

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Suffolk Golf Union
Held at Bungay & Waveney Valley Golf Club on
Friday 23rd March 2018

Colin Firmin, President of The Suffolk Golf Union, asked all attendees to stand for a minute's silence for Dick Berendt who was President of the Union in 2000/2001 and who passed away on the 10th March.

The President then thanked Bungay for hosting the event and introduced their Club Captain Steve Rowe who opened the proceedings by welcoming the Union and its guests. Steve stated that the club were honoured and delighted to have been asked to host the event and he hoped that everyone had enjoyed playing the course and the hospitality offered in the clubhouse.

The President then formally welcomed all Presidents, Club Captains, secretaries/Managers, officials guests members of the Suffolk Golf Union, Mike Rees, President of England Golf South East Group and Neill Ellice, who after serving as Secretary/Manager for 18 years at Ipswich Golf Club is to retire at the end of the month.

He thanked Bungay & Waveney Valley Golf Club for allowing the Union to use their facilities and complimented them on exceptional condition of the course and for providing everyone with a superb lunch He thanked Andrew Collison for his assistance in making sure the day ran smoothly and asked that he pass on the Union's thanks to his committee.

The president then advised the meeting that he was delighted he had been able to agree a 3 year sponsorship agreement for the County Men's and Senior's teams with Andrew Johnson of Woodward Markwell and invited Andrew to say a few words. Andrew stated that Woodward Markwell were a Suffolk based company, established some 35 years ago, and were delighted to be able to support amateur sportsmen in the County. He wished the County teams every success in 2018.

The President then presented a number of awards-

The Golf competition was enjoyed by 43 pairs and was extremely close with 3 pairs carding 43 points. Alan Middle and Martin Youngs took second place on Count back from Andrew Johnson and George McLennan and Richard Barton and Gary Seaman.

The winners with a superb score of 46 were Tom Huggins and Dave Watkin from Culford School who have recently agreed a 4 year deal to sponsor Suffolk Junior Golf. Unfortunately the winners had to leave prior to the presentations owing to a work commitment. Their prize was collected by Will Wright who was instrumental in arranging the sponsorship deal.

Junior Order of Merit- Habebul Islam (Ipswich Golf Club) was presented with the David Houston Salver winning the 2017 Junior Order of Merit.

East Anglia Seniors League- Kevin Brooks, Suffolk Seniors Captain, was presented with the trophy, his team having been successful in winning the league in 2017

Tom Finn Salver- Suffolk Under 16's had successfully defended the title they won in 2016 in a triangular match against Cambridgeshire and Leicestershire and their Team Manager Jim Harrison was presented with the Salver.

Winstanley Trophy- This is awarded annually to recognise outstanding achievement/ furthering golf in the County. The President stated that he was delighted to award it this year to Keith Preston who has been involved in County coaching for 25 years during which time the standard of County players has increased to a level which has seen National recognition with many players moving into the Professional ranks.

In accepting the award Keith gave a short speech outlining the progress made in the past 20 years. He was surprised but honoured to accept the trophy.

The Annual General Meeting of The Suffolk Golf Union commenced at 3.45 pm

1 Clubs in Attendance

24 Clubs in attendance

2. Apologies

Received from 2 past Presidents, 7 Clubs and 13 other invitees.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club on Friday 31 March 2017

Having been circulated previously these were taken as read. Proposed by Rushmere and seconded by Ray Baines that they be signed as a true record of the meeting. Carried.

4. Presidents Report (Colin Firmin)

Circulated prior to the meeting. The President had nothing to add and there were no questions.

5. Treasurers Report (Peter Sledmere)

Report circulated prior to the meeting. The Treasurer did request that clubs please complete and submit affiliation forms and send these to him with the appropriate payment when they were due.

There were no questions and Will Wright proposed adoption of the accounts seconded by Neill Ellice (Ipswich) Carried.

6. Appointment of Auditor

The Treasurer was delighted to propose the reappointment of Keith Ferguson, BDO, who had indicated willingness to continue for a further year. Seconded by Mike Rees and carried.

7. Suffolk Junior Golf (Trevor Mason)

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Trevor wished to record his appreciation and thanks for the hard work put in by the County's coach's his Team Managers and the Junior Secretary, Will Wright.

Patrick Spraggs (Under 18) Team Manager was now working in the States and a replacement was required although the position this year was being covered by parents and the Under 16 Team Manager Jim Harrison who was totally committed to Junior Golf.

Trevor made mention of the 4 year sponsorship deal agreed with Culford School.

He also announced that he had received a cheque for £500 from Suffolk Golf Captains for which he thanked their representatives Paddy Lockwood and Chris Briggs.

Trevor stated that Junior Golf is not just about results but developing the boys both as golfers and people. To this end he was delighted to read out a letter which had been received by Jim Harrison from the parent of one of the boys in his squad.

8. Suffolk County Captains Report (Jack Cardy)

Unfortunately Jack had had to leave for personal reasons and there was no report.

9. Suffolk Seniors Report (Kevin Brooks)

Report submitted prior to meeting, Kevin had nothing to add and there were no questions.

10. SSS and Course Rating Report (David Barnes)

Report submitted prior to meeting, David had nothing to add and there were no questions.

11. Suffolk Club Support (Jordan Dymond)

Jordan explained his role and what England Golf were able to provide in support of clubs. Workshops are to be held shortly for Recruitment and retention and the Worldwide Handicapping System. Details on EG website.

Other initiatives are Junior Golf 6's and Get into Golf which is being relaunched with a new website.

Jordan congratulated Felixstowe Ferry on winning the award for the Champion venue of the year re hosting the English Women's County championships

Jordan stated that any club can contact him should they be in need of assistance.

12. Election of Officers

County Secretary- Charlie Wilderspin, Treasurer, Peter Sledmere and Chair of Junior Golf, Trevor Mason had all offered themselves for re-election. No other candidates. Proposed Ray Baines and seconded by Bob Tawell – unanimously re-elected.

13. Election of Executive Committee

2 vacancies with Will Wright and Tony Rubin offering themselves for re-election. No other candidates. Proposed by Phil Platten and seconded Trevor Mason- unanimously re-elected.

14. Resolution re Incorporation of The Suffolk Golf Union

No questions – The President advised that only 2 representatives of club's present (together with the President) may vote. The resolution received unanimous support and the President advised that the transfer of assets from The Suffolk Golf Golf Union would be transferred to the new company, Suffolk Golf Limited as soon as the company bank account was available for use.

All clubs have now completed the acceptance form confirming that they will affiliate to the new company once arrangements are complete.

15. Any other Business

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.10 pm

The President thanked the club Secretaries/ Managers for their support in 2017 and wished everyone a safe journey home.

----- (Signed)

----- (Date)

C Firmin - President