



**Middlesex Golf Ltd**

Sudbury Golf Club, Bridgewater Road, Wembley, HA0 1AL

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Minutes of General Meeting held at Hendon Golf Club  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Present:

Stephanie Beer - Chairman  
Graham Jones – President  
David Taylor – Finance Director  
David Booth – Development Director  
Robbie Martin – Competitions Director  
Diana Rowlands – England Golf & Regional Voting Member  
Anne Koychev – Director  
Tom Powell – Director Coaching & Teams  
Jason Mitchell – County Secretary

Irvine Walker (Pinner Hill)  
Angela Templeman (Mill Hill)  
Elizabeth Thomas (Hendon)  
Henri Saha (England Golf)  
Clair Lawton (Pinner Hill)  
Henri Henriques (Pinner Hill)  
Elaine Hall (Grims Dyke)  
John Hall (Grims Dyke)  
Jennifer Win (Highgate)  
Mary Carney (Ealing)  
Adam Middle (Crews Hill)  
Sarah Stevens (Pinner Hill)  
Sue Katz (Pinner Hill)  
Robert Afia (Highgate)  
John Belcher (Crews Hill)  
Maureen Campbell (Muswell Hill)  
Margaret Barkwith (Northwood)  
Patrick Clasby (Haste Hill)  
Fulvio Angellelli (Ashford Manor)

Clare Connolly (Hendon)  
Alan Plumb (Strawberry Hill)  
Elizabeth Bowen (Stanmore)  
Diana Williams (Bush Hill Park)  
Pauline Platt (Bush Hill Park)  
Jude Ferrao (Ealing)  
Linda Blake (Enfield)  
Trevor Collingwood (North Middlesex)  
Lee Patterson (Stanmore)  
Peter Reynolds (West Middlesex)  
Tim Jones (Muswell Hill)  
Winn Ellis (Mill Hill)  
Eamon Kneafsey (Sudbury)  
  
Mike Steel (Bush Hill Park)  
Sally Field (Finchley)  
David Morrison (Ashford Manor)  
Eric Richard (North Middlesex)  
June Sayer (North Middlesex)

## **1. Introduction**

County Secretary, Jason Mitchell, welcomed everybody to the first Middlesex Golf Ltd General Meeting.

## **2. Merger Progress**

Stephanie Beer gave a verbal update on activities since the merger of Middlesex County Golf Union and Middlesex Ladies County Golf Association and raised the following matters:

- The merger had proven to be much more work than originally anticipated. Learning how each organisation worked had taken a great deal of time for everyone to understand.
- Certain things had been done well, and a number of things not so well.
- Competitions had run well and have been well attended.
- Referees are now made up of both genders and have been working well together.
- Safeguarding was highlighted as a priority and training was offered to all clubs in Spring. Two sessions took place, one at Muswell Hill and one at Ealing. Both were well attended and all clubs with established junior sections were represented.
- Communication hadn't been good. The General Meeting was long overdue, and the county newsletter had also taken longer than anticipated to get going.
- The website isn't where it needs to be. Content is outdated on certain pages and the different sections need to differentiate clearly between men's and ladies. However, Middlesex Golf is aware of most problems and will work to rectify them over the coming months.
- Middlesex Golf will be returning to a printed fixture list in 2018. This will highlight men's, ladies' and junior events, and will be sent directly to clubs in the new year.
- The Middlesex Golf Board had been receiving training from England Golf on governance. As part of the process, England Golf had asked the Board to score itself on how they thought we had done in certain areas. The Board felt that it was performing well with competitions and finance, but was under performing in areas such as marketing, communications and governance. These would be focus areas heading into next year.
- Chamberlain de Broe had sponsored the county £5k and this money had helped fund new uniforms for the ladies' teams. The company had also supplied magnums of champagne for a monthly competition. Each affiliated club can submit the winners of their monthly medals or Stablefords, and those winners would go into a draw for the champagne.

### **3. Voting Members**

Diana Rowlands explained that as the Middlesex voting member representative, she attends regular meetings at England Golf to ensure the county is up-to-date on national matters, and that any issues the county has are raised at national level. Diana is also the voting representative for the men's South-Eastern Group and ladies South Region. She has attended numerous meetings with the ladies but will be meeting with the men for the first time in November.

The information obtained at the various meetings is circulated around the Board and all relevant information is filtered back to the clubs through delegates and Club Secretaries.

Diana explained that a Club Voting Member is an appointed representative of their club with important responsibilities and duties. Voting Members Representatives were vital to ensuring the good transfer of information between Middlesex Golf, counties and clubs, as well as having the authority to vote at Middlesex Golf meetings. They are asked to attend three general meetings a year, as well as the AGM. Next year's AGM will be held at 19:30 on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February at Sudbury Golf Club.

Role descriptions were handed to attendees upon arrival.

### **4. Competitions**

Robbie Martin reported that despite the extra work created by the merger, this year's competitions have run smoothly and without any major incidents. The number entries across all competitions was up from 2016 and he hoped to see a further increase in 2018.

The 2018 fixtures are almost complete and will be published in the website's diary in the coming weeks.

It is hoped that a Mixed Open will be added to the 2018 calendar. The competitions committee is currently working on the format, and the County Secretary is seeking a potential venue. Information about the event will be released in due course.

### **5. Finance**

David Taylor introduced himself as the Finance Director for Middlesex Golf Ltd. His role as FD is to ensure there is sufficient assets to enable county golfing activities to take place, and to manage record keeping and budgeting.

When Middlesex County Golf Union and Middlesex Ladies County Golf Association merged on 1<sup>st</sup> April, all assets from both organisations were transferred into the

new company. The first set of annual accounts will be from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

Affiliated members, as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, were recorded at 1203 women and 8727 men.

Affiliation fees were currently set at £12.75 for men and £15 for ladies, per person. It is now desirable to have one affiliation fee for the merged body. Work would be taking place over the coming weeks to decide a single affiliation fee. It is anticipated that it will not increase.

England Golf wants counties to change the way in which it collects affiliation fees to a real-time system. The county will consider it for 2018.

Costs this year will be higher due to expenditure associated with the merger. The county paid for legal, IT, clothing and re-branding costs, but the golfing related costs are not expected to increase.

## **6. Coaching & Teams**

Tom Powell, Director of Coaching & Teams, reported on the different coaching programmes currently in place:

### Academy & Intermediate Coaching

Comprises mainly of 5 x ½ day sessions on a Sunday from November to April for both groups using three coaches to cope with the quantity of players and working on a ratio of approx. 1:6. There's also five evening sessions of 1hr at two locations around the county. 48 players within these sessions. The players then feed into the relevant boys or girl's performance squads.

### Boys

The boy's squad coaching has an U14 and a joint U16 and U18 squad with a similar concept to the Academy and Intermediate programme.

### Girls

The girl's programme has one squad of 12 who receive three x full days coaching, six range sessions and prep for county week in August. In addition, six x 9-hole competitions back up the coaching programme, and whilst offering a fun competitive opportunity, they act as good talent id sessions.

The boys and girls working together at the lower levels is working well. This was also discussed for squads at the top levels where mixture of split and merged coaching works best according to what's being delivered.

The recent changes to the programme have increased commitment in the U14 and joint U16/U18 boy's sessions. The winter and summer 9-hole competitions lock together well and provide a useful competitive and player opportunity

Given the small number of clubs and loss of players to local counties, there's a key emphasis on creating a strong team spirit, a sense of belonging and personalised approach to county coaching.

#### Men's and Ladies County Team

In readiness for the 2018 county season, we intend to have 2/3 away days either at venues that fixtures will be played at in 2018 or outstanding courses outside of Middlesex with excellent practice facilities. There will be an emphasis on good practice, course management and benefits of practice rounds.

#### Seniors

Men's senior coaching will continue to be held on weekday evenings at Northwick Park. Sessions will begin in the new year.

Coaching for the ladies' senior and second teams would be introduced in the new year with an emphasis on short game and course management. Depending on demand, these sessions will also be held at Northwick Park during the week.

#### Lady Captain Report: Angela Templeman

Middlesex Golf runs four ladies' teams; the first team, second team, seniors and junior team. All teams play friendly fixtures, as well as inter-county matches in the Southern League against Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

This year has been an exceptional year for our teams. The first team punched above their weight at County Week, which was played at Littlestone Golf Club in Kent. They achieved a total of 11.5 points, which was the team's highest points total in a number of years. Angela thanked Gerry Garner who sponsored a minibus for the week and all those that supported the team during the week.

Junior County Week took place at Royal Winchester Golf Club and the team narrowly missed out on victory, finishing third behind Sussex and Surrey. Other counties said Middlesex would be the team to beat next year, which was a great reflection on how far the team had come. Angela thanked Junior Organiser, Di Williams, and her team for their hard work this year.

The Second Team finished fourth in their league. A resounding victory over Surrey was the highlight of the season. Angela thanked Christine Tyler for her leadership throughout the year.

The Senior Team also had a good year, defeating a strong Kent side. Angela thanked Sally Bowen and Ginny Goudie for their exceptional organisation over the season.

There has also been some individual success this year. Lulu Housman, from Wyke Green, represented England Seniors at the European Championship. She won all of her matches in the competition, and helped lead England to a second-place finish.

Stanmore's Gemma Allman won the County Championship in April and subsequently went onto the compete in the Champion of Champions event at Woodhall Spa, finishing second overall.

Haruhi Nakatani, from Hendon, travelled to the United States to compete in the Teen World Championships, and finished in seventh-place.

### Men's Team Report: Jason Mitchell

Jason Mitchell gave a verbal report in which he thanked all team managers for their help and support. Jason reported that the Men's Team had finished fourth in the league, with three losses against BB&O, Essex and Herts and one victory away to Bedfordshire. Jason was optimistic about the team's chances of doing well in 2018.

Despite a lack of team success with the juniors, it had been an enjoyable year for all involved. The Under 14's enjoyed a victory against Bedfordshire and drew with a strong BB&O side. The U16's were winless but did not disgrace themselves in an extremely competitive league. The U18's achieved an excellent halve against Essex but suffered defeats to Hertfordshire and BB&O.

Jason stressed that it is important to understand expectations. Middlesex is a small county with limited resources and a reduced pool of players to choose from. Success is not measured in victories, but in the joy of participation and the effort put in.

## **7. Course Ratings**

Graham Jones explained that the USGA rating system was introduced in 2014. The new system is more comprehensive but also more complex, and whilst the county had made good progress initially, 2016/17 had been quiet years.

The reason behind moving to the new system is to enable SLOPE ratings. England Golf has set a 10-year target to have all courses rated. Middlesex has currently completed eight and has three more scheduled this year.

Graham expressed the need for more volunteers and explained that he is working with England Golf to establish dates for a training course. Anyone that is interested, should contact the County Secretary.

## **8. Development**

David Booth reported that the Development Committee was formed following the disbanding of the County Golf Partnership, and that the objective of the committee was to increase participation in the game throughout Middlesex.

The committee's focus will not only be on supporting clubs to attract new members and retain current members, but also to assist with the development of county events, in an effort to drive up participation.

The committee is working closely with England Golf and the Golf Foundation, both of whom provide grants and support in communicating innovative initiatives. The committee is now beginning to engage with clubs.

Junior golf has been highlighted as a main priority. A junior development meeting has been arranged for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Ealing Golf Club. It will be an interactive session that is aimed at junior organisers, junior captains and anyone involved in junior golf at the club.

David Booth asked for delegates in attendance to please ensure that someone attends the meeting from their club.

Middlesex Golf has a budget to provide assistance to clubs and that money would be targeted to strengthen junior golf. Recently, the county has used funds to support beginner coaching for both boys and girls and these programmes have successfully acted as feeders into the county teams, both boys and girls.

The second priority of the committee is to improve communication with the clubs. Information passed onto delegates and club secretaries is not always relayed to members, and it's important for the committee to address and solve this issue.

## **9. AOB**

Irvine Walker reported that the Middlesex Golf Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Tara Hotel London Kensington, and asked that all attendees take note of this. Next year's dinner is in recognition of the successful merger between MCGU and MLCGA, and will recognise the outstanding achievements of golfers and clubs within the county in 2017. Awards will be given to Club of the Year, Junior Organiser of the Year, Club Steward of the Year, and the Lifetime Achievement Award. Nominations for these awards will be taken throughout October and November and full details regarding the night will be made available in due course.

Henri Saha introduced himself as the England Golf Club Support Officer for Middlesex. He explained that his role is to meet with clubs and provide support to them in areas that it is needed. Henri expressed how fortunate he felt to be working in a county that has merged and that Middlesex has a pioneering reputation throughout the country. He asked that all clubs wanting to set up a meeting to please contact him.

Eamon Kneafsey (Sudbury) believed that the county needs to provide greater support to public golf courses as they represent a great source of future

members. He also expressed his delight that junior golf had been made a priority by the development committee.

Henry Henriques (Pinner Hill) believes that club committees' need to take responsibility for the development of junior golf and the county should hold those accountable at the upcoming meeting in October.

Sally Field (Finchley) congratulated Middlesex on a successful merger and expressed her delight in seeing so many people in attendance. Sally agreed that junior sections are an integral part of any club, but when it comes to increasing participation, focus should be paid to individuals between the ages of 40 and 50. This is a demographic within Middlesex that is keen on taking up physical activity, and golf is one of the sports they are interested in.

Meeting closed at 20:20

..... Chairman.....Date  
*Stephanie Beer*