



Middlesex Golf

Minutes of the Members' Meeting

Sudbury Golf Club, Bridgewater Road, Wembley
Tuesday 12th June 2018

Present: Chairman – Stephanie Beer (Highgate), President – John Penn (North Middlesex), Vice President – Di Williams (Bush Hill Park), David Taylor (Hendon), David Booth (Highgate), Robbie Martin (Bush Hill Park), Tom Powell (Mill Hill), Henri Saha (England Golf), Angela Templeman (Mill Hill), Adam Middle (Crews Hill), Pauline Platt (Bush Hill Park), Jennifer Winn (Highgate), Graham Jones (Sudbury), Geoff Karet (Finchley), Alan Plumb (Strawberry Hill), Clare Connolly (Hendon), Dickie Smart (Enfield), Kay Nicholl (Harrow School), John Godwin (Sudbury), Richard Piggot (West Middlesex), Jo Luff (Grim's Dyke), Eamon Kneafsey (Sudbury), Elizabeth Bowen (Stanmore)

County Secretary – Jason Mitchell

1) Chairman's welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2) Apologies for absence

Murray Cook (Fulwell), Sue Katz (Pinner Hill), Stuart Cella (Haste Hill), Di Rowlands (Hendon), Irvine Walker (Pinner Hill), Anne Koychev (Ealing), Elizabeth Thomas (Hendon)

3) Chairman's Report

Stephanie Beer reported as follows.

On a general note, our biggest event was winning the England Golf County of the Year award. The county was thrilled to collect the award on behalf of all golfers in Middlesex, who have put such a lot of effort into making the merger so successful. There are so many people who have worked hard behind the scenes and we cannot thank them enough.

The subject of mergers is now very fashionable. When we started down this path, many counties didn't believe something like this would occur in their lifetime, but since we won this award a number of other counties come through our doors to discuss the process and how we have made it work.

We have held several successful events already this year and we cannot run them without the support of the clubs who have done a wonderful job in making things happen. So far this year, a big thank you to Muswell Hill who hosted both championships and Highgate who hosted the Ladies' Bronze Meeting.

The next thing to mention is data protection. Our privacy policy is accessible on the website and hopefully we have a fully refreshed mailing list, so we can keep everyone up to date and communicating with those who don't want to be communicated with. If you are aware of anyone who would like to be in the know, please ask them to contact the County Secretary at secretary@middlesexgolf.co.uk.

I also wanted to talk about succession planning for the Board and sub-committee members. The terms of directors are a standard three year each year with President and Vice President doing two years. Personally, I have 18 months to go, finishing in February 2020. I will not be standing for a second term as I was previously Ladies' County Captain for 18 months before the merger, so it will be time for a fresh face. If anyone is interested in joining the Board or one of the sub committees, we would love to hear from you. Induction training will be provided so please don't be put off. Contact the County Secretary to discuss job descriptions.

4) Finance Report

David Taylor reported that the first set of audited accounts are currently with company accountants and will be submitted to Companies House by 31 July. DT stated that real-time affiliation fee collection process will be coming into effect from the autumn. Clubs have been informed and are largely in favour of the change.

The following clubs' affiliation fees are still outstanding: Stanmore; Hillingdon; West London Golf Centre; Northwick Park; and Stockley Park. DT pleaded to the delegates from these clubs to instruct their clubs to pay as soon as possible to avoid being disaffiliated.

5) Competitions Report

Jason Mitchell reported as follows:

The season is well and truly underway. The Ladies' Championship and Silver Meeting kicked things off, and despite poor weather, the two competitions were both run smoothly and successfully. Lulu Housman from Wyke Green prevailed in the Championship, defeating Tara Watters in the final. In the Spring Meeting, Finchley's Arlene Bailey won with an outstanding 36 points.

The Ladies' Bronze Meeting took place at Highgate on a beautiful spring day. The event was oversubscribed, which showed its popularity and those that took part seem to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Fiona Cullen from Hampstead won the event with 39 points.

Most recently, Muswell Hill played host to the men's County Championship. We received 92 entries for the event, a truly fantastic response. Unfortunately, the maximum field size is 72 so the ballot came into effect. This year, we had a new champion in Gyu Ho Lee from Mill Hill. He defeated Sudbury's Niall Keogh 2&1 in a closely fought final.

Our thanks go to all the clubs that have hosted our events so far this year. We have received fantastic support from them and we are truly grateful to their staff and members for the incredible support.

We have several events upcoming over the next month which we'd be grateful if you could promote at your respective clubs. Next week we have the men's Mid-Amateur Championship at Pinner Hill, followed shortly by the ladies' 5 Club Final, Coronation Bowl at Sudbury and Mixed Open at Enfield.

Feedback has been received from a number of clubs regarding the men's Rowse Trophy and President Foursomes knockout competitions. The format of both are currently being reviewed by the competitions committee and a survey with proposals for changes will be circulated to team captains later this year.

6) Teams & Coaching

Tom Powell reported as follows:

All squads now have been provided with bespoke coaching programmes. Several of the squads have completed their allocation. The Ladies mix, Men's Seniors and the Junior squads received range-based sessions. These coaching programs are now completed, the under 14's have a summer series of 9-hole get-together comps under way.

Men's First Team: attended a two-day advanced coaching/playing weekend at Woodhall Spa.

Ladies First Team: the ladies' county week team will have their practice round and practice sessions with PGA Professional, Charles Sandison-Woods, who has mapped out the course and prepared detailed course notes for the team.

The remaining squads elected for a mixture of range and course get togethers in the run up to the season.

These advanced ability squads are also eligible on request for:

One-to-one coaching

Putting clinic

Fitness training

Dietary guides

Tom has begun liaising with coaches and managers where possible with a view to manipulate and improve 2019 coaching.

7) Course Rating Report

Head of Course Ratings Graham Jones (GJ) talked through the introduction of the 'slope system'. He reported that Harrow School and Pinner Hill had already been rated by the Middlesex team this year, with North Middlesex, Mill Hill, Stanmore and Finchley left to do in 2018. Any clubs wishing to be rated in 2019 should contact the County Secretary by the end of November. The 2019 schedule will be published in January.

8) Development Report

DB provided a report on development. The development committee's objective is to increase participation in golf within Middlesex. The group has worked on producing an Action Plan which has been circulated to all Middlesex Clubs and published on the website. DB stressed that although we are here to support it is ultimately the clubs' responsibility to drive their own development initiatives but with ours and England Golf's support when required.

Another of the committee's priorities is junior golf and the county has reintroduced the junior Order of Merit in 2018. We will be hosting a junior presentation evening on 11 November at Ealing GC to celebrate the achievements of junior golf this season.

DB re-emphasised the need for clubs to forward information from Middlesex Golf to its members as this is believed to sometimes fall short.

9) Any Other Business

Robert Afia (Highgate) asked whether it was possible for the clubs to receive their 'slope ratings' before 2020. JM said England Golf were storing these ratings until all courses have been complete. However, should a club wish to know in advance they can contact England golf directly and make a request.

David Booth asked if 'slope ratings' can be posted on the Middlesex Golf website. JM said once this information has been received by Middlesex Golf then this could be made available on the website.

Alan Plumb (Strawberry Hill) asked if the 2019 course rating programme can be published sooner rather than later so that clubs are aware. JM reminded the meeting that it will be finalised by the end of the year and circulated to clubs in January.

John Penn (President) asked if the county had considered putting reserves into Premium Bonds. DT said that the Finance Committee would consider effective ways to responsibly invest reserves.

Eammon Kneafsey (Sudbury) asked whether the Board would consider offering bursaries to receive coaching. JM stated that the County introduced bursaries last year for one 2 one coaching where appropriate across selected squads. Also, worth noting that the County supports any player involved in a national training squad or national event.

Eammon Kneafsey (Sudbury) also expressed a need for the County to introduce a 'high handicap' competition and to improve relations with public courses in the county. JM stated that from the men's perspective we run the 'Coronation Bowl', Handicap Championship and Middlesex 6s all of

which cater for higher handicappers. There is a potential to introduce a handicap singles knockout competition and this will be discussed further by the Competitions Committee.

10) Date and Venue of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9th October 2018 at Hendon Golf Club at 7.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm