

Fylde Scratch League Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Friday 24th October, 2008

League President John Roberts (JR), opened the meeting at 18.35, providing those in attendance 5 minutes to review a copy of the minutes from last year's meeting, together with both the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports.

The minutes were duly approved by Brian Dickie and seconded by Ian Hill, the meeting accepting the minutes as a true record.

Matters Arising

- The League Secretary, David Hannis (DH), outlined that following the acceptance at last year's AGM of Lancaster Golf Club's application to the League, formal approval was sought from the eight League clubs. Approval was received from 5 clubs; however two clubs confirmed that they could not endorse the recommendation. Another voted against the move as they believed if Lancaster was allowed to join, one or more of the two dissenters would leave the League. The general mood and comments from the floor was a sense of disappointment that the recommendation was not passed, particularly given that it was for a 2 year trial period.

Secretary's Report

- DH walked through his end of season report, expressing his thanks to the Club secretaries for their co-operation in handling the weekly league table updates and to the team captains for communicating through the match results. Highlights were St Annes Old Links winning the Knock Out and Challenge Bowl. Blackpool Park winning the Winter Foursomes. The Fylde Amateur Championship winner was Dean Moseley, while Clark Windross of Old Links beat David Hannis of North Shore in the Bowman final. The League title went down to the last match of the year between Old Links and North Shore, North Shore achieving the 2.5 points they needed to claim the League Title. However, the main highlight of One of the season had to be the success of Fylde representative team in the Lancashire Scratch League where in a repeat of last year's final, the team managed to gain revenge over Manchester in the Final. The Report was approved and accepted.

Financial Report

- Prior to discussing the report JR outlined that Treasurer, Mike Hill had announced his decision to resign his position. DH outlined his personal thanks and that of the League for Mike's significant service and contribution to the League over the past 25 years be it as a general league supporter or later in his role as League President.
- JR announced that Clark Windross (CW) had volunteered to take on the role of President. This motion was proposed by Brian Dickie and seconded by Paul Collinson. There being no other candidates for the position a show of hands confirmed the appointment of CW as the

new League Treasurer. CW expressed his delight at being able to assist in the administration of the League and was keen to work and assist DH.

- JR went on to explain that given the handover of the position, DH had prepared a Financial Report. DH started by apologizing for an administration error on his part that had led to an incorrect statement of the financial position for the previous year where the League had incurred a loss of just £1.60 and not £227.61 as reported at last year's meeting. He then went on to walk through the meeting on this year's finances where in summary the League's expenditure exceeded its income by £213.88. This was due in part to the fact the League staged two home matches in the Lancashire Scratch League, each match costing an average of £100.
- Elsewhere, a poor entrance to the Fylde Championship resulted in the event racking up a loss of £44.88. The League's final cash balance now stands at £102.59. Discussions then focused on why the Fylde Championship was so poorly supported, where it was felt the event needed to be held on a Friday rather than Wednesday. It was also proposed that the concept of a Fylde Net Championship be considered should next season's event not attract a full field. DH outlined his intention to levy a £1 entry for all those playing in the Winter Foursomes and Challenge Bowl to cover the cost of the individual prizes of each event.

Format for 2008

Handicap Playing Order

- It was agreed that for all League matches, clubs needed to play their team in strict handicap order.

The Bowman

- Agreement was found to run the event on the same basis as last year, as such each club may submit 4 players to compete in the event, the top 16 of the Fylde Amateur Championship immediately qualifying for the second round.

Knock Out

- It was agreed that captains may position their players in any order they chose.

Lancashire Scratch League

- DH outlined how he had raised the League's disappointment at the staging of last year's final on a Wednesday at 3pm which had impacted on the ability for Fylde to play its strongest team. This year's event had been staged at Brightmet Golf Club which was seen as a strange choice given the strength of the county's courses and it was agreed was not in keeping with the "blue ribbon" nature of the event.
- There was general frustration in the poor arrangements by Southport of our match with them which was arranged just a week before the final. It was generally felt the event still fails to achieve what was originally its intention and that a re-think over the final stages was necessary, if not the whole event.

League Format

- CW circulated the workings of a proposed two league structure to be implemented in 2010, which if approved would see the top four finishing clubs in the 2008 League move to League 1 with the bottom four creating League 2. Each League would then be played on a home and away basis, with the bottom team in League 1 being demoted to League 2 and the top of League 2 promoted to League 1. General feedback was that everyone was convinced that the home and away format resulted in a more appropriate league champion, however it was quickly agreed that the two league structure was not conducive to the health of the League.
- DH outlined that it was not worth discussing a motion to re-introduce the home and away format for the League as one club in particular was unable to host any additional games. It was agreed after some debate that the League had been stronger over the past couple of seasons, following concerns raised over certain teams not fielding a full team. The format for 2009 will be on the same format as that of 2008, namely on a home or away basis.

Website

- CW outlined the basis of a dedicated Fylde Amateur Golf website which would provide ongoing information on Scratch League events and developments, with links to each of the 8 league member club sites. The ability to download an entry form for the Fylde Amateur Championship will in itself save the League £100 per annum and this combined with a reduction in postage costs will cover the annual operational costs of the site. CW outlined how he had arranged affiliates with a number of other sites that will generate income for the league on any linked sales.
- DH outlined the concept of a "friends to the League" area in the form of a list of company logos linked to either a dedicated web page or the company's website, which would come at a cost of £25-30 per annum. It was generally agreed that a link through to an online golf equipment selling site was not appropriate with it better to approach the Fylde club professional to see if they wished to support the site in some form. The site address is www.fyldeamateurgolf.com and it was agreed that each club would promote the existence of the site.

Any Other Business

- After some debate it was agreed that Range Finders could be used in any Fylde Scratch League event, be it a league match or say the Amateur Championship or Challenge Bowl. This will override any club based rule. There being no other business JR closed the meeting at 19.50.

David Hannis Secretary
Fylde Scratch League

Fylde Scratch League AGM 2008 - Treasurer's Report **2007 Adjustments/Corrections**

The following adjustments were deemed necessary following the submission of last year's accounts. On review an error in the spreadsheet calculations on which the figures were calculated led to the overall position being shown incorrectly. After a full review it was found that the League's income was £1.60 less than its costs for the year, rather than the suggested loss of £227.61. (Apologies to the Treasurer and from the Secretary, who was behind this).

2008 Summary

Income

The Clubs all kindly remitted their subscription of £125, providing total income of £1,000. Income was also generated from the Fylde Amateur Championship in the form of sponsorship of £100 from Stewart Longton Caravans. The championship itself took more funds following an increase in the entry to £30, but surprisingly there was a fall in entry numbers.

Expenditure

As a result of the reduced entry for the Championship and a couple of no shows on the day, the committee made the difficult decision to reduce the prize fund. This had been increased on a pro rata basis to the entry cost. This finally led to an overall loss of £44.88. This year we hosted an extra Lancashire Scratch League match which gave rise to additional expenditure of around £100. A move to host a more limited supper after the final of the Bowman led to a reduction on last year of some £70. This aside expenditure items were similar in nature and cost to previous years, save for the cost of trophies which was slightly up due to the size of the League winners playing squad.

Summary

Over the year the League incurred a loss of £213.88. Cash at the bank will be £102.59, following the receipt of outstanding sponsorship funds.

David Hannis, On behalf of Retiring Treasurer, Mike Hill.

Fylde Scratch League- Secretary's Report 2008

I am pleased to submit my Secretary's report to the AGM of the Fylde Scratch League, where I am pleased to report the season has run smoothly without incident.

League Championship

- It is pleasing to report that the weather did not play that big a role in the running of the League this year, with all matches being played pretty much in line with the League schedule. The League Title came down to the final match of the year between St. Anne's Old Links. North Shore achieved the 2.5 points they required to secure victory on what was a tension filled evening. A personal thank you is extended to each of the team captains for their assistance in providing me with match results. I would also extend my thanks to each of the Club Secretaries for posting the League Table and results on your notice boards.

Fylde Scratch Championship

- The Fylde Amateur Championship attracted a fairly disappointing field this year where with a matter of a couple of weeks to go I had only received around 35 entries. A bout of running around led to the field increasing to a final playing number of 49 entrants which regrettably led to a need to reduce the prize fund to ensure the event did not lose too large a sum. The day itself ran very smoothly aided no end by the excellent support provided by John Morris, while the donation of a full score board service by the PGA North Region added to the day. I would also like to extend my thanks to Steve Hall of Stewart Longton Caravans, our sponsors on the day for the third year running.

The Bowman

- Following the success of last year's introduction of the top 16 players in the Fylde Scratch Championship, gaining automatic entry to round 2, the event was run on the same format this year. It is pleasing to report that the early round matches were on the whole actually played to a result rather than byes being awarded. The Semi-Final and Finals, were kindly staged at Royal Lytham with David Hannis and Scott Gowland of North Shore going head to head in one semi-final and Mike Tchebanian again of North Shore taking on Clark Windross of Old Links in the other. Clark had a run of form from the 9th onwards to defeat Miki as he would do again in the final a week later where he went on to win the final against David Hannis. An aggregate age in the final of 90 will take some beating - unless we get through to the final again this year. Thanks are due to Royal Lytham for their staging of the event and use of the course and clubhouse.

Knock-Out

- After the success of last year's event the Knock-out was staged at the beginning of the season and again included a plate event. The final was staged at North Shore between Old

Links and Royal Lytham and it was quite fitting that the final and deciding match between arguably the best two players on the Fylde Coast should go to the 19th. A fantastic second shot by Sam Stuart to within a few feet of the flag was not matched by Dave Corsby - title Old Links. The plate final between Fleetwood and the Park also went to the final hole with Neil Crozzy Croston hitting his 5 iron to 10 feet to clinch victory. Thanks again to North Shore for the use of the course and an excellent supper which was appreciated by all present.

Challenge Bowl

- The Challenge Bowl at Green Drive was played on one of the few nice weekends during September. It was to prove something of a two horse race between Old Links and Royal Lytham, in the end Old Links taking victory by 7 shots. The course was in excellent conditions but playing particularly difficult as reflected in the Standard Scratch going up to 72.

Winter Foursomes

- The Winter Foursomes event was a huge success at the Park, the course in reasonable condition and again we had a reasonably dry day. The event was finally one by the hosts on a card playoff from North Shore. Scoring was extremely good given that it was foursomes bogey and this year a number of people actually managed to fill in their bogey score card correctly.

Lancashire Scratch League

- The highlight of the season though was the League representative team's performance in the Lancashire Scratch League. A sound victory against both North Lancs at Knott End and Preston District at Green Drive left us with the need to only secure a draw against Southport at Southport & Ainsdale to achieve a second consecutive showing in the final. It is pleasing to report that we achieved a draw leading to the team moving on to the final at Brightmet Golf Club in Bolton. Despite having to call on a number of squad members for the final, with the team consisting of 6 Old Links members, the boys gained revenge on last year's victors Manchester, winning 4.5 to 2.5 to become county champions.
- Thanks to the President and Brian Dickie in particular for organising and selecting the winning teams. Given the strength and depth of golf on the Fylde I am confident we will defend the title with pride in 2009. In conclusion I would like to extend my thanks to all of the team captains and secretaries for their support and assistance over the course of the season. I would also like to thank John Roberts as our League President for his encouragement over the past year.
- I look forward to a successful 2009 season and hope the level of commitment from each of the team captains and players will allow the League to go from strength to strength for many years to come. The proposed introduction of a dedicated website will hopefully ensure that everyone is able to keep up with all League developments and events.

David Hannis, Secretary.

October, 2008.