



The Chesterfield Golf Club Junior Section

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on Monday 6th February 2012

In attendance:

John Day (Captain), Jan Poulton (Ladies Captain), Bill Preston (Junior Organiser & Chairman), Liz Cromwell (Junior Organiser), Mike McLean (Professional).

The meeting was attended by 9 junior members and 11 Parent/Guardians.

Apologies:

Mr. Brian Yates (President), Mr Shane Naisbett (Assistant Professional)

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking them for their support and attendance before introducing the guests to the parents and junior members.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Wwere presented at the meeting and there were no matters arising from the minutes. Mr Richard Hewitt proposed that the minutes be accepted and the proposal was seconded by Mr John Day, Club Captain.

The chairman presented the junior report for 2011

2011 has proved to be an interesting and fruitful year, with the junior section making progress throughout thanks to our club's positive approach to junior golf in overcoming obstacles and removing barriers. Earlier this year the club was awarded "Golf Mark" by the EGU in recognition of its achievement in embracing and supporting the development of junior golf.

This change in perception has seen the club enrol 13 new junior members, the larger proportion of whom are under 12 years of age. Our total junior membership now stands at 38. We have only 3 girls, although attracting them seems to be a problem in most clubs. Of these 38 members fewer than half actively participate at the club, although those who do turn up regularly are extremely enthusiastic.

It is pleasing to see that we now have a number of juniors enjoying golf. Encouragement to play combined with a robust coaching programme provided by Mike and Shane throughout the summer and winter months has resulted in the dramatic progress of a number of juniors, illustrated by a drop in their handicaps of 10 shots or more. Should this trend continue it is hoped we will develop a formidable team for the club.

It would be remiss if I were not to mention that much of what has been achieved would not have been possible without the sponsorship from Barry Twigg, Peter Boardman, Vic Risorto and the generous support of our members. Thank you all.

We are continuing to address our shortcomings with advice from our peers and we will continue to improve our practice, playing and social facilities to ensure we provide a welcoming and friendly environment and one which reflects the ethos of golf.

"Tri Golf" was presented in our local schools this year by Shane Naisbett. Shane worked hard to gain the necessary qualifications, and, guided by Collin Allen and Craig Pollard, successfully provided a number of introductory golf lessons, the aim of which is to create a pathway for local children to enter the sport of golf.

"Open Day" unfortunately had its setbacks and was not the success we had hoped for as the attendance was low. However I am pleased to say we did attract some potential new members to our club.

DUGC and SUGC Junior Leagues again proved a challenge as we have only a limited number of eligible juniors. However what was lacking in experience was made up for with enthusiasm and commitment. Our sincere thanks go to Simon White, Steve Howard and the junior team for their support and sterling efforts.

The Junior Open was held earlier than in previous years and it proved to be a success, attracting 62 enthusiastic participants from around the county. This year's winner was Ben Edgson from Matlock G C, who, with a handicap of 19, scored a nett 59. Thanks should go to Liz Cromwell, Ruth Preston, Gerald Turner and the members of our ladies' and vets' sections for their much valued help and support, without which the event would have been much less enjoyable.

In the Junior/ Vets Challenge, the juniors were intent on winning, showing both enthusiasm and determination. They provided the vets with a most challenging and enjoyable day, albeit leaving a few vets wondering about junior handicaps after they achieved a clean sweep. This aside, the competition was played in good heart and thoroughly enjoyed by all, especially the juniors who expressed their appreciation to the vets for providing the event. Our thanks go to George Masson and our vets for the encouragement they provide to junior golf at the club.

There was also an inaugural juniors versus ladies competition in which the youngsters showed the ladies how to compete. They also won convincingly and afterwards the juniors and ladies enjoyed a meal together in the clubhouse. It is hoped to repeat the event next year.

With the exception of the "Masson Cup", all competitions took place with more participants in each, the trophy winners were:-

Competition	Winner(s)	Competition	Winner(s)
Junior Champion Cup	Charlie Eades	Clarence Trophy	George Parry
Ingleton Alexander Trophy	Gianni Risorto & Jonathan Wilson	Junior Shield	George Parry
Single Knockout Cup	James Wadsworth	Order of Merit Trophy	Gianni Risorto
Shental Cup	James Hewitt	Junior Members Cup	Will Sharp

Finally, thank you to our juniors and parents for their trust, support and commitment and to our members for their support and understanding. A special thank you should go to Liz Cromwell (organiser), George and Val Masson (Child Welfare) Steve Howard, Simon White, Richard Hewitt, Rachel Risorto and Paul Slaney, for their willingness to help and desire to see the junior section flourish.

The chairman also explained the course manager, Mark Crossley, was working with the club professional to improve the practice facilities available on the practice area whilst also placing dedicated short course tee markers into the fairways of the front 9 holes for use by new academy members.

Outgoing Captain's Report

The outgoing Junior Captain, Philip White, was invited to address the meeting. He began by expressing the pleasure he had enjoyed whilst being junior captain, having his photograph displayed within the club lounge, arranging the first Junior Captain's Day, the joy of having a captain's tankard as well as working and playing golf with the other junior members. In conclusion Philip thanked James Hewitt for his support throughout the year and wished him the same enjoyable experience as Captain for 2012.

Mr John Day (Captain) presented James Hewitt with his Captain's sweater whilst giving him some advice for his coming year.

Incoming Captain

The new Junior Captain James Hewitt was invited to address the meeting. He began by stating he considered it to be an honour to be chosen as Junior Captain and that he would endeavour to encourage all our juniors to take part and help them get enjoyment from their golf at the club. Finally he thanked all those responsible for supporting the junior section and he welcomed Joe Howard to the position of Junior Vice Captain saying he was looking forward to working along with Joe in his year ahead.

The Club Captain John Day presented Joe Howard with his Vice Captain's sweater whilst congratulating him on being selected by the junior members.

Incoming Junior Vice-captain

The New Junior vice Captain Joe Howard was invited to address the meeting. He began by thanking all those who had voted for him and said that he was looking forward to working with James in their task of ensuring all our juniors are encouraged to join in and enjoy their time playing golf.

Club Captain

The Club Captain was pleased to address the meeting after the presentations, saying that he had always nursed a desire to see junior golf at Chesterfield improve and over the past few years had observed with interest what has happened in the section. He made reference to the juniors' excellent behaviour and standards both on and off the course and said what a pleasure it was to see. He hoped the trend and the positive achievements of the junior section would continue. Knowing that both Bill Preston and Elizabeth Cromwell were to stand down for different reasons following the coming AGMs, he thanked them both for the work they had put in and the progress they had succeeded in achieving with the junior section.

Selection of Junior Committee

In addition to the Junior Captain and Vice Captain, an additional three junior members were required to form the junior committee. The three juniors voted for by the junior members who attended the meeting were: -

James Wadsworth, Gianni Risorto and Ben Brown.

Programme of fixtures for 2012

The chairman presented the Junior Fixture Programme for 2012/2013, informing the juniors that the competition entry sheets for the coming year are displayed upon the junior notice board.

Volunteers

The chairman reiterated the necessity for the junior section to have a pool of volunteers, like minded people who could help out by assisting with fundraising, managing the DUGC league teams and occasionally watching over the juniors during organised junior fixtures. Any parents who felt they were able to contribute to any of these aspects were invited to contact any of the junior organisers.

Organisation

As with every organisation change is inevitable, it is not the change but how we manage that change which is important. With this in mind we believe that the changes which have been introduced through "Golf Mark," our professionals, the Club and your support throughout our time will ensure the continued success of the junior section.

The change that I refer to is that both Liz and myself will be replaced following the coming AGMs. However, I must say that our decision has not been an easy one and one which no doubt will leave us both with mixed feelings.

It was always my intention to request that the club officials seek my replacement 12 months prior to my term of office ending; this would then have allowed me to offer background support to the new junior organiser until such time as he or she got up to speed.

However even the best laid plans don't always work out, and changes in my circumstances have necessitated the bringing forward of such a decision to this year's AGM, although as I

have already mentioned it is my intention to offer support to whomever is appointed as well as tying off some of the loose ends that still exist.

And what of Liz, who has been my right hand throughout the majority of my time, following the resignation of Tots Woolgar?

As I recall Liz was shunted into the position by the then ladies' captain, Liz Day. She was enthusiastic about junior golf without having much knowledge of what was involved. However, she grasped the nettle firmly and throughout she has given her full support to the task, willingly undertaking her share of the load, and I'm sure like myself she will continue for a little while to finish off that which has already been started.

In Liz's case change has come in the form of the Ladies' committee appointing her to the position of "Ladies Competitions' Secretary", a role that I am sure you will all appreciate will be very demanding upon her time.

As part of the process to manage this change and to provide longer term stability to the practical elements of junior golf we are introducing a new position of "junior manager" to oversee both the coaching and playing of junior golf at our club. I am pleased to say that Shane Naisbett, who already is doing an excellent job with the junior coaching, has accepted the additional role of overseeing the junior fixtures.

I'm sure you will all agree with me that this is a positive step and that Shane's relationship with many of the juniors is a positive one and one that if allowed to flourish will prove very beneficial to the future of junior golf at our club.

Co-Junior Organiser

Elizabeth Cromwell addressed the meeting to explain how reluctant and disappointed she was to be stepping down from the junior section, explaining how thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding the task had been. Although there were some challenges along the way, the most rewarding aspect had been watching the group of youngsters bond together and form friendships through a shared enthusiasm for golf. Seeing the joy on the faces of the juniors assembled in the junior room or at an official fixture will live long in her memory.

Coaching

The club's Professional Mike McLean explained to the meeting the position with junior coaching for the coming year, however he emphasized his concerns on the poor attendances for the special league team coaching sessions and suggested that those junior members selected have much to gain from such sessions and therefore should endeavour to ensure they attend.

AOB

The chairman reminded those juniors present of the club bye laws and the requirement that for "general play" it is etiquette for juniors to give precedence to adults at the first tee.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their support and for attending before closing the meeting.

Date of next meeting

Monday 4th February 2013 at 7.00pm