

# **READING & DISTRICT INTER CLUB GOLF LEAGUE**

David Brown: President and Secretary

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## Reading & District Inter-Club Golf League 44th AGM

Reading Golf Club

22nd November 2012

### **Those in Attendance:-**

David Brown, President-Reading G.C-Brian Hargreaves (Treasurer) Sonning G.C. Jon Carter & Colin Tungate -Reading G.C.-Reading G.C. Darren Gatward & George Wilson - Calcot Park G.C. Christian Wilkins-Sandford Springs G.C. Barry Higgins, Mervin Fulbrook & C Harris -Weybrook Park G.C. Alan Wilson & Ian Heggie - Henley G.C. C Shackell- Calcot Park11. Peter Hodges & Chris Giles - Sonning G.C. Nick Jacobs- Goring G.C.

The meeting convened at 7.30pm

The President welcomed all attending to Reading Golf Club. He reminded the meeting that each team present has only one vote each and informed the meeting that 5 proxy forms have been received allocated to David Brown - Donning & Sand Martins; Nick Jacobs - Newbury & West Berks and Jon Carter- Maidenhead.

The meeting were given a copy of: The Agenda, Last year's AGM Minutes, Proposal response and RDICL Accounts.

### **1. Apologies received from:**

Newbury and Crookham, Donnington Valley, Sand Martins, Maidenhead, Newbury Racecourse and West Berks (Mark suffered a branch through his car window on the way to the meeting)

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the last AGM held at Reading GC on the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011 were approved by Brian Hargreaves and Nick Jacobs.

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. President and Secretary's Report – David Brown (DB)**

Meeting informed we had 16 attending representing 8 clubs and with 5 nominated proxy votes making 13 votes available out of a maximum of 14 teams remaining in the league at the end of the season. He informed the meeting that he had received resignation from Wokefield and that Mill Ride had resigned by defaulting 4 games in the season.

DB said the League has now completed 42 years of Foursomes Golf and will make his report short. He referred the meeting to his report in the 2011 AGM minutes and in particular his concerns over the lack of interest from some clubs, teams and players for Foursomes golf. Despite the efforts of all involved with revitalizing the league and improved communications the situation throughout 2012 had become progressively worse. The year had not passed without several incidents and although only expected to have some situations in competitive sport but most were associated around two specific causes:

- Tee reservation and lack of buffer 30 minutes and not teeing off on time.
- Team Captains difficulty in not being able to field a complete team or a team

The result of these created several upsetting issues. Some of the issues ended up in protracted exchange of emails which could have been avoided therefore wish to take the opportunity to inform the meeting of the procedure for handling any complaint and disputes.

All incidents upon being received by me are communicated to the committee either by exchange of emails and or presented at Committee meetings with the usually only exception are clarification of rules which are dealt with by me as President and Secretary or Jon Carter for the 2012 Knockouts as KO Organiser. All the facts are gathered and carefully considered from all aspects by applying the rules of the league in the first instance and then assessing whether or not there are any extenuating circumstances. Should a committee members himself, his team or player be part of the incident he is then removed from the decision making process. We carefully consider the impact of creating precedent to ensure fairness and consistency going forward.

DB then went on to refer to the proposal put forward to change traditions of the league. He said his involvement with the league started back to the mid seventies when he was a player a Team Captain and League secretary for two years and was sadden during his Presidency to be the one proposing to the AGM the Committees changes.

He said unless we just go back to 6 clubs that are committed to playing foursomes or we undertake radical changes the league with slowly die. He went on to say that in 42 years the world of sport has changed to suit modern times, yet the League has gone on without hardly any change. Foursomes might be considered the purest form of the game and neutral venues are first preference but players and clubs circumstances are now causing change. He said he was not intending to go into the inn's and outs as it has been published in the proposal document sent to all Team Captains and Clubs and a response received by all. He commented this problem was not new one as historically throughout his involvement; foursomes were only for the purest of golfers and not keen from many low handicap players wanting to play their own ball for 18 holes.

He went on to say that on a more positive note the year finished on a high with the last game of the season hosted at Mill Ride all six teams competing had something riding on the result. An email outlining the finish with pictures has already been circularised to Captains and Clubs.

The KO Matchplay was introduced for 2012 and it appears to be enjoyed by those that played and well received. It has been discussed by the committee and proposed to make it a permanent event, but subject to vote later on within the AGM. Should it continue he proposed that we honour the late Tom Evans who was the Secretary of Calcot Park who left a legacy of £1,000 a number years ago that has grown in the accounts to a staggering amount of £3,300 and so far has not been used! This was considered gesture on behalf of the league to honour the late Tom Evans and his wishes to support the league. DB reminded those present that the League was theirs and they need to invest time and effort to continue to receive in the future many years of competitive enjoyment.

It was announced that Nick Jacobs Team Captain of Goring and league Committee member had found time for two League meetings this week in advance of his wedding on Saturday and Honeymoon next week, what commitment and dedication. All present wished him and his bride an enjoyable Wedding and all the best for the future.

## **5. Treasurers Report**

Brian Hargreaves Treasurer produced to the meeting a balance sheet prepared and signed by Linda Jackson Finance Director of Sani-duct.

He commented that he was not able to incorporate interest in the accounts for the Tom Evans legacy deposit held with National savings as it's all done by post and had intended to move it in 2012 to a building society account. The prize fund for 2012 was marginally reduced to reflect that the League had fewer teams for the season and three teams had not paid their fees and cheque from Henley had not been banked as yet for 2012. The accounts showed that Sand Martins prize winnings for 2010 and 2011 were written off as it had not been collected according to the rule 28(iii) being not collected by a representative attending the Annual Dinner. This also occurred in 2009 and was written off in the 2011 accounts. Peter Hodges asked the treasurer if the clubs with outstanding fees have been contacted. The Treasurer said it had been a difficult year for him health and personal and had not found the time.

Brian said this meeting is his last involvement with the league and has enjoyed his time over many years.

## **6. Election of Officers**

DB informed the meeting that Brian Hargreaves was not standing for re-election after many years of service to the League and that Brian and his wife Linda have been invited to the Annual Dinner where more will be said regarding their service to the league.

The meeting was referred to Committee Candidates handed out with the agenda and as there was no need for a ballot as no further nominations had been received therefore the meeting was asked by show of hands to confirm acceptance of nominations and all voted in favour.

### **COMMITTEE NOMINATED POSTS**

SECRETARY	David Brown	Reading
TREASURER	Darren Gatward	Calcot Park
PRESIDENT	David Brown	(3 <sup>rd</sup> YEAR OF THREE YEAR TERM)

A) EX OFFICIO re-election	Jon Carter	Reading
B) EX OFFICIO re-election	Nick Jacobs	Goring & Streatley
C) EX OFFICIO re-election	Bruce Stroud	Maidenhead
D) EX OFFICIO	Peter Hodges	Sonning

## **7. League Results**

Div 1 Winner: Reading by 1.5 pts from, 2<sup>nd</sup> Goring and 3<sup>rd</sup> Calcot Park

Div 11 Winner: Sonning by 7 pts from, 2<sup>nd</sup> West Berkshire and 3<sup>rd</sup> Weybrook Park

Under the current format both Henley & Mill Ride (Mill Ride not in league for 2013) would be relegated and Sonning & west Berks would be promoted to Division 1 but this cannot be confirmed until the number of teams are known for 2013 and Teams allocated to a division.

Players of the Year: Div 1- a tie on points, Jon carter – Reading & Nick Jacobs- Goring  
Div11- a tie on points, Chris Wiggins & Mark Kendall both from West Berks

The Matchplay Knock Out after a close finish was won by Reading against Calcot 11 team

The prizes and shields\ Trophy's to be presented at the Annual Dinner

## **8. League Proposal for 2013**

DB referred the meeting to the proposal document sent to all by email and to the responses tabulated sheet handed to the meeting. The response sheet shows 4bbb 12 in favour to 2 against and for Home and away 13 in favour and 1 against. The meeting was ask to discuss, Christian Wilkins from Sandford Springs was asked to start off the discussion as being the only club to object on both proposals points and address the meeting of his concerns. He explained his team's views and that his players all wanted it to remain the purest form of the game which is 4somes. They also thought that Home & Away was not the best option, as it was seen as fairer on a neutral course, and that Home advantage was huge.

George Wilson (Calcot) and Berkshire County Team Captain) responded on the Home & Away, and suggested that it would improve the social side of the league, as teams would then have a drink etc in the bar after every match. He also mentioned about the time pressures of everyone these days, and having less travel for your 5 home fixtures would also help. George also highlighted the added interest from within the club, when they see their home players in team shirts playing on their course, as opposed to normally only seeing strangers playing in the league.

Alan Wilson (Henley) explained their request for fewer games, and a slightly modified format to accommodate fewer games, as they felt 10 games would be difficult, but will confirm once league format is confirmed would consult his team if they will commit. They also confirmed they liked the Home & Away change.

The need of a starting time reserve buffer was discussed, and the varying opinions ranged from no buffer to just 1 or 2 tee times buffer. DB said he would be requesting clubs for a one tee time courtesy buffer making 4 tee times required for each match.

Peter Hodges (Sonning) explained the previous comments from his team, and while most would prefer 4somes, they have no problem at all with 4ball option, and for the record fully support the proposed changes.

Jon Carter (Reading) said whilst he personally preferred foursomes format family commitments have had increased impact over the years for more and more players, and it can be very difficult to get a team out on some days for the 4somes format. This was discussed & commented on by a number of others, all agreeing. The meeting generally discussed the situation from their respected teams and clubs.

The changes proposed were put to the vote:

Change to 4ball for 2013 as a Trial for 2013 – Yes 12 and No 1

Matches to change to Home & Away – Yes 12 and No 1

Times of matches were discussed and it was agreed to request start time of between 1pm & 2pm on a Saturday only.

## **9. Matchplay Knock Out**

The KO was discussed Vote:- Continue KO in 2013 – Yes 11, 3 abstained

Format for KO to stay the same – Yes 13, and 1 abstained

Top 4 teams to be seeded – Yes 9, No 3 and 2 abstained

It was also agreed that teams would have to request to enter the KO, which was also fully agreed.

George Wilson suggested that as the KO Trophy was being named after Tom Evans that his legacy money should be used to fund the initial cost of the Trophy and prizes money each year. Vote on this was made – All agreed

## **10. Subscriptions for 2012**

Club League Entry Fee – There was full agreement for £200 entry fee that hadn't increased for over 10 years. It was also agreed that the committee would adjust the prize values to fit the budget, depending on the number of teams entered & these figures would be published before the season starts.

Brian Hargreaves agreed with the incoming Treasurer Darren Gatward to meet over the next two weeks to hand over the records and arrange signatory of the Bank accounts.

## **11. Annual Dinner**

The Annual Dinner to be hosted by the winning division 1 team being Reading Golf Club on 22nd February 2013.

## **12. A.O.B**

Following a long meeting there was no other business and the meeting concluded at 21:10.

David Brown  
Secretary RDICL

27<sup>th</sup> November 2012