

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Monday 6th April 2009

Present; Geoff Kells, Lynn Turner, Ann MacDonald, Richard Lomax, John Rance, Brenda Agutter, Tim Brunsdon, Sean Sargeant.

Apologies; Chris Strong, Gareth Williams, Steve Marshall.

The Captain took the chair

March Minutes were approved as correct and signed off by Geoff Kells.

Matters Arising

The Committee reviewed the Actions List carried forward from March as shown below.

0710/9 - Geoff stated that the doors for the Trophy Cabinet were due to be completed by the end of the week.

1111/2 - Richard stated that the past Captains' photos have now been reproduced at the required size, however they came without frames, as the sample frames supplied were not of a sufficient standard. Richard will pursue this in order to have the photos and frames ready for the Captains' Dinner on 18th April 2009. The cost for the photos to be mounted and framed came to £18 each, which the Committee considered as a favourable price.

1301/5 - The matter of the outstanding £100 from the Charity auction is still on going. Geoff will write to Keith Berry.

1301/3 - Richard met with the new web-site designers with regard to a member's section. A summary of this meeting is attached. The designer's priority is to get the main site up and running. They will then turn their attention to the member's section. Richard asked all Committee members to consider any relevant content for the site.

0302/7 - Geoff has contacted the CONGU website regarding supplementary scores. Sean Sargeant will post a notice to all members regarding this.

0303/8 - The question of altering the stroke indexes for the course has been carried forward to 2010 when the existing contracts and sponsorships expire.

Captain's Report

The cabinet has finally been fitted, but still not finished. It awaits glass doors, which I am told will be fitted by the week ending Friday 10th April.

The team shirts are now in (except the Ladies) and have been given the thumbs up by the team captains. I am proposing that the Committee and team captains deal with their distribution and collection of monies. It was a shame that the seniors did not receive them in time for their first match – they arrived on that day. However they are here now and we will all look very smart.

We played our first Interclub match against Magnolia Park – it was close, but the team won 3^{1/2} – 2^{1/2}. Magnolia were very complimentary about our course and hospitality, particularly the cream tea after the game.

The Daily Mail Team were beaten at home by Marlborough 4-1 in the second round.

The Scratch Team had their first match away against Sandmartins (which was played at Reading) and won 5-2, sporting their new shirts. Well done to Steve and the team.

Once again, thanks to Richard for all his hard work collating trophy winners and organising the engravings. Thanks also to Tim, who did a great job as Master of Ceremonies. The evening was a huge success with approximately 80 people present, which is the best turnout I can remember – well done to us all. The roll-up drew an amazing 65 entries and 8 champagne prizes were given out. Richard has put a notice up for those who were unable to attend and collect their prizes.

We must put up notices and inform members about the new CONGU ruling on maintaining handicaps – namely 3 qualifying rounds must be played during 2009 to allow members to maintain their handicaps for 2010.

A notice will also be published explaining how the supplementary scores work.

There was a very disappointing turn out for the AGM – 14 in total. There was only 1 item in the members' questions that I feel we need to try and address and that is juniors. Other questions from the floor were relating to members tee times, extending tee times for members, not being able to get onto the course and replacing the bunker in the practice area.

I have negotiated a set price for all club lunches before matches and cream teas afterwards to be £10. We are going to offer a limited menu of full cooked breakfast, warm chicken salad or steak pie & veg. Followed by cream teas or chicken wraps.

Lady Captain's report

I understand there are 2 or 3 new lady members this year. I will be writing to them personally to introduce myself and welcome them to the ladies section and to inform them of what goes on and when.

I was disappointed at the 'no show' of any ladies at the AGM, although only 14 members out of 385 attended anyway. Obviously everyone is quiet content with the club!

Some match results so far; The Mail on Sunday match away to Donnington Valley Ladies resulted in a 4-1 defeat. Well done to Gill lane for winning her match. The Duncan Trophy played away to Newbury Racecourse Ladies was also lost 3-2. Well done to Ann Macdonald and Gill for winning their matches. Some good news though... Ann and myself beat 2 ladies from Newbury & Crookham, who were very good golfers (5 & 7 h'caps) in the Daily Mail Foursomes League to take us through to the next round.

There is a very good response for our first Interclub match with Newbury & Crookham at home on Sunday 3rd May.

Matt Woods is very kindly holding another golf clinic for the ladies on Monday 27th April. The last one – a putting lesson was very successful. Which is probably why 2 ladies were ‘in the frame’ in the winter league overall results!

Senior Captain’s report

We played Caversham Heath away and won 2 ½ - ½ and then played away to Wokefield Park and won 5-1.

On Monday we have a home match against South Winchester so let’s hope!

– Post script – we won 5-1.

Our next match is at home to West Berks and we will be playing for the Elfed Trophy – we already have a full team for this match.

We have added Dummer as a new home and away fixture for this year.

Our lovely red team shirts have arrived.

We have about 4 new members who have enquired about senior events, so we should be all right for team selections.

The roll-up has now switched to summer time, with 4 tees at 8.30am and 2 at 9.30am on both Tuesday and Thursday. Although there have already been some problems with other events being double-booked with roll-up times. Chris and Gareth are trying to resolve this for us.

Social report

The presentation evening was well attended; no doubt a result of the re-introduction of the Prize Draw. There were a few teething problems associated with members at the rear talking over the presentations, and I will hold a de-brief with the social sub-committee over the lessons learnt for next year.

The Champagne Roll-Up was a huge success and shows that there is a need for this format throughout the summer. I will publish a poster with a diary of events over the summer for the Champagne Roll-Up, this includes Ferret Racing, a Golf Academy workshop and competition and a Spanish Theme Day for the last roll-up of the year on Friday 25th September.

The Donnington Diners continues to be a great success with 18 so far for the next dinner on Friday 17th April.

The Quiz Night is to be held on Friday 8th May. Can all Committee members urge people to attend (guests welcome).

The Summer Ball is now to be held on Saturday 25th July, as a wedding has been double booked on our original date, the week before. It will be a Barn Dance and the Caller has been booked and deposit paid. The tickets will go on sale for this after the Quiz night. I am opening it up to guests from the outset. I am looking for 100+ to attend.

We need to have a new members evening. I will liaise with Chris Strong to arrange a suitable date.

Any other business

Lynn Turner had been asked by members if arrangements can be made to extend the bar hours after midnight on evening functions. This has been put forward to next month's meeting for the attention of Chris Strong.

Lynn wished to have the GUR around the pond on the 18th to be defined more clearly. i.e. can the GUR be in a water hazard, and if so, where is the drop zone? Again this has been put forward to the next meeting for Gareth Williams.

Tim Brunsdon asked what was being done to rectify the error in the Most Improved Players for 2009. Sean Sargeant replied that the figures for Aaron Henry had been for 2 years instead of just 2008. The correct trophies should be – Adam Clayton Most Improved Junior – Austin Stone. The Most Improved Player – Tim Brunsdon. Richard stated that the wheels were already in motion rectifying this.

Sean Sargeant said that due to the success of the winter league competition he was considering a similar summer league competition to be run on Sundays between July and September. Concern was raised as to whether there were sufficient available days to run this. However all present thought that this was a good idea if the available dates could be found.

There have been a number of complaints from members regarding the computerised booking system. It was stated that this is still in its infancy and still requires time for the gremlins to be ironed out and also for the members to become fully adjusted to it. Lynn stated that the computer would not allow ladies to enter competitions or scores last Saturday.

Richard Lomax raised a concern that the Annual Handicap Review had been put on the notice board without all those concerned being personally informed. Sean replied that this was an oversight as it had to be completed by 1st April and the calculations had taken far longer than expected. Sean undertook to make sure all those affected by the review would be personally informed in accordance with English Golf Union requirements. It was appreciated by the Committee all the hard work Sean had put into this comprehensive review. It had not been done for many a year.

John Rance asked whether we were getting good responses to the summer knockout competitions. The members present did not know the answer to this, but it would be looked into.

Lynn asked when the names would be changed on the Honours Boards. Richard replied that it was in hand with the winter competitions being updated and the mistakes rectified.

Sean asked that Charlie be requested to open the top lights in the bar when warm as it was getting extremely hot in the bar at times.

Brenda asked whether the Committee would permit her to do Internet Banking – the problem being that there would be no requirement for 2 signatures. All present agreed that this is the best and most efficient way forward and was approved.

It was agreed after a short discussion to write off all 2007 vouchers. Brenda will write to Gareth asking him to honour the vouchers only in accordance with their expiry dates. John will compose a poster for the members regarding this.

There had been a few problems with booking reciprocal tee times at Mill Ride and Lambourne. It appears that the Pro Shop staff do not follow up on all requests if they do not get an immediate reply from the course. This will be mentioned to Gareth on his return.

Bowood had given us 40 slots on their reciprocal at 1 tee time per day and a maximum of 4 a week.

The bins for the tees have been well received.

Richard suggested that a separate meeting was required regarding the juniors. This was agreed and left to Richard to manage. Gareth is to be asked how many juniors we have at present.

Some mid-week competitions were attracting only 3 entrants yet the prize money was still £15. Gareth is to be asked to ensure vouchers are not handed out unless the entry fees cover them.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.55 pm

Next Meeting – Tuesday 5th May 2009 7.30pm

Tim Brunsten
18th April 2009