



Middlesex Golf

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held at Sudbury GC

On Monday July 17th 2023

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

1) Apologies for absence

None.

2) Matters Arising

Ruth Homes confirmed as Director of Development, and replaces Mary McDowell as Chair of the Committee.

RA asked where the mooted County Week Committee is and who were its members, LP to make enquiries with Di Williams.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

3) Finance

Club Memberships and Affiliation Fees

- 21 out of 30 Middlesex clubs have sent their declaration of membership
- On a like with like basis, memberships are 154 higher than 2022 and 550 higher than budget. We prudently budgeted for a 5% fall in memberships compared to 2022 after considering the economic environment.
- One of the risks in our 2023 budget was membership numbers and affiliation income being below our forecast. Evidence to date is that this has not been the case.
- We have recently paid £63k to England Golf for the first instalment of their affiliation fees
- Within the next 3 months a decision regarding our affiliation fees will need to be made and advised to the clubs

Replacement of prize vouchers with prepaid gift cards

- This would significantly reduce the administrative workload dealing with the large number of voucher reimbursements from pro shops.

- The vouchers would be bought in advance from the stores in line with the distribution of prize values resulting in considerably fewer transactions than the current paper and pay arrangements.
- Prepaid gift cards from eg John Lewis or Marks and Spencer can be used either for online purchases or in store for a wider range of purchases than from local pro shops

Discretionary Grants

- Of the approved grants, 50% of the amount has been paid, with the exception of the Ladies Pathway project at Grim's Dyke which will be paid in the next payment batch. The original payment failed due to the club changing their bank account.
- The remaining balances to be paid upon the satisfactory completion of their projects

4) Tournament, Rules and Handicapping Report

RA requested letters be sent to tournament no shows highlighting the lack of respect on display towards fellow competitors and to Middlesex Golf generally. RM and LP to action.

The Handicap Championship is to be rescheduled to its traditional date in September due to lack of support on its new date. RM, KT, LP to action.

KR requested the tournament calendar be assembled at the earliest opportunity. LP replied this was already high on his to-do list and he will soon be talking to RM and KR to build the 2024 calendar.

LP asks the Rowse and the President's Foursomes rounds to be moved in the tournament calendar to ensure County golf stays relevant and interesting to our elite golfers.

AK requests that Tournament Committee job descriptions are laid down to ensure clarity.

5) Business Plan

AK reminded all present that the Business Plan is a top down document, the Board should remain mindful of the structure. AK reminded all present of the need for clear roles and responsibilities, AK further noted IW has no clear role and this requires rectification. RA asked IW to submit to him what he regards his role on the Board. IW agreed to submit a descriptor for review by RA and AK.

RH stated there is a clear need for more capacity from the office following the departure of Mary McDowell, and she hopes this situation is under constant assessment. LP assured RH that that was indeed the case.

AK would like the Business Plan SWAT analysis re-examined as it is now out of date, updating SWAT will help make everybody's responsibilities much clearer.

AK urged that we undertake a training review at the earliest opportunity.

RH stated that Development overlaps all areas of responsibility and wanted that fact noted.

IW and RH agreed they would be working on a closer relationship between their own areas of responsibility.

AK stated that RA is the custodian of the Business Plan, RA agreed to oversee a collaborative group effort to bring it up to date.

6) England Golf Report

The Woodhall Spa situation carries on with no resolution on the horizon, DR had nothing new to report.

7) Women in Golf charter commitments

RH reported on future forums to be undertaken later in the year and that meetings had already been held and that a committee had already been formed and subsequently met.

An updated commitments document was circulated to the Board and it continues to be updated as and when required.

8) Secretaries Report

LP reported that following handover from Darragh and the subsequent loss of Mary the office is extremely busy but with all core activities on schedule, however, the work load is significant, and it is hoped that once the season ends a back log of peripheral but nevertheless important tasks can be brought up to date ready for next year. At that point an administrative assistant with a clear role spec can be considered.

Due to operational issues LP has been looking at switching away from Intelligent Golf, this related to the inadequacy of the IG tournament management offering. Golf Genius is the preferred option and the Board offered their support in investigating a switch with an autumn deadline.

A report on our relationship with Elite Performance Management was offered by LP, a draft coaching schedule was previously submitted. RA and LP are considering its contents. The major issue voiced by all teams is the location (Chigwell). A mixed array of views were voiced by team members which were mostly positive and further discussions will be held with EPM to enhance the offering and assess how we will tailor training to individual team requirements.

AK reminded the board that Good Governance would suggest that we should put the coaching out to tender. LP/RA would create a brief and LP would check the contract with EPM.

9) Disciplinary

An ongoing investigation was briefly discussed but as the investigation is ongoing there was nothing new to report and we await further news from the investigating authorities.

Marketing (late agenda addition)

AM joined via zoom and reported that the relationship with our current sponsor is problematic but fruitful financially. He will look at any ways of improving the relationship with a view to renewing the deal but has other sponsors who may be interested if the current sponsor withdraws from the relationship.

AM will look at a way of spreading the gospel of Middlesex Golf to a wider audience however, it should be noted that the current work is attaining its targets.

10) Centenary

IW offered an update of celebration actions thus far with a dinner at the Copthorne Tara, Kensington the preferred option. IW is still in negotiation over cost and will ensure we benefit from the best deal possible.

RA requested IW formulates a Centenary budget in consultation with DT and AM.

IW suggested various golf events to compliment Centenary celebrations, these to be confirmed at a later date.

The next meeting of the Centenary Committee is scheduled for July 31st.

AOB

RA requested a competition withdrawal policy be prepared by the Tournament Committee.

DT reported that a new Finance Director has just taken up his role at England Golf.

IW asked if clubs could have both a male and a female delegate to improve our reach within affiliated clubs. It was generally agreed this would be a good aspiration and something to give further thought to. It was even suggested that having a Junior delegate would be beneficial.

11) Date of next meetings

Board meeting at Sudbury GC 11am, Monday November 6th.

General meeting at Sudbury GC on Monday November 27th.

AGM at Sudbury GC on Tuesday February 6th 2024.