



# Middlesex Golf

## Minutes of Board Meeting

Held at Sudbury GC

On Monday March 27<sup>th</sup> 2023

**In attendance:** Ray Andrews - Chair (RA), Robbie Martin (RM), David Taylor (DT), Darragh Coghlan (DC), Anne Koychev (AK), Tom Powell (TP), Irvine Walker (IW), Di Rowlands (DR), Ruth Holmes (RH), Ketan Raja (KR) and Lee Patterson (LP).

### **1) Apologies for absence**

None.

### **2) Matters Arising**

AK asked whether the business plan has been reviewed and updated. DC response that is hasn't as more urgent matters had arisen but it will be addressed in the near future.

### **3) Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the last board meeting were approved.

### **4) Welcome**

RA welcomed RH and KR to the board and LP to the Company and board. LP will be starting officially as County Operations Manager on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

LP thanked the board for the opportunity.

DC to send out communication to the County regarding LP's appointment.

### **5) SafeGolf Report**

DC informed the board that there was an investigation into a serious SafeGolf allegation. The police are conducting an investigation to the incident and once that has concluded the County will conduct their own investigation.

### **6) Tournament, Rules and Handicapping Report**

DC informed the board that the tournament committee has changed the format of the Women's County Championship to encourage more entrants.

DC will enquire with WAGR to see if the championship can now qualify for WAGR points.

### **Saturday – am**

- Entries limited to a max of 21
- Maximum handicap 14.4
- 18-hole medal qualifier – top 8 to qualify for matchplay

### **Saturday – pm**

- Quarterfinals

### **Sunday – am/pm**

- Semi-finals & Final

## **7) England Golf Report**

DR updated the board on recent EG matters.

The IGolf Surplus Grant which is to be used for grass roots development with a recommended focus on Women & Girls and/or Junior Golf. This will be in the sum of £5,400 and it was decided it would be added to our ring-fenced amount for this purpose.

At the Woodhall spa land holdings General Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> march the following special resolutions voted on and approved.

- meetings can be held remotely or face to face or a mix of both. Anyone attending a remote meeting is deemed to be present at the meeting.
- Directors must declare any conflict of interest and depending on the severity of the conflict may or may not be allowed to participate in a meeting.
- Three England Golf Directors will be joining the WSLH Board. The Articles approved call for up to 11 Directors including three from EG.

It is known that EG would prefer up to 7 including three from EG but WSLH consider that with up to seven there is the potential for conflict, and a problem with quorum but up to 11 would enable them to create the right skill base and introduce a level of equality within the board.

## **8) Operations Report**

DC and RA informed the board that in preparation for LPs appointment, Mary's role was more clearly defined. It became apparent that her title is not reflective of her responsibilities and duties. As such, her title and remuneration would be reviewed.

DC reminded board members that the deadline for the club support packages was March 31<sup>st</sup> and we had only received four applications. KR, DR and RH asked for a two week extension which was agreed. DC has emailed all clubs informing them of this decision.

RH will work with IW to engage more closely with Club Delegates.

DC advised the board that the County Benchmarking pilot has begun and we are interested in the results and information that comes from it.

DC informed the board that Mary will be taking over as chair of the women's development committee. The committee is also running a Women's webinar April 11<sup>th</sup> to share ideas and learn about initiatives that clubs in Middlesex are running this year to encourage women's golf.

DC requested that a Middlesex centenary committee is formed to plan appropriate celebrations for Middlesex's centenary in 2024. It is acknowledged that this will be 100 years of the formation of the men's union but there will be no reference to gender in the celebrations and it will be a celebration of golf in Middlesex. IW, RM, TP, DR all offered to be on the committee alongside Jennifer Wynn of Highgate GC and Nigel Williams from Strawberry Hill GC.

DC requested that a committee was set up to plan for hosting Junior County Week in 2024. This is a large event and requires a lot of organisation and LP and Mary could do with help. RM, LP volunteered to be on the committee and it was suggested that Di Williams, Stephanie Beer and Mary McDowall also be on the committee.

## **9) AOB**

KR asked had the questions asked by Haste Hill at the AGM been answered. DC replied that he had spoken to their members after the AGM and all matters were addressed.

IW mentioned that some parents had expressed displeasure at coaching being held at Chigwell GC. DC replied that he too would like coaching to be held in Middlesex if a club in the county has the facilities to host.

LP mentioned that he will not be able to attend the Men's Spring Meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> and hence there will need to be support from volunteers to ensure the tournament goes as planned.

AK asked that the job descriptions be reviewed to reflect the recent changes in directorships and Articles of Association.

DC will create scoring sheet for club support packages to ensure a fair and transparent decision process.

**10) Date of next meetings**

Board meeting via Zoom on Monday July 17<sup>th</sup>. Only to go ahead if required.

Board meeting at Sudbury GC on Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>.

General meeting at Sudbury GC on Monday November 27<sup>th</sup>.

AGM at Sudbury GC on Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> 2024.