**THE BUYING AGENCY GOLF SOCIETY (TBAGS)**

 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Location :** Houghwood Golf Club

**Date : 1**8th October 2013

**Start Time :** 5.25.p.m.

**Attendees :** 13

**Names** **:**

K. Pope - President

A. Moore - Chairman

S. Sage - Captain

M.J. Geraghty - Fixture and Handicap Secretary

D. Ruane - Treasurer

 G.H. Birch, G. Bolton, I Dunn, L. Laithwaite, R. Palin, A. Phillips, R McClelland, M Rust

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from D. Hutton (Competition Secretary) who was unable to attend because he was away on holiday.

**Opening remarks/Welcome**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman and he welcomed all members and hoped a pleasant day was had by all.

He then asked the Captain to present his Report.

**Captain’s Report**

 Stephen’s Report had already been circulated to members and he now just wished to emphasise some of the matters he had raised.

 He felt that we had enjoyed a great season with a very good selection of Courses, and thanked Mike for his work as Fixture Secretary.

All the competitions had been successful and very keenly contested and the tour to Cumbria had been very enjoyable from all points of view.

He added that he found it very difficult to nominate 3 Courses to drop for next Season.

 The only lowlight of the Season was the drop in attendances compared to previous years, but in saying this he acknowledged that the members present had been the backbone of attendances during the year.

 He hoped that we could improve future attendances but felt that we needed ideally 5 or 6 more members.

 He feared that low attendances could adversely affect the competitive rates we obtained at the Courses.

 Finally, Stephen reiterated his views that as Captain for the past 2 years he would now be prepared to stand down as he felt that 2 years is the ideal tenure for a Captain. However .in the interests of the Society, he would be happy to serve for a 3rd and final year if the Members so wished.

The Captain concluded by asking members for their comments on any of the points he had raised.

The Chairman commented that the addition of 5 or 6 members was not a realistic target in the short term and thought that a feasible alternative would be for Members to invite more guests. This could of course lead to more members.

Ian Dunn complimented Stephen for his excellent Captaincy in what he regarded as a very well run Society.

The members fully endorsed Ian’s comments and Keith, our President, also agreed with Stephen’s suggestion that a Captain’s tenure should ideally be for 2 years and some thought should be given to this matter.

Following on from this M. Rust suggested that there should be a post of Vice Captain with the holder of this post going on to be the next Captain.

Some discussion followed and it was agreed that it was not the Captain’s job to nominate a Vice Captain and the post would have to be filled by a volunteer.

The Chairman asked that if such a post were to be created would we have a volunteer to fill it .Michael Rust said he would volunteer.

Ray Palin then proposed that the Society have a new Office of Vice Captain. This was seconded by Rod McClelland

and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then continued with the Meeting by asking D. Ruane to present the Treasurer’s Report

**Treasurer’s Report**

DR began his report by thanking all the Members for their support in responding reasonably kindly to requests for money as this does make the job a lot easier!

He also complimented the Captain on the way he organised all our events and was very grateful for his support and assistance throughout the season,

With reference to the Report and Accounts which had already been circulated he confirmed that the results were satisfactory, resulting in a small surplus and Reserves of £1031 to be carried forward.

The matter of reduced attendances had already been highlighted in the Report and he endorsed the comments made earlier.

Archie invited the members to raise any questions they had regarding finances.

Alan Phillips asked for details of expenditure for prizes. DR explained that this figure was the total of the Cash prizes (£30) given at each event plus cash for “2”’s and money spent on Golf balls etc given mainly for “nearest the pin”.

Some discussion then took place on the question of Cash given as prizes as opposed to Trophies but it was generally agreed that we stick to our present format of cash for Event winners and runners up with , of course, Trophies for overall Winners.

Further discussion took place when it was suggested that our present custom of not giving prizes to guests should they win any particular event was perhaps unfair. Several members expressed differing views on this matter but the final concensus was that as guests did not contribute to Funds in the same way as members, they should not be eligible for a cash prize but would receive a sleeve of balls if they won an event.

The Captain clarified this by confirming that in such circumstances the award would be additional to the cash prizes given to the winning member and the runner up.

There were no further questions and this concluded the Treasurer’s Report.

The Chairman then asked Mike Geraghty for his Report.

**Fixture & Handicap Secretary’s Report**

Mike began by qualifying his Fixture report with the famous quotation “You can please some of the people some of the time…………” and went on to say his choices were made by balancing prices, Course quality and catering facilities.

He had circulated his usual questionnaire regarding Courses but had only received 6 back prior to this Meeting, but had today been given others.

Historically it was the cheaper Courses that were voted off but this year the exclusion of Fairhaven was suggested by a large majority.

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He confirmed that he did abide by Member’s wishes as far as possible within the parameters mentioned above and all comments were taken into consideration.

He went on to explain the difficulty of booking quality courses at reasonable prices and pointed out that most of the top courses were far too expensive in the Summer period. On this point he had compared our fixture list 2013 to the list in 2000 and the current list included 6 “Qualifying Courses “compared to none in 2000.

Mike did point out that for 2014 he was restricted by any Tour arrangements being made and that S & A was already booked as a carry forward from this years rain/snow cancellation.

He then invited comments from members.

Keith thanked Mike for all his efforts which were made more difficult by every member probably having a different agenda in choosing Courses. Ray Palin endorsed these comments and thought that Mike generally gets it right!

The Captain confirmed that he thought the choice of Courses in 2013 very good and suggested that Mike continue on the same lines and not go back to all the cheaper Courses. He asked Mike to consider carefully all the suggestions made for new courses next season.

 Mike then moved on to the Handicap section of his report and began by circulating a list of Member’s handicaps showing the changes during the season. He had done this to highlight the anomalies throw up by the system as , for instance one member had an average score of 34 points in 2013 yet his handicap increased by 0.3,whereas another member who had averaged 24 had seen his handicap reduce by 0.1.

He gave further examples but stressed that all handicaps were properly calculated under R & A rules.

Alan Phillips thought the system to be unfair and asked for some detail of how it worked and why such anomalies could arise.

Mike gave a detailed explanation of the handicap system, but as Alan appeared unconvinced , DR agreed to forward to him an Email previously provided by Mike giving an excellent example of how an anomaly can arise.

There were no further questions and the Chairman thanked Mike for his Reports and all his work during the Season.

**Competition Secretary’s Report**

Stephen Sage presented the Report in David’s absence.

As David’s Report had already been circulated this was taken as read and Stephen therefore wished only to clarify matters regarding Competition Rules.

An updated copy of the Rules for all Competitions had already been circulated and Stephen formally proposed that they be adopted. This was seconded by D Ruane and passed unanimously.

Stephen also proposed that the prize for “2’s” be rolled over only once and stay at that level until won. This was seconded by R Palin and accepted by the members.

**TBags Tour**

The Captain again confirmed the success of the 2013 tour and kindly agreed to organise a tour for 2014.

It was agreed that we stick to the format of 3 fixtures with 2 nights stay (Sun, Mon, Tues) preferably during May.

The possibility of having a tour in Ireland was dismissed as being too expensive.

R Palin whilst in full support of a tour regretted that circumstances meant he would be unable to tour in 2014.

**Election of Officers**

There being no new nominations for the current Offices it was proposed by R Palin and seconded by M Rust that the present Officers, having indicated their willingness to continue, be elected en bloc. This was agreed by all members present.

Nominations were invited for the new post of Vice Captain and R Palin proposed Michael Rust for this post. This was seconded by I Dunn and passed unanimously.

Congratulations were given to Mike on his appointment.

**2013 Competitions and Award of Trophies**

Archie invited the Captain to conduct the awards ceremony and Stephen began by summarising the results of today’s play and announcing the winners.

The winner of the “nearest the pin “was Graham Bolton and Stephen presented him with a sleeve of golf balls.

The format of the day’s play was a Stableford competition with 4 teams, all players taking their second shot from the same position, being the result of the team’s chosen drive. All players had to have a minimum no of their drives used.(5 for a 3 man team).

This had resulted in a very close contest with only 2 points separating the teams.

However the outright winner with 98 points was team Mouse. Stephen congratulated the team members (M.Rust, K. Pope, and L. Laithwaite) and presented each of them with a sleeve of golf balls.

Pairs K.O.

This was won by Hutton & Rust. Stephen, as part of last years winning team, congratulated them on being very worthy winners and presented the Trophy to M.Rust on behalf of both players.

Chairman’s Plate

 This award for the best 4 results by members playing less than 8 fixtures was won for the second year running by D Hutton.

Stephen congratulated David and said that the trophy would be presented to him at our Christmas fixture.

The Chairman then took over to present the award to the winner of the Singles K.O.

Archie said he was very pleased to make this award to someone who had not previously won a trophy, and he congratulated him on his excellent play in this years K.O. The winner was Ray Palin and the Chairman’s congratulations were echoed by all present.

Chairman’s Challenge

Mike Geraghty, as a previous holder of this trophy, then took over to announce the winner.

The race to the title had again been tightly fought with Keith making the early running and Graham coming up very strongly near the end. There had been 9 different winners of events in 2013 but the eventual Champion had proved his worth with a very consistent run of 2 victories ,4 runners up , and both 3rd & 4th places.

Mike was very pleased to present the Trophy (for the second year running) to Michael Rust.

Michael was congratulated by all the members and he responded by thanking everyone for their support and stressing how pleased he was to win this Trophy as his membership of the Society was very important to him. He finished by promising to retain this trophy in 2014 if at all possible!!

The Captain then announced that there would be a special award of a sleeve of golf balls(presented by G Bolton) and this was given to Len Laithwaite as the only member with a 100% attendance record in 2013.(including our Charity fixture).

**A O B**

The question was raised of there being any prize for “2’s” achieved today and the answer was no.

The Captain announced the date of our Christmas fixture would be 6th Dec 2013 but the venue had still to be decided. Stephen will notify all members of the details as soon as possible.

Our President, on behalf of all members, thanked the Committee for all their work during the year.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.12pm.