**KENT GOLF SUPER SENIORS LEAGUE**

**MINUTES OF GROUP ORGANISERS MEETING**

**Held at THE DEERING ARMS, PLUCKLEY on TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2023 at 12.15pm**

**Present:**

Michael Fishlock (MF) - Group A

Alan Evans (AE) - Group B

James Bown (JB) - Group B

Bernard Connellan (BC) - Group C

Colin Hatcher (CH) - Group D – League Webmaster

Mike Dewey (MD) - Group E

Malcolm Broadway (MB) - Group F

Stuart Cullum (SC) - Group G – Hon Secretary

John Crates (JC) - Chairman – League Organiser

**Apologies:**

Robert Gordon and John McManus

**Group Matters:**

JC welcomed everyone, especially MF who was standing in for Robert Gordon and MB who was standing in for John McManus and thanked everyone for their efforts during the year. Actions from the previous AGM would be covered in the agenda, and he recapped the two Virtual GO meetings to formalise the setting up of the KGSSL Bank Account with Metro Bank

Each Group Organiser expanded on the reports previously circulated, of each group AGM.

**GROUP A:** Lamberhurst topped the group for the first time in more than 10 years, with Wrotham Heath second. The Jamboree was very successfully hosted by Knole Park however the costs are getting higher towards the £50 mark and Wrotham Heath did not take part. The group is looking at ways of cutting costs for future Jamborees. Knole Park were hoping to enter the KO this year.

**GROUP B:** Bearsted won the KO Crates Cup, and Gillingham won both the group and the Jamboree. It was noted that the cost of the Jamboree is rising by £2 to £42pp: it is uncertain if the cost was the reason that Sheerness did not attend this year.

It was noted that one Club insisted that personal Buggies would need to show Public Liability insurance. It has been heard second hand, that one club in another Group was charging for the use of personal Buggies commensurate as if they hire one there.

**GROUP C:** Etchinghill won the group with 70% of the possible points and won the Jamboree which was held at Whitstable. This was a reduced field of 4 pairs due to being a 9-hole course. The cost was £25. Broome Park was unable to raise a team for its match against Etchinghill thus forfeiting all the points for the match; this Club had changed hands recently and had lost several members as golfers no longer had access to the Kitchen clubhouse. There was interest from 3 Clubs in entering the KO next year. It was agreed that Handicap Indexes would be frozen on the night of the Sunday before a match.

**GROUP D:** Sene Valley won the group and the Jamboree, but two Clubs declined to take part. Hythe had an enjoyable first year in the Group and would be continuing. CH also mentioned that the Web Site recorded 200 pages viewed by 50 people per week.

**GROUP E:** Dartford won the group**.** There were some problems experienced by one Club in fielding a full team however it was felt that this would be resolved in 2024. Shooters Hill won the Jamboree and were congratulated on a very successful hosting of the Grand Final.

**GROUP F:** Upchurch won both the group and the Jamboree (£30 in 2023), hosted by Westgate and Birchington. Boughton no longer provide proper changing rooms. It is Group F’s turn to host the Grand Final in 2024, and Weald of Kent will be the nominated host with Upchurch on standby. Kingsnorth joined the Group but unfortunately were not able to continue as they had problems fielding teams.

**GROUP G:** Chislehurst won the group this year, managing to win 3 of their 4 away matches. Unfortunately, West Kent have withdrawn from the Group citing difficulties in raising teams, however Addington Palace have joined for 2024 season. There was no Jamboree this year due to prohibitive costs, and no scheduled Jamboree in 2024.

**ACCOUNTS:**

JC had circulated League accounts for the year to 30 October 2023 showing a net surplus of £22 on the two championships and a surplus of £289 to carry forward. The bank account is now functioning. The accounts were approved.

**GRAND FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024:**

Weald of Kent are the nominated Club for 2024 with the date set for 25th September 2024 (since changed to 3rd October 2024). Upchurch are the nominated Standby Club. The Handicap Index limit will remain at 22. The costs have yet to be agreed however are likely to be circa £25 with a rolling lunch.

**KNOCK OUT COMPETITION FOR 2024:**

The entry Fee was agreed at £25, and the HCI to remain at 22. JC will issue Entry Forms for Group Organisers to distribute to clubs.

Group G asked for consideration be given to an alternative method of playing Home and Away matches, whereby two pairs would play Home and on the same day two other pairs would play Away, and the aggregate result would prevail. JC asked SC to circulate the proposal so that Clubs can debate the matter during the year, and the 2024 Group Meetings so that a decision can be made at next years GOAGM.

**REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION:**

* RESOLUTION 1: That the Constitution item 5 be amended to change the financial year from Jan – Dec, to Nov – Oct: **AGREED**
* RESOLUTION 2: That the Constitution Item 5 be amended to include the right of the Committee to levy an annual subscription on member clubs: **AGREED**
* RESOLUTION 3: That any club which fails to pay its subscription before its first fixture date in any season will be excluded from the League: **AGREED**
* RESOLUTION 4: That a subscription for 2024 be set at 20 pounds with future subscriptions be reviewed annually at the AGM: **AGREED**
* RESOLUTION 5: That the Constitution Rule 7 Line 8 be amended to require players to hold a “WHS Handicap Index” instead of “an Active Handicap”: **AGREED**
* Amendment to Rule 7: “Each Group can decide the rules for dealing with a shortfall of players, where no Group rule is in place then if a side arrives at a match short of one or more players, five games must still be played with one side playing against two where necessary”: **AGREED**

**ROLE SPECIFICATIONS FOR GROUP ORGANISER AND LEAGUE ORGANISER:**

Draft Guidance notes were circulated for comment:

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

* JC reminded all to report Win/Loss/Halved match results.
* **WHS Changes for 2024:**
  + It was noted that England Golf would be implementing changes from 1st April 2024, and that further guidance was expected shortly. The principal changes were:
    - Changes to COURSE HANDICAP, application of COURSE RATING – PAR Adjustment.
    - Playing handicaps unrounded.
* **BUGGIES:**
  + There was some debate as to whether individual Groups could frame their own rules, and it was agreed that this was allowed under Clause 9 of the Constitution. However, for the Grand Final and KO Competition, the Constitution Rules would be precedent

NEXT MEETING:

Agreed to be equivalent date and time in 2024, likely at the same venue.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm