

Devon Dumpling Golf Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at the Devon Dumpling
on Sunday, 3rd February 2013

Prizes were presented for the day's golf at Bovey Castle where 31 players attended. Top two players were Brian Essam and Libby Porter with 26 points, Danny Davis was third with 25 points.

Chis Pallister (retiring Captain) then presented the Order of Merit prizes for year 2012. Sue Baxter was presented with the Order of Merit Trophy, just edging out Danny Davis at the last event. There was also a special prize for Sue Baxter for her Hole-In-One at the Torquay event.

Members Present

Ray Baldwin, Adrian Lardner, Jimmy Banks, Ray Ford, Chris Bater, Bob Grogan, Chris Pallister, Doug Harris, Pat Harris, Bernie Fenner, Keith Fenner, Dave Fenner, Phil Porter, Libby Porter, Ann Glanville, John Woollacott, Rob Harvey, Bob Bradbury, Tony Brinsley, Susan Baxter, Andy Hayes, Lynne Lyon, Dave Wensley, Mike Cox, Danny Davis, Tom Greenwood, Paul Howard, Alan Tucker, Mel Wilks, Jon Yeo, Alan Yeo, Richard Brinsley (32 members).

1. Apologies

Val Banks, Paul Bishop, Pete Higgins, Mike Hill, Ben Howard, Tom Howard, Barry Privett, Chris Hucker, Paul Green, Jan White, Matt Lyon (11 members).

2. 2012 AGM Minutes

The President (Ray Baldwin) went through the Minutes of the previous AGM, no amendments were forthcoming. Proposed by Mel Wilks and seconded by Alan Yeo as a true copy of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from last year Minutes

No matters were raised.

4. President's Report (Ray Baldwin)

Ray thanked Chris Pallister for doing so well during a challenging year. He also thanked Tony Brinsley (Secretary) for doing a great job and said how good the fixture list looks for 2013.

Ray went on to say that it had been a good year, the Society's finances were okay and the day's golf at Bovey Castle had been enjoyable.

5. Treasurer's Report (Jimmy Banks)

Jimmy stated that the accounts were still in a robust position and he did not feel that there was any justification for increasing the membership fee from the current £10.00.

The accounts recorded a small loss for the trading year due to reduced playing numbers but overall it had been a good year.

Jimmy asked if anyone had any questions on the accounts.

Tom Greenwood asked why there was still money outstanding for golf shirts - it was explained that this was the previous year's accounts.

There were no further questions. The accounts were then proposed by Dave Fenner and seconded by Tom Greenwood. All voted in favour.

6. Election of Officers

- **Chairman:** Ray Ford
- **Treasurer:** Jimmy Banks
- **Secretary:** Tony Brinsley – Tony has expressed that he would like to hand over duties of Secretary as he has considerable other commitments during the coming year. As no one has been forthcoming, Tony agreed to stay on for the immediate future on the understanding that the Committee will look to assist or change the role.
- **Fines Chairman:** Ray Ford (Chris Bater to deputise in Ray's absence.)
- **Committee Member:** Lynne Lyon

All were unanimously accepted by the Members.

7. Retiring Captain's Comments

Chris Pallister said he had enjoyed his year and it was a great Society. He felt very proud to have been Captain and he has received plenty of decent support. He thanked

each member of the Committee for the assistance they had provided. He said the year had been challenging at times but thanked everyone for their support and wished everyone good luck for the coming year.

8. Election of New Captain & Vice-Captain

Phil Porter was introduced as the new Captain. He said that following Chris would be difficult and he thanked Chris for the effort he had put in. Phil said he had not previously realised how much work goes on behind the scenes by the Committee and he thanked all of the Committee members.

Phil said he has been a member of the Society for about 15 years and he was the second oldest Captain but this could, hopefully, be eclipsed next year! He said that he will try to be on time for the events and he wanted all to play competitive golf but with a bit of fun. He said he would try to make every day out fun. He then introduced his Vice-Captain, Mike Cox.

Phil then apologised as he will miss the first event of the coming year, adding that he had informed the Committee about it before he had accepted the position of Captain.

9. Election of new Members

The following were proposed and all were elected:

Billy Tucker, Brian Eason, Chris Porter, Nigel Ford, Stewart Wilkinson (apologies for absence) & Dave Copping.

Resignations

John Baker

10. Membership Fee

It was unanimously agreed that the annual fee should be kept at £10.00.

11. Competition & Twos Fees

The Chairman (Ray Ford) said that last year the Society had increased the prizes fund for each event and some Members felt that the increase should be reviewed again. The amount is currently £5.00 for prizes plus £1.00 for twos competition.

Tony Brinsley said he thought there was too much emphasis on prizes, numbers playing were down, it was an expensive day out and he believed the amount should be reduced.

Jimmy Banks said that the effect of the prizes was cost neutral as what we collected for prizes was the actual amount spent by the Captain on prizes.

Tom Greenwood agreed that it is an expensive day out.

Phil Porter said that, with the increase in female members it was more difficult getting prizes that are suitable for either a male or female winner and he wondered what members thought about giving cash prizes, or vouchers such as Marks and Spencer.

Adrian Lardner said that as it is a golf society we should consider giving golf club vouchers as prizes.

Alan Tucker said he thought that we should drop the prizes fund.

Mel Wilks raised the issue of one guest turning up and winning a guest prize.

Doug Harris said the number of guests playing should dictate the value of the guest prize offered.

Nigel Ford asked whether a reduction of £1.00 was really worth worrying about as he felt it was insignificant in the overall cost.

Chris Pallister suggested reducing the prizes fund to £3.00 per player plus £1.00 for twos. Alan Tucker agreed.

Ray Ford suggested we go back to £4.00 for prizes plus £1.00 for twos.

A vote was taken. **It was agreed that the prizes fund would revert to £4.00 for prizes plus £1.00 for twos competition.**

The Committee reminded Members that, if you put your name up to play and subsequently withdraw, you must do so before the draw is made or you will be liable to pay the £5.00 prize fund as this will have been committed for prizes. You will be asked to pay this at your next playing event.

This was agreed by all members.

12. Fixtures

Tony Brinsley circulated the fixture list for 2013.

Alan Tucker congratulated Tony for the fixture which included some excellent new venues as well as the return of some previous venues.

Paul Howard said the Committee and fixture arrangements were working well as was demonstrated by the flexibility when changing venue at short notice last year from Lostwithiel to Torquay when the playing number was down.

Ray Baldwin said that he had checked what the Society was paying for its golf days 10 years ago and it was interesting to note that prices had not risen by very much.

13. AOB

Barry Privett had submitted a letter regarding the Rules of Golf; it was read out by Ray Ford. Barry queried whether, when playing with the Society, we should be adhering to the Royal & Ancient's rules or should the Society have its own rules?

This referred to a change made to some cards after the event at Dawlish Warren where, following an error by some members who played from the wrong tee on one hole, their cards were subsequently revised and scores adjusted so as not to include points that may have been scored on that hole.

A comment was made that if any harsh decisions were made, this could put off people who may want to join the society.

Ray Ford stated that the Society plays to the Rules of Golf, but he emphasised that we are a friendly society and suggested that the Committee should be trusted to make decisions on one-off circumstances such as that at Dawlish.

Alan Tucker said he was one of those who played from the wrong tee at Dawlish but he felt that particular tee arrangement was confusing. However, he added that this was an exception and he thought it should be for the Committee to make the decision if there was to be a change to scores and not any one individual.

A discussion was had about trying to ensure that all golfers were aware of local rules on the day specific to the venue, such as the tees, winter rules etc.

Paul Howard said perhaps we could appoint a referee on the day that could make decisions.

Mel Wilks said he plays in a society where someone in the last group acts as a starter on the day to brief groups teeing off. He suggested that the Captain and Vice-Captain could alternate playing in the last group so they can assist with queries on the day.

Bob Grogan suggested that any local rules might be written on the start sheet and then placed on the first tee.

Chris Pallister added that it can be a problem when a handicap is wrong on the score card. It was agreed that the Captain and a Committee member should deal with such issues on the day.

Phil Porter said he would try to ensure that he obtained course information from the club pro and/or secretary on the day and have it relayed to all players before they go out. He stressed that this can be difficult as members are arriving at different times and also not everyone always listens to what is being said!

It was agreed that, in future, any adjustment should be made by the Captain and any Committee members attending, prior to the prize giving at the venue.

Handicaps

Members were reminded that the Society's rules currently state: each Member who is a member of a golf club and who has an official handicap, their Society handicap will revert to their official handicap every 3 years. However, each Member who is not a member of a golf club and who does not have an official handicap, the Society handicap will remain as is going forward.

Prior to the meeting Tony Brinsley had circulated calculations that he had prepared relating to Society handicaps. His calculations had been based on the results of each Society event played over the previous year, similar to how official handicaps are calculated. Tony suggested that the outcome could be used to allow Members who do not have an official club handicap to have their handicap revised in a way that a club member with an official handicap might have their handicap assessed.

There was considerable general discussion about the results and scores and how it could affect individual handicaps by use of this system.

Paul Howard said that some members had an official handicap that might not be accurate as they did not play in club (qualifying) competitions. He questioned some of the findings of the calculations as he thought that some members might be disadvantaged by them.

Adrian Lardner said that CONGU regulations prevented a golf club member who has an inactive handicap from winning a prize in a sanctioned competition.

Alan Tucker said that a new golfer should be given a handicap of 28.

Ray Ford said that any member could have his/her handicap assessed and revised by the Committee, particularly if they were struggling to play to their current Society handicap.

Keith Fenner said that a new member should be encouraged to play with a Committee member to see how they play in relation to their handicap.

Chris Bater questioned why the Society should have any member playing off a handicap of 42.

Doug Harris suggested that the Society should review handicaps every 2 years, not 3 years as it does currently.

After further debate Ray Ford suggested the following proposals:-.

1. To keep the system as it is and let the Committee decide on any individual handicap where any member is not happy with their Society handicap.
2. Official club handicaps revert every 2 years. Members without an official handicap have their handicap adjusted every 2 year in line with Tony's calculations, subject to review by the Committee
3. Each Members adopts a Society handicap taken from Tony's calculations

After several votes it was agreed by majority that option 2 would take immediate effect. The Committee would review this at the end of the year and any Member can then ask the Committee to review his/her handicap if they are unhappy with it.

Any new member would have their handicap assessed by the Committee.

Other business

Doug Harris suggested that the Bovey Castle fixture be reviewed with the possibility of it being played at another venue, due to how wet and difficult the course can be during February.

Adrian Lardner asked if, when there is a change to the draw or where the playing order on the day has to be changed, could it be arranged that a 4 ball is not playing in front of a 3 ball.

Ray Ford thanked everyone for attending and, as no other business was forthcoming, he declared the **meeting closed at 8.30pm.**