

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Held at
DORSET GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
THURSDAY 29th APRIL 2010

Present:

Douglas Pratt	-	President
John Smith	-	Immediate Past 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

ACTION

Meeting opened at 17:35 hours:

Item 1 - Welcome: The President welcomed everyone to his first meeting and went on to pay grateful thanks to John Smith for his two years at the helm.

Item 2 – Minutes of the Meeting 25th February 2010:

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

Item 3 – Matters arising: None.

Item 4 – Captains Report: The squad had two warm up matches one against the Army and the other was BB&O, whilst losing both matches it was noted that young Harry Mitchell fared well in his first outing other juniors were still some time away and need to get some Colts experience. Kevin Garwood finished 11th and Giles Legg 33rd in the West of England with Ferndown duo Tom Leech and Andrew Windsor missing the cut. The first SE League fixture is due to be played at Came Down on Sunday 9th May. The County Coach has arranged for some practise sessions for the named squad. The Captain went on to say how the playing squad was shrinking and how important it was to get the juniors to come through. Young Coshan is on the golf road again and is to be encouraged to get some Colts matches under his belt so he can be reintroduced back into the County squad. The President reiterated it was the Captains job to ensure players were spoken with and encouraged along with team selection. BK asked if Lloyd Walton and Jon Putman were being considered, secretary informed BK that LW was at present not an affiliated club member. Captain stated that it was hard to pin down Mr Putman. The Kent and Surrey matches are going to be interesting as they coincide with a player's stag night / wedding, it will certainly test the Captains power of persuasion. The Dorset Open went well with Tom Peacock now back as an amateur winning the Hillamsland Trophy coming second overall to Lee James. There followed much discussion by the committee on how to tackle some of the player issues including player commitment and getting them to play County Golf but as stated earlier by the President it was the Captains responsibility to talk to the players and decide when the time is right to bring into the squad.

Item 5 – Vice Captains Report – Colts: Colts team went to the Isle of Wight and Osborne GC BK stressed how difficult it was to get players in the 18 -21 bracket and in the end had to use some of the Juniors which was agreed by all to be a good learning curve for them.

BK raised the issue of kit.

Item 6 – Senior Captains Report: Slowly the season gets under way. Yesterday we had a very successful foursomes practise at Ferndown. The atmosphere within the team was very good and two of our new boys, David Barton and Selwyn Burke, fitted in very well. John Nash was very impressed to find that on our 10th, played from the back tee David hit such a

long drive that he, John, only needed a 9 iron for his second. I forgot to ask if they got their par!

We have a second get together at Parkstone on Tuesday 11th May prior to our first match against Sussex at Parkstone. I have also selected the team for the match against Kent and will be letting everyone know my thoughts for the rest of the season very shortly.

Item 7 – Juniors Secretary's Report:

Matches

SW 4 Counties. This was played on 6 – 8 April at Bude GC, hosted by Cornwall. The team comprised the Elite Squad with one exception and Harry Mann. Apart from the practice round the conditions were fine. We were 4th in the stroke play and 3rd equal in the match play. Though once again disappointing the highlight was beating Devon 4:3, the strongest team by far in the competition. It can be done!

Under 14s. The squad this year is nothing like as strong as in 2009 when we had a squad of all single figures. Our first match this year was against Wiltshire at Hamptworth GC on 15 April. The 9 hole foursomes were lost 3:1, with two halved matches and a 1 down. The singles were a big disappointment with only Billy-Joe, George Long and Jack Fairhall winning. There were two other close matches. Overall we lost 8:4. Chipping and putting were the main problems. The next match is this weekend against Cornwall at Yeovil GC.

Quadrangular matches . Only two have been played this year out of the 6 arranged, mostly due to poor weather and once because of an unfortunate clash of fixtures. I believe it worth pursuing as it provides a test of winter coaching, a chance to see Under 16s in action and an opportunity for the Junior teams of the host clubs to see what County class talent looks like.

Coaching

The intensive coaching programme is now finished. We ran three squads: Elite, 16 man Junior and 16 man Under 14. Overall, including the Warm Weather Training it cost in excess of £10,000. The Juniors Committee is intent on examining the cost-effectiveness of the entire coaching programme. One major issue is the fatigue apparent towards the end of the Warm Weather Training and the lack of good results in the recent past that it has generated. We have three of our Juniors on the AASE programme: Sonny Wilkinson, Robbie Mabb and Jackson Bowes. As an Under 14 Billy-Joe has also come to the attention of the SW coaching programme.

Trophies

Henderson Trophy. The last round of the Henderson Trophy was played at Ashley Wood on 12 April. The overall result was a stroke-play win for Billy-Joe Bugden on count-back from Harry Shaw. The match play stages were at Dudsbury with some really good clashes. The final was played out by Harry Shaw from Canford Magna and Robbie Mabb of Weymouth. It was a great match with Harry Shaw finally prevailing on the 17th.

Peter Alliss Young Masters. This was concluded last weekend at ferndown GC on the President's Course. Jack Baker from Knighton Heath prevailed by one hole over Harry Willsher from Canford Magna. A great semi-final and an excellent final too. The girl's trophy went to Sarah Webb of Canford Magna, again by one hole against Alice Davis of Ferndown. Again a brilliant match.

Item 8 – Secretary's Report:

Correspondence: The secretary briefed on the various correspondences received.

Finances: Secretary briefed the meeting on the accounts.

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

Merger

Still ongoing no news to report at present:

Equality Bill The Equality Bill received Royal Assent on the 8th of April and formally became [The Equality Act 2010](#).

It is intended that the provisions in the Act will come into force as follows:

- **October 2010:** Main provisions.
- **April 2011:** The integrated public sector Equality Duty, the Socio-economic Duty and dual discrimination protection.
- **2012:** The ban on age discrimination in provision of goods, facilities, services and public functions.
- **2013:** Private and voluntary sector gender pay transparency regulations (if required) and political parties publishing diversity data.

Item 9 – Any Other Business (AOB):

a. Junior Sub Committee Minute item 4:

Item 4 – Elite Squad Coaching /Warm Weather Training:

A separate report had been circulated by the Junior Secretary regarding the training week which is to be discussed at the next meeting. The main reason for this meeting was to discuss the drinking of alcohol by juniors and the impending resignation tendered by the Junior Secretary. Bill gave a full explanation of events; the party were taken out by the hosts for a meal in Fuente Alamo as a break from the stay at the golf resort, during the meal both adults allowed the boys with the exception of Billy-Joe Bugden to have an alcoholic drink with their meal. At the conclusion of the meal Bill took BJ back to the villa and left Martyn in charge of the remaining 7 boys. The boys continued to drink and enjoy the evening within the town under the very close supervision of Martyn, the evening concluded after one boy had been ill, the mess was cleaned up and all were then taken back to the villa where the fun continued with golf tennis!! All boys whilst in high spirits were at all times well behaved and supervised. DS asked if BJ had had a drink it was concluded that the boys had bought him a shandy but he did not like it and left it, BK was not aware of this fact. DS asked if Jackson had been sick, Martyn said he had but felt it was after the physical exertion of the golf tennis. AP asked what the average age of the party which was around 16½ he then went on to say that you wont stop them drinking if they set there minds to it.

IC stated that the Code of Conduct states “As part of the fitness routine procedure, smoking, the consumption of alcohol and the use of any drug, or performance enhancing or recreational substance is strictly forbidden.” These are signed by both parent and player. BK and MT agreed that both were responsible and should not have allowed this to happen. IC had spoken to the boys at last Fridays training session, and reported that all the boys appreciate they were wrong and they blame themselves for this happening. They would not wish to see Bill resign over this matter. IH reported there had been no written or verbal complaints from parents but he had received the following from Steve Howlett:

To Dorset County Elite Squad and Parents,
I will keep this short and without re-iterating well documented (various) versions of events, reference the recent Elite Squad trip to Spain, I would urge all of you to show support for Bill Kennedy. Individuals like Bill come along once in a lifetime and Dorset County Junior Golf would certainly not be where it is today without his ongoing belief, support and dedication. Please, let us repay Bill's belief in our sons' ability, with our belief in him. For the County Executive Committee to accept Bill's resignation would be of absolute detriment to the future of Junior Golf in Dorset and I implore all of you, in correspondence, to respectfully ask the Executive Committee to reject Bill's tender of resignation and for Bill to continue in his Post as County Juniors Secretary without blemish or fault.

IC summed up that Bill had tendered his resignation as Junior Secretary and Martyn had no plans to resign over this matter. IH stated he felt the resignation had been tendered to the Junior Sub Committee who would either accept or reject but what ever they decide would then be put forward to the main Executive for their ratification / endorsement.

After much discussion the Junior Sub Committee were unanimous that they did not wish Bill to resign and asked that his resignation be withdrawn. IC then went on to say that we have

to learn the lesson from this event and in future any accompanying adults should be very clear that they must never condone the drinking of alcohol by juniors.

Bill stated he was willing to withdraw his tendered resignation with the caveat that it was subject to the endorsement of the County Executive.

Martyn apologised unreservedly to the committee for his actions.

Conclusion: Both WK and MT admit an error of judgement and very much regret their actions advising the committee that this would not be repeated in the future. Having considered the explanation of events the Junior Sub Committee are unanimous in requesting the Executive Committee accept its recommendation.

Recommendation: The Executive Committee accept the finding of the Junior Sub Committee and endorse the withdrawal of the Junior Secretaries tendered resignation.

The President recommended the executive accept the Junior Sub Committees recommendation, this was seconded by Anthony Eden and agreed by all present.

BK thanked the committee for their support and apologised for the slip and withdrew his tendered resignation.

b. County Web Site: The secretary gave the meeting a brief update on the new web site his main task now was to get the message out to the members.

c. Ringwood Brewery Sponsorship: The secretary had made an approach to Ringwood Brewery for sponsorship there offer is as follows:

Many thanks for taking the time to call into the brewery yesterday. It was a pleasure to meet you. I hope that you found the time worthwhile.

As discussed, please see below our thoughts on a potential agreement between the brewery and the Dorset County Golf Union. We are very keen to work with you and so I hope that you find them agreeable.

Sponsorship agreement to include some or all of;

- Headline sponsor – ‘Dorset County Golf Union supported / sponsored by Ringwood Brewery.
- Sponsorship / provision of prizes at 8 events.
- ‘Order of merit’ sponsorship.
- Sponsorship of the county golf team shirts (30).
- Sponsorship of fixtures card.
- Sponsorship of the county union card.
- Advert in the county union card.
- Attendance at the county dinner.

Following our meeting Richard and I were able to spend some time looking at the opportunity. We concluded that we would like to offer you £4000 for a two year sponsorship agreement. Our proposal would be to split the payment £2000 this year and £2000 next. The agreement would include all of the opportunities detailed above. Alternatively we can look at individual elements.

The committee agreed to go with the proposals and the Secretary will pursue.

d. John White had attended the EGU Rules School and whilst disappointed on missing out on a grading of distinction had gained a pass, it is hoped he will use his new skills at this years County Championship.

e. Due to a secretarial error the Dorset Partnership was not an agenda item which will be rectified for the next meeting. Bill then briefed the members on Club and Coach and informed the meeting that due to work load Martyn Thomson will not continue as the Head of Club and Coach this will be taken on by Duncan Driver from Lyme

Regis.

Item 10 –Next Meeting: The next meeting due in May will not be held and therefore the next Executive Committee meeting is to be held at DG&CC Thursday 01 July 2010 at 1700 for a 1730 hour start.

All

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:10 hours.

Signed as a True record:

Original Signed

Douglas Pratt President 01 July 2010

