

Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs Ltd held at Sandiway Golf Club on Tuesday 6th February 2024, starting at 2pm

TOP TABLE: 2023 President (Tony Gregory)
2024 President (Roy Claxton)
2024 Deputy President (John Heggarty)
County Treasurer (Dave Kimpton)
County Secretary (Steve Doughty)

8 further members of the Board of Directors and 16 further Past and Vice Presidents of the County,
the above representing 22 Cheshire affiliated Clubs.
12 other attendees from 6 other Clubs to add to those above.

1. Notice of Meeting

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

President - Read Notice convening the Meeting.

The **12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs Limited is being held today Tuesday, 6th February, 2024 starting at 2pm. The purpose is to elect new Directors for 2024, and any other business which may be legally transacted at this Meeting.

Apologies for not being able to attend from Chris Peterson, Martyn Grimley, Jonathan Kell, Andrew Henshall, Roy Smethurst, Ron Harrison, Ted Leather and Reg Maddock.

2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Tony Gregory (Stockport GC) proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs Ltd held Tuesday, 7th February 2023 be taken as read, having been published on the CUGC website. This was seconded by Stewart Neil (Royal Liverpool 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, Ladies and Gentlemen

Having suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhage 11 weeks before taking office I was unsure about what it would entail.

But having completed my time in office I am delighted that it was the correct decision enjoying a wonderful year with so many special memories.

None of this would have been possible without the support of so many lovely people most importantly my wife Linda who chauffeured me for the first six months until I was allowed to drive again.

Linda joined me at as many fixtures as possible and we enjoyed supporting the various teams.

I was privileged to be invited to so many entertaining dinners.

The highlight being an Invitation to the Open at Royal Liverpool GC where the courtesy and respect for the Office of President was very special. I had the guidance of an accomplished Chairman David Durling and an excellent Executive. The Secretary Steve Doughty and Treasurers Bob Hamilton and latterly Dave Kimpton provided quality professional guidance.

I am delighted that we have made significant progress this year towards Unification of the Cheshire Ladies and Men.

My thanks to Cleve McCurdy for shepherding the Working Party and hopefully unification will be completed during 2024.

The County Golf has been outstanding and not just in terms of outstanding results.

It was a joy to watch the under 14s. Their golf was excellent and it was a delight to watch them conduct themselves.

Graham McCormack and his team are developing golfers that are a credit to Cheshire.

The under 18s have been the jewel in the Crown this season. They won the Northern Counties League and are still a young team and again the way they conduct themselves their camaraderie and support of each other is exemplary.

They play great golf and have fun and my thanks goes to Andrew Henshall, Jonathan Kell and Ian Self for their dedication and enthusiasm.

The Men's Team had a good Season narrowly missing out in the Northern Counties League and the Big Six.

Thanks to Chris Peterson for his first- class organisation.

"The Coaching that Cheshire Teams receive is superb. In particular, I would like to thank John Heggarty and Peter Barber. Their golf pedigree and experience are unrivalled and in addition they are enthusiastic and motivational.

I loved listening to Peter's team talks, they were inspiring and we are so fortunate that Peter will take over as non- playing Captain in 2024.

Thanks also to the retiring Captain Jon Beesley for his quality leadership.

I am particularly pleased that John Heggarty has agreed to take on the role of future CUGC President as his experience will be invaluable.

Thanks to Martin Keates for organising the Seniors team. It is refreshing to see the same level of enthusiasm and commitment to golf in every County age group.

The County Tournaments were successful in particular due to Stewart Neil's dedication and hard work.

I was fortunate enough to play in all of the Life Members' Meetings which are very well supported and enjoyed by the County Members.

Jerry Dixon has taken the organisation of these Meetings to another level.

The highlight of the year was the Annual Dinner at Carden Park.

The President of England Golf Chris Pascall was our guest of honour.

The evening was a great success in particular thanks to Roy and Carol Claxton for their enthusiasm and support.

I wish the incoming President Roy Claxton and his wife Carol health and happiness for their forthcoming year.

I am sure Roy will prove to be a first- rate President and enjoy his time in office.

I am reminded of a very simple statement

The world is run by the people that turn up and Cheshire Golf is very fortunate to have so many wonderful people dedicating themselves to its success.

My apologies to any that I have not mentioned but there are so many and they are all much appreciated. I can only conclude with the simplest and most apposite statement- 'Thank you to everyone involved in making my year as President of the CUGC one that I will always treasure and never forget.'

Tony Gregory
CUGC President
6th February 2024

4. County Treasurer's Statement

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

"Thank you Mr President

Good afternoon Gentlemen and Ladies

The 2023 Budget planned for a £50k deficit, the actual deficit achieved was only £10k.

Affiliation Fees received remained consistent bringing in £18k more than budgeted.

Slow and late payment of fees to Cheshire remains a problem. Eastham Lodge, Mottram Hall, Bidston and Mersey Valley have now paid but Portal and Arderne still make excuses! We will work with England golf this year to improve the speed of payments.

The Life Members section is thriving, yielding £24k income direct this year already through STRIPE. A big thank you here to Jerry Dixon for his tireless work.

Inflation did have an impact on travel and accommodation costs this year. It would be wrong not to mention the Isle of Man trip but there appears a solid plan muted to prevent this cost again.

Additional activities are continually being added to the Coaching Budget, pushing the cost up to £ 47k against a budget of £51k.

The County had a healthy bank balance at the Balance Sheet date, 31 Oct 23, £236k.

Affiliation Fees have just been increased on 1st Jan from £5.75 to £7.

May I take this opportunity to thank Bob Hamilton for all his hard work over the years and personally for his time and effort handing things over to me."

I commend to the Meeting that the Accounts prepared and published by Phillip Bates & Co be accepted. Thank you."

The proposer of the end of year 2023 accounts is Dave Kimpton (Brombrough GC) and seconded by Roy Claxton (Eaton GC). The President asked for a show of hands to adopt the accounts and any dissenters.

5. Appointment of President 2024

Tony Gregory, the outgoing President re-affirmed that **Roy Claxton of Eaton Golf Club** is to become the 2024 President of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs. The Immediate Past President, Tony Gregory 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:

“Deputy President, Vice Presidents, Directors of the Cheshire Union, Voting Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I welcome you once again.

Special welcome to Mr Chairman Dave Durling, Secretary Steve Doughty, County Treasurer Dave Kimpton, Team Coaches, Captains and Managers, Vice Presidents, Outgoing President Tony Gregory, Board members, Club members, My right hand man – your Deputy President Mr John Heggarty (what a choice – first class!!). Of course I can't forget to mention my lovely wife Carol.

May I firstly offer my best wishes to Tony for his outstanding year in office representing the County as their President. It's a cliché to admit he will be a hard act to follow but I will certainly do my best to uphold the position so ably represented by Tony.

It is definitely a privilege to become President of the Cheshire Union for 2024 and I am grateful for your support. I'm certainly looking forward to attending as many matches and functions as possible in my capacity and trust I will have the support of my lovely wife Carol who will no doubt wish to accompany me whenever possible.

Tony continued to promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity – EDI for short. Having a disabled son who knows how to hit a perfect 7 iron – to my amazement means I'm already ahead of the game in this respect. I will continue to promote the excellent work initially carried out by Past President Martin Grimly and so ably continued by Tony.

2024 is the year where we are to see the unification of the Men's and Ladies organisations. This will bring a single voice for Cheshire Golf both at national and club level.

Unification will bring exciting opportunities to develop the game of golf equally between both organisations.

There is a current working group which our own Dave Durling is heavily involved with which comprises of representatives from the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs and Cheshire County Ladies Association.

We expect the process to be completed in late 2024 or latest by early 2025.

The new affiliated group will be known as Cheshire Golf Limited. You may ask what in broad terms does unification bring? Well its England Golf driven, it'll give a single voice for Cheshire. It'll be one body to represent our affiliated clubs including a united focus for bringing young people into the game. There should also be some costs saving due to there being a single administration, although I haven't as yet seen how this will be achieved if I'm honest.

I am sure we will continue to lead as a County both on the field of play and as an organisation. In this respect we are blessed with some excellent dedicated fine Team managers and coaches. The gents and ladies unification committees are carrying out excellent work behind the scenes. This will be quite a major change but one which cannot be avoided, it must and will happen.

We have a board of directors who are continuously working on your behalf, excellent qualified dedicated people giving up their time to take care of everything County related.

I should like however to thank one particular member of the board for his understanding, his knowledge, his dedication and support not just to me but to the County in general and that person is Mr Dave Durling our County Chairman, so please gentlemen put your hands together to show your own appreciation. Thank you.

Finally,

Gentlemen, it is indeed an honour to represent the 93 clubs in Cheshire as your President. Being your President allows me to give something back to the game of golf which has given me so much pleasure ---- and –dare I say, anguish, over the years. I fully understand the commitment involved in taking the position on board and want everyone to know I will be fully committed to the task. I thank those who supported me for this position, please be assured I shall work tirelessly to ensure I don't let you or the County down.

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

Thank you.”

Roy Claxton

7. Election of Deputy President 2024

President explains that after a decision made by the Nominations Committee, which was announced to the County's Vice Presidents, then was confirmed by the Board of Directors at the September 2023 Board meeting that **former club professional at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, John Heggarty** has been elected as Deputy President for 2024.

On the proposal of David Durling (Shrigley Hall GC), seconded by Chris Moore (Royal Liverpool Golf Club). **President** duly confirms **John Heggarty as Deputy President for 2024**. President asked for a show of hands for the purposes of the Minutes; this was unanimous.

John expressed his gratitude in a short speech to convey how much he is looking forward to his year as Deputy President and fulfilling his role as Cheshire President in 2025.

8. Appointment of a new Vice President. – Graham McCormack

On the proposal of Mike Jones (Chester GC) and seconded by Jim McBride (Delamere Forest GC). President calls for a show of hands to confirm Graham McCormack as a new Vice President of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs, which was carried unanimously.

9. Re-appointment of Accountants.

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

On the proposal of Dave Kimpton (Brombrough GC) and seconded by Sean Ritchie (Chester GC), this was unanimous, after putting to a show of hands.

10. Election of Board Directors

County Secretary announced under Article 18:

There are no existing Directors standing for re-election.

Chris Peterson (Royal Liverpool GC) has completed his term as a Director and Trevor Jackson (Bramall Park GC) is retiring from the Board.

There are four new Directors going to be joining the Board this year. They are: Dominic Barnes (Caldy GC), Simon Dangar (Eaton GC), Morgan de Vos (Sandiway GC) and Andrew Ramsey (Eaton GC).

County Secretary announces that there is no vote required for the election of the new Directors. 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.

11. Unification update between CUGC and CCLGA

Cleve McCurdy (Chair of the Cheshire ED&I Committee) spoke regards the unification and the progress that has been made and what is the current situation.

Question from **Colin Shadbolt (Cheshire Vice President)** – How many counties are currently? What are the possible cost implications involved? **Steve Doughty** responded on behalf of CM in terms of number of counties, which currently totals eight. **CM** did not have an accurate figure at this stage. Said that the ladies have been very supportive towards the move. **Bob Hamilton** believed the savings would be in the small thousands. **CM** went onto say the opportunities the unification would bring, especially with regards to coaching and championships.

Question from Bill Briggs (Voting Member for Delamare Forest Golf Club). Was concerned that the communication to clubs is critical in getting the message across. **CM** did say that a communication process was going to be put in place. Had very little feedback from club managers and secretaries. He would welcome any ideas people have on how to get feedback from the clubs. **Stewart Neil (Cheshire Board Member)** mentioned that fellow Board Member, **Kevin McCormack** has just finished a project visiting al 95 of the Cheshire affiliated clubs, spreading the word about what the CUGC can do for each and the services we can offer and to build up our relationship with the clubs. In addition, he requested contact emails of the key personnel at each golf. Once we have all the information, different groups can be targeted depending on the subject in question. Thus, hoping the information gets to the correct people quickly. **CM** also said unification is the right thing to de doing. **Colin Shadbolt** went onto say, he felt that there was apathy in clubs and counties about change and wanting to move forward. He felt trying to get the message out to clubs is the right thing to do. **Kevin McCormack** said that during his visits to clubs that he had been made to feel very welcome and clubs were very pleased to see him.

12. Any Other Business

President asked if there were any further questions or comments. None were forthcoming and the 2024 Annual General Meeting was concluded at 3.10pm 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: 13.2.2024