

## **DURHAM COUNTY GOLF UNION SENIORS**

Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting held at Durham City Golf Club on Wednesday 15 November 2023.

### **1. Present**

Messrs G. Golightly (Chairman),

Council members; W.G. Dunn BEM, A. Stewart, A. Hayes, J. Douthwaite, R. Wilson, B. Robinson, D. Proud (County President), M. Kelly (County Secretary and 36 others.

### **2. Apologies and Report of death**

There was a minute's silence for the memory of past member and Captain David Self.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from I. Watson (Hon Secretary/Treasurer). P. Dewar and M. Thorpe (Team captain) and 31 others.

### **3. Previous AGM**

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were presented by W. G. Dunn, proposed by C. Eltringham and seconded by M. Dunn no matters were arising and were formally accepted as a true record.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, the members for their support in all competitions and their attendance today. He gave a special thankyou to the team players for their special effort by winning the Northern Counties Big Six and coming second in the national final. He thanked P. Dewar for the photographs and presentation of framed mementos to the team members. He thanked the committee members for their efforts during the past year and stated he appreciated two newcomers onto the committee which was required to make things easier at competitions where in the past where assistance had been thin on the ground. He wished everyone a successful golfing year for 2024 and all good health.

### **5. Secretary Report**

In the absence of the Secretary W. G. Dunn presented the report. In his report the Secretary thanked the Council and the senior members for their participation and support for the 2023 competitions, many congratulations to the winners. In addition to the usual 4 member events there was an inaugural Texas Scramble at the end of March hosted by Sharpley Springs GC, it proved extremely popular with members and will become an annual fifth fixture.

The four regular competitions were hosted by Tyneside, Hobson, Brancepeth Castle and Bishop Auckland Golf Clubs

A big thank you to all of the aforementioned golf clubs for hosting the 2023 Senior competitions and team matches where applicable.

The 2024 events have been agreed as follows:

- Texas Scramble at Sharpley Springs GC on Tuesday 9 April.
- Spring Meeting at Billingham GC on Monday 29 April.
- Geoff Dunn Trophies Meeting at Durham City GC on Monday 10 June and on Monday 17 June Northern Counties League fixture v Lancashire.
- Summer Meeting at Beamish Park GC on Monday 22 July and on Monday 19 August Northern Counties League fixture v Yorkshire.
- Autumn Meeting Chester-le-Street GC on Monday 9 September.

2024 membership subscriptions and competition applications will open at the beginning of November. To secure a preferred tee time I would encourage members to make their applications as soon as practicable after entries open. The membership and competition fees for 2024 will remain at £6 and £10 respectively. Golf Genius will be the preferred option for 2024 Senior member competition entries. An all- members email will be issued outlining requirements.

Following the success of previous year's new members recruitment exercise, we plan to repeat it in 2024, a poster listing the competition dates and eligibility will be included in the County pack given to all club secretaries following the County AGM in January.

The County Executive/ Seniors Council have agreed that the County Seniors Trophies are to be kept on permanent display in a cabinet at Durham City Golf Club. The cabinet was purchased by the County with a contribution from the Seniors Section. This will alleviate having to make arrangements to return trophies prior to the AGM. The winners will be presented with the trophies at today's presentation, photographs taken and returned immediately for display in the cabinet once Durham City have completed the room renovation.

## **6. Treasurer Report**

In the absence of the Secretary Geoff Dunn presented the Treasurers report. The operating loss for the 2022/2023 was £1043.78, as a result of the one - off purchase of a Seniors section laptop, associated software and a £500 contribution towards the purchase of the permanent Trophy Cabinet. The end of year operating balance is £5142.85. Membership increased by 34% in 2023 from 209 to 281, consequently competition entries increased accordingly with the average field of 150 players at each of the 4bbb competitions and 30 x four-man teams at the Texas Scramble. We are a non – profit making organisation and the increase of income has enabled us to raise the value of the prizes in each of the competitions and maintain the low membership and competition entry cost, which I think we all agree are really good value. We have also been able to generously support the County Seniors Team in what proved to be their most successful ever season.

The statement of accounts was accepted proposed by A. Hayes, seconded by R. Wilson.

## 7. Captains Report

In the absence of the captain the 2024 Captain Andrew Stewart was introduced and gave a report on the success of the team in both the Big Six and National finals. He gave particular thanks to G. Golightly and G. Dunn for their support during the year and the team members for their fantastic effort during 2022 which ended in a first for the County Seniors winning the Big Six and ending up second to Surrey in the national finals. He also stated that next year the section will have additional players who are qualified to represent the team which will hopefully help the Seniors team in the Northern Counties League, retaining the Big Six and go one better in the National Finals.

Hard copies of the Reports were available to all attendees and will be published on the DCGU website.

## 8. Election of Council Members

### Proposed Council

Chairman	Gilbert Golightly	Southmoor GC
Secretary/Treasurer	Ian Watson	Durham City GC
Council Member	Ron Wilson	Castle Eden GC
Council Member	Geoff Dunn	Garesfield GC
Council Member	Alan Hayes	Ramside Hall GC
Council Member	Peter Dewar	Wearside GC
Council Member	John Douthwaite	Ramside Hall GC
Council Member	Brian Robinson	Woodham GC
Captain	Andrew Stewart	Beamish Hall GC
Auditor	DCGU Treasurer	

The above were duly elected, proposed by D. Dunn seconded by A. Stewart.

### Proposals

1. During 2023 following a member's suggestion the Council agreed to amend to Rule 2 as follows:
  - to remove the membership limit and
  - to confirm eligibility to play in the Seniors competitions and play for the County Seniors team a player must have paid the Seniors annual membership subscription.

Rule 2 now reads as follows:

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall be open to any person over the age of 55 years, at the time of joining such person must be a playing member of a golf club affiliated to the Durham County Golf Union or be a member of a recognised Golf club in the former geographical area of County Durham, or have been born in the County, and not be a member of any other County Seniors Association. Membership qualification may be extended at the discretion of the Council to former members who move to a club outside of County Durham that is affiliated to another County Golf Union and such persons as the association, on the recommendation of an annual general meeting, may elect to be honorary members. To be eligible to play in the County Durham Golf Union Senior annual competitions or for the County Seniors team a player must have paid the annual membership subscription to the County Durham Golf Union Seniors Section.

2. Competition Rules –
  - i. to add the Texas Scramble to the competition rules.

to apply a maximum WHS Index of 28.4 to the competition rules.

Proposed by G. Wraith, seconded by R. Wilson and were unanimously accepted.

### **9 Lunch**

Mr. D. Proud the County President gave a toast to the Seniors Section.

### **10 Presentation**

The presentation as set below was made by the Chairman G. Golightly.

#### **Spring Meeting for the Geoff Howe Trophies held at Tyneside GC on 15 May 2023**

1<sup>st</sup> A. Macpherson and S. Hetherington Bishop Auckland GC and Hobson GC

2<sup>nd</sup> R. Dunkley and D. Wade Bishop Auckland GC

#### **Over 70's**

1<sup>st</sup> E. Rix and B. Hardy Brancepeth Castle GC

2<sup>nd</sup> C. Dawkin and S. Carr Crook GC

#### **Geoff Dunn Trophies held at Hobson GC on 12 June 2023**

1<sup>st</sup> I. Sharp and I. Sanderson Eaglescliffe GC

2<sup>nd</sup> A. Devine and B. Lowther Whickham GC

#### **Over 70's**

1<sup>st</sup> M. Hughes and P. Tallentire Crook GC

2<sup>nd</sup> R. Preston and T. Kelly Billingham GC

**Summer Meeting for the Ken Davidson Trophy and F.D. Dobson Trophies**

**held at Brancepeth Castle GC on 24 July 2023**

1<sup>st</sup> T. Wood and M. Richardson Durham City GC

2<sup>nd</sup> B. Kemp and C. Plummer Ramside Hall GC and Brancepeth Castle GC

**Over 70's**

1<sup>st</sup> R. Crowle and L. Sterling Brancepeth Castle GC

2<sup>nd</sup> J. Kitson and I. Devine Eaglescliffe GC

**Autumn Meeting for the Auckland Goblets held at Bishop Auckland GC on 11 September 2023**

1<sup>st</sup> C. Bell and S. Tait Beamish Hall GC and Heworth GC

2<sup>nd</sup> J. King and I. Moncur Garesfield GC

**Over 70's**

1<sup>st</sup> P. Smith and I. Hughes Brancepeth Castle GC

2<sup>nd</sup> E. Rix and B. Hardy Brancepeth Castle GC

**10. Any other business**

The meeting was formally closed at 14:00 by the Chairman who wished all a safe journey home and looked forward to a successful year in 2024.