

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Monday 8th February 2010

Present; Geoff Kells, Lynn Turner, Richard Lomax, John Rance, Mike Williams, Tim Brunsten, Chris Strong, Ann MacDonald, Brenda Agutter, Sylvia Davis.

Apologies; Sean Sargeant, Gareth Williams, Ray Ross.

The Captain took the chair and welcomed Sylvia Davis to the meeting. Sylvia will be taking up the post of Lady Vice-Captain on 1st April.

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

Matters Arising

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

0303/8- After discussion it was decided to set up a sub-committee to review the course stroke index for 2010.

- **Richard to convene sub-committee.**

0607/6 – Gareth stated that Dave Knight was currently awaiting dry weather before deploying the divot bag system.

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

0508/12 – Geoff stated that he had the details of an acoustic engineer to look at the dining room and bar.

- **Geoff to give details to Chris.**

Sylvia stated that she would look into cheaper curtain options.

- **Sylvia to report back with any progress**

0610/04 - Geoff stated that Sean had told him that the draft copy of the Club Manual would be ready by the end of the week.

- **Tim to continue to monitor situation.**

0112/01– Richard stated that he had researched the appropriate plaques required for the memorial bench on the 8th tee. He now required the years of birth and death, before ordering the engravings.

After discussion it was decided that the plaques for the bench would be for members who were not commemorated elsewhere within the club.

- **Richard to purchase plaques once he has all details.**

0112/11- John asked that all the old files be cleared out.

Tim stated that he, John and Richard needed to list their own files which were suitable for scrapping, as Richard would not necessarily know this himself.

- **John and Tim to provide Richard with list of obsolete files.**

0112/11 – The monitoring of the new marshals and starters will be carried forward to the May meeting.

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

0112/05- It was decided to carry forward the research into those members not turning up for booked tee times.

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

1101/01 – A formal sub-committee was agreed to complete the annual handicap review. It would consist of Richard, Sean, Geoff, Gill Lane and Tim.

- **Richard to inform members when completed.**

1101/02 – Richard stated that a further draft was required for the Captain's letter to be included in the members' renewal letter.

- **Richard to write Captain's message.**

1101/03 – Tim stated that the competitions board was ordered and he was awaiting its completion.

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

1101/04 – Gareth stated that the two tee starts had gone quite well during its trial period of Jan – Feb and that he would continue it this winter. This matter is now closed.

1101/09 – Tim reported that Dave Allen has agreed to run an informal rules evening after the AGM.

- **Tim to liaise with Dave and publish details.**

1101/11 – Chris stated that they had streamlined the half-way hut menu, which now has pies, pre-cooked bacon and sandwiches. He was aware of the problem the other week and has sent an apology to the member concerned. He stated that it seemed to be a one-off situation where a member of staff had made a mistake and he did not envisage it re-occurring.

Richard stated that he would promote the new items for sale on the website.

- **Richard to update website.**

Geoff stated that this was an ongoing problem, and that no one member of staff took responsibility for the operation of the half-way hut, thus leading to inconsistency. Sylvia suggested that a member of staff be put in charge of the half-way hut each day, to see if this speeds it up and increases profit.

Chris replied that he had a sign up for the staff informing them that he wants players in and out by 10 minutes.

- **Chris to report any further problems at next meeting.**

1101/12 – Chris stated that there was little they could do to prevent stray walkers from the course. The new signs when they arrive will help, but he cannot put gates up. This matter is now closed.

1101/13 – Gareth stated that he had spoken to Dave Knight and that the date for the 'Green keepers revenge' competition would be May 8th.

- **Richard to put this in the Diary and website.**

1101/14 – Richard stated that he had placed Dave Allen’s profile on the website. John said that Dave’s Email address was still shown as Ali Mitchells.

- **Chris to speak to Dave to get Email changed.**

1101/15 – Gareth reported that the missing bench from the 10th tee was being refurbished.

This matter is now closed.

1101/17 – Tim reported that the new Summer Foursomes Trophy had been purchased and was currently at the engravers having the backdated winners engraved.

- **Tim to report when complete.**

Handicap review and Inactive handicaps

The handicap review sub-committee was formed (see 1101/01 above) and would report back at next meeting.

Chris circulated the following report from Gareth regarding Inactive handicaps.

The handicap system is now updated with the latest Club 2000 software. It is registered with the EGU and operates from their central database of handicaps. This means that every player on the system now has a unique Central Database Handicap (CDH) pin number. This will help club and members.

Club. Clubs have access to playing records of all their members in order to interrogate if required. There will be limited access to all golfers’ details from outside their own club, which will help verify handicaps when hosting Open Completions etc. There will be automatic recording of away scores and also active/inactive handicap interrogation. Lastly there will be need to send end of year reports to the EGU and County.

Members. Members will be able to interrogate handicap and when last updated through EGU central database. All players on the system are now subject to the active/inactive handicap system – any player not completing 3 qualifying rounds in 2009 has an ‘I’ next to their name and the set up enables us to exclude inactive handicaps at the point of booking.

This took effect from 1st January 2010 and requires all members with CONGU handicaps to have returned at least 3 qualifying scores each year to ensure they have an active handicap. It follows therefore that 3 qualifying scores are required in 2009 to avoid becoming inactive at the start of 2010. Scores returned in 9-hole qualifying competitions and Supplementary scores will be accepted as part of the player’s qualifying competitions.

Those members not meeting the minimum number of scores will be identified with an ‘I’ (inactive) that will appear on their CONGU handicap certificate and handicap lists published by CONGU approved software. Qualifying scores of less than 3 will not be carried forward to the next year. The ‘I’ will be removed from the player’s handicap as soon as 3 qualifying scores have been returned. An inactive handicap may still be used for social golf and the like and in competitions not stipulating an active handicap as entry criteria.

This can be achieved by adopting a condition of the competition that requires an entrant to have an active handicap. Clubs may adopt this condition providing it does not cover all events and that opportunity is given to players with inactive handicaps to return the 3 qualifying scores needed to ensure an active handicap.

The last few paragraphs were copied from the EGU website. He also stated that the Committee now has to decide which of our competitions require the 'active' handicap and clearly state it on the entry forms. We also need to decide how we allow those 'inactive' players to achieve the 3 cards required to become 'active'.

A copy of the 'inactive' members at the club was circulated.

After discussion a sub-committee was to be formed to review this information.

- **Richard to convene sub-committee and report back with results.**

2010 Committee nominations

Richard reported that John Tonner had had been nominated for the position of Competitions Secretary.

Proposed by - Tim Brunsten

Seconded by - Richard Lomax, Geoff Kells.

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

Captain's report

Geoff stated that he had sent Gill Lane a thank you card and a bottle of wine to thank her on behalf of the club and Committee for her help and support throughout the year.

The handicap review needs to be completed ASAP, so the relevant letters can be sent out to members before the end of March.

James Dawes has agreed to Captain the Hillman team again and has already ordered more team shirts.

Paul Bailes will captain the Mail on Sunday KO team and has started to put a strong team together. Their first match is away to Calcot Park at the end of this month.

Geoff will captain the Concorde team. All fixtures have now been agreed and tee times booked. The first match is away to Studley wood on Sunday 21st March.

We will also be hosting the final of the Concorde League this year.

Tim, our Vice-Captain will captain the Interclub matches. Notices will go up shortly, if not already, to explain formats for each team and league and inviting members to put their names down for consideration.

Steve Clark has still to confirm whether he will captain the Reading and District Scratch Foursomes Team this year.

Geoff ended by stating that the two tee starts have been a great success. He wondered if it was something to consider for the summer. Gareth has provisionally booked two tee starts for next December and January.

Lady Captains' Report

Lynn welcomed Sylvia to the Committee and hoped that she would enjoy her time on it as much as she had.

Lynn thought that the course has stood up to the weather and is looking good. It is good to see the competitions being fully subscribed.

Many ladies have braved the cold to play, even if it is only to enjoy a mulled wine in the bar at the end of their round. On Saturday Gill Lane enjoyed champagne after a hole-in-one at the 7th during the February Stableford.

The ladies first team competition is against the seniors on 15th February. We are hoping to lift the trophy this time, but may only achieve this by putting them off their game when we hide their poncho's and sombrero's! I wonder if their practice round on Friday means they are serious or worried!

Lynn stated that she is now in the process of winding down her term of Captaincy to hand over to Ann.

Treasurer's report

Brenda handed out copies of the income and expenditure account and the balance sheet and stated that Gill Lane will have audited the accounts by 31st March. Brenda wished to formally thank Gill for her help during the year.

The Charity A/C stood at £6,000 and she had received a letter of thanks for our donation to Terry Riordan's charity.

Income and Expenditure A/C shows a loss of £2,308.59 which is not unexpected due to the Committee decisions during the past year to spend some of the accumulated money in the bank. This is mostly explained by the following main expenditures which had not occurred in 2008:- £327 Club matches (£192 for 2 Concord matches late fees, £120 for Men's match v Lambourne not yet collected). £690 website costs. £418 prize-giving buffet. £272 night golf equipment. £490 photo frames and result board. £811 team shirts.

All the above accounts for £3,008.

The Balance Sheet shows that we have Committee funds of £3.5K which includes part of 2008 invalid vouchers. Any unclaimed vouchers for 2008 will be written down at year end 2010 (2007 has been written down).

There are still £2.5K of creditors – mainly Christmas costs from DGCC and monies due to charity. There is £4K of unclaimed vouchers.

The provision for prize-giving costs has been increased to £3K from £2.5K in previous years, as the total cost for 2008 amounted to £3.5K (£1K in vouchers).

There is still some discrepancy with regard to vouchers that were apparently issued for Captains' Charity Day which Geoff is to discuss again with Gareth.

Income from competitions was down by £800.

John asked whether this was due to less entering, or to the reduced fees of £3.

Brenda replied that the Monthly Medals varied between 60 – 80 players each month, whilst the midweek medals were poorly attended during the winter months.

Geoff stated that the fees had been reduced from £5, as at the time the Committee had a large surplus of funds and it was thought best to give the money back to the members via a reduced fee.

Brenda stated that the Committee Golf day had increased from £235 in 2008 to £283. She understood that this was meant to be capped at £200 when it was first agreed during Tony Coleman's Captaincy.

After a short discussion it was decided to review this before this coming year's event.

Brenda finished by stating that she had started an analysis on competitions giving details of number of players, revenue etc. 2009 has been completed, but as the information for 2008 is not to hand. It will only become truly meaningful, as an analysis tool, as we work through 2010.

Professional/Course report

Chris gave this report from Gareth.

Gareth had been through the stroke indices for each hole and compared it to the recommendations by CONGU and the actual difficulty of each hole as per the results from the Club 2000 system. The results are probably quite surprising, judging from the comments from the table at the last meeting, the CONGU recommendations have been followed closer than many had thought. It is important to realise that the Stroke Indices refer exclusively to match play and do not reflect the difficulty of each hole. Gareth recommended a sub-committee to look into the stroke indices in more depth.

- **Richard to convene sub-committee and report back with results.**

Gareth thought that the two tee starts went quite well and he hadn't heard any adverse comments, so has made provision to repeat it next December and January. He would be interested to hear any comments – good or bad.

The bench that went missing from the 10th tee was in fact being painted.

The weather is still impeding the work that Dave and the green keepers would like to get on with. It is still too wet to work on the bunkers which need a period of dry weather.

The new distance markers will be put on the fairways this week. Julian has re-measured them this morning with a laser in preparation.

They will be tidying up the copse areas around the course over the next few days e.g. Behind the 18th.

Competitions and Handicaps report

Nothing to report.

Senior Captains' report

John reported that since Gareth had published details of the Seniors Open on the website, he has had several entries already.

The seniors will hold their Open evening and AGM on March 24th with a fish and chip supper.

Management report

Chris stated that the recent atrocious weather conditions had brought custom almost to a standstill. There were currently 296 members, together with 29 juniors and 8 colts. He then handed out a graph of the member age profiles.

Lynn asked whether the membership would reach 400 this year.

Chris replied that Dave Allen was working hard to increase the membership and is being extremely pro-active in his endeavours. They are aiming for around 350.

Geoff asked whether the incentive for those members who get people to join would continue.

Chris replied that he would be looking at some type of incentive.

Social report

Nothing to report.

Communications

Richard reported that any more changes made to the website would probably incur a charge from now on.

Any other business

John asked if all the midweek medals should be played on a Tuesday, as members got confused over which days they were on.

After discussion it was decided that they would stay as they were – 1st Tuesday of the month and last Wednesday of the month.

Richard stated that the notice for the AGM needed to be posted. He suggested the same agenda and noted that 21 days notice was required for any motions.

- **Richard to publish AGM notice.**

Richard stated that the order for the Club Diary needed to be in by next month. There was a 7-10 day proof read and then a 7-10 day period to produce the diaries. He proposed that we went with the printing company who produced the Captains' Charity Day programmes free of charge. Their quote was competitive.

This was accepted unanimously.

The only constraints on it were the members contact numbers and the calendar of events.

- **Richard to get contact list from Dave Allen and complete event diary.**

Richard asked whether relief could be claimed if the stone 150yd markers interfered with the ball or stance.

- **Gareth to look into this and report back at next meeting.**

John stated that the current compressor for cleaning kit was unsuitable as it kept breaking down and lost pressure if both nozzles were being used at the same time. Tim suggested that one of the nozzles be sealed up; this might also reduce the pressure on the compressor and prevent any break downs.

- **Gareth to look into using one nozzle only.**

Richard asked if any cross hatchings could be painted on the ground in front of the compressor to prevent vehicles from parking next to it.

- **Gareth to speak to Dave Knight.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.15pm

Next Meeting – Tuesday 2nd March 2010 7.30pm

Tim Brunsdon
26th February 2010