

**Open Forum from the Annual General Meeting of Donnington Grove Golf Club held at
Donnington Grove Country Club on Wednesday 18th March 2009.**

Steve Clark

Are there any plans to re-introduce a Junior section?

Geoff Kells : Agreed that this was a good idea

Gareth Williams : Matt Bland used to run, however there were discipline problems with a couple of juniors in the past. Matt Woods and Gareth Williams have recently started course for juniors, which has been well received.

There was a general agreement that this is a good idea, however it requires dedicated personnel to run section and it is probably too late to enter any leagues this year. This question will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Steve Clark

How will the Committee and Management police Pay and Play golfers, as there have been instances of metal spikes, wrong dress code and disrespectful Course behaviour?

This question raised a lively debate with the question being asked whether members should police inappropriate behaviour on the course.

Chris Strong : The Committee had debated the problems surrounding the Dress code and Richard Lomax had produced a definitive Dress Code, which had been approved by the Committee and published. Details of this new Dress Code have been placed around the premises. The Pro Shop attempts to police members and non-members to the best of their ability but agreed that this was not infallible. Hopefully the increase in starters during the summer will solve some of these problems.

Gareth Williams : Any inappropriate behaviour coming to the notice of members should be reported to the Pro Shop ASAP to enable them to challenge those responsible.

Matt Bland

Does the dress code apply to the range as well?

Gareth Williams : The Dress Code did extend to the range, but was aware people could slip through the net, by others collecting their balls for them.

Geoff Kells : The Committee were aware of the problem and all agreed to attempt to tighten up the procedures regarding the Dress Code as far as was possible.

David Hickman suggested that signs should be put up stating that all players had to report to the Pro shop. It was felt that this would not necessarily cure the problem.

Gareth Williams urged all members to continue to report any infringements they come across.

Steve Clark

No mention was made in the reports about the sad loss of Malcolm Sanderson

All the Committee agreed that this was an unfortunate oversight as Malcolm was a friendly, professional and much respected member of the Golf Team over many years and he is sorely missed.

Steve Clark

Booking tee times at the weekend, especially Saturdays is becoming increasingly harder. What is the Committee doing to alleviate this growing problem?

Geoff Kells : During the past year membership has grown from 240 to 385 members while the members tee times have remained the same. The committee are aware of this problem and the management have started to address this issue.

Chris Strong : We are extending the members playing times from immediate effect wherever possible. The Managements is releasing an extra hour for members from 10am (time in the constitution) to 11am. The Pro Shop staff has been instructed not to book golf breaks at the weekend before 11am. This may take time to take effect as some bookings have already been made.

Steve Clark

Does this include Medal bookings, as members have been unable to enter competitions as they become full extremely quickly?

Gareth Williams : The Medals run up to 11.15am. In deciding the space to be allocated we look at last years entry and then add a proportional number to account for the increased membership. Although the initial list becomes full quickly, many cancel before the competition and even with all the reserves being used, it normally results in a substantial amount of spare spaces on the day.

Lester Hunt

Can the competition vouchers be put on member's cards?

Gareth Williams : The aim is for the winners to spend the money in the Pro Shop. It appears that the vouchers are the best way to do this.

A question on behalf of Mike Williams

What is being done about the litter on the pathways?

Dave Knight : 18 new bins are being made at present for the course.

John Rance : The problem seems to be before the 10th tee with bottles and cans.

Geoff Kells : The Committee will keep an eye on this matter.

Steve Simms

Is the old putting Green to remain?

Chris Strong : Yes for the foreseeable future.

James Dawes

Can we have the practice bunker back?

Dave Knight : It is planned to do so when the Green staff have the available time. It needs to be built somewhere else, as the water level from the lake is too high and badly affected the old bunker.

Ronald MacDonald

Is there any provision to play competitions on Sundays?

Geoff Kells : The Committee aim to trial Sunday competitions this year. It was tried in the past but received poor support with only half the numbers compared to Saturdays.

Tim Brunsdon

19th March 2009