

Report from the Board of The Warwickshire Union of Golf Clubs Ltd to the Annual General Meeting 14th March 2024

A full report from the Board of Directors will be presented at the Annual General Meeting at Copt Heath Golf Club on 14th March 2024. This report will give you the details of our Team results for 2023, our end of year financial position and an update on Warwickshire Union personnel.

The County season was completed in full, with all our County Championship events being played in 2023. In a first for the Union, the Under 18 Championships were co-hosted with our colleagues at the Ladies Association, meaning the Boys and Girls competed on the same day at the same venue for their respective Championships. The day was a great success and wherever possible we will continue to co host events with the Association wherever possible. In 2024 the Senior Championships will see the Men and Lady seniors compete on the same day at the same venue.

Focussing on 2023, our team results were as follows:

Mens Teams	Midland League – 1 st Team			Midland League – 2 nd Team		
		Captained by: Mike Pell		Captained by: Chris Staite		
v Leicestershire	Lost	10.5	4.5	Lost	11.5	3.5
v Northamptonshire	Won	8.5	6.5	Won	8.5	6.5
v Worcestershire	Won	10.5	4.5	Half	7.5	7.5
v Shropshire & Herefordshire	Lost	8.5	6.5	Half	7.5	7.5
v Staffordshire	Lost	8	7	Lost	9	6
v Nottinghamshire	Won	8.5	6.5	Won	8.5	6.5
v Derbyshire	Half	7.5	7.5	Lost	8.5	6.5
4th Place: Midland County Championship 3rd Place: Midland 1 st Team League 5th Place: Midland 2 nd Team League						

Boys Teams	County Under 18's			County Under 16's		
	Head of Boys Golf: Richard Clark Boys Ambassador: Graham Barton	Captained by: Oliver Clark Manager: Simon Taylor		Captained by: Callum Lee Manager: Richard Lee		
v Worcestershire	Won	6.5	5.5	Lost	7	5
v Derbyshire	Lost	7	5	Won	10	2
v Staffordshire	Lost	6.5	5.5	Won	9	6
v Shrops & Herefordshire	Half	6	6	Lost	9	3
v Leicestershire				Lost	9.5	5.5
6th Place: Midland Boys County Championship 4th Place: U18 League 3rd Place: U16 League 2nd place: Midland Boys Four Counties						

Boys Under 14's		Captained by: Jake Frearson Manager: Richard Storer	
v Worcestershire	Lost	3.5	2.5
v Shrops & Herefordshire	Half	3	3
V Staffordshire	Lost	3.5	1.5
9th Place: Midland Boys U14 County Championship 3rd Place: U14 Four Counties			

Seniors Team - Captained by Roger Neale							
v Shrops & Hereford	Lost	9.5	8.5	v Derbyshire	Won	12.5	5.5
v Staffordshire	Won	9.5	8.5	v Nottinghamshire	Lost	10	8
v Northamptonshire	Won	15	3	v Leicestershire	Won	11.5	6.5
v Worcestershire	Won	11.5	6.5				
2nd Senior League 4th Midland Seniors County Championship							

2023 was a tough year for all our representative teams. At each level, our Captains and team managers reported that for a significant number of matches they were unable to field their strongest teams due to a lack of availability from players. This combined with improvement from our opposition led to the disappointing results reported above. Our teams continue to benefit from a top-quality coaching structure and financial support from the Board which we hope will assist in reaching finals again in 2024. Our County Captain, Mike Pell will be standing down at the end of 2023. The Board are pleased to announce that Rob Bardsley will be taking over the position as County Captain for 2024. In our Boys teams, the Captain's for 2024 will be: under 18 – Louis Taylor, under 16 – Alfie Smith and under 14 – Harry Walton.

We are pleased to report that the number of male members affiliated to the Warwickshire Union of Golf Clubs has risen from 15,680 in 2022 to 16,045, a rise of 365 or 2.3% in 2023. This increase is despite the forecasts from England Golf of a potential decline in club memberships due to economic factors. The 2023 budget was reviewed following this forecast and reduced in several areas. The better than expected membership numbers and our reductions in 2023 has assisted in returning a surplus to the main account for the Financial Year 1 November 2022 to 31st October 2023 of £31,587

Within the financial accounts, it is worth pointing out that the Union are yet to determine the best course of action for the previously ring fenced Club Support Fund of £30k and have not received any further ideas from our Clubs.

The Course Rating Team within Warwickshire were busy in 2023 ensuring all of our Clubs that required a rating renewal were completed. In total the team completed 7 "cycle 2" (Full) ratings and a further 7 provisional ratings which allowed our Clubs to continue to comply with WHS regulations.

Claire Barker and Chris Brown continue to fulfil the regional handicap advisor positions in Warwickshire and have dealt with the various enquires made from Clubs on handicapping and WHS throughout 2023. Our new handicap appeals process was launched to simplify and educate all parties on the process for a handicap appeal. The Union also organised its own WHS Seminar locally avoiding the need for our members to travel to the counties England Golf had selected to host them. We had over 100 attendees from our Clubs and it is hoped running this event will help all our

members smoothly transition to the new rules in April 2024. Moving forwards, Chris Scott will be shadowing Claire in her role as we look to expand the knowledge within Warwickshire in this area.

The Union still firmly holds the belief, that Communication between Club and County is of vital importance in building a sustainable relationship going forward. Efforts were made throughout 2023 to strengthen this relationship wherever possible and this approach will continue going forwards.

The Union would like to thank all the volunteers who kindly give up their free time to support golf in Warwickshire. We would also like to thank all Clubs that agreed to host our 2023 County events and we are very grateful for the access and hospitality that you provide.

The Union hopes the 2024 season will be a success and that everyone at County and Club level remain safe and well.

The Warwickshire Union of Golf Clubs Ltd Board of Directors.