



# Middlesex Golf

## Minutes of AGM

Sudbury GC

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7:30pm

### MINUTES

#### **Board Members Present**

Stephanie Beer (SB)	Chairman
John Penn (JP)	President
Darragh Coghlan (DC)	Secretary
David Taylor (DT)	Finance Director
Diana Williams (DW)	Vice President
Diana Rowlands (DW)	Co-opted Director
Robbie Martin (RM)	Competitions Director
Tom Powell (TP)	Teams & Coaching Director
Anne Koychev (AK)	Co-opted Director

#### **Club Delegates Present**

Paul Dimmer	Haste Hill
Neil Jennings	Ruislip
David Dickson	Bush Hill Park
John Nugent	Ealing
Nick Hitch	Wyke Green
Crispin Roche	Trent Park
Chris Reynolds	Grim's Dyke
Bill Carey	Muswell Hill
Dickie Smart	Enfield
David Sharp	Harrow School
Eamonn Kneafsey	Sudbury
Tom Powell	Mill Hill
Sue Katz	Pinner Hill
Clare Brown	Northwood
Patrick Walsh	Whitewebbs
Jennifer Winn	Highgate
Clare Donnolly	Hendon
Mary Calney	Ealing

The AGM is quorum.

#### **Other Members Present**

Angela Templeman	Mill Hill
------------------	-----------

Stuart Cella	Haste Hill
Ian Rickard	Trent Park
Ricky Willison	Ealing
Irene Dickson	Bush Hill Park
John Nugent	Ealing
Mandy Miller	Muswell Hill
Ray Andrews	Grim's Dyke

## **1. Apologies**

David Booth	Golf Development Director
Guy Stacey	Sudbury
Irvine Walker	Pinner Hill
Robert Afia	Highgate
Frank Laville	Leaside
Irene Lee	Hendon
Gail Owen	Hampstead
Leslie Glancy	Perivale Park
Kay Nichol	Harrow School
Peter Mutton	Strawberry Hill
Adam Middle	Crews Hill

## **2. Chairman's Report (Stephanie Beer)**

SB opened the meeting and declared that we had a quorum.

Matters arising on the 2019 minutes. There are none.

Clare Donnolly (Hendon) approves minutes.

SB notes that Middlesex are over a year out of date with regards to their Safeguarding. All forms that the County are currently using must be updated. She highlights that the biggest change is the fact that all teams U18 traveling away need to have consent forms with their pictures left with a Middlesex official that is not traveling. DW and DB note that England Golf are not good at communicating new updates like this, hence how we might have missed it.

DW supports the point regarding Safeguarding made by SB that all managers should be Safeguarding accredited.

As of the time of the meeting, there are only three clubs left for course rating; Whitewebbs, Trent Park, and Stockley Park. The chair commends the great job done by the rating team over the past few years, especially Irene Riley who is retiring from the Team.

SB presented flowers to the two ladies' managers who are stepping down.

A question from the floor was asked if the manager positions had been filled?  
SB – Replied no but noted that Middlesex have advertised the positions and that the managers can be men.

### **3. Finance Report**

DT states that the trend in decreasing affiliated members continues.

The year-end Bank A/C of £168k, kept us in a healthy position. We are receiving better interest with our new savings account. Overall, the company had a loss of £33k in 2019 and DT wants to tighten procedures going forward into 2020. The deficit of £33k is because of the reduction in affiliation fees and less tournament income. Henry Saha's marketing costs, recruitment fees, and Jason Mitchell's holiday pay also add to the deficit.

To break even, the board proposed an increase in the affiliation fee, along with no recurring costs from last year, and a tightening of coaching budget. DT stated that at the January Board meeting the affiliation fee was raised by £2 per head, which equals 33 pence per year since it was last changed. He attributes the rise in running cost of Middlesex Golf to us now being a larger organisation (merged with the ladies) and does more for its members.

Affiliation fees are now set at £14.75 for Middlesex Golf and £9.50 for England Golf.

Ricki Willison asked if the Affiliation Fee was based on handicap? Women have handicaps up to 54. Why should they pay more if they can't enter a tournament? Why put handicap limits on tournament?

Mandy Miller added that those high handicap players have little experience and confidence to go and play in those competitions, so they don't want to play in Middlesex tournaments.

Crispin Roche said that he tries to encourage other players to play but they don't think that they are good enough.

A question was asked about the overall strategy with reserves?

DT repeated that our overall business strategy is to set an annual budget that gives us a break even each year. Our reserves are utilised when unexpected circumstances require it and when there is possible for one off items.

Proposed by Robbie Martin  
Seconded by Clare Connolly

### **Re-election of Auditors**

Proposed by: DT  
Seconded by: Tom Powell

#### **4. Election of Board Members**

SB thanked everyone for their help during her three years as Chairman. She urges anyone who wants to make a contribution to the county to consider becoming chairman or to join the board. SB explains rules for voting in members. Following the Board Meeting in January;

- SB proposed Ray Andrews (RA) for Chairman, JP seconded.
- JP proposed DW for President, DR seconded.
- DW proposed TP for Vice President, DB seconded.

RA is voted in as Chairman. SB gives him a Middlesex jumper and keys to the office. RA addresses the members. He mentioned that he had been president of Middlesex CGU and felt privileged to become chairman. He is looking forward to helping the county change with the times, but only change for the better not just change for changes sake. He thanked the clubs and delegates, and special thanks to the board and Stephanie. He believes that golf is facing challenges. There are less members of golf clubs and an increase in nomadic golfers. The handicap system is changing. Our clubs need stronger finances and a plan to address changing times. Waiting for a neighbour club to go bust is not a good business plan. Every clubs needs a robust plan. Heraclitus stated that the only constant in life is change and Middlesex Golf is ready for those changes.

DW is voted in as President. She says that she is looking forward to working with the clubs and with the board.

RA thanks JP for his time as president. JP thanks everyone for their help and the merging of the two bodies.

TP is voted in as Vice-president.

DC is voted in as Director of Teams and Coaching.

#### **5. Development Report**

AK gives DB's report in his absence.

The Women's Development meetings have been successful. There are three meetings upcoming at clubs in different locations around the county where ideas and plans of action will be discussed. It is reiterated that no matter what action plans are proposed that it is ultimately up to the clubs to implement anything discussed.

If DB were to continue as Director on the committee, he would make the elite golfers and the decreasing size of tournament fields the next focus of development for 2020.

Junior Development plans are now a reality. Such as the Junior Action Plan is updated and was issued in the 1st quarter of 2019. The Junior Champion Club was established in 2019 and this year the Junior Champion Club is at Stanmore. The Junior Grant was a success and is being offered again in 2020 but four clubs didn't come back for the last 25% last year.

The development focus has been on women in 2019. There are only 16 clubs with more than 20 lady members. 2020 focus will be on elite golfers.

AK asks for somebody to volunteer for the vacant role of Director of Development.

## **6. Teams and Coaching**

DC reports that coaching has gone well, and the teams are enjoying the training and competitions. He believes that the new program has helped golf at an individual level and the teams are now more competitive in inter-county matches than ever.

The biggest improvements have been seen in the women's section and they have been especially benefitted from the increased levels of coaching.

Team managers that have stepped down;  
Angela Templeman – Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> Team  
Christine Tyler (Phillips) – Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> Team  
Ginny Goudy and Elaine Cole are not taking on the managerial role for the Ladies' Seniors.

Mandy Miller is taking on the Ladies' 1st Team.

## **7. England Golf Report**

DR reminds clubs that the Independent gofer report has been sent to clubs and to make sure that the clubs respond to the survey.

Crispin Roche said he was surprised the survey asked whether the club knows about the disabilities of fellow members.

## **8. Competitions Report**

RM reports that it is essential that each club sends appropriate representation to a WHS seminar being held this month.

The Ladies' County Championship has been moved back to April.

U21s category has been increased to U26s to incorporate Colts to mirror governing bodies.

He also reports that the National Junior Club Champion competition is still not described on the English Golf website and hence is creating an issue to describe our local Junior Champion Club competition.

RM states that the Knockout deadlines have passed, and the draws will be published next week.

The 2020 fixtures are finalised and are on the County Website. Gender and age specific calendars will be published this month, as per Robert Afia's request at the members meeting in January.

The Fixture cards have arrived. Will be sent directly to clubs this month.

Ricki Willison noted that the County Championship had not been moved and that many people are doing A levels and can't compete. He suggested not holding it in June.

JP - When would be best?

Ricki – Not sure but speak to England Golf. Make sure that it does not clash with major events.

RM – I will look at it.

Neil Jennings – stated that it had to be played by Mid-August to fit in with scheduled events.

Q – This matter was raised last year. This is an issue that needs to be looked at.

Q – Change the date of the Ladies' County Championship, it must be moved from a Friday. It stops working professionals from competing.

Ricki Willison – Last year there were only 8 entries, so its current date is obviously not working. Have it as the same time as the men's championship.

Crispin Roche – Can we get information earlier regarding tournaments so that clubs can plan the year better?

SB – Currently, the County Operations Manager does not have enough time to make this happen.

Neil Jennings – That's not an argument. Clubs want to plan ahead, and he knows of other organisations that do it.

Ricki Willison – stated that The Rowse it not working and suggest changing the format. Not all clubs enter it, as they did in the past.

RM – The Rowse competitors were polled and we did what they asked.

Niall Keogh – Can order of Merit events be moved away from weekdays so better players can play them?

RA – Disappointed to hear about the worries about competitions. He gives his word to address the issues.

## **9. County Secretary Report**

DC urges clubs and members to follow Middlesex Golf on social media and to subscribe to the monthly Newsletter. It gives all members direct access to information about the County.

He states that he also would like to have a larger range of contacts at each club so that he can send information to specific people at each club. Reducing the reliance on busy Club managers to disseminate County information.

## **10. A.O.B.**

Paul Dimmer – Would like to see more support for public courses. They are the feeder courses for private courses. What is the county doing to support the feeder clubs? Not many people join these courses, the people that play there are nomad golfers. They need support to help them capture these golfers.

Neil Jennings – Adds to what Paul has said. Public courses are left to fight on their own. Middlesex needs to help them to fight their corner. NAPGC keeps the fire in these clubs by providing competitions.

Paul Dimmer – The county can help by utilising vulnerable adults, disabilities. We can help with Safeguarding.

RA – Says that he is up for the challenge and wants to speak with everyone to find out how he can help.