

DURHAM COUNTY GOLF UNION SENIORS

Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting held at Durham City Golf Club on Wednesday 20 November 2024.

1. Present

G. Golightly (Chairman),

I. Watson {Secretary/Treasurer}

Council members; W.G. Dunn BEM, A. Stewart, P. Dewar, A. Hayes, J. Douthwaite, R. Wilson, B. Robinson, G. Johnson (County President), D. Proud (County Treasurer) M. Kelly (County Secretary and 33 others.

2. Apologies and Report of death

There was a minute's silence for the memory of past Executive members L. Inskip and I. Shaw. Apologies for non- attendance were received from 25 others.

3. Previous AGM

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were presented by G. Golightly,

No matters were arising and were formally accepted as a true record.

Proposed by G. Dunn and seconded by A. Hayes

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed the County President, County Treasurer and County Secretary thanked everyone for their attendance. The Chairman gave thanks to the sterling work of the Council who have worked extremely hard this year. The bad weather meant 2 Competitions had to be re-arranged, but in the end it worked out fine and the entries were fantastic averaging around 140- 150 per Competition. On that note we ended the season with 346 Members which I believe to be an all time record. The Secretary Ian aided by Mick Kelly set up Golf Genius and I think most of us have a grasp on how it works !!

The Finances are in good shape as you will learn from Ian shortly in his report.

The Seniors County Team have had another tremendous year however, I will leave the glory to our Captain Andrew Stewart when he delivers his report.

Finally, I am sure you will agree next year's venues are exceptionally good, I can see us having to yet again ask Clubs for more tee times to fit everyone in.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

5. Secretary Report

The Secretary thanked the Council and the senior members for their participation and support for the 2024 competitions. The 4BBB competitions were hosted by Billingham, Durham City, Beamish Park and Chester-le-Street Golf clubs, the Texas Scramble was once again hosted by Sharpley Golf Club.

Membership increased by 23% in 2024 from 281 to 345. A very successful season, the 4BBB competitions had an average field of 140 players and there were 42 x four man teams at the Texas Scramble.

The Secretary thanked all of the aforementioned golf clubs for hosting the 2024 Senior competitions and team matches where applicable and to the clubs who have agreed to host the 2025 competitions which are confirmed as follows:

Friday 25 April - Spring Meeting - Seaton Carew GC

Monday 9 June - Summer meeting - Roseberry Grange GC

Monday 21 July - Geoff Dunn Trophies – The Wynyard GC

Tuesday 5 August - Texas Scramble – Sharpley GC

Monday 15 September - Autumn Meeting – Southmoor GC

Northern Counties League fixtures

Monday 16 June v Cumbria - Seaton Carew GC

Monday 14 July v Cheshire – The Wynyard GC

Monday 18 August v Northumberland - Southmoor GC

2025 competition entry will open on 25 November in Golf Genius. The 4BBB competitions will have maximum fields of 152 and the Texas Scramble maximum no of teams 34. The 2024 Scramble field was too big with 42 teams as some of the later starters round lasted up to 5 hours.

The membership and competition fees for 2025 remain at £6 and £10 respectively.

Treasurer Report

Total income for the year £17,364.01 and total expenditure £16,822.27 giving an operating profit for 2023/2024 of £541.74, the end of year operating balance is £5684.57.

The Treasurer stated the Seniors section is a non – profit making organisation and the increase of income has enabled to raise the value of the prizes in each of the competitions and maintain the low membership and competition entry cost. The Seniors section have also been able to generously support the County Seniors Team in their Northern Counties League fixtures and made a significant contribution towards the cost for the National Finals played at Torquay October 9-11th.

The County Treasurer is the auditor of the accounts and has confirmed he is satisfied with the surplus.

The Statement of Accounts were available to attendees.

Senior Captains Report 2024 – Andrew Stewart

2024 proved to be a very good year for the Durham Seniors Team and so nearly became a great year.

In the Northern Counties league the team finished 3rd with 3 wins, 1 half and 1 lost match. The team beat Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria with a half against Cheshire and a loss against Northumberland. If the team had gained an extra half point against Cheshire, it would have won the league it was that close a campaign.

At the Northern Seniors qualifying (big 6) at City of Newcastle Durham retained the title which we had won for the first time last year in the Isle of Man. On a very wild and windy day Durham finished 3 shots ahead of hosts Northumberland to qualify for the English finals at Torquay. As well as winning as a team, John Kennedy had the best individual score of the day over 36 holes with John Kirkpatrick second.

At the English Finals at Torquay in October, Durham competed against Cornwall, BB&O and Lincolnshire. The overall result after three days of matchplay with two rounds per day going down to the final afternoon matches. Durham needed one more win on the final afternoon to win overall but unfortunately, we came up just short with two games going to the final green.

On an individual basis there were some great performances from Durham players.

6. Election of Council Members

The existing Council have agreed to continue in their roles and seek at least 1 more Council member to help on competition days.

Proposed Council

Chairman	Gilbert Golightly	Southmoor GC
Secretary/Treasurer	Ian Watson	Durham City GC
Council Member	Ron Wilson	Castle Eden GC
Council Member	Geoff Dunn	Garesfield GC
Council Member	Alan Hayes	Ramside Hall GC
Council Member	Peter Dewar	Wearside GC
Council Member	John Douthwaite	Ramside Hall GC
Council Member	Brian Robinson	Woodham GC

Captain	Andrew Stewart	Beamish Hall GC
Auditor	DCGU Treasurer	

The above were duly elected

Proposed by B. Lowther seconded by R. Devine.

7. Proposals

1. During 2024 the Council agreed to amend to Rule 2 to confirm the membership fee is non-refundable:

Rule 2 now reads as follows:

2. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to any person over the age of 55 years, at the time of joining such person must be a playing member of a golf club affiliated to the Durham County Golf Union or be a member of a recognised Golf club in the former geographical area of County Durham, or have been born in the County, and not be a member of any other County Seniors Association. Membership qualification may be extended at the discretion of the Council to former members who move to a club outside of County Durham that is affiliated to another County Golf Union and such persons as the association, on the recommendation of an annual general meeting, may elect to be honorary members. To be eligible to play in the County Durham Golf Union Senior annual competitions or for the County Seniors team a player must have paid the **non-refundable** annual membership subscription to the County Durham Golf Union Seniors Section.

Proposed by A. Hayes, seconded by J. Douthwaite and were unanimously accepted.

8. County President toast

Mr. G. Johnson the County President made a short speech congratulating the success of the County members section and the team. He congratulated senior team member Stuart Brown from Castle Eden GC on his selection for the England team. He ended by giving a toast to the Seniors Section.

9. Lunch

10 Presentation

The presentation as set below to those in attendance was made by the County President Mr. G.Johnson.

Geoff Dunn Trophies held at Durham City GC on 10 June 2024

1st A. Macpherson and S. Hetherington

2nd I. Johnston and M. Douthwaite

3rd B. Robinson and P. Robinson

Over 70's

1st B. Hawthorne and T. Lake

2nd T. Bell and A. Wilson

3rd M. Slatcher and J. Marchant

Spring Meeting held at Billingham GC on 1 July 2024

Geoff Howe Trophies

1st B. Robinson and P. Robinson

2nd A. Hayes and A. Preece

3rd J. Forster and R. Beetham

Over 70's

1st W. Wanless and G. Robson

2nd J. Turner and G. Witte

3rd G. Hunter and K. Symington

Summer Meeting held at Beamish Park GC on 22 July 2024

Ken Davidson Trophy and F.D. Dobson Trophies

1st I. Johnston and M. Douthwaite

2nd C. Bell and A. Bunkell

3rd A. Osborne and S. Richardson

Over 70's

1st M. Slatcher and J. Marchant

2nd G. Fowler and A. Jackson

3rd I. Hughes and P. Smith

Texas Scramble held at Sharpley Springs GC on 20 August 2024

1st P. Richards, B. Lowther, G. Whing and R. Devine

2nd S. Eggleston, A. Preece, J.Reach and S. Ingram

3rd A. Laverick, B. Cartridge, F. Carr and R. Burnett

Autumn Meeting held at Chester-le-Street GC on 9 September 2024

Auckland Goblets

1st G. Hunter and K. Symington

2nd S. Richardson and M. Richardson

3rd P. Richards and G. Whing

Over 70's

1st G. Caygill and T. Watson

2nd M. Slatcher and J. Marchant

3rd R. Garden and K. Purvis **Big 6 Trophy**

Presented to Andrew Stewart (Captain) and George Wraith (Vice Captain)

12. Any other business

The meeting was formally closed at 14:00 by the Chairman who wished all a safe journey home and looked forward to a successful 2025.