To Super-Seniors Group Organisers for distribution to Club SS Representatives

**NOTES ON SUPER SENIORS GROUP ORGANISERS MEETING**

**at The Flying Horse, Smarden on 23 November 2021**

**Present:** Robert Gordon (Group A – Lamberhurst), James Bown and Dick Page (Group B – Sittingbourne), Bernard Connellan (Group C –Chestfield), Colin Hatcher (Group D- Sene Valley), Kenny Ramsammy (Group E – Nizels), John McManus (Group F – Weald of Kent) and John Hartley (Group F – Boughton), Stuart Cullum (Group G – Langley Park), John Crates (League Organiser – Lamberhurst).

**Apologies:** Peter Duckworth (Group B – Bearsted)

**Group Matters**

John C welcomed the several newcomers and thanked everyone for their efforts in sustaining the groups through what had been two interrupted years since our last meeting.

Each Group Organiser expanded on the reports already provided on his Group’s progress and outlook.

Group A played only 5 clubs as Wrotham was unable to rearrange its cancelled early matches. The Group was won by Rochester who then failed to attend the Grand Final. Rochester hosted the Jamboree which was won by Lamberhurst. The fee of £46 required by Wildernesse to host the 2022 Jamboree is causing difficulties. Only two clubs attended the Group annual meeting.

Group B was won by Sittingbourne who also both hosted and won the Jamboree. To accommodate the high price set by Redlibbetts for match lunches each home club will in future pay for all lunches free to the away team.

Group C was won by Etchinghill, helped by an apparently generous course rating. No Jamboree was held though it is hoped to do so in 2022. Conditions for use of buggies continued to be a source of dissention.

Group D played without Faversham due to Covid. Walmer was disadvantaged by a very high 137 course rating and failed to win a single match. The group was won by Tenterden but no Jamboree was held. Group D is considering starting an Octos group for over-80s in 2022 following on behind SS matches.

Group E was won by Dartford on countback from Nizels. It has decided to change its scoring system for 2022 from 4-3-2-1 on the match result to 2-1-0 on each game. Sidcup will join the group in 2022 as a fifth club, but the prospect of Hever Castle joining now seems less likely.

Group F was won by Weald of Kent who went on to win the Grand Final (Tudor Park came 3rd but would have won the group had the 4-3-2-1 scoring system been used). Westgate & Birchington had enjoyed a successful debut to the group despite the travel distances involved. Upchurch hosted and won the Jamboree. John H was thanked for so comprehensively standing in for John M during the year.

Group G in its first enjoyable year was won by Royal Blackheath. Experimental arrangements are in hand for each player to order and pay for his own lunch, for a Reserves pair to play and for the Group-winning club to host the Jamboree in the next year.

**Buggies** – it was apparent that most groups struggled to enforce the League rule limiting use of buggies to those with medical certificates and that more discretion is required to determine if use is justified or essential.

**Handicap Limits –** Most groups have decided to adopt a playing limit of 24-HCI, except Group A 21-HCI, Group G 20.5-HCI and Group D 24 Course Handicap. Groups would keep these under review.

**Finances**

The accounts for 2021 showed surpluses on both Finals events, leaving an accumulated £240 balance in hand.

**Grand Finals**

Whitstable & Seasalter received accolades for its hosting of the 2021 final, but the failure of Rochester to attend was deplored as it undermined the whole rationale of the League. If repeated, sanctions would be considered.

The 2022 final will be hosted by Faversham (Group D) on 14Oct22 with Sene Valley booked as back-up.

The engraving of medals was sub-standard and will require more care in future.

It was determined after discussion that the handicap limit be adjusted to 22 Handicap Index.

**Inter-Club Knock-Out Competition**

Various possible refinements to the competition format for 2022 were considered, and it was agreed

\* to overcome the bias in favour of clubs drawn to play at Home, Home AND Away matches would be used – this would make it essential for all individual games to be played to completion because in the event of a 3-3 tie the aggregate winning hole scores would determine the winner;

\* the handicap limit be adjusted to 22 Handicap Index;

\* although the first round would be drawn to separate clubs from the same group, the competition would continue with a conventional KO draw so that winning clubs would sooner know their next opponent;

\* no green fee should be charged for matches;

\* green fees for practice rounds should be on a reciprocal basis.

\* In other respects the competition would follow the same format and invitations should be issued ASAP to give time for teams to obtain their club’s approval for entry by a mid-Feb22 deadline which would allow clubs more time to play two fixtures in each round plus any required practice rounds, and provide some help to clubs with very congested conflicting match dates.

**Gender**

The question was raised as whether the League could accommodate lady players. While it was agreed that there should be no discrimination, James suggested that further research was needed so that the question could be debated with the benefit of any guidance already existing.

The meeting closed here as time was running out and the further matters which might have been addressed seemed relatively inconsequential. Thanks to everyone for their input.

\* \* \* \* \*

The topics which might have been discussed are:

**League Profile**

The League Constitution was upgraded at the previous meeting from ‘Draft’, so needs now to be altered to reflect the slight changes identified during this meeting. An amended version is appended hereto, subject to review.

Appreciation should have been expressed for Colin’s continued efforts with the League website, for which he would still ask Group Organisers to provide suggestions for enhancement and more material reflecting each group. Group Organisers are encouraged to send their monthly-end tables direct to Colin as well as to John.

**Relationship with KGVL**

There has been no liaison with KGVL since the Covid outbreak, but we are aware that some significant clubs have withdrawn in favour of participation in a new elite League including Sussex and Surrey clubs. Interestingly these clubs have professed continuing enthusiasm for SS golf. The next SKGV meeting is deferred until Apr22

**Date of Next Meeting**

Views are invited as to whether an equivalent mid-Nov22 date is suitable for our next meeting, and whether the Smarden Flying Horse is a preferred alternative venue to our traditional use of the Pluckley Black Horse.

AJC/29Nov21

Attachments:

Constitution (amendments in Red)

KO Championship Rules & Entry Form (amendments in Red)

Separate file on League History

**KENT GOLF SUPER SENIORS LEAGUE**

**CONSTITUTION** (29Nov22)

1. **Name** - The name of the League shall be "Kent Golf Super Seniors League".

2. **Object** - The object of the League shall be the promotion of good fellowship fostered by the game of go1f.

3. **Officers** - The officers of the League shall be the League Organiser and the Group Organisers.

The management of the League shall be vested in these Officers henceforth referred to as "The Committee".

The appointment of the League and Group Organisers shall be made in the light of nominations made by the constituent clubs and thereafter resolved and ratified by the Committee. The Committee shall meet at least once a year or as necessary to conduct the League's affairs.

4. **Membership** - Membership of the League shall be restricted to golf clubs situated in the county of Kent and its London environs. Playing members of such clubs who are aged 70 or over shall be eligible to participate in the activities of the League. Each club will appoint its own Club Representative to organise its matches and teams. Each Group will hold an annual meeting of Club Representatives chaired by its Group Organiser.

5. **Accounts** - The financial year of the League shall begin on the first day of January. The League Organiser at its annual meeting shall submit a statement of accounts to the Committee.

6. **Organisation** - The League shall be organised in Groups where possible on a regional basis. Any club wishing to withdraw from its Group, for whatever reason, should give 12 months’ notice of its intention. Each Group shall appoint a Group Organiser and a Group Committee. The Group Organiser is responsible for informing all Club Representatives within his Group of the Terms & Conditions (including revisions) contained within the League Constitution.

Voting within a Group will be on a majority basis with each club having one vote and the Group Organiser will have a casting vote. If a Group Organiser is unable to attend a Group or League Meeting he will nominate a replacement. In the former he will inform the Club Representatives and the latter the League Organiser.

**RULES**

7. **Matches** - Clubs in each Group shall play each other at home and away. All matches are played on a no-green-fee basis. Normally matches will be played in early afternoon following a light lunch paid for by each player. Normally matches shall be played by teams of five pairs over 18 holes on a 4-ball better-ball basis and off yellow tees. Clubs not able to conform to this format shall arrange their matches as agreed by the Club Representatives in the Group and the Group Organiser. Each Group may decide whether to impose a handicap limitation on players participating in inter-club matches.

A Member of more than one club shall play for one club only during the League's competition year.

All players must hold an 'Active Handicap' and in breach of this will result in disqualification of the playing pair.

A side playing an ineligible player shall be treated as having lost the game in which he played.

*All captains are advised to verify the date and time with the opposing captain in the week before each match.*

If a side arrives for a match short of one or more players, five games must still be played with one side playing one against two where necessary.

In the event of a player being unable through injury or illness to complete a match once started: i/ if the affected player is unable to continue but his partner can - game continues with two players against one; ii/ if neither the affected player nor his partner can continue and less than 9 holes have been played - game should be halved; iii/ if a game cannot be completed and 9 or more holes have been played - result determined by the score at the time of the incident.

Where clubs are unable to complete a match and agree to abandon it rather than replay, no points shall be awarded to either team. When a side fails to attend on the date previously listed (or otherwise amended by mutual consent), the match and win points are conceded to the side present. When one side wishes to replay an abandoned or cancelled match and the other does not, the win points will be allocated to the side wishing to replay. … the objective remains of course to play or re-play all matches.

8. **Scoring** - Points will be awarded: 4 for an away win, 3 for a home win, 2 for an away half and 1 for a home half. However, individual Groups may if they wish, use an alternative scoring system. The results of matches shall be notified to the relevant Group Organiser.

In the event of a tie on points, the club which prevailed in the aggregate of the matches between the tied clubs (first on points, then on games overall, then on games won) shall be declared the winner. Should this still involve a deadlock, the club with the better overall individual games record (aggregate wins and halves) shall decide the result; if these are equal the highest number of individual games won shall decide; if still equal the better Away games record shall decide, first overall, then on games won, failing which the championship shall be shared. The toss of a coin will then determine which club represents the group in the county final.

Group League winners shall qualify for the Group Winners Grand Final.

9. **Buggies**

* Any team captain who wishes to include a player who needs a buggy must inform the opposing captain at least one week before the match;
* The player must provide evidence of his need to use a buggy sufficient to satisfy the conditions agreed within his Group and the agreement of both team captains;
* A buggy may not be shared with an able-bodied player or an able-bodied player’s equipment;
* The buggy must be booked by the individual player direct with the host club;
* Any competitor using a buggy will travel through the course at the speed of the group in which they are playing at all times. It is not permissible to move ahead of the group to prepare for the next shot, or to search for a potentially lost ball, either their own or from within the group, so as to maintain the integrity of the 3-minute rule.

10. **Competitions** – The League Organiser shall organise the League's annual Championship competitions.

The trophy holders shall arrange for the safe custody, engraving and insurance of the League's trophies. Such trophies shall remain the property of the League.

11. **The Grand Final** shall be held each year in the autumn over eighteen holes at venues to be decided by the Committee, with the cost spread equally between each competing club. Each club team shall consist of five pairs on a 4-ball better-ball Stableford basis. Play will be off 85% of Course Handicaps based on club handicaps up to a maximum of 22-HCI and off yellow tees. Players with a higher handicap may take part but shall play off 22-HCI but with all with the above restrictions. The highest aggregate points of a club's five cards shall be the winner. In the event of a tie, count-back rules shall apply. The winning club shall receive the Rochester & Cobham Cup.

12. A **Knock-Out Competition** will be held each year for entry by any club participating in the League, subject to an entry fee and separate Rules established each year.

13. **Other Matters -** Any disputes or other matters not covered by the foregoing shall be referred for resolution to the League Organiser, whose decision shall be final.

**KENT GOLF SUPER SENIORS**

**THE KENT SUPER SENIORS KNOCK-OUT CHAMPIONSHIP**

**An 18-Hole Home and Away Inter-Club Knockout Competition**

**Championship Rules 2022**

**1. Eligible Clubs:** All clubs participating in the Kent Golf Super Seniors League.

2. **Eligible Players:** Any member of the club who has reached the age of 70 years having an HCI of 22 or less may be selected by his Club. Players having an HCI of higher than 22 must play off 22-HCI. Players may be changed from round to round, but no player may play for more than one club in a calendar year.

3. **Draw Arrangements:** The draw will be made to ensure that no two clubs from the same group meet in the first round. The full draw will be published so that opponents in subsequent rounds become readily apparent and will specify a ‘play by’ date for each round. Each round will be played on a HOME AND AWAY basis. The team contact of the upper named club in each pairing should immediately make contact with his opposing contact to agree dates for both Home and Away matches, which should be played as closely together as possible. All matches are to be played by the ‘play by’ date specified in the Draw Sheet. Total inability to do so is to be discussed with the League Organiser.

4. **Costs.** The entry fee for each club shall be £25. All matches will be played on afternoons mid-week after a sandwich and chips-type lunch. All matches are played on a no-green-fee basis. The meal charge for both teams shall be paid by the Home club players.

Each Away team player is entitled to one practice round to be played at a time specified by the Home club which is encouraged to charge a modest amount or no amount at all, especially when hosting a club which would charge a lower practice fee. Clubs opting to charge the equivalent of the fee the opposing club would charge may nominate “RV” (reciprocal value) instead of quoting a fee amount; if two “RV” clubs meet one another, then £20 practice green fee will be charged. Each club’s terms will be provided when the draw is announced.

Costs of the Final will be borne from entry fees, but if these prove insufficient to cover costs of the Final, players in the Final may be asked for a fee to make up the difference.

5. **Handicaps:** Players will play off their club Handicap Index adjusted to 90% of the Course Handicap and team names and handicaps must be exchanged between team contacts before the commencement of play. Any player not producing a handicap certificate, if requested, will be required to play off scratch.

6. **Buggies:** Buggies may only be used by a player providing an independent medical certificate, and subject to the further provisions set out in the League Constitution.

7. **The Match:** Three pairs from each club shall play 4 Ball Match Play off handicap over 18 holes off Yellow Tees. Each player shall be allowed the difference between his Playing Handicap and that of the lowest in their game. Individual games that are "all square" after 18 holes, must play "sudden death" to determine a result**.** Each individual game MUST play on to decide a winner.

Once play has begun, if the match then has to be abandoned due to course closure, and no further play can take place on the day, the result should be determined by the state of the games when play was suspended, providing a minimum of 9 holes has been completed by all games. If 9 holes have not been completed then the team captains should arrange another date for a full replay, within the time allowed.

The winning club shall be club winning most of the six Home and Away games played. If the result is tied 3-3, the margin of win in each game will be aggregated to determine the winner. If this also is tied, each club shall nominate one pair to play further holes until sudden death.

The winning club is to inform the League Organiser by email chresource@aol.com the result and scores of the matches as soon as possible after the completion of the second match.

8. **The Final:** Will be played over a neutral course not in the same group as either finalist. The Final will be played in the afternoon, followed by a Presentation. The Champion Club will hold the Crates Cup for one year and will be responsible for its engraving. All competitors playing the Final will receive mementoes. .

9. **Team Contact:** Must be appointed by each Club, to act as contact throughout the season, whose full details must be supplied on the Entry Form.

The dates which are expected to be applied as deadlines for each round in 2022 are:

 Draw Date Play by Date

 Round 1 26 February 2022 15 April 2022

 Round 2 27 May 2022

 Round 3 22 July 2022

 Semi-Finals 26 August 2022

 Final 30 September 2022

**KENT GOLF SUPER SENIORS**

**THE KENT SUPER SENIORS KNOCK-OUT CHAMPIONSHIP**

**An 18-Hole Home and Away Inter-Club Knockout Competition**

**Club Entry Form 2022**

Entries close at 1700hrs on Friday 25 February 2022

**LATE ENTRIES CANNOT BE ACCEPTED**

**Send to:** A J Crates, League Organiser, by Email to chresource@aol.com OR by post to Wickhurst Wood, Lamberhurst, Kent TN3 8BJ

**Club Name:** …………………………………………

**Team Contact Name:** …………………………………………

**Contact’s Address** …………………………………………

**Contact’s Telephone**…………………………………………

**Contact’s Mobile**…………………………………………

**Contact’s Email address**…………………………………………

**Club Secretary Name**…………………………………………

**Club Secretary’s Email Address**…………………………………………

Please indicate the green fees which your club require for a practice round (no maximum), if any. If you prefer to charge the equivalent of the fee your opposing club would charge, please enter “RV” (reciprocal value). If two “RV” clubs meet one another, then £20 practice green fee will be charged. Each club’s terms will be provided when the draws are announced.

**Visitors’ green fee for a practice round (if any) will be £ ………... (or RV)**

W**e** confirm that this Club will comply with the Kent Super Seniors Knock-Out Championship Rules

We confirm that remittance of £25.00 has been made to the account of “A J Crates” at Lloyds Bank sort code 309877 account no 00518843 with our Club name specified as reference being the Entry Fee

OR (delete as applicable)

We enclose our cheque made payable to “A J Crates” for the sum of £25.00 being the Entry Fee

**Signed by Club Contact ……………………………..**

 **Club Secretary ………………………………….**

**Date**: ………………………………