



# Middlesex Golf

## Minutes of Board Meeting

Sudbury Golf Club, Bridgewater Road, Wembley  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Present:** Chairman – Stephanie Beer (Highgate), President – John Penn (North Middlesex), Vice President – Di Williams (Bush Hill Park), Director of Finance - David Taylor (Hendon), Director of Golf Development - David Booth (Highgate), Director of Competitions, Handicapping and Course Rating - Robbie Martin (Bush Hill Park), Co-opted Director - Anne Koychev (Ealing), County Secretary – Jason Mitchell

### 1) Chairman's welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

### 2) Apologies for absence

Tom Powell (Mill Hill), Di Rowlands (Hendon)

### 3) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 10 April 2018 were approved as accurate.

### 4) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 5) Chairman's Report

SB reported as follows:

We have held several successful events already this year, more details from Robbie / Jason later but we cannot run them without the support of the clubs who have done a wonderful job in making things happen. So, a huge thank you Muswell Hill, Highgate, Enfield, Pinner Hill and Sudbury. I believe we learned a lot about running events last year and everything has run smoothly so far this season with a lot less stress than before.

I attended Ladies County Match Week at Hockley. Our team was managed by Angela Templeman assisted by Di Williams. The team was very small as two players pulled out, one at very short notice. The six players who were there every day worked so hard, playing 36 holes match play every day in the blazing sunshine. We did not win a match, but we won more games than we have for a few years and halved with Kent on 18<sup>th</sup> green. We are hosting the week next year at Hendon, so planning will start as soon as the season ends.

I also went to Blackmoor with the Under 18 Boys, which I really enjoyed. Jason will report on performance. We chose not to change into jackets and ties for the prize giving which upset the organisers. I had hardly walked into the clubhouse before I was being challenged about our decision.

Our Inaugural Mixed Open was played at Muswell Hill on Friday. We did not have a huge field, but it was a very successful day. It was really nice to see a number of new faces who have not played in county events before. This is one of the few events we provide for non-elite players whose fees pay for all the county teams. I would like us to consider if this was the correct time of year or should we have a spring and autumn mixed competition instead?

We are hosting the Girls Inter County Match week at Bush Hill Park in August. I would like all the male members of the Board there if possible in County Shirts to show we are a truly integrated county.

### 6) Finance Update

DT reported that the accounts had been audited to 31 October 2017.

These are the first accounts of the new company for seven months and will be annually thereafter. This will enable the accounts to close at the end of the golfing season and will be available at the AGM's each February. The accounts are with the auditors, with final review expected this week. One area under discussion is the accounting treatment of the assets brought into Middlesex Golf from MCGU and MLCGA. This is a presentation matter having no bearing on the assets and cash position. These accounts need to be filed at Companies House by the end of July 2018.

A Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure account is attached.

Bank Balances £207k

Net assets £213k

2/ Stockley Park Affiliation Fees to MGL and EG £1365 have recently paid

3/ Bank Balances and Savings Accounts

Our current bank balances are £276k although we will have to pay EG £22k shortly paying the balance of their 2018 affiliation fees

Barclays bank offer very poor corporate saving rates not exceeding 0.25%. Virgin money are offering rates of over 1% on business savings.

4/ Real Time Affiliation Collection

JM and DT recently met with the England Golf Finance Director partly for a social introduction but also to discuss the real time collection process. We will shortly be seeing how the system and the software works prior to our use later this year.

## **7) Development Update**

DB reported as follows:

Five clubs have taken up the junior golf development grant (Hendon, West Middlesex, Pinner Hill, Enfield and Strawberry Hill) totaling £3,300. This is £2,700 within budget.

MG Junior Champion Club: The GDC has agreed a new stableford competition for juniors to start in 2019. The competition will be played (probably in the Whitsun week) and will involve teams of 3 from each club. This format is along the lines of the England Golf Junior Champion Club as requested by some juniors at last year's junior open meeting. It is intended that the winning team will be MG's nomination each year for the national competition from 2020. Please note that the Friern League winner for 2018 will be MG's 2019 nomination. The competition will be publicised shortly once the Competitions Committee have formally approved our plans. It is hoped that the new format will encourage more Middlesex clubs to enter than the Friern League. Ealing are keen to host inaugural event.

Junior order of merit: Results are now posted on the MG web site. We still await the results of the Pinner Hill Junior Open. Our plans are for 3 winners; U18, U16 and U14 based upon the nett scores in qualifying competitions. Juniors qualify by playing in a minimum of 4 junior opens and can take their best 6 scores.

Junior Presentation Day: the event is now planned for 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Ealing GC. Posters will be published shortly.

1. Estimate of numbers: Plan for 40 juniors.
2. Format of day:
  - a. 11-hole competition with teams of 4; 3 juniors and an adult. We aim to encourage good golfers to partner the juniors (such as Jason, David Kingsman, Chris Payne, Mickey Moore etc).
  - b. Start 1200 hrs; starting times provided with drawn teams.

- c. Early starters can enter extra competitions such as chipping, putting, long driving etc after their round. Late starters can enter these competitions before they play.
  - d. Additional competitions for parents etc
  - e. Allow for bad weather so have alternative plans in place.
  - f. Aim for presentation at about 1500-1530 hrs.
3. Junior order of Merit prizes etc:
- a. 3 prizes for U14s and 3 for U18s.
  - b. It is proposed offer each prize as a golf supplier's "goodie bag", as this will provide substantially better value than vouchers. We expect to get a 30-40% discount on cost.
  - c. Prize values: to be finalized. Looking at up to the amateur limit: 1<sup>st</sup> £500, 2<sup>nd</sup> £250 and 3<sup>rd</sup> £150.
  - d. We will also be presenting the "most improved golfer award" and the academy/intermediate summer series order of merit prizes.
  - e. With 30% discount cost to MG about £1500.
  - f. I will take photos which promote golf supplier and winners. To be uploaded onto MG website.
4. Other invitees:
- a. Any junior affiliated to the county
  - b. Parents
  - c. Junior organisers and interested parties such as pros
5. Catering:
- a. Sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes, soft drinks, tea etc
6. Other entertainment:
- a. Organise a celebrity to present. It should be noted that 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Nov is European Tour Championship so Beef is not a possibility.
  - b. Have a table magician or entertainer
7. Cost to attend:
- a. To be determined. Price per junior; price per parent; price per competition entry.
  - b. Do we offer free invite for winners, junior captains, junior organisers?
8. Promotion:
- a. Once date and initial plans agreed poster to be sent out to clubs
  - b. Will set up registration form on MG website

Development of ladies' golf: with Anne Koychev's help I am currently setting up a ladies sub-committee to prepare a ladies' open meeting to discuss ways MG can help clubs develop golf within their ladies section.

## 8) Teams & Coaching Update

JM reported that preparations for the 2018/2019 coaching programmes will be getting underway in the coming weeks. The 2017/2018 was viewed largely as successful, and although there is no great need for major changes, additions will be made to the programme to ensure all squads are receiving the necessary support.

A long discussion took place regarding teams' apparel and dress code policy. SB explained that during the recent England South-East Boys Qualifier a number of comments were made by other counties about Middlesex's decision not to change for the presentation. JM stated that in the previous SE Group meeting in London a decision had been made by all counties that only the winning team would be required to change into jacket and tie. This was also re-confirmed at the managers' meeting at the tournament itself. Therefore, Middlesex broke no rules in deciding not to change. The Board agreed that the rules of the SE Group Dress Code Policy will be adhered to and we would expect the Middlesex team to change into collar / tie if we were to win.

An issue has arisen where certain members of the Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> team and Ladies Senior team are refusing to wear the new Middlesex Golf clothing as some are intimating that the material of the shirts is uncomfortable. The Board felt that there was no justification in the complaint and unanimously agreed that this was unacceptable considering the shirts were paid for by our sponsor and it is our obligation to promote the company by wearing this kit at our matches.

Additionally, in another matter regarding the Ladies' 2<sup>nd</sup> team accommodation had been booked for a match versus Sussex without authorisation of the County Secretary or Finance Director. JM explained that the expenses policy was circulated at the beginning of the year throughout all team managers and it clearly states that such bookings must be authorised in advance. It was agreed that Tom Powell as the Chair of teams would write to all team managers and remind them of this policy.

## **9) Competitions Update**

RM reported that seven events had been staged to date, all of which had ran smoothly. There had been a combined increase in numbers from 2017, with the highlight being 92 entries for the men's County Championship. The next event will be the Youths' Championship at Hendon, followed shortly by the men's Seniors Championship at Ealing and Junior County Match Week at Bush Hill Park.

RM explained that the date of the Ladies' Championship and Silver Spring meeting is likely to be moved to later in the year from 2019. The proposed dates are the end of May.

JM had made a proposal relating to the Men's Mid-Amateur event, suggesting that it is added to the national Mid-Am Tour Order of Merit. This would mean opening it up to entries outside of the County. The Board felt considering the relatively low numbers the event receives this would be a reasonable step forward as long as Middlesex members were not disadvantaged.

## **10) SSS Update**

JM reported that Harrow School, Pinner Hill and Stanmore had all been course-rated in 2018. North Middlesex was due to be rated but planned course works meant the rating was postponed until 2019. Highgate and Finchley are scheduled to be rated in August and September and it was highly likely that another course would be added to the schedule before the deadline of the end of October.

## **11) Secretary Update**

JM reported that Di Rowlands had recently attended an England Golf meeting at Copt Heath to vote on the proposal to increase affiliation fees. The vote was delayed further due to new information being given to the voting members on the day. The voting members felt they were unable to vote as they had been mandated to vote for / against based on previous information. The next General Meeting will take place on 12 September.

## **12) AOB**

AK stressed that a lot of work had gone into developing the 'business plan' and Director Reports should be based upon KPI's set out in the Plan.

## **13) Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Sudbury Golf Club at 2pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4pm.