

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

### **Of The Suffolk Golf Union**

**Held at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club on**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

Phil Platten, President of the Union introduced Nick Bonney, the Captain of Bury St. Edmunds Golf Club who opened the proceedings by welcoming the Union and its guests. He said that the club were delighted to stage the event. Mr Bonney informed the audience about the club's upgrade programme that included improving some of the bunkers, reshaping fairways and thinning out 50% of the trees of the course.

Philip Platten, then added his welcome to Presidents, Past Presidents, Club Captains, Secretaries and Managers, SPGA representatives, officials, guests, members of the Suffolk Golf Union and the newly appointed President of the England Golf South East Group Mike Rees to the 2017 Presidents Golf Day and SGU AGM. Mr Platten also thanked Bury St Edmunds Golf Club, and particularly mentioned Mike Vehelst for his hard work in hosting the event.

The President then presented a number of awards.

1. The Golf Competition was enjoyed by 40 pairs. The results were very close with three pairs with 43 points separated only by tie-break: -

Winners: Jordan Dymond and Will Wright – 43 points  
Runners Up: Jack and Joe Cardy – 43 points  
Special Mention: Malcolm Crissell and Gary Seaman (43 points also)

#### **Order of Merit**

Nathan Overton (Woodbridge Golf Club) was awarded the Millennium Trophy Order of Merit for 2016. Nathan won the Anglian League Order of Merit 2016.

Sam Byford of Purdis Heath was awarded the Junior Order of Merit Trophy for 2016

#### **Winstanley Trophy**

Before awarding the trophy Phil Platten made special mention of several worthy candidates for the trophy, including Alice Barlow of Newton Green, Aldeburgh and Ufford Park golf clubs for their long-time support of county golf coaching and provision their facilities.

The President then named the recent winners of the England Golf award for “The Most Welcoming Golf Club” - Fynn Valley as the winners of the 2017 Winstanley Trophy. The award was accepted on behalf of the club by Tony Tyrell who gave a short speech in which he said how surprised and honoured he was to accept the award.

**The President then read the notice convening the Annual General Meeting which commenced at 3.35 pm.**

### **1. Clubs in attendance**

There were 25 clubs in attendance

### **2. Apologies**

The Secretary had received apologies from 6 clubs. Apologies were also received from 5 Past President's and 17 other invited persons.

### **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Woodbridge Golf Club on Friday 1st April 2016**

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

### **4. President's Report (Philip Platten)**

This had been circulated prior to the meeting. The President briefly added to his report his thanks to Sean Clark and Woodbridge Golf Club for their provision of occasional meeting facilities and for their help in general during his presidency. There were no comments or questions from the floor. The adoption of the report was proposed by Rookery Park and seconded by Aldeburgh.

### **5. Treasurer's Report (G. Henney)**

This had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Geoff Henney mentioned that after 12 years as Treasurer this was his last report. His main comment was that the changes to how Affiliation Fees are collected have now come into force and that this would make matters easier for our golf clubs at the expense of a little more work for the SGU. There were no questions of the Treasurer. Peter Sledmere (Woodbridge) proposed that the accounts be adopted- seconded by Rushmere. Carried.

The President made special mention of Geoff's efforts and support saying that he had looked after the SGU funds superbly well and how we in Suffolk have enjoyed the one of the lowest Affiliation Fees in the country because of him and his hard work.

Bob Tawell of Rushmere proposed a vote of thanks to Geoff and this was unanimously approved.

### **6. Appointment of Auditor.**

The Treasurer informed the meeting that Keith Ferguson, BDO, our current Auditor had indicated his willingness to remain as Auditor for the coming year. Geoff Henney proposed that he be re-appointed, seconded by Ipswich and carried unanimously.

## **7. County Captain's Report**

Jack Cardy gave a verbal report in which he thanked the outgoing President for all his support. So far there have been four coaching sessions this season and with three away and two home matches in the Anglian League as well as the six-man team event, Jack was optimistic about our chances of doing well. He was also aiming to improve on our second place in the Eastern Inter-County Foursomes at Seacroft in 2016.

## **8. Report on Suffolk Junior Golf. (Mike Stevenson)**

This had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mike Stevenson, Chair of Suffolk Junior Golf made a brief presentation in which he first thanked all the clubs for the use of the courses and facilities. Mike then went on to outline a year in which the juniors won two trophies: U14 Keith Bass Team Trophy and the U16 Tom Finn trophy. Mike then also thanked both the SGU Executive, all the professionals and assistant professionals and finally all the team managers that had been so helpful to the teams during his tenure as Chairman of Suffolk Junior Golf.

Since Mike was retiring from his role the President spoke very warmly of Mike telling the audience that Mike had been involved with the Juniors for 7 years and that he has done an outstanding job. Phil said that Mike leaves behind a motivated and committed team of managers and coaches who have the utmost respect and affection for him.

## **9. Report on Suffolk Seniors**

A report had been submitted by the Seniors Captain Kevin Brooks. There were no comments or questions.

## **10. SSS and Course Rating Report**

The President told the meeting that David Barnes has put in place an action plan with the intention of re-rating all our courses over the next 3 years.

There were no questions.

## **11. Suffolk County Development Group Report (Jordan Dymond)**

Jordan Dymond the County Development Officer gave a brief presentation in which he first provided some updated information regarding England Golf as follows:

England Golf will now be the organisation that receive all Sport England funding. Golf has been awarded £8.48 million from Sport England for the next 4 years. The important figure here, in terms of participation and club support, is £5.95 million. Most of this funding will go into supporting the county officer network (approx. £1.2 million a year).

The County Development Officer job title has now changed to Club Support Officer to better reflect the role. EG currently recruiting for 14 Club Support Officers. Once all positions are filled there will be 35 full time CSO's across the country. These will be employed by EG on permanent contracts rather than fixed term as previously – This shows commitment from England Golf to club support and the CSO network.

Jordan then outlined local events and activities planned for 2017 including:

Running further Business Growth Hubs and Demand Led Workshops and during the main golfing season running events that coincide with EG national marketing campaigns as follows: April – Get into golf ; May – Golf Express; June – Women & Girls; July – Family; September – Golf Express

Finally, Jordan emphasised that his role is to support clubs on a local level with whatever they need. Whether it be reviewing their safeguarding procedures, developing a marketing strategy, recruitment and retention of members or business planning.

## **12. Resolutions**

There were 4 resolutions for changes to the rules of the SGU all proposed by the Executive Committee of the SGU as follows:

a) A minor name change from English Golf Union to England Golf – in rules 1 & 18. Proposal was seconded by Rookery Park and adopted unanimously.

b) It was proposed to change the wording of Rule 5.5 so that all Officers and Members of the Executive Committee may vote. If, however, any Officer or Committee Member has a vested interest they must disclose that interest to the meeting and not vote on that matter.

Proposal was seconded by David Houston and adopted unanimously.

c) Rule 10 deals with membership of and subscriptions to the Union and was proposed to be changed to allow for the fact that some clubs have different membership renewal dates and operate a revolving membership renewal system. Proposal was seconded by Geoff Henney and adopted unanimously.

d) It was proposed to delete Rule 16 entirely (dealing with individual membership scheme) since it was no longer applicable.

Proposal was seconded by Brian Brandwood and adopted unanimously.

## **13. Election of Officers**

### **President**

Colin Firmin the current President Elect was proposed by Phil Platten and seconded by Bill Darling. Carried unanimously.

Colin gave a brief speech in which he looked forward to working with all attendees and welcomed the opportunity to be President of the SGU. Colin then proposed a vote

of thanks and appreciation to Phil Platten for his contribution to the SGU during his term of office as President.

**President Elect**

The new President, Colin Firmin proposed Bill Darling of Stowmarket Golf Club and long-time member of the SGU Executive Committee. Seconded by Phil Platten. Carried unanimously

**County Secretary**

Charlie Wilderspin offered himself for re-election. Proposed by Geoff Henney and seconded by David Houston. Carried unanimously

**Treasurer**

Geoff Henney proposed Peter Sledmere of Woodbridge GC. Proposed by the President and seconded by Phil Platten. Carried unanimously

**Chair of Suffolk Junior Golf**

Mike Stevenson proposed Trevor Mason, seconded by Phil Platten. Carried unanimously.

**14. Election of Executive Committee**

There were three vacancies (term to be decided)

Brian Brandwood retired by rotation and offered himself for re-election. Proposed by Rookery Park and seconded by Aldeburgh. Elected unanimously.

Will Wright, a new member of the Executive, was proposed by Aldeburgh and seconded by Rookery Park. Elected unanimously.

Phil Platten (Woodbridge) offered to perform the role of Championship Secretary and was proposed by Colin Firmin (Ipswich) and seconded by Stowmarket Golf Club. Elected unanimously.

**15. Any Other Business**

The outgoing President made a final special mention of the contributions to the SGU of both Geoff Henney and Mike Stevenson and in recognition of their many hours of service he presented them both with bouquets to give to each of their very understanding wives.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.24 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed). \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

C. Firmin, President.

