



**THE MINUTES OF THE
DORSET GOLF CAPTAINS
53RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held Thursday 7th December 2023
At The Dorset Golf & Country Club
(Approved at 2024 AGM)**

- 1) The meeting commenced at approximately 1:15 pm with 20 members present and President Bill Kent in the chair. There was also a record of online votes from 12 members not present. The President noted the inclement weather in his welcome, thanked the Dorset G&CC for hosting us, announced the names of members we knew had passed away since the last AGM and the meeting stood for a minutes silence in their memory. The President then asked all present to help recruit new members, he thanked everyone for their support of Dorset Golf Captains and wished DGC future success.
- 2) The minutes of the 52nd AGM were approved (Prop. A.Hebditch, Sec. M. Mead)
- 3) Matters arising from the previous AGM:
 1. Membership: Derek Grimes spoke about a limited number of registered players, drop-outs from matches and lack of support for the annual dinner. He said the situation was similar to last year. The Committee had considered an email from Gordon Mutton and had arranged a Club Rep's meeting. Derek said we had 19 Club Reps and there were 34 clubs in Dorset County Golf Union, although 3 did not have a captain. He had invited 31 clubs to attend the meeting, received 17 replies, of whom 5 were unavailable, the majority of those who would attend were replies from Club Reps who were members of the Committee. As a result the meeting was cancelled. Derek also said a number of phone calls had been made to members who were not participating in DGC activities with the feedback that they had too much golf already. Derek said that in February we intended to run a Satisfaction Survey, seeking member opinions about what they liked in DGC, what they would like to change in DGC and suggestions for new DGC activities. This survey would ask for names so we could ensure the responses were from a member, while names would be kept confidential and would not appear in the results.
- 4) Peter Brickell gave the Captains Report: *Mr President, Fellow captains. This past year I have made many friends from all different backgrounds who all come together to play this great game, golf, I have had the privilege to be invited to other counties Annual dinners and we have set up a 2023 County Past Captains group and hope to have some get together over the coming year. I must extend my sincere thanks to Vice Captain Dave for his unwavering support and leadership in my absence. Your dedication and ability to step in at various times have been invaluable, and I am grateful for your contributions to our team's success. Our journey on the golf course has been marked by victories and challenges alike. We halved 2, Wiltshire and Gloucester, where a*

gentlemanly half was agreed after 10 holes played before the course became so water logged. We won two matches, Cornwall and Hampshire. We lost five matches to Sussex, Oxford, Surrey, Somerset and Devon, Vice-Captain Dave; these were all on your watch. Inter county matches; we beat the Dorset Ex Lady captains at Sherborne. The Presidents day at Broadstone was won by David Woodroofe with 37 points. The Captains day at Highcliffe Castle was won by Nigel Mobbs winning the Les Watson Chalice and with his combined score from the Presidents day also won the Harry Roffey Trophy. The Founders Team event at Weymouth was won by: Simon Etherington, Graham Wilkin, Terry Pettifer and Rob Dean with 80 points. Mixed Greensomes at Dudsbury was won by Jason Brooker and Julie Jenkins 42 points. The Gents Invitation at Isle of Purbeck won by Pat Crane and Stuart Crane 42 points. The 9 Hole challenge at Somerly Park was won by Phil Purvis, John Warner and Robin Christopher. The Colin Chataway Trophy overall winners were Parley Court1 with 140 points, whilst on the Colin Chataway Trophy, I must thank Jim Allen who tirelessly dedicates his time to organize this event, he now steps down as organiser after many years. As I step down from the role of Captain, I do so with a heart full of pride and joy for what we have achieved together. The highlights of our year, winning the four counties event at Mendip Springs and the Inter Counties Captains challenge at St Mellion, will forever be etched in my memories as a testament to our collective strength and skill. A heartfelt thank you goes to all the volunteers on the committee who tirelessly dedicate their time to organize the events that bring us together. Their commitment ensures that we can all enjoy the wonderful experiences and memories created on and off the golf course. To Peter Foster, your efforts in organizing the Annual Dinner have not gone unnoticed. The success of the evening, filled with good food and entertainment, is a credit to your dedication. For those who missed it this year, mark your calendars for 2024—it promises to be another memorable evening. Bill Kent, thank you for your wise counsel and leadership as our President. Your support has been instrumental in making this year a success. To Nigel Mobbs, your guidance and support throughout the year have been invaluable. I am grateful for your leadership and friendship. To the entire society, I wish you all continued success in 2024. May the fairways be kind, the putts be true, and the bonds of friendship on and off the course grow even stronger. Thank you, and here's to another year of great golfing adventures.

- 5) Nigel Mobbs gave the Secretary's report: The Selection Committee of the President, Captain, Vice-Captain and Secretary met early February. The Captain picked the teams for the 6- and 4-Counties and the St Mellion Intercounty Captains events. The teams for matches were selected by ballot based on members ranking of their choices. We succeeded in giving registered players at least one of their first two choices and made some adjustments to improve the selection of a few players who had been particularly unfortunate in the ballot. There were 190 places available to 57 registered players, 12 players were selected for 2 matches, 20 for 3 matches and 20 for 4 or more matches. The Committee co-opted Derek Grimes to the Committee at its first meeting in February. We created a WhatsApp group for additional communication regarding

matches. This group has 44 members. This year I asked for payment of match fees online 4 weeks in advance, rather than have to collect cheques or cash on the day. I found this a great improvement, it made match days much easier for me and the Captain and helped confirm who was or was not playing each match. The Committee agreed with Gloucester Golf Captains to institute a plaque bearing Gloucester and our badges as a trophy to be played for at our matches with them. Bill Kent made a significant contribution to the cost. We hold the trophy as our match was halved as explained by the Captain and we won the year before. DGC paid for and our President Bill presented Jim Allan with a pair of whiskey glasses engraved with the DGC badge as a thank you as this year he retired from 13 years work as the Colin Chataway Organiser. We have been unable to find a volunteer to replace Jim next year, although a couple of members expressed an interest for sometime in the future. The Committee felt we might run this event ourselves for a year or two and Bill Kent volunteered to lead this event for 2024. We still need a volunteer to pick this up as soon as possible. This is our first year we have online voting for Agenda proposals as well as voting in person at this AGM. We have 12 members who have voted online before the meeting. These votes are equivalent to the votes of each of us here today, and like votes in person they need to be visible to all of us in the room. Anyone of you present here may today examine the record of those votes if they wish. Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their help and support this year. They all pick up tasks that need doing and make sure they get done, sometimes working in the background, sometimes more visible at our days, its very much a team effort and I am proud to be part of what I think has become a very effective team who have done a good job this year.

- 6) An Income and Expenditure account had been distributed. **This is available on request to the Hon Sec.**

My thanks go to all committee members for their input throughout the year and in particular to Secretary Nigel, Captain Peter and President Bill.

- 7) The Secretary gave Jim Allan's apology for absence and read the following report of the Colin Chataway Trophy from him: *Mr President, Mr Captain, Members of the Committee, Fellow Captains. The competition was held this year on Wednesday, 26th July at Yeovil Golf Club when 43 youngsters representing seven clubs competed for the trophy in overcast, and later on showery, conditions. Whilst the field was larger than last year nevertheless its size continues to reflect fewer available youngsters at a number of clubs which, in fairness, continue to work on increasing their junior sections. The keenly fought competition resulted in a new winner, Parley Court 1 just pipping Weymouth. The full results are on the CC Trophy page on the website. It was again very pleasing to receive positive feedback from Junior Organisers and youngsters alike. The latter always seem to thoroughly enjoy this mixed team competition and appreciate the presence of the ever-smiling Dorset Captains who accompany them on their rounds. The presence of Captains in every facet of the competition, and in particular in refereeing the matches, is what differentiates the CC Trophy from other junior events. I am always grateful to those Captains who*

offer to help by ticking the box on the Match Request Form but, sadly, I also usually have to resort to appealing to more Captains to help and even then I have not always had sufficient to cover all the matches. This year saw no improvement in that there was a shortage of referees and so I make no apology for reminding you again that as the CC Trophy continues to be so popular with the youngsters the Captains need to show more support for the event so that it maintains the unique feature of their presence. My personal thanks go to Yeovil Golf Club and to the Captains who helped on the day. The 2024 competition will be held on Wednesday, 24th July at Highcliffe Castle Golf Club. The Junior Organisers have been advised of these details. As you know this year's competition was my last as its organiser. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 13 years in this role and am grateful for all the help I have received over that time. I will, if possible, still try to support the competition in the future as one of the volunteers. Thank you.

- 8) David Kimberley gave the following Webmaster's Report: *The website has run smoothly, and the email system has allowed the Hon Sec to contact members regularly. All information has been posted shortly after receipt. The use of Google forms to gather match bids, function attendance etc. works well and is now controlled by our industrious Hon Sec. Along with many other items the cost has increased from £59.99 (vat inc) to £84.00 (vat inc) for Website and Email hosting. Domain Name Registration at £9.59 (vat inc) remains the same for now. A replacement Webmaster is still being sought, this is NOT a technically difficult or particularly onerous job. If any member is willing to perform this role PLEASE let me know.*
- 9) Peter Foster gave the following Dinner Organiser's Report: *The day started very well with the sun shining and our guests arriving. We had 10 guests wanting to play golf and along with Committee members and the DG&CC Captain we had a total of 15 players. Despite the recent rain the course was wet but played well with all those playing enjoying themselves. Our other invited guests arrived later in the day and attended our drinks reception with our guest speaker Bob Webb. With all our other attendees arrived we then went into dinner at 7.30 ably escorted by our incoming Captain Dave Picton. We had a total of 68 for the Annual Dinner one down on last year. Among this number were 14 guests from our invited Counties and our Guest Speaker leaving 53. Apart from the committee this left 23 Past Captains. When we reinstated the Annual Dinner 15 years ago there were 104 Past Captains present. Despite late emails to members and an email to the Club Reps we were unable to boost the numbers. As a committee we scratch our heads as to why more people do not attend and if anyone here has any comments then they would be very welcome. There are ways of reducing our overheads for the dinner, for example no speaker, no wine on the table, two course meal instead of three courses, but I would prefer to keep it as it is but with more attendees. The dinner itself was very good indeed with compliments for the food and the ambiance was very lively and verbal. Our Guest Speaker entertained us for 40 minutes with a varied repertoire. I think everyone attending really enjoyed the evening as I am sure anyone here who attended would*

confirm. We had some very complementary emails from all the invited Counties. I think the Annual Dinner is an important event in our Calendar and it would be nice to increase the numbers next year if possible. As usual my thanks to Derek Grimes for all his help and assistance organising the dinner. Next year's Annual Dinner will be Friday November 15th and this date will go out with the selection of fixtures so that people will not double book. Our speaker next year is hoped to be Ian Ritchie.

- 10) The President Bill Kent gave the Clothing Organiser David Recardo's apology for absence and read the following report from him before the Election of Officers:
There has not been a lot of activity in the clothing front this year, but there have been some sales. One Softshell Jacket, One Softshell Gillet, Eight Red Polo Shirts, One Long Sleeve Red Polo Shirt, Three Long Sleeve Jumpers, Two Slipovers and One Bow Tie. Total items sold = 17 Items, most delivered via committee or attending matches, but there were a few that had to be posted. With the recent increase in postage cost, I propose we increase our postage cost to £5 each and £6 for multiple items. Please remember a full range of Dorset Golf Captains clothing is available within the DGC website, where it can be ordered and paid for, making the process simple and easy to manage. Please also remember when ordering the Softshell items order one size bigger than usual as they are a snug fit. There was no dissent to the Clothing Organisers proposal to raise postage.

11) Election of Officers

1. President: David Kimberley was elected President. He was invested with the chain of office by Bill Kent and he took the chair, briefly thanking Bill Kent for his presidency.

2. The following positions were elected *en-bloc*.

- Vice-President: Peter Foster
- Captain: David Picton
- Vice-Captain: John Skinner
- Honorary Secretary: Nigel Mobbs
- Honorary Treasurer: Brian Hansford
- Honorary Fixture Secretary: David Picton
- Honorary Webmaster: David Kimberley
- Honorary Clothing Organiser: David Recardo
- Honorary Dinner Organiser: Peter Foster

And the new Captain was invested with the chain of office by Peter Brickell.

- 12) Honorary Auditor: Mike Mead was appointed Honorary Auditor

- 13) David Picton gave the Honorary Fixture Secretary's report. He said that following the abandonment of the 6-counties competition at Stover at the end of March this year, the competition would be moved to the end of May in 2024 for better weather. It would be hosted by Devon at Stover in 2024 and by Dorset in 2025. He said the recently announced closure of Dudsbury next year caused him to move the Somerset match to the Isle of Purbeck GC and he explained that the increasing costs of golf

and food required we raise the match fee to £48 next year. He then told the meeting he would welcome a volunteer to replace him. President David Kimberley thanked David for his work and told the meeting that fixtures had been on the website for the last 10 days.

- 14) Team Sheets and Match Fees: Nigel Mobbs explained that he had become the Match Manager for this year's matches and he intended to appoint a Match Manager at selection for each match next year and it would be necessary that the Match managers have access to members contact details. His vision was that Match Managers would take over organisation 4 weeks in advance of the match, by which time most players would have paid their match fee to confirm they were playing. Alan Hebditch suggested an instruction sheet of Match manager's duties would help and it was also suggested that a description of the Colin Chataway Organiser's duties be written down. There was a discussion about permission to use data, the February survey and how it might be used to gain permissions and be structured to identify those who wished to actively participate and those who were social or inactive members. Brian Walsh spoke about using Club Reps to identify the status of members and Alan Hebditch noted that younger captains were still working and unable to commit time to DGC. Their followed a brief discussion about the match fee and it was pointed out some other counties paid considerably more than we did before it was unanimously agreed to raise the match fee to £48 in 2024.
- 15) The date and venue of next year's AGM was agreed as Thursday 5th December 2024 at the Dorset G&CC with 9 holes of golf before the meeting, weather permitting.
- 16) The president then invited the meeting to raise any other issues, advising the meeting it could not take binding decisions about items not on the agenda but it was an opportunity to speak about anything members wished to communicate. Alan Hebditch said that the DGC badged bow ties needed promotion before the annual dinner. Bill Kent suggested using the Club Rep or a home player as the Match Manager. David Picton explained our Devon and Cornwall matches were a mini-tour with a night away and he suggested we should try to do the same for the Surrey and Sussex matches in 2025. Alan Hebditch spoke about our need for active Club Reps.

The meeting ended at approximately 2:30 pm.