

KENT COUNTY GOLF UNION

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Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at Knole Park Golf Club, Sevenoaks on Tuesday 1st December 2009

The President opened the meeting and with great sadness reported the death of Eric Green, a Past President of the County, the previous day. He asked that all stand for a minute's silence to remember Eric and all those members, family and friends who are no longer with us. All those attending were welcomed to the meeting. He offered thanks to the highly committed and hard working KCGU Committee. The meeting was reminded that there is only one vote per club.

In Attendance:

Committee:	I. S. R. Burton	President/Canterbury	
	B.L. Sparkes	Secretary/Littlestone	
	R. Young	Canterbury	*
	R. W. Saunders	Mid Kent	
	C. G. Reynolds	Vice President/Littlestone	
	W. F. Rodgers	Vice President/Sundridge Park	
	S. Naylor	Captain/Langley Park	
	C. H. Tappin	West Kent	*
	P. J. Donaghey	West Kent	
	J.E. Pocknell	Royal Blackheath	*
	D. E. Oldcorn	Mid Kent	
	S. D. Chappell	Littlestone	*
	I. D. Betts	Langley Park	*
	P. J. Cannons	Walmer & Kingsdown	*
A. E. Raphael	Canterbury		
M. Chaston	Etchinghill	*	
D. Watkins	Mid Kent		
Club Representatives & Others:	J. A. Bell	Park Wood	*
	M. Stoner	The Ridge	*
	F. E. C. Winter	Eltham Warren	*
	S. Oakes	Poult Wood	*
	R. Parr	Poult Wood	
	A. Andrew	Sundridge Park	*
	R. Brewer	Knole Park	
	D. Green	Knole Park	*
	B. Sedgwick	Knole Park	
	K. T. Daniel	Dartford	*
	C. S. Houghton	Etchinghill	
	P. Quadling	Mid Kent	*
	C. Robins	Woodlands Manor	*
	J. Halliday	Aquarius	*
J. D. Bowen	Shooters Hill	*	
R. Tranckle	St. Augustine's	*	
R. Cooper	St. Augustine's		

* Denotes club
representatives

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1. Apologies for Absence

D. Curtis	Knole Park
D. Mabbott	Eltham Warren
C. Gabbey	Royal St. George's
E. Groves	Hawkhurst
J. Smith	Bexleyheath
D. Stewart	Prince's
C. Burns	Hemsted Forest
K. Loosemore	Wilderness
T. Jones	Shortlands
J. Hodgson	Wrotham Heath
D. Nehra	Sheerness

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2008 were proposed as a true record by P. Quadling and seconded by C. Reynolds. Approved unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

In response to A. Andrews regarding item 10, the President advised that two new knockout competitions have been introduced for 2010. These are in matchplay format and are a 4 ball better ball event for teams of 4 and a singles event for Individual County Members.

4. Captain's Report

The Captain summarised the 1st team league results for 2009 noting how it had been so close in the final match against Hampshire where a halved result would have given Kent a league victory. In the SE Group County qualifying at Aldeburgh, Kent had a team with a combined handicap of +16 on the day. Although disappointed that Kent did not qualify for the English County Finals, Essex the winners of the SE Group, went on to win the National Finals at Chipping Sodbury. Kent was represented in EGU squads at all levels. During his time as Captain there had been many notable moments and achievements. To name just a few, Tom Sherreard's splendid performance in the 2008 Open, Matt Haines's played in the 2009 Walker Cup, Chris Reynolds won the English Seniors Championship in 2009 and Jonathan Bell was victorious in the final of the Faldo Series in Brazil in 2009.

From a team perspective Kent had a good year, the Colts won the final of the Daily Telegraph Cup in the SE Group and the Seniors won the EGU Seniors National County Finals for the second time. It was a pleasure to work with such talented golfers during his three years as Captain. He thanked the committee for their support and the President, Ian Burton, for being ever present to encourage and support the teams at every match. He closed by wishing the incoming County Captain, Pat Donaghey, every success.

5. Accounts

Stephen Chappell, Chairman of Finance, presented the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2009 duly signed by the auditor (a copy of which was distributed prior to the meeting), and summarised the main points.

Income & Expenditure

Club subscriptions have produced an income of £144K. Sponsorship was down slightly and it was continuing to prove difficult to obtain commitments from sponsors in the current economic climate. Total income was £193K. Expenditure was down. The surplus for the year was £19,647 of which £10,000 had been transferred to the Special Purposes Fund for the Open Championship at Royal St. George's in 2011. This left a surplus of £9,647 transferred to the General Fund.

Balance Sheet

Total assets are £183K with £132K in the general fund, £20K in the special purposes fund and £30K deferred income.

The County is in a reasonably healthy position at present but there must still be caution about 2010 **economic** conditions.

In answer to F. Winter, P. Donaghey explained that there had been a reduction in expenditure on coaching budget because the proposed Warm Weather Training had been cancelled.

K. Daniel noted that the cost of marquee for the 2003 Open was £18K and asked if a figure was available for 2011. He was advised that £30K was an estimate for 2011 but this will of course be negotiated. R. Saunders advised that the original figure from the R&A for 2003, just for the basic marquee without fitting out extras, was £25K but this had been reduced after negotiation with David Hill of the R&A to £9K. The County have already made approaches to the R&A to obtain figures for 2011 and are awaiting a response.

S. Chappell gave a brief explanation of deferred income in that it relates to Life Members Subscriptions.

The meeting was advised that S. Chappell was stepping down as Chairman of Finance and the President thanked him for all the work he has put in over the last 3 years.

I. Betts proposed that the accounts be adopted and J. Bell seconded the proposal. This was carried unanimously.

6. Club Subscription

The Chairman of Finance recommended that the subscription for 2010 be increased to £5.50 per capita (an increase of 25p), excluding juniors under the age of 18 years.

M. Stoner proposed the subscription increase be adopted, seconded by K. Daniel. This was carried unanimously.

7. Election of Officers

The President informed the meeting that he had been greatly honoured to be elected as President in 2003. He joined the County committee in 1982 and since then had run the 2nd team, the Colts team and 1st team as well as running the Winter Trials for 4 years. It was he felt now time to stand down to make way for a new President.

President	C. H. Tappin
Proposed	I. S. R. Burton
Seconded	R. Young
Carried unanimously.	

The new President took the chair and expressed appreciation of the privilege bestowed upon him and how much he was looking forward to the challenge.

Vice Presidents

C. G. Reynolds and W. F. Rodgers have agreed to continue.

Proposed en bloc	C. H. Tappin
Seconded	J. E. Pocknell
Carried unanimously.	

Auditor	C. Burns
Proposed	C. H. Tappin
Seconded	S. D. Chappell
Carried unanimously.	

Committee Members

The following had been have been duly proposed and seconded.

P. J. Cannons	S. Naylor
Proposed: C. G. Reynolds	Proposed: C. H. Tappin
Seconded: R. Young	Seconded: D. Curtis
A. E. Raphael	D. Watkins
Proposed: R. Young	Proposed: J. E. Pocknell
Seconded: C. G. Reynolds	Seconded: W. F. Rodgers
All carried unanimously.	

8. Incorporation

C. Reynolds summarised progress since this was discussed and agreed in principle at the last Council Meeting.

A draft constitution, which was prepared based on the model produced for the EGU, was debated and agreed within committee and sent to Farrers for comment and progression. The fundamental issues are for the KCGU to be dissolved and a company limited by guarantee formed, with affiliated clubs and directors as members of the company. Individual members will remain as playing members but with no ownership rights. The board of directors will consist of up to 20 people, effectively the committee as it stands, but including the County Captain serving as a director and a nominated Treasurer. A Chairman will be appointed by the board, who will be responsible for business aspects, with a separate President (appointed at the AGM) responsible for golf activities.

In the early summer Farrers advised of changes in the Companies Act to come into affect at 1st October 2009. This meant the legal constitutional documents per the original template would not be appropriate after 1st October 2009 and it was decided to wait until after that date to incorporate. The cost of developing new documents was expensive and the EGU were approached to fund a new template, which they eventually agreed to do.

Farrers are working on the new template and our new constitution will be based on the work carried out by C. Reynolds and C. Tappin earlier in the year. Once these have been agreed by committee they will be sent to clubs for consideration and comment in the early summer, with a view to formal approval and moving to an incorporated body at the next ACM.

The currently proposed rule change is necessary to enable us to move the existing assets of the Union to the new company in due course, once incorporation has been approved.

The rule change was proposed by C. Reynolds and seconded by M. Chaston. Carried unanimously.

9. Any Other Business

F. Winter noted that the trophy presented by him and G. Hills for the Members Meeting Foursomes should be referred to as the Starters Trophy.

A. Andrew offered comments on the County website and expressed his concerns with quality and difficulty in navigating the site.

C. Houghton asked if the ACM agenda and minutes could be put on the website next year plus if more Individual Members information could be added. He also expressed his view that the website was not "user friendly".

F. Winter asked for views on the Kent Golfer magazine. He also requested that if clubs have matters for publication that they send it directly to the magazine.

R. Saunders informed the meeting that he currently has Rules Evenings lined up for 5 clubs in 2010. If more clubs are interested in having a Rules Evening they should contact him. The ideal number is 32 people and the club are requested to donate 4 bottles of wine for prizes.

The Meeting closed at 7.55pm with a vote of thanks to the President.

This is a true and accurate record.....Chairman

Date.....Secretary.....

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