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Minutes of the GGU Council Meeting held at Greenmeadow Golf Club **Tuesday 16th November 2021**

- 1) **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from:
Mr. Mike Hanner, Mr. Gary Musto, Mr. Robert Smith, Mr. Roger Floyd

There were 6 Gwent Clubs represented at the meeting:
Bryn Meadows, Greenmeadow, Pontnewydd, Pontypool, St. Pierre, Wernddu.

2) **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held at Greenmeadow Golf Club on Tuesday 10th September 2019 were approved as a true record.

Proposed: Alistair Pannell

Seconded: Dean Webb

3) **MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising.

4) **REPORTS:**

a) **Hon. Treasurer**

The Hon. Treasurer Mr. Rob Ware reported on the county finances as they currently stood. The Business Notice Account was approximately £20.9K and the Current Account was £3.6K. As the county has not requested affiliation fees from the clubs for the 2020 and 2021 years we have seen a large decrease in the current account funds from £27K at the end of 2019 to £3.6K at the end of 2021. The county will be sending out requests for subscriptions for 2022 in the normal manner with the fees remaining the same at £5/adult male and £3/junior boy.

Full account details for 2020 and 2021 will be presented at the AGM in February 2022.

b) **League Secretary**

In the absence of the League Secretary the Hon Secretary reported that the Gwent League Champions for 2021 Newport defeated the Glamorgan Champions Pyle and Kenfig at P & K on Sunday 3rd October by 5½ points to 3½ points and Newport are now the inter county challenge trophy champions for 2021.

c) **Match Secretary**

In the absence of Match Secretary Mr. Roger Floyd, the Honorary Secretary present the Match Secretaries report which Mr. Floyd had prepared.

I would like to report on all the county matches played since the last meeting in September 2019. It's been great to see county golf being played again and in 2021 the Channel League decided to split the counties into north and south regions to avoid travelling large distances which would have required overnight stops in hotels and owing to Covid would have proved difficult.

Channel League matches played in 2021.

Gwents first match was against Glamorgan at Monmouthshire and Gwent had a disappointing start to the season with a 10½ points to 4½ defeat.

In their second match Gwent played against Wiltshire at Llanwern and Gwent had a good win by 8½ points to 6½ points.

Gwents third match was against Gloucestershire at Lilleybrook and Gwent had a very good win by 8 points to 7.

Gwents fourth match was away at Cumberwell Park against Wiltshire where Gwent lost by 9 points to 6.

Gwents fifth match was away at Southerndown against Glamorgan which Gwent lost by 10½ points to 4½.

In their final match Gwent were home to Gloucestershire at Newport where Gwent had a disappointing loss by 9½ points 5½.

After a decent start Gwent had a poor conclusion to the season, but it was nice to see some young new players given a chance and getting some decent results which hopefully bodes well for next year.

Wessex League matches played in 2021

The Second side played their first match against Glamorgan at the Grove Golf Club and suffered a heavy defeat by 9½ points to 2½.

Unfortunately Gwents second match against Somerset at Greenmeadow had to be conceded as Gwent could not raise a team. Obviously this embarrassing situation has to be addressed for the future.

Gwent concluded their very disappointing season with another heavy defeat against Gloucestershire, losing by 9 points to 3 at Filton Golf Club.

Seniors Channel League matches played in 2021

Gwent Seniors first match was against Gloucestershire at Bristol & Clifton which resulted in a 9 points to 6 defeat.

Their second match was against Glamorgan at the Glamorganshire Golf Club which Gwent lost by 10 points to 5.

The third match was against Wiltshire at Kingsdown where Gwent continued their poor start with a 11 points to 4 defeat.

Gwent Seniors return match against Glamorgan at Llanwern saw a much improved display with the match being halved with 7½ points apiece.

Gwents return match against Gloucestershire at Monmouthshire GC also resulted in a halved match 7½ points each.

In their final match Gwent played Wiltshire at Newport GC Gwent suffered a heavy defeat by 12 points to 3.

This match concluded what was a very disappointing season for the Gwent Seniors Team.

d) Championship Secretary

Due to Covid all Championships in 2020 were cancelled.

In 2021 we managed to get most Championships played with a couple of exceptions.

In May the Cock 'o' North Championship was cancelled as all clubs were still operating with Covid restrictions in operation.

The Strokeplay Championship took place at Woodlake Park with the top sixteen players qualifying to go through to the Matchplay Championship.

The Gwent Strokeplay Champion for 2021 was Robert Smith of the Celtic Manor with an overall score of 144

In second place was Theo Baker also of the Celtic Manor with an overall score of 145.

In third place also on 145 points but losing on the countback of the final 18 holes was Joseph Hill of West Monmouthshire Golf Club.

The Matchplay Championship semi final and final was played on Sunday 15th August with the preliminary rounds between the 16 qualifiers being played over the previous six weeks.

The Gwent Matchplay Champion for 2021 is Dan Bearcroft who defeated Richard Tayler in the final 4 & 3.

The Team Championship was held at Llanwern on Sunday 1st August and was won by the home club with a gross team score of 288. The winning team were: Mike Powell, Richard Tayler, Julian Sansom, Luke Bearcroft, and Phil Rees.

The Arthur Sadler Cup for the best Net Team score was won by Greenmeadow GC who returned a nett team score of 291.

The W.P.R. Peters Cup for the best individual gross score was won by Rhys Briscoe with gross 69 winning on back nine.

The Ivor Williams Trophy for the best individual net score was won by Phil Rees with a net 69 winning on the back 9.

The Handicap Team Championship was held at West Monmouthshire on Sunday 29th August and was won by the home club with a team score of 149. The team were James Gullick, Mark Waters, Mark Williams, and Kevin Hall. In second place was Pontypool with 135 points, and in third place was Celtic Manor with 125 points. These top three clubs go forward to the Welsh Handicap Team Championship at the Celtic Manor in 2022.

The Gwent Seniors Strokeplay Championship scheduled for West Monmouthshire on Monday 9th August 2021 had to be cancelled due to lack of entries.

The Chairman thanked all those clubs who have hosted competitions throughout the year.

The Chairman reminded those representatives that all Gwent Championship results can be viewed on the counties new website: gwentgolfunion.co.uk

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that a number of clubs are entering the competitions and are either pulling out at the last minute or not even notifying the organisers and just not turning up. This creates a major problem on the day as the starting times have to be re-jigged to remove the missing players and disrupting those players who are playing in the competition. The Chairman asked those representatives present if they could speak to their match captains or whoever selects the teams from their clubs to ensure that the players turn up for the Gwent Championships..

e) **Boys Secretary**

The Gwent Boys Strokeplay Championship was the first event that was held in the 2021 season. There were only 21 entries for the event which took place at Greenmeadow Golf Club on Monday 16th August 2021.

The Under 14 Champion was Kyle Simpson of the Parc Golf Club with a score of 86 over 18 holes.

The Under 16 Champion was James Drury of Greenmeadow Golf Club with scores of 74, 70 total 144.

The overall Gwent Boys Strokeplay Champion for 2021 was Oliver Moss of the Celtic Manor with scores of 73,68 total 141.

The Gwent Boys Matchplay Championship was won by Linden Moulton of St. Pierre who defeated fellow St. Pierre player Harry Paterson 2 & 1 in the final.

SWBGA

St. Pierre player Piers Murphy won the SWBGA Strokeplay Championship at Builth Wells.

The Gwent Junior Inter Club Team Championship was won by St. Pierre who went on to represent Gwent in the Welsh Junior Inter Club Team Championship at Builth Wells where they won the tournament and became the Welsh Junior Inter Club Champions for 2021.

Junior Channel League.

Gwent had a pretty miserable season in the Junior Channel League. Gwent juniors had to concede their first match away against Gloucestershire as they were unable to field a team. The fixture clashed with the Welsh Team Championships and a number of clubs called on their juniors to play for their mens teams.

In their second match Gwent Juniors were defeated by Glamorgan at Tredegar Park by 12 points to 3.

Their third match was against Somerset at St. Pierre Mathern Course and were again outplayed in both the foursomes and singles matches losing by 10½ points to 4½.

The final match was against Wiltshire U18's at The Wiltshire Golf Club where Gwent boys suffered another heavy defeat losing by 12½ points to 2½

Things look pretty bleak going forward to next year as Gwent are losing five of their current junior players: Oliver Moss, Harry Paterson, Piers Murphy, Joe Cawthorn, and Josh Chamberlain

f) Wales Golf Representative

There was no Wales Golf Representative present to give a report on Wales Golf business.

g) Honorary Secretary

Membership

The Honorary Secretary reported that since the County had not collected any affiliation fees for the last two years he had no idea what club membership figures were at the moment

County Cards

The county cards issued in 2020 were valid for 2021.

County Cards for 2022 will be issued as normal.

5) CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary had received a letter from Mr. Garry Musto, Vice President of the Gwent Golf Union stating that owing to failing eyesight and difficulty driving in the dark that he would no longer be able to attend Gwent Council Meetings.

6) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman expressed his concern that Covid could still rear its head in the New Year and have an impact on golf in Gwent.

A group of Executive members lead by Mr. Alistair Pannell have agreed to establish a data base of players in the county who are willing to play for the county. We have a number of good low handicap players in Gwent who have no wish to play for the county at any level whether it be mens or seniors.

Some clubs have enquired as to what status do ladies have in the Gwent Cock 'o' North Championship if they happen to win their clubs winter league competition. As the ladies are not affiliated to the Gwent Golf Union but are affiliated to the Monmouthshire Ladies County Golf Association they would not be eligible.

The Chairman was greatly disappointed that younger people were not coming forward to be elected to the Gwent Golf Union Executive and help in the running of the county events. Some of the counties officers are in their 70's and it's not a healthy position for the county to find itself in.

7) COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Bryn Meadows

Mr. Roger Giles reported that the club had seem an increase in membership by about 30 people and last year there were 16 lady starters. The Junior Section was looking healthy with about 26 players and the club has started a beginners coaching scheme for about 6 to 10 year olds. The clubs summer competitions averaged about 110 entries at the weekend. Bryn Meadows have 2 ladies competing in their clubs winter competition.

Celtic Manor

Mr. Matthew Morgan had nothing to report on behalf of Celtic Manor.

Greenmeadow

Mr. Mike Nightingale stated that Greenmeadow had seen an increase in their ladies membership, and their Junior Section was picking up after a slow start. They had had an infestation of fusarium on the greens and it was slow in being treated due to a delay in the delivery of the chemical treatment. They were also experiencing a die back of their evergreen trees by a blight which causes the trees to lose their moisture and die.

The owner Mr. Peter Richardson had recently passed away and would be a very big loss to the club.

Pontnewydd

Mr. Dean Webb reported that Pontnewydd had seen a membership increase of between 60 and 70 members. Their ladies section was very low in numbers and they hardly had any juniors.

Pontypool

Mr. Terry Morgan reported that Pontypool had appointed a new Head Greenkeeper in October and the improvements in the course have been excellent. They have been getting good feedback from visitors who had visited the course. Lady membership at Pontypool is very low with only 8-10 playing members. The club professional is setting up a junior coaching scheme.

St. Pierre

Mr. Alistair Pannell reported that membership was 800+ and everything was going well. The Junior Section have had an excellent season but the future looks like they could struggle for a while as there were no juniors coming through to replace the current crop. They have a very healthy ladies section.

Wernddu

Mr. Jeff Dyke reported that the club now has a measured course off the yellow tees and its own handicap index so that members can play competitions throughout the winter with handicap adjustments. They have seen their membership increased by 100+ over the summer and the competition entries have doubled.

In closing the meeting the Chairman asked Mr. Mike Nightingale to express our thanks to Greenmeadow management for allowing us the use of the room for our council meeting.

8) DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING :

AGM: Tuesday 15th February 2022 – Greenmeadow GC 7:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES Approx 8:45 p.m.