

# THE WARWICKSHIRE UNION OF GOLF CLUBS LIMITED

## Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Warwickshire Union of Golf Clubs Ltd. held at Copt Heath Golf Club on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6.30pm

**Present:** Mr. M.J. Reynolds (President) in the Chair and 27 other members from 19 different clubs, whose names are recorded on the Register of Attendance.

	<b>Chairmans Opening Statement</b>
	Our President Mark Reynolds opened the meeting and advised those present that the current chairman Bob Harrison has recently stood down from the Board due to health reasons and therefore the president would be undertaking the chairman duties for the AGM. He informed that as per due process, a new chairman would be elected by the Board at the first Board meeting following the AGM on Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March. The Board placed on record its thanks to Bob for all the effort and hard work he has put into the union over the years prior and wished him well with his recovery.
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
	Darren Murphy, Chris Staite, John Lawton, Graham Hargreaves, Andrew Carman, Graham Hayes, Karen Hearn, Steve Jackson, Stuart Church, Steve Thomas, Steve Frearson, Richard Lee
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b>
	They were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b>
	There were no matters arising.
<b>4</b>	<b>To receive a report from the Board</b>
	Chris Brown (Company Secretary) gave an overview of the Union's activity since the last AGM, along with some of the plans for the coming year.  The Chairman then asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were no questions raised.
<b>5</b>	<b>To receive a report from the Team Management &amp; Player Development Chairman</b>
	Chairman of the Team Management and Player Development Committee, Neville Gardner, gave a detailed update of players, teams and coaching activities throughout 2022.  This report included the successes of all concerned along with the plans for the future.  The full report given by Neville Gardner can be found at the end of these minutes.  The Chairman then asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were no questions raised.
<b>6</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>
<b>(i)</b>	<b>Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022</b> The Treasurer gave the following report;  <b><u>Income – Main Account</u></b>  During 2021/22, we experienced an increase in membership of 531, a 3.5% increase in numbers to 15,680 from the previous year.  At £9.50 per member, this provided an additional £5,044 in member's subscriptions. The £9.50 represents the 4 <sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have not increased our member's Affiliation Fees.  Our Income from Deposits were down, reflecting the markets reduction in deposit interest earned.  <b><u>Expenditure – Main Account</u></b>  Our continuing investment in coaching across all age groups is paying dividends with the results of our teams.

	<p>Following this success, the Board took the opportunity to fund the cost of our attendance at the 2021/22 England Golf Senior County Finals, held at Rothley Park Golf Club from within this year's accounts.</p> <p>Owing to the ever-increasing cost of these County Final events, the Board undertook a full review of how these would be funded in future. Traditionally, we have always provided a new set of kit for the finalists to mark the occasion. This year, sourcing the kit in a timely manner proved a real challenge. Bearing this in mind, the Board decided we could no longer put ourselves in such a position again, and that we would standardise all our teams kit moving forwards. This has resulted in us agreeing to provide our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Seniors Teams with dark navy trousers, shorts and gilets. An accrual has been included in this year's accounts for such a purpose. The Boys teams already play in dark navy trousers and provide their own as they grow so quickly.</p> <p>We introduced a new event, the Warwickshire Team Awards Evening hosted at West Midlands Golf Club. This allowed us to celebrate the success that individual Players and Teams earned in 2021/22. It achieved a great turnout from our players and was extremely well received by all, and in the case of some of our younger players, their parents as well. A "nearest the pin" competition, under floodlit conditions to the island green, proved to be an instant hit and it is hoped to make this event a regular on the calendar in future. Our thanks to Chris for organising this event.</p> <p>Our overall surplus on the Main Account was £2,857.</p> <p><b><u>County Membership Scheme</u></b></p> <p>Only one competition, Vice Presidents Bowl ran this year. Entry numbers were well down on previous years, resulting in a loss. With very few players showing any interest in the other two CMS events, the Net Championship and Jack Urry Cup, the Board decided to cancel the remaining CMS events. To date we have not received any adverse reaction to this decision.</p> <p>After allowing for the loss on the Vice Presidents Bowl, the balance on the CMS bank account was transferred into the Main Account and the bank account was subsequently closed on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022.</p> <p><b><u>Balance Sheet</u></b></p> <p>Our Balance Sheet remains strong with Net Assets totalling £174,618. This is after allowing for our reserves for County Finals of £98,000, Club Assistance Reserve of £30,000 and the Coaching Reserve of £30,000. With the global increases in services now hitting us, we need to consider our costs to be able to keep delivering Course Rating for our Clubs, World Handicap System Handicap disputes referred to County, supporting workshops to deliver England Golf initiatives as well as providing our Teams with the best available coaching for us to keep developing on all fronts. England Golf have already indicated that they are predicting that membership numbers of golf clubs will be in decline over the next 4 years.</p> <p>The Treasurer asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were no questions asked. The Treasurer proposed the accounts for adoption and was approved unanimously.</p>
<b>(ii)</b>	<p><b>Level of subscriptions effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023:</b></p> <p>Our current fee of £9.50 has remained unchanged since 2020. Inflation alone for 2023 is currently running around 10% and we have been absorbing inflation over that period. However, with the cost of our home fixture meals predicted to rise by £10.00 per player/official, we must take a more proactive view on our fees.</p> <p>Some of our neighbouring Counties already have their fees linked to the cost of living index. I will be putting this to our Clubs at our AGM in March 2024, as the only sustainable way of continuing to fund the County Operations going forward.</p> <p>Early indications of member numbers from 5 of our Clubs who renew early in our Financial Year 2023 show a decline in numbers from 2022 - 65 at present.</p> <p>Therefore, the Board have decided to delay the announcement of the 2024 Affiliation Fees until June 2023, to gain a better understanding of our member numbers and the impact it will have on our Accounts.</p> <p>The proposal was approved unanimously.</p>
<b>(iii)</b>	<p><b>Election of Accountants:</b></p>

	<p>The Treasurer proposed, on behalf of the Board, the re-election of our Accountants, The Graham Fulford Partnership (T.G.F.P.), to independently verify the financial statements for the year 2021/2022.</p> <p>The proposal was approved unanimously.</p>
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<b>7</b>	<b>Report on the activities of England Golf:</b>
	<p>The Chairman invited John Duncombe to give his report.</p> <p>John welcomed David Davis, Warwickshire Club Support Officer for England Golf, to the meeting and went on to report on topics connected to England Golf.</p> <p>1: The Independent Golfer project (iGolf) is currently flourishing and some of the profit England Golf have made through iGolf will be returned to the County. England Golf have advised us to consider investing the money in Junior or Women's golf within County.</p> <p>2: Woodhall Spa and its clubhouse have been the subject of scrutiny in recent times by the Counties as the plans to refurbish and rebuild the clubhouse facility continue. John described the current situation regarding Woodhall Spa Hand Holdings Limited and the changes being demanded by England Golf to its composition. A meeting is due in March 2023 after which point a clearer position could well be known.</p> <p>3: John invited Chris Brown to discuss the recent policy changes emanating from England Golf regarding Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI). Chris advised those present that the new EDI policy formed part of the affiliation criteria to England Golf and that the union would be working with David Davis to implement its version of these before the deadline of September 2023. Clubs would also be required to adopt these policies or similarly compliant policies before the end of 2024. Chris and David will support the clubs as required through the adoption process.</p>

<b>8</b>	<b>Appointment of Directors</b>
	<p>Chris Brown proposed the re-election of J. H. Duncombe to act as Voting Member for the Warwickshire Union of Golf Clubs and N. Gardner to continue his role as Chairman of the Team Management and Player Development Committee. The role of Chairman would be ratified at the first Board meeting following this meeting.</p> <p>Each candidate was proposed individually and were approved unanimously.</p>

<b>9</b>	<b>Extension of Officers Term of Office</b>
	<p>The Board proposed that the term for the following existing officers be extended for one year:</p>
<b>(i)</b>	<b>County President:</b> Mark Reynolds term expires AGM 2024
<b>(ii)</b>	<b>County Immediate Past President:</b> Graham Barton term expires AGM 2024
<b>(iii)</b>	<b>County 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captain:</b> Chris Staite term expires AGM 2024
<b>(v)</b>	<b>County Treasurer:</b> Robin Brennan (Robin Hood) term expires AGM 2024
	<p>The Chairman requested a show of hands for those in favour and those against to ratify the proposition as detailed above. The proposal was approved unanimously.</p>

<b>10</b>	<b>Election of Officers</b>
	<p>The Board proposed that the following officers be elected</p>
<b>(i)</b>	<b>County Captain:</b> Mike Pell
<b>(ii)</b>	<b>County Senior Captain:</b> Roger Neale
	<p>The Chairman requested a show of hands for those in favour and those against to ratify the proposition as detailed above. The proposal was approved unanimously.</p>

<b>11</b>	<b>Appointment of Officials:</b>
	<p>The Chairman then requested the Company Secretary to read out the following names who sit on our sub-committees for ratification.</p> <p><b>Sub-Committees:</b></p> <p><b>Boys Team Captains:</b></p> <p>Under 14's – Jake Frearson</p>

	<p>Under 16's – Callum Lee Under 18's – Oliver Clark</p> <p><u>Members of the Sub-Committees:</u></p> <p><b><u>Championship Panel (Chairman: Chris Brown)</u></b> Ernie Stene Claire Barker Alastair Scott Tim Knight Steve Jackson Giles Fellingham</p> <p><b><u>Course Assessment &amp; Handicapping Committee (Chairman: Martin Jackson)</u></b> Chris Brown Karen Hearn Gill Thorpe Claire Barker Tony Ranger</p> <p><b><u>Team Management &amp; Player Development Committee (Chairman: Neville Gardner)</u></b> Peter Clarke (Match Secretary) Stuart Bloxham (Head of Player Development) Mike Pell (County Captain) Chris Staite (2<sup>nd</sup> team Captain) Richard Clark (Head of Boys Golf) Roger Neale (Seniors Captain) Simon Taylor (U18 Team Manager) Richard Lee (U16 Team Manager) Richard Storer (U14 Team Manager) Steve Frearson (U14 Assistant Manager) Graham Barton (Boys Golf Ambassador)</p> <p>The ratification was proposed by the Chairman and approved by the meeting.</p>
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<b>12</b>	<b>Any other business:</b>
	<p>The Chairman began by asking those that were staying on for dinner to pay before their meal and then asked the floor for any other business.</p> <p><b>(a)</b> Giles Fellingham asked about the Union's plans to implement a nett champion of champions event to mirror the existing gross championship. The Chairman explained that the possibility of hosting such an event had been explored by the county secretary but issues with finding a suitable host venue for a field of that size and the overlap with the current England Golf "Race to Woodhall" providing a similar nett champion tournament means there are no plans this year to add a nett championship onto the tournament schedule.</p> <p><b>(b)</b></p> <p>Peter Holt enquired about the Board's plans following the news that Bob Harrison would no longer be an officer going forwards. The Chairman advised Peter that the Board were meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March and this matter would be discussed in conjunction with the process of electing a new permanent chairman. The articles of association allow for the Board to operate with between 3 and 5 directors and so options were available to the Board but the Chairman did not wish to speculate on any decisions being made prior to the first Board meeting.</p> <p><b>(c)</b> The Chairman thanked Copt Heath for their hospitality and use of the facilities for the meeting. There were no further points raised and the meeting closed at 19:40h</p>

	<b>The date and venue for the next meeting</b>
	The next meeting will be held at Copt Heath on a similar date in March 2024

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(M J Reynolds – Chairman)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_