

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Tuesday 1st December 2009

Present: Geoff Kells, Lynn Turner, Richard Lomax, Ann MacDonald, Gareth Williams, Tim Brunsdon, Brenda Agutter, Chris Strong, John Rance.

Apologies: Sean Sargeant, Steve Marshall,

The Captain took the chair.

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

Matters Arising

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

0505/01 – Gareth reported that the old half-way hut was full, as it was being used for storage and would not be suitable as a Committee office.

Richard asked that this matter be kept open.

Chris asked whether the kitchen area of the old half-way hut would be suitable.

- **Gareth and Richard to look at kitchen area for next meeting**

0505/4 – Gareth said that the updating of the handicap list, together with the lapsed handicaps was almost complete – ongoing.

- **Gareth and Sean to continue with this work in progress**

0607/6 – Gareth stated that the divot bags and the portable rail system would be ready next week. Dave Knight will deploy them during dry weather.

- **Gareth to monitor results when system deployed.**

0607/7 – Chris stated that 2 new benches were due next week.

- **Chris to report back to Committee when extra 2 benches arrived.**

Richard stated that the memorial bench on the 8th tee required a plaque.

- **Richard to order plaque.**

0508/6 – Geoff stated that he and Richard had met with Matt Bland regarding the Junior Organiser vacancy. It was agreed that Matt would put his ideas down on paper. Still awaits reply from Matt

- **Geoff and Richard to report any progress at next meeting.**

0508/7 - John reported that any donations for Terry Riordan's family should be made to the Rainbow Rooms, which is a cancer care hospice in Newbury. It was agreed that £100 would be sent. This would comprise of £34 already raised, while the Committee would make the difference up of £66.

- **Brenda and John to send money.**

0508/12 – Chris stated that the quote from Camp Hobson for curtains in the bar and restaurant came to £8K. However Sandtrend were not prepared to pay this amount. Ann said that she knew of a curtain shop that was closing that may be substantially cheaper.

- **Chris to supply Ann with measurements.**
- **Ann to research cost of alternative curtains.**

0508/15 – Tim stated that research into the various boards for competition results was still ongoing.

- **Tim to report progress at next meeting**

0610/04 – Sean stated that he was hoping to have a draft copy of the club manual out by next week for proof reading.

- **Sean to report progress at next meeting.**

0311/01- Gareth said that the best way to instruct Sean and Mark Rollings in working the PSI was during a competition.

- **Gareth to report progress at next meeting.**

0311/03- Gareth said the all the signs have been ordered and we were awaiting delivery. These include new car parking signs for the Committee.

- **Gareth to report progress at next meeting.**

0311/07- Gareth reported that he had spoken to the member concerned, regarding an E-mail over the lack of members' tee times at the weekend during the winter. He suggested that the 10th be utilised as a starting tee. After a detailed discussion it was agreed that the 1st and 10th be used as starting tees. This would mean that players would need to stick to their time slots for their 10th hole of the round.

- **Gareth to implement 2 tee start times and monitor situation.**

0311/08- A discussion then arose over members not turning up for their rounds. Chris suggested that a notice be placed on the website and in the club, stating that any members not turning up for their rounds without informing the Pro Shop would be phoned and asked their reasons why.

- **Gareth to research guilty members and report back to the Committee.**

0311/11- Tim stated that he would start writing an index to the minutes over the next few months.

- **Tim to report back when completed.**

Juniors – matter arising from AGM

Geoff stated that further to 0508/6 above, Matt stated during the meeting with Geoff and Richard that he was still very interested in the position. He came up with some good ideas and asked if there was someone who could help him run the section.

He agreed to put these ideas in writing, however to date, there has been no response.

2010 Committee nominations

Richard reported there had been one nomination – Ray Ross, who was keen to come on as Members Representative.

Proposed by - Richard Lomax

Seconded by - Geoff Kells, Tim Brunsdn.

Unanimously agreed. Ray will take up his post on 1st April 2010.

Geoff then asked all the Committee present whether they wished to continue for 2010/11 and in what positions.

Richard	Yes	Captain
Tim	Yes	Vice Captain
Ann	Yes	Ladies Captain
Brenda	Yes	Treasurer

The following have already been voted in for 2010/11

Mike Williams	Seniors Captain
Ray Ross	Members Representative

He stated that the following Committee members were standing down.
Geoff, Lynn, John, Steve.

Awaits decision.

Sean.

Ladies Vice Captain.

Social Secretary.

Ray and Mike will be invited to sit on the Committee meetings as observers from January.

Captain's report

Geoff reported that he and Richard had a constructive meeting with Matt Bland. Matt is still interested in the position if we could get someone to work and support him. He is still waiting for Matt's ideas in writing.

The Winter Warmer – one of our fun competitions was held this month in probably the worst conditions Geoff had ever played in! It was all he could do to persuade his team to stay out there! That said, it was very well supported, with close to 80 entrants. However there were 4 no-shows. Geoff has asked Sean to write to these members, informing them that they need to pay their entrance money and that they are banned from the next competition. There was another instance of a no-show in the 1st round of the winter league, leaving Gill Lane with no one to mark her card.

Geoff asked that we reiterate the no-show rule on the website, mentioning how frustrating it is for the playing partner.

- **Richard to update website with notice on no-shows.**

Richard played the final club match of the year, taking his team to Castle Combe, where they were beaten 5-1, but according to Richard's match report the journey was still worthwhile, as it was the best cooked breakfast and afternoon tea he had during the year.

Sean ran the 1st round of the winter league last Sunday. Unfortunately the weather was appalling – cold, windy, with heavy rain. But nevertheless 15 hardy souls braved the elements to get their first points under their belts.

Geoff stated how good it was to receive positive feedback from the members regarding the much improved condition of the course. Geoff thanked Dave Knight and his team, as well as Charlie and Nico, together with all their team.

Geoff finished by thanking the Committee for all their hard work during the year and wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

Lady Captains' Report

Lynn said that she had noticed many positive 'vibes' from members regarding Chris Strong's letter. She was sure that many members who were wavering in their commitment to next year are now seriously reconsidering staying with us.

The final 2 interclub matches resulted in an away win for the mixed team at Donnington Valley 3½ - 1½. While the Ladies won their home match against Hennerton 4 – 0. Lynn and Ann would like to thank everyone who played for the Ladies and Mixed teams this year and hope that next year's matches are as successful as this. Weybrook Park has also been confirmed as an addition to our interclub matches for next year.

Lynn and Fiona Lomax attended the English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) AGM on 18th November, representing Donnington Grove. The club were thanked for our participation in competitions and for hosting The Tenga Trophy and the BLGA Championship weekend last April. Lynn also accepted awards on behalf of Jan King and Gill Lane for winning this year's Presidents Trophy.

Lynn thanked Sean for organising the 1st round of the Winter League which was held in appalling conditions! Although poorly supported - considering the number of members. Lynn was pleased to note that of the 15 players, half were ladies. One player failed to turn up without notice – A man!!

Lynn thanked Tim for organising the Christmas ball, which she was sure will be enjoyed by all.

Lynn finished by thanking the Committee for all their hard work during the year and that we all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Treasurer's report

Brenda stated that she was now responsible for creating the winners competition vouchers, but that she couldn't print the vouchers at home. She suggested that she sent Gareth the voucher spreadsheet each month and Gareth could then print the vouchers and then notify Richard who would place an item on the website.

- **Brenda, Gareth and Richard to trial out this system and report back.**

Brenda asked whether Sandtrend could issue their invoices directly to her by post. She also requested a monthly statement from Sandtrend, so she could see what was unpaid.

Chris stated that he could see no reason why this could not be accomplished.

- **Brenda to report back once set up.**

She stated that the Charity Day finances needed to be finalised.

- **Brenda to chase up outstanding payments.**

Social report

Tim reported that despite some last minute cancellations and the table plan changing on an hourly basis, the Xmas Ball was proceeding smoothly. There should be 75 attending.

Tim mentioned that the Committee needed to appoint a new Social Secretary, unless they wished to lose the momentum gained during this year.

Professional/Course report

Gareth reported that the recent severe weather has stopped most work around the course. Dave Knight is due to spray the worm casts next week, but this is weather dependent. The recent work on the bunkers is shown on his green report on the notice board. The bunkers on the 6th are due to be scrapped, sieved, have new matting and have their banks repaired.

The signs for the new 9th tee have been ordered.

Dave Knight is due to replace the existing stone fairway markers with new coloured stone set into the fairway at 250yds, 200yds, 150yds, and 100yds.

The new divot bags should be ready by next week. General work due this month includes the leaves around the course and the moles and their molehills.

The Agronomist visited the course last month and we await his report.

The compressor needs to be returned to Lancashire for repairs. This is done by courier and takes a couple of days.

Gareth then explained a method to increase the members tee times at weekends by using the 1st and 10th tees to start. Players cards would be printed with a time for them to arrive at either the 10th or 1st in order to fit in with those waiting to tee off. He suggested a trial period to start from the 3rd January.

After discussion it was agreed to give this system a trial.

- **Gareth to implement and monitor.**

Senior Captains' report

John stated that the seniors 'dinner was a great success thanks to Mike and Jill Williams who organised it. The fixture list for 2010 is nearly complete and hopefully in 2010 we will regain the Elfed Trophy, lost inexplicably in John's absence at our away match with West Berks.

The highlight of 2010 is the 3 match tour of the Isle of Wight in July now all booked up and 100% full with a 12 man team.

2010 will get off to a great start with the seniors match against the ladies on February 15th, dubbed "The St Valentine's Day Massacre".

The seniors have completed the election for 2010 and Bernard Parker has been elected as Senior Vice Captain to assist Mike Williams who will assume his Captaincy in April 2010.

A new fixture for 2010 has been added, playing Weybrook Park home and away, 12 man team, May 4th & June 14th respectively. There are several new seniors to add to the ranks, so we will have to consider extra team shirts and jumpers. The Seniors Winter League has been a bit of a damp squib this year so it may be replaced with a new, shorter event.

We have requested prices from Barry Wray for our 2010 match catering so we can set our match fees for the season.

Geoff thanked John for all his hard work with the seniors during the year.

Management report

Chris reported that the membership had taken a hit. To attempt to attract new members for next year Chris is introducing a special membership offer from January to March of £50 a month for full 7-day membership. He emphasised that this was only for the winter months and that he hoped any new members from this scheme will then go on to enrol for the whole year 2010/11 at the normal rate.

Richard asked Chris whether anything was being done to replace Ali Mitchell. Chris replied that a membership administrator should be in post by the end of January. Part of the role will be to market the club and introduce new membership ideas.

Geoff asked if anything further had been done regarding more marshals.

Gareth replied that they were having a meeting that week to discuss the matter.

- **Chris and Gareth to report back outcome of meeting.**

Chris finished by thanking Geoff, Lynn and the Committee for all their work during the year and wished everyone a Happy Xmas and New Year.

Communications

Richard reported that he considered that the front page needed refreshing and he was due to have a meeting with Kingsley Starling later in the month on what was possible. He was particularly looking to have the monthly medal winners and a weather report on this page.

- **Richard to report back progress at next meeting.**

He stated that the Committee need to consider any questions they wish to have put on the members survey for the next meeting.

- **All members to consider any questions for website.**

He also stated that we needed to consider whether to keep the survey box if there were no new questions. However he was unsure if we could repost it once new questions became available.

- **Richard to ask Kingsley whether we can repost survey box.**

Richard stated that the 2010/11 diary of events would be downloaded after his meeting with Kingsley.

- **Richard to download 2010/11 diary on website.**

Any other business

Lynn asked that an extra tee time be created for members if all the competition tee times are booked.

Gareth replied that with people dropping out, the competitions are never fully booked. A reserve list should suffice, although he agreed that this meant that those on the reserve list may not play at the time they wished.

Lynn stated that the catering prices for competitions, coffee mornings, social events etc. were all out of sync, eg. ladies and men's matches having different prices.

Chris replied that there should be an agreed menu of prices.

- **Tim and Ann to agree prices for the forthcoming year with the hotel.**

John asked if it could be reviewed whether the water hazard on the 14th should be a lateral hazard (red) or a water hazard (yellow).

- **Gareth to review hazard.**

John asked whether a Rules Evening could be arranged.

Gareth replied that Peter York from the BB&O used to run these evenings.

- **Gareth to contact Peter York to see if he is available during year.**

Geoff asked that ideas for the club diaries needed to be in for the next meeting.

Richard replied that the printing would remain with Clearprint, especially as they printed the Captains' Charity Day programmes free of charge.

- **All members to furnish Richard with any diary content ideas.**

Richard suggested that the Alan Doe Memorial on the 20th February be renamed as a general memorial competition for all past members.

This was agreed.

- **All members to decide new competition name at next meeting.**

Richard said that a decision had to be made whether to order more club shirts. After discussion it was decided to put this forward to the next meeting for a final decision on cost and numbers.

- **All members to agree numbers and costs at next meeting.**

Tim stated that Lanson was currently selling at £14 a bottle. He asked whether the Committee would reimburse anyone buying bottles at this price without prior approval, as we usually get through around 12 cases a year.

It was agreed that the Committee would reimburse anyone who could buy Lanson at £17 a bottle or under.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm

Next Meeting – Monday 11th January 2010 7.30pm

Tim Brunsdon
5th January 2010