

Fylde Scratch League Annual General Meeting Minutes



Fri, 23rd October, 2009. 18:30 Hrs


Venue: North Shore G.C, Blackpool

Present	<p>(JR) John Roberts, League President (DH) David Hannis, League Secretary (CW) Clark Windross, League Treasurer, Web Design Mr. J Collis, Captain of the Fylde Society of Club Captains. Mr. K Turner, Captain, Knott End G.C. Mr. R. B Hills, Captain, Fleetwood. Mr. J Cottam, Captain, Lytham Green Drive G.C. Mr. B Livesey, Vice-Captain, Blackpool North Shore G.C. Mr. I Stewart, Secretary, Lytham Green Drive G.C. Mr. J Morris, Secretary, Blackpool North Shore G.C. Mr. C Wright, Secretary, Blackpool Park G.C. Mr. B Dickie, SAOL Scratch Team Captain. Mr. C Smith, Fleetwood Scratch Team Captain. Mr. G Neill, Knott End Scratch Team Captain. Mr. C Berry, Knott End Scratch Team Vice-Captain. Mr. I Hill, Royal Lytham G.C, Scratch Team Captain. Mr. P Collinson, Blackpool Park G.C, Scratch Team Captain. Mr. L Collinson (Blackpool Park) League Player. Mr. L Walker (Knott End) League Player. Mr. A Croston (Fleetwood) League Player. Mr. N Croston (Fleetwood) League Player.</p>
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1	Welcome & Apologies for Absence
1.1	<p>Apologies were received from: Mr. P. Riddle, Blackpool North Shore G.C, Scratch Team Captain. Mr. D Beaver, Lytham Green Drive G.C, Scratch Team Captain. Mr. R Jebbett, Fairhaven GC, Scratch Team Captain.</p>
2	Minutes of the previous meeting
2.1	JR formally opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending the AGM and hoped the meeting would go smoothly and that the league would benefit from everyone's input in going forward. JR handed over to DH to review the minutes of the previous AGM.
2.2	DH read through the previous meeting minutes and asked the floor to vote on acceptance that they were a true and accurate record of the last AGM.
Proposed: Seconded: Vote:	<p>Mr. I. Hill Mr. J Morris Carried: Unanimously</p>
2.3	<p>Matter Arising There were no matters arising, although it was pointed out that CW was voted in last year as Treasurer and not President as was minuted.</p>
3	Secretary's Report
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opening Remarks The Secretary submitted his report to the meeting for the 2009 season and was pleased to report that the league had run smoothly, with only the odd incident to deal with. From a personal standpoint the introduction of the Fylde Scratch League website had significantly

	<p>improved the efficiencies of the post and wished to record his thanks to CW for his dedication to maintaining the site and ensuring that it has been a focal point of interest throughout the season, leading to an excess of 3000 hits, since its introduction some 12 months ago.</p>
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Scratch League Championship DH was pleased to report that the weather did not play a role in the running of the league this year, with all matches being played pretty much in line with the league schedule apart from the match between Lytham Green Drive and North Shore, which was rearranged by mutual consent. The hosting of the Ladies British Open qualifying by Fairhaven also led to the match between them and Royal Lytham being moved, which was re-scheduled prior to the commencement of the league. As occurred last year, the league title again came down to the final match of the year with one of North Shore, Royal Lytham & St. Anne's Old Links capable of snatching the title. As it transpired, North Shore beat St. Anne's Old Links 5-1, home advantage paying dividends, with Royal's narrow victory away at Fairhaven 2½ - 3½ being sufficient for them to take second place. DH then thanked each Team Captain for their assistance in providing match results and reports, the latter hopefully providing some additional interest for website visitors. DH wanted to also, pay special thanks to the Club Secretaries for posting the League Tables and results on their notice boards and again to CW for ensuring the website was up to date.
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Fylde Amateur Championships DH reported that a late burst in entries to the Fylde Amateur ensured a fine turn out in this year's premier scratch event, with a field of 52 players. St. Anne's Old Links' request to move the event from Mid-August to Mid-September ensured that the event was played in excellent conditions and on a course presented to tour golf standard. DH did feel that moving the event did lead to fewer Junior Section entrants, as the event fell in school times, something he felt could be improved on for next year. The only 'sour' note of the day was a number of complete no-shows which necessitated a last minute adjustment to the draw, with a number of players who withdrew in the run up to the event still to pay their entry fee. It is intended that those who refuse to make good their entry will be informed that as such they will be ineligible to play in future events. The day itself ran very smoothly and a special mention to Dave Turnbull, Secretary of Old Links for his efforts over the course of the day, whilst again the donation of a full score board service by the PGA North Region brought appropriate attention to the proceedings of the day. Finally, DH extended his thanks to Steve Hall of Stewart Longton Caravans, our sponsors on the day for the fourth year running. On a difficult scoring day, due largely to the fast running and difficult greens, Ian Hill proved triumphant with a level par score, our congratulations go to Ian for his third success in this Championship.
3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Bowman Trophy (Matchplay Championship) This year's Bowman was run on the same format as last year's as such; each club was invited to enter 4 representatives forming the preliminary round, the winner of each match progressing to the next round where they joined the top 16 finishers in the previous year's Fylde Amateur Stroke play Championships. DH stated that it was disappointing to have to report that a large number of matches were not held throughout the early rounds, largely due to general apathy towards arranging games. A move to use the website to communicate the draw may well have contributed to this slightly. The ensuing delay arising from the need to extend some of the earlier rounds in an effort to get matches played, resulted in our need to approach this year's final hosts, Blackpool Park, to move the semi-final and final by a week. Regrettably this then clashed with some scheduled course work resulting in the need to find an alternative venue for the semi-final evening. Some smart thinking on the part of CW resulted in the semi-final being played at St Anne's Old Links, with the Final being kindly hosted by Royal Lytham. Defending Champion Clark Windross took on Mikiel Tchobanian, with Mikiel gaining revenge over

	<p>Clark almost a year to the day from his loss to him in last year's Semi-Final. Thanks are due to Royal Lytham for their staging of the final and to St Anne's Old Links for allowing courtesy of the course for the semi-final at very short notice.</p>
3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Knock Out After the successful introduction of the Plate Format, ensuring all clubs played at least two matches; the Knock Out was again run on this basis and was again staged at the beginning of the season. The final was kindly hosted by Royal Lytham between St. Anne's Old Links and Blackpool North Shore. In a closely fought match, North Shore were to run out victors on the night by a 4-1 margin. In the Plate Final, Knott End defeated Fleetwood 3-2. Thanks again to Royal Lytham for allowing us the use of the course for the evening and to the caterers for a wonderful supper, topping off an excellent evening.
3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Challenge Bowl The Challenge Bowl was kindly hosted by Fleetwood who stepped in when it was discovered that there had been some confusion resulting from a communications breakdown between the League Secretary and Knott End, the joys of emails! On an extremely challenging day, but played over a course in excellent condition, St. Anne's Old Links were to victor by some margin. In doing so Bob McLean of SAOL came in with an excellent score of 73, beating his colleague Charlie Beavers on a card play-off, with Blackpool Park's Lee Collinson third with a 74. The only disappointment to report was the arrival of just 2 players from Royal Lytham and a complete no-show from Lytham Green Drive, the latter only communicating their inability to field a team on the eve of the competition. <i>Note: Apologies were submitted from the Captain of Lytham Green Drive for the Scratch Teams. There appeared to have been a breakdown in communications, due to the change in date and venue for this event.</i>
3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Winter Foursomes The Winter Foursomes event again proved an excellent start to the year, back in April on a splendid Sunday morning at Lytham Green Drive. Aided by some excellent scoring from each of their three man team, St. Anne's Old Links were to prove victorious by some margin. As proves an annual event, the completion of score cards for this bogey tournament proved one of the larger challenges on the day.
3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Lancashire Scratch League As defending County Champions, the Fylde team entered the new season with high hopes and expectations, again having the benefit of a large squad of fine golfers. After a reasonable start against Southport District, where Fylde came through 4½ - 2½ victors, what was to prove the deciding match for our pool came in the form of a difficult away match at Lancaster against North Lincs. Regrettably, the 18th hole was to prove our downfall as we managed to lose three matches on this tricky par 3 and with it the chance to move on to the final as we went down 4 – 3. In the final match of the year, which was for all intents and purposes a dead rubber, we lost to Preston District 4 – 3, however this was hopefully good experience for the team we fielded on the night. DH was sure that the team would bounce back strongly next year.
3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conclusion DH closed by extending his thanks to all of the team Captains and Secretaries for their support and assistance over the season. He also thanked JR our League President for his encouragement and involvement in certain matters in his independent status and again thanked CW for his help and support throughout the year making his position as Secretary a less stressful one. DH also looked forward to a successful 2010 season and hoped 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.
4	Treasurer's Report
4.1	Opening Remarks The Treasurer thanked the meeting for a smooth year in office, despite some difficulties in

	<p>the banking signature mandates through the leagues bankers. CW reported that these were now resolved and the accounts were now up-to-date.</p> <p>Note: A breakdown of the income & expenditures for the 2009 season is attached to these minutes.</p>
4.2	<p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Clubs all kindly remitted their annual subscriptions of £125.00, providing total income of £1000.00. Income was also generated from the Fylde Amateur Championships in the form of sponsorship of £100.00 courtesy of Stewart Longton Caravans, a further £200 having been banked this year representing sponsorship from the previous two years. The Fylde Amateur Championship generated more funds following an increase in competitors this year over last year. There were 52 competitors over the 39 that entered in 2008 and this was reflected in the increase in prize vouchers awarded. <p>Note: <i>It is anticipated that further income of £180.00 will come following 4 no-shows at the 2009 Fylde Amateur and 2 non-payments from the 2008 tournament, also for no-shows.</i></p> <p>Further income of £75.00 has been generated from the website by developing a 'Friends of the Fylde' page utilised for advertising purposes. Current participants will be: Becketts Chartered Accountants, James Brearley & Sons & Cleveleys Windows. This area of the site is currently under development and will be introduced in early 2010.</p>
4.3	<p>Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As a result of the increased entry field, legacy no-show payments and donation from the sponsor, a loss from the Fylde Amateur Championships in 2008 of £44.88, was turned into a profit in 2009 of £425.00. <p>The KO final was held at Royal Lytham and an evening meal following the event produced a bill of £315.00. There was only one Lancashire League home fixture this year, held at Fairhaven and catering services for that amounted to £147.20.</p> <p>The website has proved very popular with some 2998 hits to date and has been received well amongst the players and team Captain's alike. Costs in creating the domain name, monthly web space hire, extra page costs and registration amounted to £140.96 for the year.</p> <p>There were legacy prize vouchers paid out this year, totaling £250.00 from 2008 events, due largely to severe problems with changing the signature mandates with Barclays Bank, accommodating the change in Committee from last year. This was only recently resolved and cheques issued accordingly.</p> <p>Printing and postage costs were £0.00 in 2009 as opposed to £119.15 in 2009. This was due to the website being available for downloading results, match schedules and entry forms, as anticipated the site almost paying for itself over the course of the year.</p> <p>End of Season trophies were a similar cost to last year's and including VTA, Shipping and Handling the league paid out £542.30.</p>
4.4	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall the League Committee showed a £102.54 increase from last year's handover total, handing over to 2010 the sum of £205.13. The league would have been in a stronger position but for, legacy payments from 2008 impacting on 2009 available cash and catering expenses in hosting the KO final, the Bowman Final and the Fylde Scratch Team. The league remains on a strong footing, with the website firmly established and opportunities to progress the sponsorship into 2010. <p>Treasurer's Note: <i>Orbit Internet have very kindly agreed, as part of sponsoring the Fylde Scratch League, to host our website for us, re-vamp the look of the site and give us full content management of it free of charge from next season. CW has offered the thanks of the Committee, the Team Captains & the players to Mr. Neil Snape, Managing Director of Orbit Internet for his generosity and considerable effort in meeting with him and agreeing to pretty much everything he asked for!</i></p> 

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treasurer concluded his report by recommending no increase to the member clubs' subscriptions and as such this will remain at £125.00.
5	Format for 2010
5.1	<p>Introduction of League Rules</p> <p>There was some discussion on the format for the 2010 league and in the main, the meeting were happy with the current format. The reaction by certain clubs to the re-arrangement of the fixture between Lytham Green Drive and North Shore had led the League Committee to feel it appropriate to introduce a set of League Rules, which the President referred to having been circulated to Team Captains with the AGM agenda.</p> <p>In general outline the draft rules cover:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee League Values Structure of the League Finance Rules & Regulations Fixtures Eligibility Forfeiture Weather Cancellations Disputes/Decisions <p>The content of the League rules were welcomed by all in going forward and it was agreed that these draft rules should they be voted in, coming into effect from next season. Mr. Ian Hill asked that the League Committee's contact details be written into them, for ease of contact, this will be done, post meeting.</p>
Proposed: Seconded: Vote:	Mr. John Roberts, League President Mr. I Hill Carried: Unanimously
5.2	<p>The Bowman Trophy</p> <p>DH made reference to his Secretary's Report in that this year's 'Bowman' was not at all well supported by the entrants, in that a lot of matches in the preliminary round were simply given up as byes, walkovers and one match being decided by a coin toss.</p> <p>The Committee had identified that this was a problem and following a meeting to discuss the event, which is an event the League wished to see prosper going forward, it was felt a revised format was appropriate for 2010. A set of draft rules outlining the basis of a smaller field had again been circulated to Team Captains ahead of the AGM and were made available to those in attendance for wider discussion and consideration.</p> <p>The rules were mutually agreed by all as a step in the right direction for the event which for 2010 will be based solely on this finishing in the first 16 of the Fylde Amateur Championship. DH explained how Royal Lytham had very kindly put forward a proposal that they host the final each year which was well received by all present. However concerns were raised over the hosting of the earlier rounds at a single club, which effectively would entail 8 tee times for the first round. Concerns were also raised over the proposal that all rounds be played on set evenings through August, which was recognized as a typical time for annual vacations. and that on first look, seemed fine, however, there were some major concerns over the member clubs in the Fylde backing the idea laid down in the rules, to utilise the first round comprising of 8 matches at one club on a single evening.</p> <p>JR stated that it was appropriate for the Secretary to write to each member club and gather official opinion, on whether the clubs were happy to commit to hosting early round matches on a rota basis. If not, then each game will be played on the higher seeds course as in previous years. Dates for each round will be incorporated into the draft fixtures in due course.</p>

Proposed: Seconded: Vote:	Mr. C Smith Mr. N Croston Carried: Unanimously
6	Lancashire Scratch League
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CW, as Fylde District Scratch Team Captain gave a summary of the teams' performance this year in the Lancashire Scratch League. The season started well on a rainy night at Fairhaven on June 23rd, with the Fylde team beating a resilient Southport DGA side by 4½ - 2½, highlighted by a come-from-behind win by Lee Mayers, on his debut for the District Scratch Team. Although Southport had a depleted team, they still fielded 2 ex-County champions in their ranks, along with several up-and-coming young golfers. The next fixture was away to North Lancs at Lancaster and as DH alluded to in his Secretary's report summary on the matches, Fylde lost 3 of the last 4 matches on the 18th, finally losing out 4 – 3 in the end, removing any chance of advancing to the finals. The final game was away to Preston District at Penwortham, a 'dead-rubber' and it gave me a chance to bleed in a few youngsters into the team. The pick of these was a 9 birdie display from young Charles Durnian from Fairhaven, which underlined his good season as Fairhaven's player of the year. CW stated that getting his best side out each week had proved impossible, as a lot of the top golfers were involved in Major National and Lancashire County events. The Fylde will have two away fixtures next season, so it will be imperative to get the best squad available.
7	The Fylde Amateur Golf website
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CW briefed the meeting that the site had proved a big success and that feedback from the players and Captain's was very positive. The site had saved the league a sum of money and in going forward for next year, the whole site will be hosted free of charge by Orbit International. Several improvements will be added for next year, which will include a sponsor's area (Friends of the Fylde) and a better 'contact us' page. The format will look somewhat different from the current version, but will be more aesthetically pleasing to look at.
8	AOB
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter from Lancaster Golf Club, Mr. Brian Inglis. DH informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Mr. Brian Inglis from Lancaster Golf Club, requesting the consideration of the Committee and member clubs, that Lancaster be allowed to join the Fylde District Scratch League. This was an emotive subject at the 2007 AGM, where general disappointment had been aired when certain clubs had not felt it appropriate to support the recommendation put forward by the Fylde Scratch League Committee, following unanimous support at the 2007 AGM to their application request. The meeting agreed that it would be beneficial to have Lancaster included in the league, accepting that this would result in each team having to host an additional match every other year and incurring some additional traveling time in respect of the bi-annual fixture at Lancaster. Opinion was offered from a Committee perspective, from a Club Captain perspective, as a number of Club Captains were present at the meeting and by a large section of the meeting. The theme of the debate and general spirit was one of unanimous support for Lancaster's application, where again it was felt that this should be on a probationary 2 year trial basis. The League Secretary outlined that he would write to the Clubs for their formal approval and that if this was not forthcoming that an effort would be made to meet with the clubs in question to convey the general feeling of the League that this is seen as a step in the right direction. JR outlined the necessity for a proposer and seconder prior to a formal vote.
Proposed: Seconded: Vote:	Mr. B Livesey Mr. G Neill Carried: Unanimously

8.2	<p>Change to The KO for 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. B Dickie had asked why there was a restriction on the KO players at 5. His suggestion was to increase this to 6, explaining that this would allow one more player the opportunity to play. <p>DH asked the floor for opinion and all thought it to be a good idea, although Mr. P Collinson from Blackpool Park stated that he only had a very small pool of players to choose from and felt that 5 was a good number for this event and could not see the need for it to be changed. JR requested a proposer and seconder prior to the issue being formally voted on.</p>
Proposed: Seconded: Vote:	Mr. B Dickie Mr. J Roberts Carried: Majority (One against)
8.3	<p>Final League fixture issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. B Dickie wrote a letter to the committee to understand better, as to why the final league fixture was always “organised”, so that SAOL played North Shore and Fairhaven played Royal on the last day of the scratch league season. <p>DH responded by stating that it has been this way for at least 3 years and that he had adjusted the standard fixture league format to add a bit of last day drama to the League. Mr. N Croston added that he thought this unfair and what contingency would the Secretary have if the balance of power swung to some of the other clubs in the Fylde. DH simply added that nothing was set-in-stone and the league fixtures were merely just being flipped, Home & Away each year, but if other clubs became more prominent then he would stick with the same format and simply incorporate different clubs into the final fixture.</p> <p>Mr. Dickie added that the majority of his team was always away during this last week of the season representing their club in National events such as the English Amateur for example. Whilst he is happy to field a team, should the committee not consider a completely cold draw each year, as opposed to this arranged affair?</p> <p>DH stated again that nothing was set in stone and that he was not against any changes to the league schedule, but intimated that he still felt it acceptable to have the league schedule arranged in this fashion.</p> <p>After some further debate it was not felt that there was sufficient support for a change in the current arrangement which will be reflected in next year’s draft fixture list.</p>
8.4	<p>AGM Attendance</p> <p>The Fleetwood Club Mr. R B Hills suggested to the Committee that he felt it would be a good idea to invite the member clubs Vice-Captain’s to the Scratch league AGM, as he considered it to be a good grounding for them going forward into their terms of office as Club Captains.</p> <p>DH intimated that the AGM was not a closed shop and that any or all of the participants and/or dignitaries from member clubs are most welcome, but did offer an apology if the invitations he sent out on the AGM, appeared to suggest that the invitees were limited. He welcomed the comments from Mr. Hills all the same and stated that member club Vice-Captains would be most welcome at future meetings.</p>
	JR formally closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance, input and kind words for the efforts that the Committee had put in this year, on their behalf and invited everyone to an evening supper to be followed by the Annual Presentation of Prizes.

David Hannis, Secretary, Fylde Scratch League.

Attachment A
Income & Expenditure Sheet

Fylde Amateur Scratch League

Costs Schedule (12 Months)

To End October 2009

Income		£	
Balance Carried Forward from 2008		£102.59	
Club Subscriptions (8 x 125)		£1,000.00	
2009 Winter Foursomes (Sweep Money)		£94.00	
2009 Challenge Bowl (Sweep Money)		£74.00	
Fylde Amateur Champs - Entry Fees 52 x 30		£1,560.00	
Owed from 2008 Fylde Amateur - No-Shows		£30.00	
Owed from 2009 Fylde Amateur - No-Shows		£90.00	
plus 2009 Fylde Amateur Withdrawals		£60.00	
Sponsorship		£100.00	
Sponsorship (Lancs League)		£100.00	
Website Income (Friends of the Fylde)		£75.00	
	Total	£3,285.59	
Expenditure		£	
2009 Winter Foursomes (Sweep Money)		£120.00	
2009 Challenge Bowl (Sweep Money)		£100.00	
KO Final (Royal Lytham Meals)		£315.00	
Bowman Final x 5 Meals (Royal Lytham)		£50.00	
Bowman Final Vouchers x 2		£50.00	
Fylde Amateur Champs - Prizes			
5 Gross Prizes	} 1,615.00	£850.00	
3 Net Prizes		£415.00	
4 Day Prizes		£200.00	
3 Category Prizes		£150.00	
Lancashire Scratch League Costs (Fairhaven)		£147.20	
End of Season Trophies		542.30	
Web Site Costs		£140.96	
	Totals	3080.46	
	Balance	£205.13	