

# Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs Ltd held at Sandiway Golf Club on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, starting at 2.30pm.

**TOP TABLE:** 2022 President (Martyn Grimley)  
2023 President (Tony Gregory)  
2023 Deputy President (Roy Claxton)  
County Treasurer (Bob Hamilton)  
County Secretary (Steve Doughty)

10 further Board Directors and 17 further Past & Vice Presidents of the County. All of the above representing 23 Cheshire affiliated Clubs attended.  
14 Representatives from 9 other Clubs to those above.

## 1. Notice of Meeting – Apologies for Absence.

The President opened the Meeting with a welcome to those in attendance.

**President** - Read Notice convening the Meeting.

The 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs Limited is being held today Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 starting at 2.30pm. The purpose is to elect new Directors for 2023, and any other business which may be legally transacted at this Meeting.

Apologies for not being able to attend from George Bedford, Roger Fielding, John Kidd and Bob Meston.

## 2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

Trevor Jackson (voting member Bramall Park GC)) proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs Ltd held Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 be taken as read, having been published on the CUGC website. This was seconded by David Durling (voting member Shrigley Hall GC). **President** asks if there are any comments or changes to be made to the Minutes. This was unanimously accepted by the attendees and the Minutes were signed by the **County Secretary**.

## 3. President's Address

Deputy President, Vice Presidents  
Directors of the CUGC  
Voting Members, Lady and Gentlemen

*"It only seems such a short time ago since my whirlwind introduction came to pass, since then my handicap has gone up to scratch but by way on consolation, I am now a +2-bacon sandwich and chicken chasseur aficionado, with the figure to show it.*

*I have greatly enjoyed my year as President of the CUGC, seeing some great success and progress on and off the course.*

*Moving a rather stationery beast forwards in so many areas. I hasten to add that the Cheshire board has been in full support and has been diligent, workmanlike and enthused by all the positive steps we are making. Getting a juggernaut to start to move is always the hardest bit, now it is, I hope there will be no stopping us!*

*So many competitions and championships have flown by in the last year, it's been hard to keep track of everything. On the golfing front it's been a pleasure to see the younger element doing so well at both country and national level. Some memorable moment include watching Matty Dodd-Berry win the Men's Strokeplay Championship at Heswall GC and then making his mark in the US playing at East Tennessee as a Freshman, seeing Daniel Heyes get his first Cheshire Men's cap at the age of 15 and close on his heels, Cole Self performing and growing as an individual, getting down to +2 at 14, keeping it it all under control is hard to do at that age, well done to all the Boys.*

The CUGC annual dinner was another step change in the direction which the Union is going. One of our big aims for the year and that of our Five-Year plan is to move the union towards a more inclusive and diverse organisation. At the dinner we recognised those club members who have gone that extra mile in helping grow the game and serving their club beyond the normal call of duty.

A special mention to Dave Sanders of Reddish Vale GC on being awarded the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award. The look of complete surprise on his face at the dinner was priceless!

Special congratulations also to Isobel Parry and (Ringway GC) and Dave Parsons (Heswall GC) for winning the Junior Development Awards. Both individuals have done a wonderful job in developing the game and encouraging juniors into golf.

The Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs started in 1920 with 36 clubs, we are now 90 clubs and have over 30,000 members and that number is growing.

Hazel Grove Golf Club is one of those clubs and one we are particularly proud of.

Mick Jones, the chairman and the board of Hazel Grove GC has managed to lead and organise the club over a number of years pulling together a compelling and reinvigorated club, that managed to win the England Golf – ‘Club of the Year 2022’. I was there at the club on the night of the awards ceremony and was delighted to see them pick up the award. A true club effort, well done to all.

There have been many people to thank for all their help, the CUGC board of volunteers, working together to build, grow, develop, and provide golfing opportunities to all age groups and skill levels it has been an absolute pleasure to be part of.

Of course, the President's tenure is only a short one and the continuity of thought and planning is vital to bring to fruition the direction of travel for the Union.

Our Chairman, David Durling has provided much of that glue, championing the Covid years and moving on to chairmanship of the board, a new Five-Year plan in the offing and the ability to look forwards and not backwards is a great skill and one I've been very thankful for, thank you David.

The volunteers who man all the varied events have been equally diligent in the running of the counties 54 championships and competitions, thanks you to all of those, especially the boys behind the computer who record and run the championships, Stewart Neal and Bob Hamilton

Thanks also to all the unsung volunteers, especially the referees, under Trevor Jackson's oversight. Giving up time and delivering rulings is equally difficult at times. Thank you.

Thanks, also to our recently retired County Secretary, Peter Whitehead who moved up to the Lake District only a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, as you might have heard Peter had a stroke at the weekend. Our very best wishes go to him, Jo and the family, at what must be a very worrying time for all concerned. I would just like to say a huge thank you from all the board members for his unstinting delivery and commitment to the role. We wish Peter all the best in his retirement in the Lake District and the best of luck in improving his own game as he starts his journey of rest and rehabilitation. We hope to see you fit and well very soon.

Looking to the future, our development themes are well on track and moving forwards: One of the main themes throughout this and next year, will be one of improved communications with our members.

We needed to get better at this and for us to demonstrate to the clubs we represent, that we listen and that we are building towards a better and clearer communications strategy. This is a work in progress but something we are very focussed on.

That aside, this year we have also been particularly focussed on inclusivity and diversity in all its forms. I'm especially proud to see us making changes to the board and championing this particular area. There is more to do but we are on the road.

We are also looking at ways CUGC can work together with the CCLGA, which is of great importance to us both, especially where bringing juniors into the game is so important to all. While not solely a part of the junior's remit, we have also been working on the safeguarding of both juniors and adults in the country, to make sure that everyone can participate at every level in a safe and trusted environment.

We have established a very valuable working party, ensuring that the safeguarding of both juniors and adults remains at the very forefront of what we do. Thank you to all concerned for your efforts to date.

As well as this we are planning to host a Cheshire County disability golf championship for the first time and are spending many hours getting this off the ground. I'm pleased to announce that we have secured a venue, Carden Park have agreed to host the event in August 2023. This is particularly encouraging, since England Golf's Disability Championship in July 2022, was hosted at the same venue.

Something I'm sure that will help this be a fantastic and inspiring inaugural event in our 2023 calendar. I'm also pleased to announce that we are in the latter stages of agreeing a title sponsor for the event which is exciting in its own right.

We have been working very hard to develop golf for all ages, but especially juniors. We are looking to expand our successful junior academy and have taken big steps to get this in place in the not-too-distant future. Andrew Henshall has been overseeing the junior development team and has done a wonderful job. Reg Maddock has been added to that team and will oversee the structure and delivery of the opportunities which exist. I'm sure this will add to the very strong ethos being developed. Thanks to all concerned.

While I step away from the Presidency, I will remain on the board to further the work we have started.

We have more work to do but believe me the juggernaut is moving!

Finally, we are very lucky, in more than one way, to have Tony Gregory coming to the presidency in 2023. We are all so pleased to see him bounce back from his recent health scare. He will bring a continued focus on the work we have begun. Tony, I wish you the very best of luck and hope you enjoy your year as much as I have.

I will continue work on the CUGC board to progress and develop the working aims and objectives outlined above. The projects are out in the open and we as a board are focussed on the delivery of these changes in the months to come.

I'm so grateful for all the time and effort given by everybody in the delivery of these aims and look forward to seeing the fruits of our labour come to the fore.

These things don't just happen, but the work being done on behalf of our affiliated members will ensure Cheshire is the best place to enjoy their golf experience and participate safely at every level of the game."

Martyn Grimley

CUGC President

7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

#### **4. County Treasurer's Statement**

The **County Treasurer, Bob Hamilton** thanked the County President and reported on the current state of the CUGC financial position.

"Thank you Mr President

Good afternoon Gentlemen and Lady

In 2022 the County had a planned small Operating Deficit of £5,247. This was after 2 years of a small Operating Surplus.

The end of the pandemic provided the ability in 2022 to host the full range of County Championships, Matches and with no travel restrictions resume a full coaching programme plus a variety of other activities compared to 2021. As we move into 2023 those restrictions of 2021 seem a long time ago.

Revenues from Affiliation Fees remained strong, £8k over budget, with some clubs reporting full membership. Male golfer numbers are just above 30,000. There are still 8 clubs still to pay their 2022 Fees which is disappointing. Having given clubs a degree of latitude over the timing of payments during pandemic, in 2023 there will be stronger line taken to ensure payments are on schedule.

In general the numbers of players entering the County Championships were down on 2021 though the numbers entering the 7 Life Member remained excellent. These events plus the initiative to sell Life member shirts related in a surplus of over £10k.

As expected, inflation had its impact on travel, accommodation and catering costs. The expenses incurred for the 5 county team matches and the 9 championships rose by about £15k though some of that was down to the extra matches undertaken in 2022.

Additional activities were added to the coaching programme increasing the investment to £44k. These additional activities will continue into the 2023 programme with hopefully a positive impact on results.

Looking forward the County has a healthy level cash in the bank £239k. This has allowed us to maintain the level of Affiliation Fee at £5.75 and avoid increasing the entry fees for Championships and Life member events. Costs are projected to increase in 2023 with the Men's & Seniors Big 6 being held in Isle of Man and additional Northern league matches for the Boy's team. It is also unlikely that there will be any significant increase in Affiliation Fee income. Taking all this into account the deficit will be larger in 2023 than 2022.

A review of affiliation, entry fees and costs will be needed in 2024 once the extent of any ongoing annual deficit is known.

I commend to the meeting the accounts prepared by Philip Bates and Co and published in advance of the AGM.

Note: A question was asked about the sanctions, if any for the eight clubs who had not yet paid their affiliation fees. Bob said, they would be given until the end of Feb, otherwise further action may be taken, including, possible disaffiliation or a club's WHS platform being closed down until payment."

## **5. Appointment of President 2023**

**Martyn Grimley**, the outgoing President re-affirmed that **Tony Gregory of Stockport Golf Club** is to become the 2023 President of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs. The Immediate Past President, Martyn Grimley invests the newly elected President with his President's Badge of Office.

## **6. Address by the new County President.**

The new President presented the Immediate Past President with his badge, tie and shield in recognising his service as County President for the last 12 months. The President then commented:

"It is a privilege to become President of the C.U.G.C. for the ensuing year and I am very grateful for your support. I anticipate a very busy year as I intend to attend as many golfing and social events as possible. I am very lucky to have the support of my lovely wife Linda as she will accompany me whenever possible. Last year Martyn wanted to promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity. These are long term goals and we and we will continue to embrace them in the coming year. Golf is the perfect Sport to promote EDI. It would not be condescending to have a 4 ball that had a woman, a junior, a professional and a disabled person. Because they all play the Course with a handicap. I can't think of another sport where this would work. We have already started the move to amalgamate with the Cheshire Ladies. This will be a gradual change over 2 years at our own pace and of our own volition.

England golf will be expecting all Counties to make these changes in the not too distant future. It is our goal to promote golf for all of our Cheshire Members. We have a couple of additional Tournaments this year. The inaugural Cheshire disabled tournament will be at Carden Park on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. We are reintroducing the County Handicap Singles Trophy at Wychwood Park on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. My remit was to keep it brief.

Lady and Gentlemen I thank you for your kind attention."

**Tony Gregory**

## 7. Election of Deputy President 2023

**President** explains that after a decision made by the Nominations Committee which was announced to the County's Vice Presidents, the Board confirmed at the September 2022 Board meeting that **Roy Claxton of Eaton Golf Club** has been elected as Deputy President for 2023.

On the proposal of David Durling (voting member Shrigley Hall GC), seconded by Peter Longson (voting member Eaton GC). **President** duly confirms **Roy Claxton as Deputy President for 2023**. President asked for a show of hands for the purposes of the Minutes; this was unanimous.

“Gentlemen it is indeed an honour to be selected to represent the county as your President for 2024. It is also a way for me to give something back to the game of golf which has given me so much pleasure over the years. I understand the commitment involved in taking the position on board and want everyone to know I will be fully committed to the task. I will work tirelessly alongside Tony during this year and I'm sure we will be a competent and successful team.

Gentlemen - thank you once again for affording me this opportunity to represent the County of Cheshire.”

Roy Claxton

## 8. Re-appointment of Accountants.

The **President** calls for the re-appointment of Messrs' Phillip Bates & Co, Chartered Accountants.

On the proposal of Bob Hamilton (voting member for The Tytherington Club) and seconded by Sean Ritchie (voting member for Chester GC), this was unanimous.

## 9. Election of Board Members

**County Secretary** announced under Article 18:

Existing Directors standing for re-election: Stewart Neil (Royal Liverpool GC).

Two Directors are not seeking re-election to the Board: Mike Lynch (Chorlton cum Hardy GC) and Steve Williams (Prestbury GC).

There are three new Directors going to be joining the Board this year. They are: Cleve McCurdy (Ringway GC), Kevin McCormack (Warren GC) and Josh Sims (Caldy GC).

**County Secretary** announces that there is no vote required for the election of the new Directors or the re-election of Stewart Neil. But asks for the voting members for a show of hands to complete their appointments. All were duly elected as Directors of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs Ltd.

## 10. Any Other Business

**President** asked if there were any further questions or comments. None were forthcoming and the 2023 Annual General Meeting was concluded at 2.58pm with the President wishing all a safe journey home and said if anyone wanted to ask any questions privately, the County Secretary, Chairman, himself and Directors would be staying to answer any questions.

Signed:

Steve Doughty

Company Secretary, Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs Ltd.

Date: 2.3.2023

