



**County President**  
**John White Bridport & West Dorset**

To Members of the DCGU

The clocks have changed, the days are longer and another golf season beckons. The first major of the year at Augusta is almost upon us (7th-10th April), so time to clean the clubs, hit the fairways and try to get that handicap down this year.

I was very honoured and privileged to become President of the DCGU on 17th March at the annual Meeting of the Council taking over from Bill Kennedy from Knighton Heath. Over the past 2 years Bill has been a great ambassador for the DCGU and I have had the utmost admiration for his commitment and enthusiasm particularly for the County Partnership, Junior Golf development and for the introduction of the Rules Circus. He deserves a tremendous vote of thanks from all of us. I will, in turn, endeavour to represent you all and the interests of Dorset Golf to the best of my ability.

I am particularly pleased for my Club, Bridport and West Dorset, who have not previously had a County President in their ranks. It is their 125th Anniversary this year, being the oldest

established Club in Dorset, and will be holding the County Championship in May for the first time, so that is a special bonus.

An enormous amount of work has been completed throughout the winter months and with a fair wind and some bright sunshine all should be in grand condition to welcome and challenge the participants in May.

So, I hope you enjoy the first DCGU newsletter of 2016 that we hope will be the first of several throughout the year. Please contact Ian Hulse, the County Secretary, with important news and views from your Club for inclusion in the next issue.

Best wishes for good golf and fine weather this year.

John White – President

## County Executive

Chairman	Ian Clark Came Down
President	John White Bridport & WD
Immediate Past President	Bill Kennedy Knighton Heath
Captain	Giles Legg Ferndown
Vice-Captain	Tom Leech Ferndown
Seniors' Captain	Nigel Green DG&CC
Juniors' Secretary	Dave Shenton Broadstone
Club Members:	Alan Wakeford Crane Valley
	Roger Aplin Rushmore
	Alex Anderson Came Down

## County Events – April

Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd Peter Alliss Finals Ferndown  
Sun 3rd County v Army Christchurch  
Mon 4th U14s v Hampshire Romsey  
Tue 5th- Thu 7th Four Counties Yelverton  
Tue 5th U14s v Wiltshire U14 West Wilts  
Sun 10th Beckford Bowl Preliminary Rd  
Wed 20th DCGA Knighton Heath

## Team News:

The County team beat the Army 9.5 – 3.5 at Highcliffe Castle on Sunday 3 Apr our sincere thanks to Highcliffe Castle members who made the players and officials so welcome.

They now prepare for the opening match in this year's SE League campaign against Hampshire at Ferndown on the Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Juniors:** The following will be travelling to Yelverton in Devon 5 – 8 Apr to represent the County at this year's Four Counties Championship: Tom Plumb & Adam Harris Sherborne, Brad Cox Broadstone, George Carroll & Callum Ward DG&CC, Joe Turner Ferndown, Steffen Foley Parkstone and Sean Dimmick Weymouth. We wish them every success.

The under 14's play friendlies against Wiltshire and Hampshire this week in their preseason warm up campaign.

### Henderson:



Our thanks to the staff at Dudsbury GC who did us proud after the river came over on Wednesday closing the course. They got nine holes open on the Thursday and Friday allowing us to complete the Henderson Trophy. The match play throughout the competition was of the highest standard and a fine final with some superb golf on view to those spectating.

Tom Plumb Sherborne ran out the winner overcoming Brad Cox Broadstone with a 2&1 victory to become the 2016 Henderson Champion. Tom also took the Durbin Salver.

### Peter Alliss Young Masters:



The under fourteen year olds were on the Alliss Course at Ferndown this weekend battling it out for the Peter Alliss Young Masters Trophy. There was some super golf played and it was a delight to watch the talent of the future doing battle. The final saw young guns Matthew Filer Ferndown against Jacob Tidswell Weymouth. Jacob was giving 14 shots which did not deter him from winning 3&1 in a very well contested final which really could have gone either way until Matthew over shot the seventeenth green and had nowhere to drop. Our congratulations to Jacob and I look forward to watching the progress of both these young players over the coming years.

# County News from the Secretary

Welcome to another Season and let's hope the sun will shine on all. The County Executive is pleased to announce that our Sponsor, Ringwood Brewery have continued with their support for the County during 2016. They will also sponsor the Christmas Meetings of the Dorset County Golf Association which meets throughout the year raising money for Junior Golf.

**28th Annual Dinner:** County President Bill Kennedy Knighton Heath GC was at the helm for the 28th Annual Dinner which will be his last as President as he is due to hand over to Bridport's John White at Annual Meeting of the Council this month. We were once more at Bentleys Restaurant which has proved so successful over the last few years and as usual we were once more fed watered and looked after admirably by the staff. To read more and see the photos go to [www.dcggu.org.uk](http://www.dcggu.org.uk) next year's dinner will be on Friday 10 March and we hope to once more go to Dudsbury.

**Annual Meeting of the Council:** The annual meeting took place at the DG&CC on Thursday 17 March it was reasonably well attended by the clubs. John White Bridport & WD took over the helm as President with Dave Shenton Broadstone taking on the Juniors. The move to real time collection of Affiliation Fees was agreed and carried by the clubs. There was some interesting debate in the Forum regarding helping club initiatives and your Executive will take these forward.

**County Teams:** Winter training has progressed and the two winter Junior competitions will conclude during the Easter Holidays with the Peter Alliss matchplay taking place at Ferndown and the Henderson at Dudsbury. The Under 18 team will be at Yelverton playing in this year's Four Counties Championship and we wish them every success, whilst our Under 14 squad will play both Hampshire and Wiltshire in pre-season friendlies. The County squad will travel to St Enodoc to prepare for both the start of their SE Campaign and this year's SW Championship.

**Rules:** Our new President is also busy with the Counties "Rule Circus" which seems to be going down well with those that have attended the fun sessions organised by John to give club members some fundamentals on the rules of our great game. Any club wishing to organise an evening then please contact the Secretary who will arrange.

**Championships:** The Dorset Open is being held on Sunday 1 May that will be followed by the County Championship at Bridport & WD who are celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Seniors Championship will be at Ferndown and the County Stroke Play will be hosted by Broadstone for dates and entry please visit your County website [www.dcggu.org.uk](http://www.dcggu.org.uk)

**Canford Magna:** well it is nearly the end of the month and sadly that is the day Canford will be closing its doors. The Executive are saddened to see the loss of such a thriving club with such an active membership. May we take this opportunity to wish you all the very best, we are sure where ever you go to continue playing the game you will be made to feel at home. May I ask you all to remember to take note of your CDH number and take it with you so your records get transferred across smoothly and without a hitch!

**County Cards:** Still only £13 so very good value they are available on line at your County web site or by post through the Secretary.

**Dorset County Golf Association:** Run for all affiliated club golfers to enjoy a friendly day's 4BBB golf, the Association events raise money for junior development within the County. You will have the opportunity to play in eight events throughout the year including a Christmas special with lunch at venues around the County. Interested then please visit the web site for more information on the events.

# England News

Here is a brief precis of what has happened over the past months.

**Nick Pink our new CEO** started work on Monday 14th March. Too early for any further comment! He will be going on tour and dates will be discussed once he has his feet under the table.

**The Governance Review** was finalised at the December General meeting, and has been put to bed for now. However if Sport England/ UK Sport change the qualification criteria for NGBs in receipt of public funding we may have to revisit this subject if we wish to continue to receive financial support. The Board believe they would not be serving the best interests of the game to simply turn away from what has been approx. £2 million per year, but all scenarios will be explored.

The proposals approved were,

- The ability to appoint an Independent Chair by 'Open' recruitment.
- The formation of a Nominations Committee.
- The Affiliation of short courses, pitch and putt courses and driving ranges.
- The collection of Affiliation Fees in real time.
- Current Committees to be replaced with Ad Hoc working groups as required.

Not approved were

- Board given the power to set affiliation fees.
- General Meetings reduced to two per year.
- Composition of the Board to be changed to include 3 appointed Directors.

**CDO's:** EG have undertaken to bridge any gap that may arise in CDO contracts between their existing contracts which, for many, expire at the end of the current funding round, and the re-establishment of new funding.

**Merged Counties:** The Isle of Man has joined Northamptonshire as counties which have merged. The question of the ownership or share of participation in the property company is being addressed by that company and hopefully a sensible solution or options can be found. We understand several other Counties are now seriously looking at merger.

It may be of interest to know that the Irish are pursuing merger, but by going the 'completely new' approach rather than a merged organisation. This will mean some significant upheavals I have no doubt but they believe all- to- new is better than a compromise of existing. I think this is a brave but understandable methodology as they are seeking to have one organisation for the whole of Ireland, North and the Republic, women and men, a tall order indeed.

**The National Golf Centre:** Consistent with its role as the National Centre plans are being examined and a proposal being worked on that better indoor facilities be established so that a greater part of training and development can take place at Woodhall Spa for National Squads. This if approved would mean that Counties may also avail of the facility which would include a substantial indoor putting lab.

**Commercial Activity:** EG has established a relationship with the Challenge Tour through joint sponsorship of the Bridgestone Tyre Challenge Tour event at Heythrop Park will bring significant opportunities for transitional exposure to our squads and to recent players who have turned pro, there are up to 27 starts at their events and 4 places for amateurs in the Heythrop event.

**R&A 9 hole Championship:** This new event is being run as a trial this year and will consist of players from those clubs hosting the Open Qualifying events only. Played in pairs of any combination- except two juniors- the top 15 scorers will be invited to Troon to a final on the Saturday preceding the Open. Next year it is proposed that the Home Unions organise competitions of their own and the top 60 qualifiers will get much the same treatment. All very experimental, but fits well into our own Golf Express initiative.

**The Olympics and drug testing:** Given that the PGA Tour do not conform to WADA drugs testing procedures or all banned substances there was a worry that certain prescribed drugs could get a USA Tour player DQ'd even though he/ she were compliant with their own code. So, as from May 16th the top 60 most likely qualifiers worldwide will be placed under WADA reporting requirements and random testing. As the season progresses other players will be added as the results develop but players will only be added- none dropped off until the final selections are made, which will happen the week before the Open.

**Seniors Age Limits:** There is no enthusiasm whatsoever for a change in the age limit for Seniors from 55 down to 50. The R & A will not be changing neither will any of the other Home Unions. Please all note Dorset remains firmly at 55.

**Rules and Decisions App:** It is now possible to download this onto a mobile device- good luck with that!

**LGU merger with the R&A:** The R&A are just about there with the Heads of Agreement document and things will flow from there. This will be going ahead as all four home unions have agreed the deal subject to final verification of the detail. LGU Championships will become part of R & A and its members plus others will be holders of up to a total of 15 committee places on various R & A Committees.

**Worldwide Handicapping System:** Since 2011 the USGA and the R&A have been looking to develop a Worldwide Handicap System, Now in 2016 this may only be a couple of years away. Currently The USGA and the R&A are in discussion with the all handicapping bodies and the National Unions to look at the detail of any potential system, to ensure that everyone's needs are met and all golfing cultures are covered. With the hope that by creating one system used across the globe, it will allow the game of golf to grow, as well as allowing players the freedom to use their golf handicap anywhere in the world.

This concludes the first of this year's Newsletters and it just leaves me to wish you all a great golfing season and success in all you do.

Ian Hulse

County Secretary