

United Kingdom Senior Golf Association



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Chairman's Report - 2011

Gentlemen,

Another year has passed into history taking the Association into its twelfth year. From humble beginnings we have grown steadily and built a solid foundation for the future. This last year has seen members meetings visit new venues and in the main they have been well supported. One particular disappointment was the Northern Championship at Hesketh, when our fixture clashed with a re-arranged Regional Championship. This year we have chosen dates that currently do not clash with other Championships but once again we had booked a superb venue, St Annes Old Links, only to find that the original date clashed with the David Marsh and the only other available dates clashed with the SE Championship. Perhaps we shall fix for 2012 but this year we are back to Hesketh on a date that should not clash, hoping for a good turnout.

The European Team Championships were held at Royal Waterloo and Hulencourt in Belgium. The scratch team, captained by David Lane, were successful with a comfortable win over our usual rivals of Spain and Italy. The handicap team, lead by Reg Neal, worked hard against countries with a different handicap system and nevertheless managed to come fourth – a commendable effort. The 'Old Toppies' were not to be outdone by the younger members of the Association and our scratch team, lead by Howard Moxon, won the European Masters Championship for the second time, held in the heart of the sparkling wine region of Northern Italy at Franciacorta GC. We have only entered this three times and previously have won and been runner-up. The handicap team fared better this time by finishing tied third.

There were two International matches last year. We took on the South African team at West Hill GC in a scratch match and came a close second. Our thanks to West Hill Golf Club and David Defty for organising the fixture. The other match was played at Littlestone GC when we took on Luxembourg in a handicap match and on this occasion UKSGA prevailed quite handsomely,

Our National Champion for 2010 was Roy Smethurst who defended with his usual aplomb on 143; runner-up was Robert Fox on 150 followed by Tony Hilton on 151. Pat Horkan won the National Masters with an impressive score of 158.

Sponsorship

We had a good response to our appeal for sponsorship with some from the trade but mainly from our own members. We are grateful for the support, particularly in these difficult times, as the funds help defray costs, but inevitably there is a need to continue to seek sponsorship for the forthcoming year.

If members are able to introduce companies to sponsor the Committee would be keen to meet them and find common ground for both them and the Association.

Order of Merit

The OoM has been a success over the past few years but the rules have led to a few difficulties which the Committee would like to amend to allow selection of teams reflecting active participation at our meetings. Once the Committee have finally agreed the amendments will be published on our website.

Constitution and Bye Laws

To reflect the growth of the Association and the vast increase in e-mails and use of website by the majority, amendments and additions were agreed in principle at the last AGM and the amended version will shortly be published on the website.

AGM

The AGM (notes of meetings to be published on our website when we have established a 'members only' area) held at Trevoise immediately after the end of our National Championship meeting was well attended by the competitors. The Management Committee was re-elected plus Peter Lomas as an additional member with responsibility for sponsorship. This will assume even greater importance as we prepare to host the European Masters Team Championships in 2014.

Committee and Others

As Chairman, I would like to thank all those members who gave of their time throughout last year – their help is invaluable.

Our President, **Dr Donald Holmes** has not been able to attend as many meetings as he would wish due to him still actively practicing medicine.

Mike Miller carries out our requirements as National Secretary most professionally whilst running Royal Blackheath on a full time basis. His retirement from RBGC in September will be to the benefit of UKSGA.

Tug Wilson assumed the position of Tournament Organiser in 2010 and he has done a superb job in re-organising entries so that e-mail confirmation of entry and then start times has improved the communication with members as well as running the meetings.

Reg Neal has run the Ball Sweep at our meetings with significant financial benefit to the UKSGA, assisted in generating sponsorship and as Chairman of Selectors arranged our overseas participation. The administration of the OoM suffered a little in the changeover last year but **Nigel Franklin** has nobly stepped up to assist and will run the OoM in 2011.

David Defty is our steady hand at the financial tiller. He keeps costs and funding under strict control and is very much a 'safe pair of hands'.

Peter Lomas has now retired from a successful business career and in joining the Management Committee we feel confident that we are prepared to build and expand the Association into the future.

Roy Smethurst continues as the Associations Webmaster. The improvement of the service to members is an ongoing programme and we hope to introduce a secure members area so that we can publish notes of AGM and Committee meetings to improve member communication. We are most appreciative of his time.

Martyn Senior, the former Secretary of Hesketh GC, has offered to assist in being the eyes and ears of the North Region and **Brian Morris** will do the same in the Midlands.

Good golfing and
Sunny Regards

Brian Evans.