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## **Minutes of the GGU Council Meeting held at Greenmeadow Golf Club Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

1) **APOLOGIES:** Mr. Roger Floyd, Mr. Mike Nightingale

**There were 10 Gwent Clubs represented at the meeting.**

Greenmeadow, Monmouth, Newport, Parc, Peterstone Lakes, Pontnewydd, Rolls of Monmouth, Tredegar & Rhymney, West Monmouthshire, Woodlake Park.

2) **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** Tue 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Proposed: Dean Webb

Seconded: Robert Ware

3) **MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising.

4) **REPORTS:**

a) **HONORARY TREASURER:**

The Honorary Treasurer Mr. Rob Ware reported the county finances were in a sound condition with the affiliation fees continuing to increase the balance. There were still 10 clubs who hadn't paid their affiliation fees. Team matches would commence at the end of this month so will incur expenditure.

b) **LEAGUE SECRETARY:**

The League Secretary Mr. Nigel Collins reported that everything was in place for the coming season. The fixture sheets have been issued. There were some changes which have been implemented and new sheets issued. The League Secretary asked clubs to check the team sheets and fixture dates with their club diaries.

The rules have been updated, mainly to cover the changes from the result cards to the new method of photographing the results and sending to the League Secretary via Email.

Nominated players sheets have been issued and to date only 2 clubs have returned their players sheets.

These sheets need to be completed and sent to the League Secretary before the season commences at the beginning of May.

The League Secretary proceeded to present the 2023 League Winners Plaques to the winning clubs.

Celtic Manor were the County League Champions for 2023 and had already been presented with their trophy.

The remaining trophy presentations were as follows:

Division 7: West Monmouthshire IV Team

Division 6: Monmouth

- Division 5: Rolls of Monmouth  
Division 4: West Monmouthshire II Team  
Division 3: Parc II Team  
Division 2: Woodlake Park I Team  
Division 1: Celtic Manor I Team (Already Presented).

**c) MATCH SECRETARY**

Mr. Roger Floyd had reported to the Hon. Secretary that all the away match accommodation had been booked with the exception of one venue which he was hoping to resolve shortly.

**d) CHAMPIONSHIP SECRETARY**

The Championship Secretary Mr. Ray Hughes reported that everything was in place for the Cock 'o' North at St. Pierre on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May. The draw for tee times will take place this weekend. There are 3 clubs which have not responded with their qualifying pairs. They are Llanwern, Monmouthshire, and Tredegar Park. If these clubs subsequently submit their teams for the Cock 'o' North they will be placed at the end of the start sheet.

One of the Gwent Channel League team players has offered to help promote the entries for the County Strokeplay Championship as entries have fallen way short over the last couple of years.

**e) BOYS SECRETARY**

The Gwent Boys Coaching program is due to commence in the next couple of weeks at the Parc Golf Club with Joe Vickery. We have delayed the start owing to the very wet weather we have had this year. the boys first county match is home against Wiltshire in June.

**f) HONORARY SECRETARY**

I have nothing to report on affiliated membership numbers as we have not received all the affiliation fees from clubs for 2024.

The county cards are being issued to those clubs who have paid their affiliation fees. County Cards are valid for three years 2024-2026.

The Chairman explained to the Council that he had a problem with 2 clubs in 2023 not having paid their affiliation fees and it was only after threatening those clubs with removal from competitions and the GGU Leagues that they paid their fees.

**5 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Honorary Secretary reported that he had not received any correspondence.

**6 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The Chairman reported that he was nominating Mario from Peterstone Lakes to join the Executive Committee. This appointment was approved unanimously.

**7 CHAIRMANS REMARKS**

The Chairman stated that the counties finances were in a very strong position at the moment and plans were being made to support the teams by providing them with additional kit in addition to the clothing and balls which the county already provide. The county had been approached by an individual player to see as to whether monies could be made available to him to go towards paying for tournament entry fees. The GGU Executive Committee decided unanimously to deny this request and notified the player accordingly.

The Chairman stated that the Officers of the Union have struggled for years to manage the counties affairs despite repeated requests over a number of years for people to join the Executive and fill some of the positions.

The situation has now reached a critical point whereby the Honorary Secretary has notified the Chairman that he would be standing down at the end of the current season due to ill health and the League Secretary Mr. Nigel Collins would also be standing down at the end of the season. The Chairman stated that he would be relinquishing the role of Championship Secretary at the end of the current year but would be willing to stay on as Chairman during the transitional period.

There is an urgent need to fill these roles if the county is to have a viable future.

A significant restructuring of the Honorarium payment system with a revised payment for the Honorary Secretary position will need to be implemented to attract people to fulfil these positions.

The Chairman stated that he was considering making meals available to players in county competitions. A number of representatives present showed their approval of this proposal by a show of hands.

The Chairman stated that it may be necessary to call a Special General Meeting if there is no response to the proposal for restructuring the county executive.

## **8 COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS**

### **GREENMEADOW**

Mr. Mike Stuart Captain of Greenmeadow had nothing to report

### **MONMOUTH**

Mr. Bruce Kennedy had nothing to report

### **NEWPORT**

Mr. Rob Martin reported that Newport GC had successfully recruited for the role of Club Manager, Mr. Rhys Morgan, the current General Manager of Pennard Golf Club following Warren Ryans announcement in January that he was moving on to a new role. Rhys will commence his role with NGC on the 1<sup>st</sup> May. As a club they are also very proud of the following key accomplishments from 2023.

Danielle Jones the Food and Beverages Manager won the UK F&B Manager of the Year award with 59club UK.

Paul Thomas the club Professional won the UK Golf Professional of the Year title with Foremost Golf Ltd.

The club attained Gold Flag recognition from 59club UK and attaining a service excellence award for the second year in a row from the 59Club UK which was awarded to only 4 clubs across the UK for work in 2023.

These awards continue to show the drive from the team to provide the best service they can for the members.

Warren Ryan was also UK Manager of the Year by the Golf Club Managers Association in 2023.

Rob Martin introduced the new club Captain Mr. Andrew Stevens.

### **PARC**

Mr. Ben Hicks had nothing to report.

### **PETERSTONE LAKES**

Mr. Richard Healy reported that the club is now under new ownership with Mr. Atwell a pharmacist from Cardiff who has invested money in the course. They also have new franchise caterers. Mr. Healey introduced new club captain Richard Allen.

### **PONTNEWYDD**

Mr. Dean Webb reported that they now had a junior section of about 14 or 15 juniors under Paul Mayo.

Mr. Webb introduced new club Captain Mr. John Berrows who reported that he had submitted their pairings for the Cock 'o' North.

**ROLLS of MONMOUTH**

Mr. David Lyon reported that the course was still very wet after all the rain. They have now installed a golf studio and a full time teaching professional. Mr. Lyon introduced new club captain Mr. David Spear.

**TREDEGAR & RHYMNEY**

Mr. Adam Oldham, Secretary of Tredegar & Rhymney had nothing to report.

**WEST MONMOUTHSHIRE**

Michael Fleming reported that they had changed their management structure from a committee to a board. They now have a junior section and are looking forward to hosting the Wessex League match between Gwent and Brecon and Radnor. Mr. Fleming apologised for the absence of club captain Steve Browning.

**WOODLAKE PARK**

Mr. Gordon Sadler had nothing to report and introduced new club captain Mr. James Lowden the clubs youngest ever captain.

**9 DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 COUNCIL MEETING – 7:30 p.m. TBC