

THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' GOLFING SOCIETY

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT
THE EAST INDIA CLUB
at 10.30 am on Thursday 9th January 2014**

1. PRESENT

The Captain and Chairman David Gill, the Vice-President John Trumper, the Hon. Treasurer Colin Searle, the Hon. Accounts Examiner Michael Coates, the Hon. Secretary Andrew Rintoul and Messrs Cunningham, Ditchfield, Hannam, Keenan, Laurie and Webb.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from the Vice-Captain Simon Seymour-Taylor and Messrs Ambrose, Emlyn Jones, R Davis, Hallett, Sheridan and Tuck.

3. WELCOME

Extended by the Chairman to all present, particularly newcomers and those who had travelled a considerable distance.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 10th January 2013 had been circulated previously and/or tabled and were proposed and seconded for approval by Messrs Webb and Laurie respectively.

5. MATTERS ARISING

The only matter not covered by the Agenda was to note that the new merchandise of sweaters and T shirts was selling and the Hon. Secretary extended his thanks to Roger Webb for his efforts in this regard.

6. ACCOUNTS

The Hon. Treasurer introduced his accounts for the year to 31st October 2013 confirming that although the membership had increased the income was down by £460.00 as 74 members did not have to pay the subscription. The 2014 subscription had been increased to £25.00 from £20.00 to assist with the purchase of new ties at £3,500.00 and to pay the deposits that most clubs now require when booking as well continuing the policy of subsidising younger members. Costs were down due to the lower expenditure on the website which should decrease further in the current year and the Treasurer's Account stood at £3,523.00. The grants to Sections this year will remain unchanged from last year but hopefully they can be increased in 2015. There being no questions on the accounts the Captain thanked the Hon. Treasurer.

7. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Hon. Secretary confirmed with disappointment that he had not received any response from the President Michael Newey to his initial letter in July last nor the follow up in December, but he will persevere with future Presidents at least to acknowledge the Society and that the President is also President of the Society for that year.

The Hon. Secretary also advised the meeting that the 2014 Vice-Captain will be announced at the AGM and there were two additional Committee Members offered for election, John Keenan and Niall Sheridan.

8. MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. Secretary confirmed that the Membership had increased to 502 from 476 in December 2012 and 456 in December 2011. Of the 65 new members during the year 37 (57%) were under 35, which was encouraging. Michael Coates commented that the increasing membership over the last two years has reversed the declining trend of a number of previous years and the whole meeting endorsed his hope that the membership will continue to increase. The Hon. Secretary advised that he was strongly of the view that the website had been instrumental in encouraging particularly new younger members to join.

9. ANNUAL DINNER

The Hon. Secretary reported that although the 100th Dinner made a slight loss owing to the lower numbers it was still, as always, a success and the Captain spoke briefly about the guest speakers Alan Lewis and Jim McArthur. The Hon Secretary then advised the meeting that the 2014 Dinner will be held at a new venue, the Royal Thames Yacht Club at a considerably reduced ticket price which he hoped will encourage a higher attendance. The Captain had arranged for two good speakers, Johnny Barclay, the Sussex County cricketer and past President of the MCC and Peter Unsworth who has taken over from Jim McArthur as Chairman of the R & A Championship Committee and is also a member of the Society.

10. 2013 NATIONAL MATCH RESULTS AND THE 2014 PROGRAMME

The Captain confirmed that out of the 14 matches played 10 had been won which was a good achievement. The Hon. Secretary advised that for 2014 the Summer Meeting will be held at Blackwell rather than Little Aston and the Invitation Meeting will be at Swinley Forest rather than Walton Heath. The Autumn Meeting will again be at Sherwood Forest as last year's visit was a success despite the slightly low attendance. The new match of the Over 35's v the Under 35's will again be held at The Addington but in July rather than October.

11. **DISCUSSION ON HOW TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

The Captain started the discussion by confirming that approximately 74 days of golf were squeezed into little over 4 months of the year which inevitably led to date clashes. Although holiday months it should be possible to play more events during July and August to spread the programme. Also, matches were not really a problem as fewer people were involved and players were less likely to cancel at the last minute. The Hon. Secretary confirmed a suggestion made by Follett Balch last year that the Sections could rotate in sponsoring one of their meetings as a national meeting. Hopefully members would be prepared to travel and the new venues should refresh that particular meeting. Although it would not be a team competition, Sections could form a team of say 3 or 4 to travel to these meetings. Some felt that 36 holes was too much for older members although younger members were better able to cope and also wanted value for money. The Hon. Secretary expressed a personal view that although the Society should obviously move with the times there was a lot of tradition that should not be swept away. Roger Webb posed the question whether or not we need National Meetings. There might be a case for reducing the number if attendance remains low this year. The Captain suggested that a 'task force' of 2-4 members be set up to consider the possibilities in greater detail which the Hon. Secretary will organise and he will also email the Membership for any other suggestions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

The Meeting closed at 11.30 am

Signed.....

Date.....