

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

NOTES ON SUPER SENIORS GROUP ORGANISERS MEETING at The Black Horse, Pluckley on 14 January 2020

Present: Jeremy Barham (Group A – Lamberhurst), Peter Duckworth (Group B – Bearsted), Martyn Dines (Group C – Whitstable & Seasalter), Colin Hatcher (Group D- Sene Valley), Kenny Ramsammy (Group E – Nizels), John McManus (Group F – Weald of Kent), Stuart Cullum (prospective Group G – Langley Park), John Crates (League Organiser – Lamberhurst).

Apologies: Bernard Connellan (Group C –Chestfield),

Group Matters

John C welcomed Martyn and Stuart as newcomers. He reported that the League finals had been accomplished smoothly in 2019 with wins for Nizels (Group E) in the Grand Final and Tenterden (Group D) in the Knock-out. There had been much activity with clubs closing down and new applicants to join the League.

Each Group Organiser expanded on the reports already provided on their Group's progress and outlook. Group A was reduced from 7 to 6 following the sudden closure of Woodlands Manor. Both its group and Jamboree were won by Wildernesse. Jamborees were becoming difficult to organize due to some clubs seeking to impose much higher green fees, but Rochester & Cobham had agreed to host the 2020 event for £40.

Group B was won by Sheerness and its Jamboree by Bearstead. Sittingbourne was asking too high a price to host their Jamboree which had been switched to Redlibbets, while Sittingbourne is asked to reconsider its stance.

Group C was won by Chestfield who also hosted and won their first Jamboree. The idea of holding the Group's annual meeting on the same day after its Jamboree received general approval.

Group D was won by Faversham. All jamborees were priced at £25, and only Lydd did not participate. The notion of a bonus point for a 5-0 win did not appeal. Ashford is joining the Group in 2020.

Group E was won by Nizels who went on to win the Grand Final. The Group's disappointment at once again losing effectively three clubs to a new group in 2021 was acknowledged.

Group F was won by Weald of Kent. Westgate & Birchington will join in 2020. It was confirmed that each group could set its own handicap maximum for players in group matches.

Group G was set up to start with five clubs in 2021 and are looking forward to it.

Finances

The accounts for 2019 showed surpluses on both Finals events. Again, there was no enthusiasm to change the funding arrangements and no-one had offered their services as Treasurer.

Grand Finals

The 2020 final (Group C) will be held at Whitstable & Seasalter on Monday 12 October, with a reserve venue to be considered if and when it seemed it might be needed.

Colin thought it likely that Group D's 2021 final would be hosted by Sene Valley.

It was determined after discussion that the handicap limit be increased to 24 and that the cost of medals for participants would be better devoted to wine for the winners.

The idea of a winning club playing on its own course while conceding certain adjustments was felt to be too artificial, and independent venues will continue to be sought.

Inter-Club Knock-Out Competition

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

- * the idea of Home and Away matches was narrowly out-voted;
- * all individual games should continue to be played to completion;
- * no green fee should be charged for matches (subject to a suitable accompanying explanation);
- * 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 28Mar20 deadline.

League Profile

It was agreed that the Constitution no longer be regarded as draft, so should exclude references to a bank account, etc. Further amendments were agreed to include

- * that all League matches should be played off yellow tees;

- * that the penalty for playing an ineligible player shall be the loss of that particular game;
- * to change to declare as a half any match when both players in a pair are unable to continue within 9 holes;
- * to include the higher 24 handicap limit for Grand Finals.
- * to retain the provisions for the use of buggies.

An amended version is appended hereto.

Colin was again applauded for his efforts with the League website, though he expressed the hope that Group Organisers would provide more suggestions for enhancement and more material reflecting each group. Group Organisers are encouraged to send their monthly and tables direct to Colin as well as to John.

There was no enthusiasm for pursuing the idea of either a logo or sponsorship at this stage.

Relationship with KGV L

There was general discussion around the relationship between the two leagues, and KGV L's innovation towards promotion and relegation. This encompassed the difficulties of achieving different clustering to reduce travel, which so many groups were content to maintain.

Date of Next Meeting

All were content for a similar date and venue next year. [Thursday 21Jan21 is thereby nominated for people to try to keep free, or please to provide earliest indications of a different preference.]

AJC/18Jan20