

BRADFORD & DISTRICT RABBITS GOLF ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 64TH A. G. M. HELD AT EAST BIERLEY GOLF CLUB

WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2012

The President Mr.G.H.Senior opened the meeting at 7.30pm, which was attended by 47 members.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr.A.Lister, Mr.A.Mawson, Mr.J.Fortes, Mr.M.Abraham-Thomas, Mr.D.Barker, all Past Presidents, Mr.R.Taylor, Bradford G.C., Mr.G.Dean, Mr.D.Armstead Cleckheaton G.C. and Mr.I.Bannister Keighley G.C.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the 63rd A. G. M. were taken as read and proposed by Mr.K.G.Brumfitt Baildon G.C. and seconded by Mr.D.Robinson Cleckheaton 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 G.H.Senior welcomed all to East Bierley Golf Club and hoped everyone had a good Christmas and wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. He said we all have hopes of much better golf but most Rabbits know how to enjoy the game and the great company that comes with it,whatever the outcome. If not we would have given up years ago. We had been quite successful as a golfing Committee with the help of some of you as our guests from time to time. We won our 2011 matches against Harrogate and Wakefield Areas but lost against Leeds and Flamborough and drew against Huddersfield/ Halifax. Two from five, so we can improve. However, we won the big one, the Plowright Trophy at Moor Allerton beating all the other Areas. What a day, particularly for Ian Bannister from Keighley who was top individual on the day with the only score under par. He could not be here tonight but well done to him and the rest of the Team. He said the Secretary would give the results of the Competitions but he thanked the Host Clubs and all the members of staff for their help. He thanked the Rabbits Captains and their Teams for taking part and hoped they enjoyed the events. He hoped that the new Rabbits Captains would enjoy their time in Office and ensure their Clubs are fully represented at all 2012 events. He appreciated that it is not always easy but a lot of effort goes into these events at this end and he was sure most of the Players enjoy themselves, win or lose. He congratulated all the winning individuals and Clubs. He said these events are highly competitive and success does not come easily. He wished them better luck next time, particularly South Bradford. He said many Members of the Committee help at these events and he was sure you became used to the same faces. He wished to thank all these gentlemen now at the end of his term, particularly Mr.J.Kettlewell for being Starter. He said he hoped all Rabbits Captains would support the YRGA 75th Anniversary Competition which he was helping to organise. It would be great to see a Bradford Club winning it. He thanked everyone for attending the Meeting and to not lose too many balls whilst playing.

Secretary's Report. The Secretary thanked the President for his Report and said that he had enjoyed working with him in his second year in office. He thanked the Vice President , Mr. D.Oakes for his assistance and advice throughout the year and for his work as the League Secretary, He thanked and the Chippendale Secretary Mr.R.Headon for the sterling work he had done. He also thanked the Executive Committee and the host of former Presidents who had assisted him and kept him on the straight and narrow. It had made the job that much easier and had made his sixth year that much more enjoyable. He was looking forward to working with the new Executive Committee. He looked forward to another successful year working with the President.

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 Cup and

the President's Cup results. The website is WWW.BDRGA.net

His intention in 2012 will be to use E-Mail increasingly as a means of communication, because it gets the information better to the user and also saves money both ways in Postage.

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 Shipley G.C. The 9 Hole Team Championship had been played in July at South Bradford G.C. was won by Rawdon G.C. The 18 Hole Team Championship was at Shipley G.C. in August and the winners were Bingley St.Ives G.C. The Team Championship was held at Halifax G.C. in September and was won by Halifax G.C. Champion Rabbit of the Year was Mr.D.Garth of **Baildon G.C.** He reported on the Association's activities during the year.

He said that we had had Committee Meetings at , East Bierley , Shipley, Silsden,Keighley, Baildon,Woodhall Hills and South Bradford. He thanked each Club for allowing the Association the use of their Courses and facilities. The Association had played Inter District matches winning against Wakefield Area ,halving against Harrogate Area, losing against Leeds Area , halving with Huddersfield Area , and losing to Flamborough Area. We came second in the Triangular Event between us,the Bradford Union and the 8-15s.

The President,the Secretary and Mr.T.Walker had attended Y.R.G.A Committee Meetings at Malton,Shipley, Crosland Heath, and Rudding Park and a Bradford Team had played in the Plowright Trophy at Moor Allerton,winning the Trophy.

He then gave the dates and venues for 2012.

The President's Cup is at West Bradford on Sunday 3rd June

The 9 Hole Team Championship is at Fulneck on Sunday 1st July.

The 18 Hole Team Championship is at West Bradford on Sunday 5th August

The Team Championship is at Bingley StIves on Sunday 2nd September.

The Annual Dinner will be on Friday 5th October at Woodhall Hills G.C. at 7.30 pm.

All these dates will be in the 2012 Handbook.

He hoped that as far as the organisation was concerned that the Association has as good a year as 2011 and was looking forward once again to working with 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. And he wished all Club Captains a good year in picking their teams. He would always be available to answer any queries.

League Secretary's report: Mr Oakes said the 2011 Season was a great success with many closely fought games played throughout the season. A couple of close shaves with adverse weather were avoided when the affected players returned to the course to complete their rounds. Well done.

The final League positions for 2011 were as follows:

Division A. Winners Baildon 46pts. Runners up West Bradford 44pts .
Relegated to Div. B Rawdon and Skipton.

Division B Winners Woodhall Hills 35pts. Runners up Cleckheaton 34 pts move to Div A
Relegated to Div C Keighley.

Division C Winners Northcliffe 47pts Runners up The Manor 47 pts move to Div B.
Relegated to Div D Ben Rhydding and Hollins Hall.

Division D Winners South Bradford 37pts Runners up Halifax 37pts move to Div C.

He said that in 2012 there are seven Teams in Divisions A & B and six Teams in Division C 7 D. He thanked all last years` Captains and Vice Captains for ringing in the Results promptly each week. **Please** remember that Results **must** be reported by **10.30pm** otherwise the points from the match **will** be forfeited.

Chippendale report: Mr Headon said 2011 turned out to be very much like other years in that teams were slow in getting started and unfortunately he had to disqualify tow team for running out of time. He asked Captains to see that their teams were made aware of the dates of each round and avoid the risk of being disqualified. Apart from that all the rest of the competition ran quite well with the semi-final being held at South Bradford in August , the A Teams being Clayton & Rawdon and the B Teams Baildon & Keighley.

Rawdon and Baildon getting to the Final which was played at The Manor in September. This turned out to be quite a close match with Rawdon running out the Winners 2&1. He thanked The Manor for the way they were treated on the day. The Staff were excellent and the Members on the Course for their help and encouragement. He looked forward to the coming Season and hoped that everyone had a good year and to seeing who turn up in the Final this year.

Treasurer's report: We had a starting figure of £3453.11. As you will see from the Balance Sheet this figure has risen to £3738.00.

Dealing with the Income Side first:-

Subscriptions are down because Howley Hall left the Association.

Players Entries were up because more people played.

The Dinner made a slight surplus. No ties were sold. This is seasonal.

Bank Interest is still being killed by the after effects of the Credit Crunch.

Fund Raising was up due to the efforts of the Fund Raisers. We sold one Handbook.

Dealing with the Expenditure Side second:-

Handbooks increased due to inflation. Insurance was the same as was the Website Fee.

Cups/Shields were up due to inflation as were the Prizes.

Hospitality was up because more people had taken advantage of it.

Postage was up because an extra 100 stamps were bought before the price went up.

The Telephone Bill was up due to inflation. Trophy upgrades were down.

We had only obtained the new Champion League Rabbit Trophy.

He said we had a very good year considering the economic climate. He thanked all the others who had assisted him during the year, particularly the Fund Raising Team.

He thanked all Golf Clubs for their prompt payment into the Association's Funds.

There are no immediate plans for large expenditure and the Funds are in a healthy state, so much so that he proposed to reduce the Subscription to £60.

The Committee had also decided to increase the Donation to Clubs holding Championships from £150 to £200 for 18 Hole Clubs and from £100 to £150 for 9 Hole Clubs.

They had also decided to increase the value of Prizes given to Championship Winners.

He looked forward to another successful and prosperous year.

The Accounts were proposed by Mr.T.Walker Bradford Moor G.C. and seconded by Mr. J.Pollard Fulneck G.C. and Carried by the Meeting.

Committee Recommendations: Your Committee recommends that the Subscription be reduced to £60.00. This was proposed by M.J.A.Smart of Woodhall Hills and seconded by Mr.S.Hunt Silsden G.C. and carried by the Meeting.

The President made his closing remarks saying it had been a privilege to be President of the BDRGA and to meet everyone over the past two years. He thanked everyone who had supported him: The Past Presidents, the Executive Committee, Roy Headon for his Chippendale work, David Oakes for running the League, Mel Smart, with whom he did not always agree but he could not have managed without his hard work and commitment as Secretary. Peter Magee for his first Audit of the books, Terry Walker the YRGA Representative, Terry has had a difficult time since his accident, he wished him a continuing recovery, Keith Jackson, a Raffle Ticket Seller to be feared and once again David Oakes for being a first class Vice President. The Association is in good hand. He then handed over his Chain of Office.

Mr.Oakes took over the Chain of Office and his first task was to present the Immediate Past President with a Memento of his two years as president.

He said Mr.Senior had not had an easy time but at all times he had handled himself and the situation with complete self control and patience. He hoped that he would be as patient. He said it was with a certain amount of trepidation that he took Office this year. He hoped that he could do the Association proud. He said that he will do his level best to ensure that he represents the Association to the best of his abilities. He hoped that

everyone had an enjoyable and successful golfing year in 2012 and looked forward to seeing everyone at the various events throughout the year.

Election of Officers:

Your Committee recommends that the following Officers be elected for 2012:-

President	Mr. D.Oakes	Woodhall Hills G.C.
Vice-President	Mr. K.Jackson	Headley 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 seven nominees for the Executive Committee and the President then read out the nominees names as follows:-

Messrs, D.Armstead Cleckheaton G.C.,I.Bannister Keighley G.C., P.Magee Baildon G.C. Mr.S.Hunt Silsden G.C., Mr.B.Ashford Bradford G.C., Mr.G.Dean Shipley G.C., Mr.M.Collier West Bradford G.C. Mr.M.Elliott Rawdon G.C. was nominated from the Floor.

All were elected by the Meeting.

Resolutions and recommendations received:

The Secretary said that there was a Resolution received from Bradford Golf Club as follows:- To allow 6 Day Members to play in Association Events. To allow 5 Day Members to play in the League and to plat in the Chippendale up to and including the Fourth Round.

Mr.M.Dixon was invited to put forward the proposal and explain the reasoning behind it, which he did. His proposal was seconded by Mr.J.Kettlewell Shipley G.C. A discussion took place and several people mentioned the YRGA Playing Rule which is:- The Player must have playing rights at his home Club to play without any additional payment on the day and time of the Competition. Further discussion took place and it was decided to adopt the Yorkshire Rule. This was proposed by Mr.M.Dixon Bradford G.C. and seconded by Mr.J.Kettlewell Shipley G.C. and a vote was taken and carried by 36 in favour, 5 against and there were 4 abstentions.

Any Points of Interest to Raise.

The President gave the Meeting a second opportunity for any comments.

Mr.Robinson Cleckheaton G.C. asked whether, in view of the healthy finances, the value of the Prizes could be increased.

The Treasurer said that this was indeed the case. Winners and Runners Up Prizes would be differentiated. The Donation to Host Clubs at Championships had also been increased by £50 each.

Cleckheaton are introducing a new Competition to be held there on Sunday 8th July called the Rabbits Officials Challenge. This will be a Team of four event open to all Clubs in the BDRGA and will be £50 per Team consisting of just Rabbits Official.

Vote of Thanks.

Mr K.Jackson the Vice President proposed a vote of thanks to East Bierley Golf Club for the use of the Clubhouse and facilities for Meeting; this was carried by the meeting.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

President D.Oakes.

Secretary M.J.A.Smart M.C.I.T.