

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Held at
DORSET GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2010

Present:

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

Apologies:

Iain Donnelly	-	Captain
David Steward		Executive Member

ACTION

Meeting opened at 17:25 hours:

Item 1 - Welcome: The President welcomed everyone and the secretary informed the meeting of apologies received.

Item 2 – Minutes of the Meeting 18th August 2010:

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

Item 3 – Matters arising: None.

Item 4 – Captains Report: The vice captain reported he took control for the final match of the season against Sussex at Worthing, there were two debutants Kevin Robinson Yeovil and Robbie Mabb (Jnr) Weymouth both made positive starts. The result was disappointing as it could have all been different had the eighteenth been a little kinder to us, we could have gone in after the morning all square rather than 3 – 1 down. The honours were even in the afternoon single but given the weather the players endured it was a wonder we got the match completed. Whilst a disappointing result it did give both the County Coach and I a chance to see what need to be worked on during the pre-season coaching. We seem to fall away in the last 3 holes and need to be able to concentrate and close out matches by working harder on the final 100 yards into the hole. The vice captain informed the meeting Andrew Windsor had turned Professional and wished him well.

Item 5 – Vice Captains Report – Colts: The Vice Captain had nothing to report.

Item 6 – Senior Captains Report: When we first heard that we were going to Paultons we were rather surprised, but it turned out to be a very pleasant golf course with some testing holes and in excellent condition. It was one of those matches that when they went through the eighth tee it looked like a 6/4 victory for us. After the fourteenth maybe 5 ½ / 4 ½ to us. After the sixteenth with John Nash and Campbell Boal both one down with two to play I was keeping my fingers crossed for 5/5. However both of them came through with halved matches and as you can see we managed our first win of the season 6 – 4 relegating Hampshire to the wooden spoon position in the league. The league this year has been strange. Last year Sussex lost every match and yet this year they won every match and the league, even beating Kent by the unheard of margin of 8 ½ - 1 ½. Last year Hampshire beat us to win the league and yet this year they have lost three and only halved one. Will fortune smile on Dorset next year?

Dorset Seniors having got a taste last year qualified again for the English County Seniors Finals at Ferndown. Despite the forecasts we were blessed with some lovely golfing weather throughout the week. Heavy rain during Tuesday night meant that the Wednesday start was delayed until 9.15 am and we had a two tee start, but the green staff had worked like Trojans to get it ready and the weather then got better and better. All credit to the Head Greenkeeper and his staff because Ferndown was an absolute picture and the surface and

speed of the greens could not have been better. The course played very long as every tee was right at the back, even the fourteenth was played at 174 yards from the other side of the path. Our SE League rivals qualified yet again along with Northamptonshire and Cheshire. It should be born in mind that both the Cheshire and Kent teams are full of Home Internationals and the other members also play in the top senior competitions such as the British Seniors Open and all of the other National Opens plus some on the continent. In short they are much more battle hardened than our Dorset team. The format for this competition is a round robin with each match comprising three foursomes in the morning and six singles in the afternoon. A team of eight does mean that the Captain has the opportunity to give players a rest. Tuesday 5th. Dorset versus Northamptonshire. Once again foursomes were to be our downfall. Earlier in the year we had tried out different foursomes pairings but still the magic combinations continue to elude us. A very convincing win in the first match proved to be our only foursomes point of the week with Northamptonshire taking a 2 - 1 lead. The afternoon was a different matter when we played very well and won five of the six singles to win our very first National Finals match 6 - 3. A very heartening start for the team.

Wednesday 6th. Dorset versus Cheshire. This was undoubtedly the most disappointing result for the team. In the foursomes we were all square in all three matches after twelve holes but lost each one by very narrow margins. In the afternoon singles we beat Cheshire 3 ½ - 2 ½ to lose the match by 3 ½ - 5 ½. To win the singles was a great achievement but everybody in the team felt that we could have won the match, and what a fillip for Dorset Golf that would have been to halve with or even beat the mighty Cheshire.

Thursday 7th. Dorset versus Kent. Kent once again were too strong for us. Yet again we lost all three foursomes and the singles 1 ½ - 4 ½. Losing the match 1 ½ - 7 ½. Perhaps we could have squeezed one more point out of the match, but certainly not more than one. Captains Conclusion. The Dorset performance was very much better than last year at Tandridge. We had some really good individual performances and the gap is definitely closing. However what was very obvious to the onlooker was the difference between our short game and those of Cheshire and Kent. Time and time again from one hundred yards out they put the ball much closer to the hole, generally in the right place just below the hole, and they holed their putts whereas we missed quite a lot of shortish ones that could have turned some of the games in our favour. However overall it was a very encouraging performance from the Dorset team.

There was a vote of thanks to all who came and supported the team at Ferndown especially Doug Sewell and Graham Butson along with the SWCGA President Alf Palmer who attended each day.

Item 7 – Juniors Secretary's Report:

Squads: The Under 18, or Junior Squad, of 12 has now been selected. An assessment for the 4 to be added to the OOM top 8 was completed on 10 Oct, resulting in all four under 17 years olds being selected. All now informed.

The Under 14 assessment was deferred from 3 Oct PAYM Round 1 due to bad weather. 24 Oct was then fixed as the new date but I felt it was too late to enable final selections for the Academy Coaching DGP programme. So selection was based on previous records and knowledge of the boys. Four reserves have also been nominated and everyone informed. Martyn Thompson is still going to look at some of the boys at the PAYM Round 1 on Sunday.

So now we have a squad of 12 juniors and 16 under 14s. Clothing sizes have now been requested.

Coaching Programme: The long awaited programme was produced in first draft on 4 October. I have asked for a recosting of the Under 18s programme as it appears over budget. I am promised this now for this weekend. There appears to be heavy reliance on nationally recognised experts. The Under 14s programme looks reasonable.

Appointments: Robbie Mabb has been appointed as Juniors Captain, and Harry Willsher as the Under 14s Captain. Harry Shaw has been voted on to the Juniors Committee and has expressed a keen wish to be involved with the Under 14s in assistance to Andy Parsons and will spend some time with the Juniors too.

Matches/Events: The full quadrangular programme is not yet settled but the first event will be at Dudsbury on 21st November. A limited number of Under16 friendly matches will be arranged for the 2011 season.

Item 8 – Dorset Golf Partnership:

Having completed our first full year of actual coaching activity with a squad of 39 we have now launched into the 2010/2011 season. The annual report in all its detail has been submitted to the EGP on 13 October and the outcome is awaited. The funding for the year is dependent upon its acceptance.

Throughout September assessments were run at three centres to select the new squad of 40 boys and girls out of 93 applicants. We are again running three centres but at Sturminster Marshall, Canford Magna and Bridport this year, having dropped Iford Golf Centre and DG&CC. The academy sessions for two of the centres have been expanded to include a two hour session for 10year olds and under of which we have 27. Also in September we inaugurated a senior/new adult golfer programme of group lessons at Iford Golf Centre and Canford Magna. This is a 6 week pilot so we can judge the value of the approach. It is likely that Dudsbury will be added to the list. The sessions are for a maximum number of 12 players and cost £18 for the 6 sessions.

We have lost three of our original professionals from our team of 10. Duncan Driver from Lyme Regis has been appointed as the Head Academy Coach. Four applicants for the vacant posts are to be interviewed shortly. I would like to commend the tremendous professionalism of both Dee Wood and Duncan Driver in organising and managing the Academy programme.

The secretary informed the meeting on the success of the Academy during the first year with on average players dropping handicaps by five shots. The funding is due to cease in 2013 and the Executive should consider putting in place provision to ensure the academy continues as it will in the long term benefit County Golf.

Item 9 – Secretary's Report:

Correspondence: The secretary briefed on the mail received from members of the Seniors expressing their thanks to the executive for ensuring they were kitted out correctly at the National Finals. Letter received from Andrew Windsor thanking the executive for all their support during his amateur career.

Finances: Secretary briefed the meeting on the current account figures. The executive were asked to support the purchase of new IT equipment for the office along with new software. Agreed

The secretary to look at a larger display screen for the online scoring at County Competitions.

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

Strategic Funding – Discussion Paper - Secretary to send response to John Petrie.

EGU President Elect - Paul Baxter

Merger – Secretary briefed on the delay that can be expected and said he would know more after the next voting members meeting in November.

The executive asked that the Voting member informs the EGU that it would not support the reduction in referees at County Finals, it is seen as big plus by players as they do not have to worry if decisions need making during the match.

Item 10 – Any Other Business (AOB):

a. **County Coach.** The secretary had written to the Coach informing him of the short comings seen by the Executive and the President had spoken personally with the coach on these matters. Captains should keep records of any problems encountered during the coming months.

b. **IOW Fixture.** The fixture is becoming increasingly more difficult to fit in a suitable

All

time for both sides and after discussion with the incoming Colts Manager his view was that the fixture should be dropped. The Executive discussed this and agreed as it did not truly reflect Colts golf the secretary should write to the IOW and inform them of the decision to remove it from the fixture list.

- c. **Home Nations Inter-Club Championship.** Ferndown Juniors were successful at the Regional finals and now travel to Cheshire for the Nationals. The secretary requested the executive agree to a further £250 to support them in travel expenses for this final.
- d. **DCGA.** The President just wanted to highlight that the current numbers attending were greatly reduced this year and there for the funding raised for juniors will be reduced. The junior Sub Committee to discuss on ways to encourage more participation in the future.
- e. **SWCGA.** The secretary informed the meeting he had written to the SWCGA secretary asking for an explanation as to why our reserve Corey Coshan had not had a call up as over 6 of the original team had dropped out? This matter was to be placed on the agenda of the next SWCGA Executive meeting.
- f. **Broadstone.** The County to put a team into the competition being held to say farewell to Colin Robinson who has been a great supporter to County Golf.
- g. **1st Team Coaching.** The Vice Captain asked if it would be possible to take a squad abroad prior to the season start as the main part of the pre-season coaching. Captain asked to source a full cost from at least two sources and present to the executive at the next meeting for discussion.

Agreed

Secretary

Vice Captain

Item 10 –Next Meeting: The next meeting is to be held at DG&CC Thursday 16 December 2010 at 1000 for a 1030 hour start.

All

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:05 hours.

Signed as a True record:

Douglas Pratt President 16 December 2010