



DATE

Sunday 6th January 2008 at 8pm

VENUE

'The Sebright Arms', 9 Alston Road, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN5 4ET

PRESENT

Mark Collins – Chairman & Treasurer
Alex Conrad – Captain
Andy Picton – Vice-Captain & Handicap Secretary
Benjamin Riley – President & Secretary
Jonathan Smith
Daniel Stevens
Stuart Ware
Dave Williams

1. OPENING

The Chairman opened the meeting at 20:17. Apologies were received from Darren Kyte (Picton), Edward Sturdy (Williams), and Andy Woods (Conrad).

2. PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINTUES

The minutes from the 2007 AGM were approved.

3. COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

The President delivered the report and began by noting how successful 2007 had been. We ran seven competitions that were all highly competitive and enjoyable. Alex Conrad excelled throughout the season winning three individual titles, including Champion Golfer, as well as the Fourballs in partnership with Dave Williams. The Charity Day was well attended, raising £900 for charity and special thanks are extended to Arkley Golf Club for their hospitality and support. The Committee believe we can achieve even greater success in 2008 and expect more effort and participation from the members in support of the coming year's Charity Day with each and every member expected to attend with at least 3 guests. Our summer tour to Greetham Valley was again very enjoyable with the Riley Cup coming down to the very last hole once more. All society members enjoyed the new personalised shirts. The Committee took on board some comments regarding the tour schedule and set up a survey to collect feedback and suggestions. A motion for discussion in this meeting has been submitted in accordance with the survey results. The BBGS website received 78,759 hits over 59,244 unique visits in 2007. Site visits rose from 750 per month in January and February to 9,000 per month in November and December. We now rank 1st on the Live and Yahoo search engines and 2nd on Google. Our user base remains predominantly Windows and Internet Explorer based although Linux and Apple systems using Opera, Firefox and Safari browsers now represent 30% of our traffic. The committee maintain that the society's weighted



handicapping system is fair despite criticism from some quarters. Indeed, results and the continued dominance of those players who have been most cut supports this view. Many of the members reported that the Masters event held at Enfield Golf Club was terrific with the course in excellent condition and the club very accommodating. It was suggested that Enfield would be a good venue for the 2008 Charity Day and the President agreed to investigate this further.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT & ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer presented the accounts showing income of £10,855 and expenditure of £11,326, resulting in a loss for the year 2007 of £471 which has been serviced by the President. It was noted that income received and expense incurred during 2007 for events taking place in 2008, e.g. the summer tour, will be represented in next year's annual report. The loss is due to the Committee's decision to split the cost of the personalised shirts issued in 2007 over two years. It was noted there were dues of £112 owed by one individual. It was noted that there is a remote possibility that money had been deposited in the old society account held with Barclays. Stuart Ware was appointed to check the account for any stray funds, transfer them if present and close the account forthwith. The accounts were approved. It was agreed to remove the associate grade of society membership and reduce the 2008 membership fee to £35. Alterations to the society's constitution to reflect one tier of membership were approved.

5. CHARITY PROPOSAL

Andy Picton nominated the Basildon Hospital Neo-Natal Unit. Daniel Stevens nominated the North London Hospice. It was agreed that the society would support both these charities in 2008, splitting charitable funds equally between the two. Both Mr Picton and Mr Stevens agreed to provide full details of each charity at which time the President will arrange for links to their respective websites to be placed on the society's website.

6. EVENT SCHEDULE

Due to the cancellation of the 2007 President's Cup, it was agreed to merge that competition with the Chairman's Chalice for 2008. Andy Woods, the 2007 Chalice winner will be retrospectively awarded the President's Cup and the Chalice will be removed from the calendar. The 2008 schedule is as follows:

- President's Cup – Friday 2nd May
- Charity Medal – Friday 6th June
- Summer Tour – Sunday 13th July to Wednesday 16th July
- Barbill Bell – Friday 3rd October
- Masters – Wednesday 31st December
- Fourballs Championship – 1st March to 30th December

The Charity Medal will be a non handicap affecting event played off full CONGU handicaps.



7. SUMMER TOUR SURVEY

The results of the on-line survey were presented and discussed at length. The vast majority voted to keep the Open Championship at four rounds and it was agreed to do so, playing this competition on the Monday and Tuesday of the tour as before. A vast majority also supported the idea of a plate competition to be introduced for the lower half of the field in the Open. A clear majority of survey participants also supported extending the random draw for playing groups. It was agreed that groupings for the first two rounds would be drawn randomly and a cut would be made after the 2nd round with the top players competing for the Claret Jug and those that miss the cut competing for a new trophy. Groupings for the 3rd and 4th round will be determined in accordance with the leader board. The details of the cut will be worked out by the Committee and published in good time. Everyone was happy with the Riley Cup format but a significant majority supported the idea of playing a competitive event instead of a practise round on the Sunday. It was agreed that the Riley Cup would be extended to include both singles and fourballs with singles matches worth one point each to be played on the Sunday and fourballs matches worth two points each on the Wednesday. The survey results suggested that the Poker competition was no longer popular and it was agreed that this would be dropped in 2008 and the sundries bill would be divided equally among all tourists. There had been a suggestion to investigate an alternative venue for the summer tour in 2009. A working party comprised of Mark Collins, Alex Conrad, Andy Picton and Stuart Ware was appointed to research alternatives including cost, golfing facilities, lodging, convenience, travel and logistics as terms of reference. The working party will report to the Committee by 30th June. Other comments and suggestions from the survey included "break Alex's legs" and "do something for Ben on the night of the presentation".

8. MERCHANDISING

The President highlighted the availability of the on-line merchandising shop on the society's website and encouraged members to browse the rich variety of items available. Further polo shirts will soon be made available in the shop but, although they will be BBGS branded, these will not feature personalisation (your initials on the sleeve) as this is just too expensive to produce when not ordered in significant numbers. All items in the on-line shop are made to order so bulk ordering is not necessary.

9. ANNUAL DINNER

The President has arranged the Society Dinner for 8:30pm on Friday 25th January at Sargasso Sea, 10 Station Road, Winchmore Hill, London N21 3RB. A fine 3-course dinner and half a bottle of wine will be included for £35 per head. Wives, girlfriends and guests are welcome but we are limited to 20 seats. Members were advised that should they wish to drink more than has been provided, they will be charged accordingly on the night.



10. SUMMER TOUR DEPOSITS

The Secretary advised that deposits for this year's summer tour had been received from 11 golfers plus our Media Director. Those that have not yet paid and wish to come on tour must submit their deposits immediately.

11. INTER-SOCIETY COMPETITION

Stuart Ware informed the meeting that we had been challenged to a fourballs stableford competition by the BEM Golf Society. The matches will take place either at the end of February or beginning of March at Muswell Hill Golf Club. The Captain will select his team and liaise with the opposing Captain to make final arrangements. Any member interested in participating should notify the Captain forthwith.

12. NON-MEMBER PREMIUMS

Dave Williams suggested that we enforce the right, as defined in the Society's constitution, to charge guests a premium to attend BBGS events. This was agreed and members should make their guests aware that there is a nominal premium for non-members.

13. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Captain proposed removing "Membership of the society is restricted to men" from the Society's constitution. This was agreed by majority vote. The Secretary will amend and publish the constitution accordingly.

14. OFFICER ELECTIONS

The following nominations were approved:

- President – Benjamin Riley
- Chairman – Mark Collins
- Captain – Alex Conrad
- Vice-Captain – Andy Picton
- Secretary – Benjamin Riley
- Treasurer – Mark Collins
- Handicap Secretary – Andy Picton

15. CLOSURE

The Chairman concluded the meeting at 21:49 and thanked everybody for their attendance.