



## Mid Kent Golf Club – Veterans Section

Minutes of the “Forum 2010” held in the Clubhouse  
At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday 21st September 2010

Those Present:

Ken Benyon	Peter Lake	John Budd
John Bryan	Pat Johnson	Martin Turner
Roy Davies	John Warner	Jim Johnston
George Jewiss	Denis McCarthy	Sid Cleverly
Dave Milledge	Derick Jackson	Harry Caulfield
Danny Stevenson		

### Item 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Barry Plumb.

### Item 2. The minutes of “Forum 2009”

These were circulated before the start of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

**Proposal:** That the minutes of the 2009 Forum be passed as read.

Proposed by: Martin Turner

Seconded by: Roy Davies

Carried.

### Item 3. Captain’s Report.

The Veterans Captain, Ken Benyon, opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and thanked John Bryan and Claude Buttle for the work they had done during his year of his captaincy. The veterans section had been involved in 25 friendly matches during the year and raising a team for some of these matches had proved to be difficult but only once were we unable to field a full team of 12 and that was at Sheerness.

Derick Jackson said that we should see this as a cyclic problem. Costs may be a contributory factor and Derick affirmed that we are not the only club to be met with this problem. John Budd endorsed this and said the problem was not confined to the vet section; next year the Club Teams will also be reduced to 10.

It was agreed by the meeting that rather than reduce the number of fixtures it would be preferred to reduce the size of the teams. John Bryan pointed out that we needed to recognise the reciprocal arrangements that existed for the meals. In order to be fair we needed to field the same size team for both home and away matches with the same club.

Ken said that we never fail to get complimented by visiting clubs and we in return always found our hosts to be very hospitable at our way matches. Ken wished to register you his thanks to those who had supported him by turning out for matches.

Roy Davies was thanked for shepherding through the first year of the Super Seniors League which had proven to be quite a successful venture and which will be continued next year under the captaincy of Kevin Havard.

#### **Item 4. Treasurer's report.**

A copy of the Treasurer's Report was attached to the minutes which were circulated at the start of the meeting. The treasurer's main worry for the coming year is whether or not the caterers will become liable for V.A.T., the outcome could affect the cost of the meals.

John pointed out how important the income generated by the veterans open competition was to our balance sheet. This year it generated in excess of £460 profit. John pointed out that a considerable float is necessary to cover the upfront expenses associated with this event.

At the request of some of the veterans John had ordered a number of white golf shirts and they were available for purchase at a cost of £6 each.

#### **Item 5. Subscriptions.**

It was partly because of the amount of cash needed for float that John proposes that we raise the subscriptions from £2 to £5 per year. Some of those present had misgivings about the size of this increase but it was pointed out that the subscriptions had remained constant at £2 for at least seven years.

Proposal: That the annual subscription be raised to £5.

Proposed by: John Budd  
Seconded by: Roy Davies.  
Carried.

#### **Item 6. Election of the Officers 2011-2012.**

##### **Vets Captain.**

Since no volunteer for the post of vets captain had been for the forthcoming John Warner, who had been the 2009 captain, said that he would take on the post again.

Proposal: That John Warner is elected Vets Captain.

Proposed by: John Bryan  
Seconded by: George Jewiss  
Carried.

##### **Vice-Captain.**

This post will remain unfilled.

##### **Secretary and treasurer.**

There then followed some considerable discussion as to how the post of secretary could be filled. One of the major workloads for the secretary is the organisation of the Open Competition. It was considered that if this task was undertaken by a small working committee thereby lightening the load of the secretary it might be easier to recruit a volunteer. Peter Lake and Roy Davies both had experience of running the event and volunteered to assist John Bryan in so doing next year. David Milledge pointed out that you really must have someone with overall responsibility.

Another suggestion was that John Bryan give up the post of Treasurer to take on the job of Secretary because the treasurer's post may be easier to fill. This could not be done until the end of the financial year.

Ken Benyon pointed out that the Vets Website made life very much easier for the team captains. There was some concern as to who would maintain that website when Claude Buttle departed. Claude said that it would be no problem for him to continue to maintain the system from wherever he was in much the same way that any software package is maintained. This he would be more than happy to do.

#### **Item 7. The Vets Open**

This had been a great success and generated a large proportion of our funds. As usual we had found it necessary to reject some applications in order to limit the entry to 32 teams. In some cases, unsuccessful applicants were promised entry for 2011. We still adhere to the

limit of only three teams from any one club. Peter Lake has volunteered to run this event next year.

**Item 8. The League and Friendly Matches.**

Our league team under the captaincy of Barry Plumb had had a very successful year. For the first time since 1998 we had won the league. This was a tremendous achievement and it is known that Barry Plumb invests a considerable amount of effort in raising a team for each of the matches.

**Item 9. The Monthly Stableford Competitions.**

John Bryan said that these competitions just about broke even. The bad weather at the beginning of the year had reduced the number of entries for two of the months and one month had to be abandoned altogether. This meant that the prizes had been bought but no competition held to cover the cost.

**Item 10. Proposal to raise the annual membership fee.**

See item 4.

**Item 11. The problems of the Thorpe Hall fixture.**

This topic was raised by John Bryan due to the problems he had experienced in organising the event this year. He was of the view that it would be best run by the Club.

The history of this event is that it was initiated over 40 years ago by river pilots from both clubs but later became a Club fixture. It has been mainly supported by retired members because the matches take place mid week, normally on a Monday as the Thorpe Hall team is composed mainly of members of their 'Monday Club', which is effectively their Vet's section.

From the Mid Kent end, the Vets Section has taken over the actual running of the event for many years because, being a mid week event, most of the participants were retired.

Derick Jackson and Harry Caulfield were both of the view that the proposal to write to the Board asking them to assume responsibility for the fixture was the wrong approach and could result in the death of the fixture.

Derick said that, in his opinion, it was a mistake to put up two lists for the match and, in future, we should have just one list on the main notice board and, if necessary, a notice on the Vet's Board drawing attention to it.

The Proposal: "That John Bryan writes to the Board asking that the Club assumes responsibility for this fixture" was put to the meeting and, despite the reservations put by Derick Jackson and Harry Caulfield, the meeting approved the proposal.

Proposed by: Martin Turner  
Seconded by: Pat Johnson  
Carried.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.10.

T.C. Buttle  
Secretary of the Veterans' section