

BRADFORD & DISTRICT RABBITS GOLF ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 60TH A. G. M. HELD AT THE SHIPLEY GOLF CLUB

WEDNESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2008

The President Mr.P.Wilkinson opened the meeting at 7.30pm, which was attended by 49 members.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr. D.Coupe South Bradford G.C., Mr.S.Rose South Bradford G.C.,Mr.G.Kellett Woodhall Hills G.C., Mr.A.Cooper Woodhall Hills G.C. Mr.A.Turton West Bradford G.C., Mr.J.Pollard Fulneck G.C.,Mr.M.Osborne Baildon G.C., Mr.A.White Bradford Moor G.C.,Mr.P.Barber Bradford Moor G.C.,Mr.K.McGuinness ShipleyG.C. and also Mr.D.Barker,Mr.A.Mawson,and Mr.J.Fortes, Past Presidents.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the 59th A. G. M. were taken as read and proposed by Mr.A.O`Melia Bingley St.Ives G.C. and seconded by Mr.M.Abraham-Thomas Shipley G. C. as a true record. Carried by the meeting.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the previous Annual General Meeting.

President's report: Mr P.Wilkinson thanked all for attending the meeting and welcomed them to Shipley Golf Club. He said it had been a pleasure to represent the Bradford and District Rabbits Golf Association for the past two years at various Yorkshire events which he enjoyed. During the year we play the other YRGA Areas. This year we managed to win three of the Trophies and came third in the Plowright Trophy. He had made many friends in the Yorkshire Area. We have had a big turn round in the Association finances in the last three years and this was due to our Fund Raising Committee headed by Terry Walker. We are now in a position where we have some money in the Bank and are able to upgrade our Trophies. You may have seen the Chippendale Trophy at the Annual Dinner- this was donated by Phoenix Park Rabbits. This year we hope to replace the 18 Hole and the Team Championship Trophies. We are able to hold the Subscription to the same level as last year. He thanked all the Clubs who had invited him to their Dinner. It was a pleasure to attend. He thanked the Vice President ,Terry Walker for standing in for him at some Meetings, taking him to various events and for his efforts in fund raising. Mel Smart our Secretary has done an excellent job keeping the wheels turning. He organises our Golf Calendar up to three years ahead and keeps the Committee informed of the events throughout the year. He thanked him most sincerely for his efforts. He thanked David Oakes for running the League and managing the Website. He thanked Roy Headon for running the Chippendale. He thanked the Committee and all the past Presidents for their help and support and a special thank you to John Kettlewell for his three years on the Yorkshire Committee representing the Association. He said some Rabbits Sections were having difficulty finding members to run their golf and their teams. He hoped the changes to the League Rules had helped. He welcomed Bradford G.C. to the Association and hoped that they would enjoy their golf. He wished everyone a successful year.

Secretary's report: The Secretary thanked the President for his report and said that he had enjoyed working with him in his last year in office. He thanked the Vice President Mr.T.Walker for his assistance and advice throughout the year. He thanked the League Secretary Mr.D.Oakes, the Chippendale Secretary Mr.R.Headon for the sterling work they had done in their respective offices. He particularly thanked Mr.G.Brumfitt the Yorkshire Rabbits Secretary for his help and guidance during the year. He also thanked the Executive Committee and the host of past Presidents who had assisted him and kept him on the straight and narrow. It had made the job that much easier in his fourth year. He looked forward to working with the new President whose contribution to the Association had been immense.

The Association has a Website and any relevant information is on it such as the results of the three Team Championships and the League Results and Tables, the Chippendale Trophy and President's Cup results. The website is www.bdrga.net
He had continued with the News-Letters, which were being sent to all Clubs from time to time. The purpose is to advise all Clubs of the activities of the Association in advance and to circulate results of Championships, and any other information for those not on the net. West Bowling had donated a Trophy Cabinet to the Association and this is now in-situ at Bradford Moor G.C. The Chippendale Trophy had been replaced and there were plans to replace the 18 Hole and Team Championship Trophies. This year is our Diamond Jubilee and to mark the event we are holding a Diamond Jubilee TrophT competition at Bradford Moor G.C. in April. It will be a two man team with one 16-20 and one 21-28 player played in Medal conditions with BOTH cards to count. The winners keep the Trophy.

He went on to describe some of the results for the year.
The President's Cup had been played for in June at West Bradford G.C. and was won by Woodhall Hills G.C. with a score of 121. Runners up were Bingley St.Ives G.C. with 119. The 9 Hole Team Championship had been played in July at Ben Rhydding G.C. and was won by Ben Rhydding G.C. with a score of 244. Runners up were Fulneck G.C. on 264. The best net 16-20 was M.Barrett of Ben Rhydding G.C. with a 59. The best net 21-28 was N.Stacey of East Bierley G.C. with a 58. The Visitors Prize went to D.Brook of Fulneck G.C. with a 61. The 18 Hole Team Championship was held at Cl;eckheaton G.C. in August and the winners were Northcliffe G.C. with a score of 201. Runners up were The Manorl G.C. also on 201. The best net 16-20 was D.Miller of Northcliffe G.C. with a 63. Best net 21-28 was N.Thornton of The Manor G.C. with a 64. The Visitor's Prize went to J.Lee of Northcliffe G.C. with a 64.

The Team Championship was at Calverley G.C. in September and was won by Hollins Hall G.C. with a score of 199. Runners up were Rawdon G.C. Hall on 200. The best net 16-20 was D.Kaye of West Bradford G.C. with a 63. Best 21-28 was G.Eshelby of Rawdon G.C. with a 60. The Visitors Prize was won by G.Lever of Hollins Hall G.C. with a 63.

Champion Rabbit of the Year was G.Eshelby of Rawdon G.C. with a 60.

On a personal note ,together with A.Cooper of Woodhall Hills , he had won the Yorkshire Thornton Trophy. He had also won the Fred Brown Salver for the best net score (57) on the day the Thornton was played at Woodsome Hall. He also won the YRGA Committee Cup. He reported on the Associations activities during the year. He said that we had had Committee Meetings at ShipleyG.C., West Bradford G.C., South Bradford G.C., Baildon G.C. Northcliffe G.C. He thanked each club for the use of their Course and facilities.

The Association had played Inter District matches against Wakefield, drew 3 to 3 , Harrogate lost 4 to 2 ,Leeds Area won 4 to 2 ,Huddersfield lost 4to 2, and Flamborough Area, wont 4 to 2. The President, Secretary and Mr J.Kettlewell had attended Y.R.G.A. Committee Meetings at Wath G.C., Whitby G.C., Bingley St.Ives G.C. and Ripon G.C. and a Bradford team came third in the Plowright Trophy won by Harrogate Area.

He then gave the dates of Venues in 2008.

The Diamond Jubilee Trophy is at Bradford Moor G.C. on Sunday 6th April.

The President's Cup is at West Bradford G.C.on Sunday 8th June.

The 9 Hole Team Championship is at Rawdon G.C. on Sunday 6th July.

The 18 Hole Team Championship is at Howley Hall G.C. on Sunday 3rd August

The Team Championship will be at Silsden G.C. on Sunday 7th September.

The Annual Dinner will be on Friday 24th October at Woodhall Hills at 7.30 pm.

All these dates are in the 2008 Handbook.

He hoped that as far as the organisation was concerned that the Association has as good a year as in 2007 and was looking forward once again to working with Terry Walker, the new President, and also everyone on the BDRGA Committee.

He wished all Club Secretaries well in the coming year with the organisation of their events, it is always a difficult task to get everything right. He wished Captains a good year l in picking their teams. He would always be available to answer any queries.

League Secretary's report: Mr Oakes said the 2007 Season was once again a huge success. The poor weather played a part in the bumpy progress of the Season, with two weeks particularly badly affected. Almost all the rearranged fixtures were completed before the end of the Season. For the second year in a row he had managed to upset Skipton but this was not intentional. He thanked all the Captains and Vice Captains for ringing in the results promptly each week. This allowed him to collate the results and get them to the T & A and on to the Website each Thursday night.

The final League positions for 2007 were as follows:

Division A. Winners Howley Hall G.C. 41pts. Runners up Baildon G.C. 41pts .
Relegated to Div. B Shipley G.C. and West Bradford G.C. s

Division B Winners Riddlesden G.C. 47pts runners up Clayton 44 pts move to Div A
Relegated to Div C Hollins Hall G.C. and Cleckheaton G.C.

Division C Winners Ben Rhydding G.C. 42 pts runners up Branshaw G.C. move to Div B.
Relegated to Div D Rawdon G.C. and Bradford Moor G.C.

Division D Winners Northcliffe 34pts runners up East Bierley G.C. 33pts move to Div C.

For the 2008 Season, with the misunderstandings of last year we have two proposed Rule changes. The first to clarify the position with regard to replayed or cancelled fixtures. The second to change the order of the Clubs with the same number of points and games won. This will now be decided on a "number of points won" basis. Please be aware that if a player does not turn up, the match will awarded as a 10 & 8 defeat which could be significant at the end of the Season.

He took this opportunity to welcome Bradford G.C. back to the Association. For Teams in Division C please note that at the end of the Season only one Team will be relegated to Division D. This will leave Divisions A, B, and C with seven Teams and Division D with six. He wished all Teams in the Bradford League the very best for the coming Season and looked forward to talking to all as they ring in the Results.

Chippendale report: Mr Headon reported that the Season started slowly with one Club not being able to field a Team at all, and as usual most Matches being played in the last few days. It appeared once again that some of the Players had not been given all the details regarding what to do about reporting the Result, which resulted in disqualification. He said he thought it unfair that Players who had gone through two or three rounds only to be disqualified through not being told the correct procedure. So please ensure all Players are given all the details regarding Rule problems and reporting Results.

The semi finals were held at Headley G.C. on Sunday 19th August between Keighley G.C. and W. Bradford G.C. in the A Division which Keighley won, and between East Bierley G.C. and Riddlesden in the B Division which East Bierley won.

The final was played at Shipley G.C. on Sunday 26th August and the winner was East Bierley by a margin of 4 & 2. He thanked both Clubs for the venue and also the Referees.

This year we have a new Trophy thanks to Phoenix Park donating their silverware. He wanted East Bierley to know that should they win the Trophy for a third time, they would not be allowed to keep it for ever.

He reminded Captains about the production of Handicap Certificates at **ALL** matches.

He also wanted to remind everyone that as from 1st January some Drivers are illegal and for Players to check with their Professional beforehand as this is a disqualifying rule you must be wary of. He wished everyone well for the coming Season and looked forward to seeing many of you during the year, especially at the semi final and final.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer presented a balance sheet of £5566.12 in which he said we started the year with £2453.55 and finished with £3042.23.

On the income side :

Ties sold as well as could be expected. Players entries are down because two Clubs left the Association. This also applies to the Subscription and Competition fees. The Dinner made a surplus mainly because more people (89) came as compared with (73) last year. Fund Raising had made £815 and this was excellent. It was up on last year despite two

Clubs leaving and this was entirely due to the tireless efforts of Mr.Terry Walker. The Bank Interest had increased substantially because we opened a new "Treasurer`s Account" in 2006 giving a higher rate of interest. The funds are in a healthy state and it was decided to leave the Subscription in 2008 at £11.50 in line with the other Competition fees.

The total fee will remain the same at £69.00.

On the expenditure side:

Handbooks had decreased to £125.00 thanks to the local Printers. The Golf Insurance had been submitted to a different Firm ,who do not charge a levy. We have a Website and that fee is £10.45. There was no presentation in this years accounts. Hospitality was up because more helpers had taken advantage of it at the President`s Cup, the 9 Hole, 18 Hole, and Team Championships, and at the Dinner, and also because the food was charged at the 9 Hole Team Championship, that cost previously had been taken up by the Host Club. The administration was down mainly because he had done his own printing. The Chippendale Trophy had been replaced at a cost of £150.00. It had been given to the Association by Phoenix Park. It was planned to replace the 18 Hole and Team Championship Trophies using Trophies donated by Phoenix Park and West Bowling. The cost to alter is £150 per Trophy so this will be phased in as funds become available. The Committee had authorised him to purchase new computer equipment and that cost would be in next years` accounts.

He thanked all Golf Clubs for their prompt payments of bills etc into the Association funds. The funds are in a healthy state and he hoped they would continue.

He looked forward to another prosperous and successful year.

The Treasurer`s Report was proposed by Mr.G.Senior East Bierley G.C., seconded by Mr.J.Kettlewell Shipley G.C. and carried unanimously by the Meeting.

Committee Recommendations: Your Committee recommends that League Rule 6 be altered to read: If for any valid reason play is unable to start, or has to be discontinued, then the Match will have to be completed within thirteen days or the end of the Season, whichever comes sooner , by mutual consent, or except under unusual circumstances. This was proposed by Mr.D.Oakes and seconded by Mr.K.Jackson Headley G.C. and carried by the Meeting.

Your Committee recommends that League Rule 7 be altered to read: In the event of a tie to decide promotion or relegation the deciding factor will be the number of Matches won. If still level the decision will be based on individual results, holes won or lost.

This was proposed by Mr.D.Oakes and seconded by Mr.J.Williamson Calverley G.C. and carried by the Meeting.

Your Committee recommends that the Voting Powers be altered to read: The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers, Past and Life Presidents and an elected Committee of eight, elected at the Annual General Meeting, each having one vote.

In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote.

This was proposed by Mr.T.Walker and seconded by Mr.G.Brumfitt Baildon G.C.

Mr.Wilkinson said it was time to stand down and hand over the chain of office. He had had a marvellous time as Secretary and as President and hoped that some good had come from his time in office. He then announced the advancement of Mr.Terry Walker to be President of the Bradford & District Rabbits Golf Association and his best wishes.

Mr.Walker said it was a great pleasure to be President of the Association in 2008.

He welcomed all to help celebrate the Diamond Jubilee by coming to Bradford Moor on Sunday 6th April where it was all started by Sam Chippendale in 1948.

He was pleased that Bradford G.C. had rejoined the Association, they have been missed. He would endeavour to do his best for the Players and the Association in the next two years.

Election of Officers:

The following were the Committee recommendations for the year 2006 and approved by the members present.

President	Mr T.Walker	Bradford Moor G. C.
Vice-President	Mr A.A.Sharman	Baildon G. C.
Secretary	Mr M. A. J. Smart	Woodhall Hills G. C.
League Secretary	Mr D.Oakes	Woodhall Hills G. C.
Chippendale Secretary	Mr.R.Headon	South Bradford G.C.

This was Carried by the Meeting.

Election of Committee:

There were nine nominees for the Committee and the President said that a vote was required. He then read out their names as follows:-

Messrs,S.Stupka Keighley G.C., K.Jackson Headley G.C. G.Senior East Bierley G.C., H.Burnham Baildon G.C., S.Rose South Bradford G.C., D.Armstead Cleckheaton G.C., J.Lee Northcliffe G.C., A.Dorymeade West Bradford G.C., J.Raybould Bingley St.Ives G.C. A vote was taken and Mr.S.Rose was the unsuccessful Candidate.

Resolutions and recommendations received:

The Secretary said that there were no resolutions received.

Any Other Business.

Mr.R.Taylor Bradford G.C. said they were glad to be back in the Association but that he could not understand the logic of not allowing Five Day Members to play in the Association`s competitions.

Mr.M.Smart said that the Rules were made by the Member Clubs and democratically passed at an Annual General Meeting with a two thirds majority counting. He would have to lobby all the Clubs and put a Resolution to alter it to a future AGM.

A discussion took place and Mr.O`Melia Bingley St.Ives G.C. mentioned the different restrictions placed on 5Day Members differs between Clubs. Mr.J.Lee Northcliffe G.C. mentioned that not all Clubs have midweek Competitions played from the WHITE tees and therefore Handicapping is a difficulty. Mr.R.Headon South Bradford G.C. mentioned there are time restrictions for 5Day Members which differ between Clubs. The general consensus was that the Meeting was not in favour.

Vote of Thanks.

Mr A.A.Sharman Vice President proposed a vote of thanks to Shipley Golf Club for the use of the Clubhouse and facilities for Meetings and events of the Association; this was carried by the meeting.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 8.53pm.

President T.Walker

Secretary M.J.A.Smart.