

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY GOLF LIMITED
Company Number: 13065967

General Meeting – Kings Norton Golf Club at 7.:00 pm on Thursday 27 October 2022

Present:

Ian Rone	President
Chris Gupwell	Retiring Finance Director
Anthony Hill	Golf Director/County Seniors Captain
John Whitehead	Governance Director
Jonathan Cray	Finance Director

Clubs

Bromsgrove Golf Centre	Richard Alsop & John Brothwood
Churchill & Blakedown	Jeremy Price & Bob Julier
Droitwich	Carl Young & Scott Shuck
Fulford Heath	Doug Cormack & Chris White
Gaudet Luce	Chris Hobbs, Mark Hewlett & Kevin Fee
Hagley	Dave Calcutt & Colin Day
Hollywood	Mark Robinson & Darren Palmer
Kidderminster	Will Painter/Past President
Kings Norton	Stuart Pritchard & Steve Barnett
Little Lakes	Andy Simmonds
Redditch	Gary Roberson & John Cranton
Redditch Kingfisher	Stuart Gorton & Ken Amos
Sapey	Matt Jones
Stourbridge	Bob Grindley & Mark Hughes
Wharton Park	Mark Suffolk

In Attendance

Kieron Austin	County Captain
Tony Edwards	Honorary Vice President
Emma Morton	England Golf CSO
Jo Gupwell	Minutes Secretary

Apologies

Denis Hayes	Honorary Life Member
Ian Griffiths	County Secretary
Clive Werrett	Director
Mark Dunkley	Second Team Captain
Graham Yardley	Honorary Vice President
Norman Bolton	Past President
Alex Bishop	
Grenville Rose	Past President
Paul Newman	
Brian Morris	
Bransford Golf Club	
Halesowen Golf Club	

Absent

Abbey Hotel
Bewdley Pines
Blackwell
Cleobury Mortimer
Cocks Moor Woods
Dudley
Evesham
Ombersley
Ravenmeadow & Perdiswell Park
Rose Hill
The Vale
The Worcestershire
Warley Woods
Worcester Golf & Country Club

1. **Appointment of Chairman of the Meeting:** The Board had agreed that the President would chair the meeting. In the absence of the County Secretary, the Governance Director would deal with the majority of County Secretarial matters.
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 May 2022:** These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were to be taken as read, but will be confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman at the next Annual General Meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from these Minutes to be dealt with. There were none.
3. **Confirmation of Appointment of Directors:** The Governance Director explained that when the Board had originally been set up there were 6 Directors, but that this number had been reduced to 5 and that with the imminent resignation of the Finance Director, the Board had agreed to appoint two new Directors to Worcestershire County Golf Limited. These were:

Mr Jonathan Cray, replacing Mr Chris Gupwell as Finance Director.
Mr Clive Werrett who would be dealing with compliance with regulations, safeguarding, health and safety. Etc.

The Governance Director paid tribute to the contribution that Mr Chris Gupwell had made to the County for over 20 years and expressed the Board's gratitude to him.
4. **Admission of Sapey Golf & Country Club as a Member of Worcestershire County Golf Ltd:** The Governance Director explained that although geographically in Worcestershire, Sapey's men had previously been affiliated to Shropshire & Herefordshire, whilst the ladies were affiliated to Worcestershire. Earlier in the year the Board had received an application from Sapey Golf & Country Club for be affiliated to Worcestershire. This application was approved by the Board on 1 July 2022. The Governance Director welcomed Sapey to Worcestershire County Golf Limited and Mr Matt Jones to his first General Meeting.
5. **County Captain's Report:** The Captain advised that the First Team had finished in fourth place in the league after encountering very strong opposition and with only two home games. Many

of the matches had gone down to the 18th, but the majority of them had not gone favourably for the First Team. The Captain advised that there had been consistent players for the First Team, with some excellent help from the Second Team and Juniors stepping up when required. There had been a number of debuts during the season for players who had all represented the County at Junior level. He was pleased to see such players coming through the ranks and representing the First Team. The Captain went on to note that the President's Shield had been won by Jack Severn and that Richard Sadler had passed the appearance record which now stood at 140 for the County. Finally, the Captain thanked everyone who had supported the players and for the hard work that went on behind the scenes. He looked forward to working with everyone in 2023 in his final year as Captain.

6. **Second Team Captain's Report:** In the absence of the Second Team Captain, the Chairman read out his report. The Second Team Captain began by listing his goals for the season, being to win the Second Team league, support the First Team, introduce new players to his squad and to bring some of the Juniors into the men's game. He felt that he had achieved all his goals with the exception of winning the Second Team league, having come second to a very dominant Nottinghamshire squad. He went through the matches played in the season, finishing with the one against Warwickshire which Worcestershire won with help from three Junior players. The Second Team Captain concluded by thanking all his players for their commitment and everyone who had supported them.
7. **Senior Team Captain's Report:** The Senior Team Captain advised that they had had eight matches during the year, four friendlies and four league games. The friendlies had gone well with the Team winning two and losing two. The league matches had finished with the match against Warwickshire which Warwickshire won and then went on to win the Midland Play Off Final. The Senior Captain reported on the Seniors County 6 event at Birstall Golf Club. The Team had been lying second after the first day, but eventually finished a creditable third. The Senior Team Captain advised that the Bolton Shield had been won by Duncan Macpherson who had had an excellent season altogether. He concluded by thanking all the clubs for giving up their courses so that the teams had somewhere to play.
8. **Junior Golf Report:** The Golf Director reported that the Juniors had had a fantastic year, managed by Mark Hewlett. He advised that, unfortunately, Mark Hewlett and Roger Martin had decided to step down from their involvement in Junior golf. The Golf Director said that it was well known how much time and effort went into managing the Junior Teams and on behalf of everyone he thanked Mark Hewlett, Roger Martin and Kevin Fee for all their efforts during the season.

The Golf Director went through the progress made with the three Teams during the season, beginning with the Under 14s who had played six games, winning three and losing three. The Under 16s had played four games, winning one and losing three. They had ended the season playing in the Midland Boys County Cup where they finished seventh. The Under 18s won the Midland League, losing only one of their four games. The Team went on to represent the West Midlands in the Midland Play Off which they won, the first time ever. The Team then played in the Under 18s County 6 event which, following the outcome of a tie they lost, coming second. This had been a major disappointment, but an excellent performance by the Team.

The Golf Director listed notable individual achievements for the Juniors and said that with a fully scheduled coaching programme for the coming winter, already set up by Mark Hewlett, Kevin Fee and Roger Martin, he believed that the boys would be well prepared for the next season.

9. **Notice of Appointments:** The Chairman confirmed the following appointments:
 - 9.1. **The County Captain:** Mr Kieron Austin is confirmed as County Captain until October 2023.
 - 9.2. **The Second Team Captain:** Mr Mark Dunkley is confirmed as the Second Team Captain until October 2023.
 - 9.3. **The Senior Team Captain:** Mr Anthony Hill is confirm as the Senior Team Captain until October 2023.
10. **Secretary's Report** delivered by the Governance Director:
 - 10.1. **Achievement 2022:** The Governance Director advised that two clubs had reach their centenary in 2022, being Warley Woods and Rose Hill.
 - 10.2. **World Handicap System update:** The Governance Director advised that in early November England Golf would be holding workshops for County handicap advisers. They will be asked to pass on information gained at the workshops to the clubs and it was possible that sessions for clubs to attend would be organised. Clubs were reminded about the Winter Golf Checklist which was a useful document as winter approached.
 - 10.3. **Course Rating Update:** The Governance Director advised that it was necessary to re-rate courses every 10 years and that a provisional schedule was on the website so that clubs could see when they might be going through the process. The Course Rating Team have been responding to requests for additional ratings, which are now valid for four years instead of two. The Governance Director reminded those present of the prerequisite of a valid measurement certificate and fixed tee markers for any course rating process. He went through what had taken place in 2022 and the plans for 2023. Finally, he thanked the Course Rating Team including Tony Edwards and Clive Werrett and reminded those present that course rating was a joint process with the Ladies.
 - 10.4. **Updated on working with Worcestershire & Herefordshire Ladies County Golf Ltd:** The Governance Director referred to the discussion that had taken place at the AGM in May 2022 on the possibility of merging with the Ladies. He advised that some work had been done on this and consideration had been given to financial and administration matters that needed to be considered. He advised that although Worcestershire County Golf Limited supported a merger in principle, the decision had been made that the merger should not take place at the moment. The Governance Director advised that the Ladies had agreed to bring their affiliation fees in line with those of Worcestershire County Golf Limited. Further work was required to study the administration of both organisations. It was also believed that both organisations could work together to support Junior golf.
 - 10.5. **England Golf Report:** Ms Emma Morton, England Golf County Support Officer, was welcomed to the meeting. As she had recently joined the England Golf team, Ms Morton introduced

herself and gave a short report on her background. She went on to give a brief update on matters from an England Golf perspective. Ms Morton talked about specific Junior “Give it a Shot” resources available and urged clubs to look into them. She reported that England Golf were looking to do the same for Women’s “Give it a Shot”. Ms Morton advised that England Golf were currently refreshing their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and that templates would be forthcoming shortly. England Golf will be gathering data from clubs which it will be possible to share. Referring to the World Handicap System, Ms Morton advised that the winter checklist was available on the England Golf website and said that for some clubs their buggy policies might need to be refreshed. Ms Morton referred to the results of surveys on iGolf and quoted the figures forthcoming from these. Finally, Ms Morton reminded clubs that she was there to help with recruitment and retention, equality, diversity and inclusion, SafeGolf and Governance and that if clubs required her to visit them they should let her know.

- 10.6. Midland Golf Union Report:** The Governance Director reported that the MGU AGM had taken place on 26 October and advised that the new President was John Rawson with David Price becoming the Immediate Past President. The MGU Captain was Oli Wilson. There was a proposal that Junior League matches should change from 10 players to 8 players in a team, making the process more manageable.
- 10.7. Discussion: Scheduling and Hosting County Fixtures:** The Governance Director advised that he would like the views of the clubs on the proposals outlined in the Notes to the Agenda and their thoughts on how to make the scheduling of County fixtures easier. He said that he understood the problems clubs had with giving access to their course so that County events could take place. The rules of Worcestershire County Golf Limited in this respect were less prescriptive than those of WUGC. The Governance Director listed the events that needed to be accommodated and said that there was a proposal to establish a rota covering, say, four years for hosting major events. From comments from those present, it was clear that one of the largest problems with giving up a course for County events was the matter of courtesies which it was becoming more and more difficult to obtain. An increasing number of new members at clubs who wanted to play at weekends was also a problem as this was when many of the County fixtures took place. It was pointed out that clubs set their schedules early and in order to try to accommodate the County they needed to receive requests to host as soon as possible. It was finally decided that the Board needed to become more involved in the matter of courtesies and that the exchange of views had given them some thoughts to take forward.
- 10.8. National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa:** The Governance Director advised those present of England Golf’s plans for a major investment in the National Golf Centre which would be in two phases, phase one being clubhouse and outbuildings and phase two being an accommodation block. The cost would be in excess of £10 million. The proposals are complicated by the fact that England Golf do not own the land and need to have more control, leading to common ownership. There is currently a debate on how best to achieve this. At a recent England Golf meeting there was a narrow two votes in favour of their proposals. It was thought that there was some way to go before the matter moved forward.
- 11. Affiliation Fees for Worcestershire County Golf Limited:** The Finance Director advised that for 2023 the affiliation fees would remain unchanged. However, following some discussion in terms of inflation increases it was probably that there would be an increase in 2024. The Finance director proposed that the affiliation fees for 2023 should be:

Men aged 18 and over on 1 January 2023 - £11.25

Boys aged under 18 on 1 January 2023 - £5.75

This proposal was unanimously agreed by those present.

- 12. Affiliation Fees for England Golf:** The Finance Director advised that he would continue to collect all England Golf affiliation fees for both men and women members of affiliated clubs as follows:

For the year 2023 the Men's and Boys' affiliation fee payable to England Golf would remain at £9.50.

For the year 2023 the Ladies' and Girls' affiliation fee payable to England Golf would remain at £9.50.

- 13. Any Other Business:**

- 13.1.** Mr Gary Roberson of Redditch Golf Club brought up the subject of plaques and shields and asked whether it was the intention to give them to clubs when an individual member won a County event, giving the clubs something to put on the wall in recognition. The Golf Director pointed out that many people preferred to be given vouchers, but said that the Board would have a re-think about this whole question.

- 14. Date of Next Meeting:** The time, date and venue of the AGM will be notified to all clubs in due course.;

There being no further business to be discussed, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.