record:

Douglas Pratt President 27 October 2011