

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Monday 7th February 2011

Present; Richard Lomax, Tim Brunsdon, Ann MacDonald, Mike Williams, Brenda Agutter, Chris Strong.

Apologies; Sylvia Davis, Gareth Williams, John Tonner.

Also present; Jon Hawkins, Vince Hanniffy, Andy Storer, Bernie Parker.

The Captain took the chair.

Richard began by welcoming Bernie to the Committee. He will take up his post of Seniors Captain in April.

Matters Arising

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

0505/01 – Richard stated that he had looked at Gareth's office and the possibility of sharing it as a Committee Office. He suggested that the Committee should invest in a Committee computer to go in the office.

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

1404/10- Competition fees to be increased.

This will be kept under review for the foreseeable future.

0203/03 – Richard stated that John was away at present, but hoped that the Draft Club Manual would be completed within the next few weeks. Richard also expressed the wish that the Manual be completed by the end of March.

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

0802/02 – Chris stated he was due to meet the owners on Thursday and would bring up the costs of the curtains for the restaurant.

Richard stated that Geoff Kells was currently fitting an acoustic ceiling for another club.

- **Richard to get details from Geoff**
- **Chris to report progress.**

1504/10 – The question of running Sunday competitions is to be held over until April 2011.

0208/03 – Gareth had not yet met with the Marshalls.

Chris stated that the meeting would be set up by 1st April.

- **Gareth to report result of meeting when completed.**

0705/10 – Chris stated that the first tee improvements were also on the agenda for his meeting with the owners on Thursday.

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

0111/01 – Richard said that the quiz night was scheduled for Friday 4th March.

- **Richard to report results at next meeting.**

0111/05 – As Gareth was not present the matter of a grass tee on the range would be held over to the next meeting.

- **Gareth to report any progress.**

0111/07 – Chris stated that the divot buggy was being repaired.

After discussion it was decided that a divot party may be required for mid-March to help with the course due to the vandalising of the divot buggy.

- **Committee to arrange divot party at next meeting.**

0612/03 –The matter of the Berks Ladies and BB&O attending to assess the course regarding a new SSS for ladies and separate SSS scores for the front and back 9's is to be put back to the next Committee Meeting as Sylvia and Gareth are both away.

- **Sylvia and Gareth to report progress.**

0612/06 – Gareth's draft amendment to the Club Rules regarding tee times during the winter months is to put back to the next meeting.

- **Gareth to provide draft copies.**

0612/07 – Jez Mann was happy to attend Committee meetings to report on his work with Matt Woods and the juniors.

- **Committee to decide on what input is required from Jez each month.**

0612/08 – Richard said he was awaiting the amendments to the handicap section from Gareth before he sent out soft copies of the Club Rules and Constitution to Dave Allen and Tim.

- **Gareth to provide Richard with amendments.**
- **Richard to send out soft copies to Dave and Tim.**

1001/03 – Brenda to provide year end accounts to Committee.

- **Brenda to report at March Committee.**

1001/04 – Tim stated that Gareth had informed him that the signage on the road across the 12th had been moved to a more visible position. Hopefully this will alleviate some of the problems we have been experiencing.

- **Committee to monitor for a while to see if any more signs required.**

1001/06 – Tim reported that the sub-committee set up to look into this year's Club Championship had met and that the recommendations will be put to the Committee in April.

- **John to give recommendations at April meeting.**

1001/05 – Tim stated that Dave Knight has placed several hoops between the 16th green and 17th tee to preserve the grass.

Jon said that ropes on metal poles would be better as they would stop those walking with carry bags.

All agreed that more hoops/poles were required around the course.

- **Gareth to speak to Dave Knight and report progress.**

1001/07 – Tim asked the Committee to approve buying a plinth for the New Members Trophy.

Agreed unanimously.

- **Tim to buy new plinth**

1001/08 – Jon reported that he recommended a glass plate etched with a golfer and course for the new TT trophy. It would cost around £75.

After discussion it was agreed to go ahead with this purchase.

- **Tim/Jon to purchase trophy.**

Imminent and Future Golf Events

Members Memorial (Sat 19th Feb)

Guests allowed.

Prizes, not vouchers.

Social

Quiz Night

(Fri 4th March)

All Committee to promote this.

Club President Proposal

Tim put forward the proposal for a Club President. This, if accepted would also mean a change in the Club Constitution.

The details of the proposal were as follows:-

- Club needs to be running for 15 years
- Honorary role- to promote members and club, assist Captain and Management
- Past Captains only to be considered.
- Tenure 5 years
- Run from 1st June
- No President charity – President supports Captain's charities
- Sit on Committee – no vote. Captain runs Committee
- To be nominated by, and voted in by Committee.

Tim said that as this would entail a change in the Club Constitution, it would need to be voted on at the AGM. The Committee had to decide whether to put this to the AGM and if so, vote on and agree a notice of motion.

Tim suggested the following notice of motion:-

Motion 290311/2

The Committee and Management seek approval to introduce the position of Club President and associated changes to the wording of the Club Constitution.

Tim also suggested the following alterations to the Club Constitution with the changes shown in red:-

6. **Officers of the Club and Membership of the Committee**

- ii. The Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Club, together with:
 - The company representative
 - The course manager
 - The club professional
 - The club secretary
 - **The Club President**
 - At least 2 elected members representatives

- iv. The Chairman of the Committee is the Club Captain. The Club Captain is also the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting and of any Special General meeting that may be called. **The Club President is entitled to sit on the Committee, but has no vote.**

13a. Club President

- i. **The Club President shall be selected by the Committee for a term of 5 years, commencing on the 1st June of the relevant year.**
- ii. **In the event that the office of Club President falls vacant during the tenure, the Committee will select a suitable candidate to fill the role.**
- iii. **The Club President must be a full seven-day member who has previously served a full year as Captain.**
- iv. **The post of Club President is honorary. The role is to support the Club Captain and to promote the membership and Club.**
- v. **The Club President is entitled to a Presidents Day.**
- vi. **The closing date for nominations for Club President will be the January Committee meeting of the relevant year. The Committee will vote in a new Club President no later than the February Committee meeting of the relevant year.**

There then followed a detailed and lengthy discussion on the merits and problems regarding this.

Richard stated that he would prefer Sylvia and John to be present for the vote.

This was agreed and the vote was put back to the March meeting which would be within the 21 days notice required for the AGM.

- **Committee to vote on proposal for Club President to go to AGM at next meeting.**

If voted in favour:-

- **Committee to decide upon Constitution wording at next meeting.**
- **Committee to decide upon Notice of Motion wording at next meeting.**

Captain's Report

Richard gave the following report:-

Another relatively quiet month.

However, we have completed the annual handicap review where all play recorded by members in qualifying events at the club, or elsewhere, are analysed and reviewed by the Handicaps Committee. All those who were affected with either a decrease or increase have been contacted individually and notices placed on the boards and website. The latest handicap list includes these changes. My thanks to Gareth and John for crunching the reports, and to the Committee, which included Gill Lane, for finalising the results.

The Grove Foursomes event once again proved very popular with members, despite, or because of, being played on a Sunday. Charlie Hill and Steve Wade proved unbeatable on the day in the men's' section, leading the field by 4 shots. The Ladies section was won by Ann MacDonald and Julie Davies who will represent the club in the Daily Mail this year. We wish them luck.

I am pleased to see that there have been many members putting their names forward for club representation via the sheets on the notice board. A practice round for the Mens' Inter club squad is to be played on the 26th February.

Meanwhile, the Mail on Sunday team played in the first round of the National Golf Club Classic on Saturday but unfortunately went out to Newbury & Crookham, who comprehensively beat us 4.5 to 0.5. Our thanks, however, to the team of Goggy, Luke Williams, Greg Humphries, David Spillane and yours truly, who earned our only half point! Thanks also to Paul Bailes who was the non-playing captain and made all the arrangements for the match.

Lady Captains' Report

Ann gave the following report:-

Things are still very quiet in the ladies section. We did have the Daily Mail Foursomes qualifier which Julie Davis and I won in a close match against Gill Lane and Jan King. We now go on to represent the club in knock out matches and our first opponents are Donnington Valley, thankfully at home.

The ladies were not as fortunate with the Mail on Sunday draw as they too have been drawn against Donnington Valley, but away.

There was a very successful ladies evening at the end of January with around 18 attending.

The ladies are playing the seniors on the 21st, which we always enjoy, even though we have not won yet!

Competition Secretary Report

No report.

Management report

Chris reported that there had been 3 new members in January, one with a 3 handicap.

The member's renewal letter was almost ready and should go out at the end of the month.

The subscriptions would be going up by around 4%, which was unfortunate, but there had been no increase over the past 3 years.

Chris was pleased to announce that a regional qualifier of the Trilby Tour was to be held at Donnington Grove on the 12th May. He was due to meet tomorrow with the organisers to finalise the deal. This would be good exposure for the club as the event will be shown on Sky TV.

There would be at least 2 qualifying rounds to be played at the club beforehand and there would be a need for fundraising.

Vince asked if the membership still stood at 380 members as there were not that many on the handicap list.

Chris replied that the list did not contain all of the members, such as corporate and members on various schemes.

Vince said that the handicap list was out of date as there were a number of members that were no longer playing at the club.

Tim replied he thought that members had to be kept on the list for at least 2 years in case other clubs asked for their handicaps. He would check with Gareth.

- **Tim to speak to Gareth regarding handicap list.**

Treasurer's report

Nothing to report.

Senior Captains' report

Mike gave the following report:-

The first senior's match of the year is against the ladies on 21st February, which we are looking forward to. It is usually a fun day and the ladies are hoping to win the trophy for the first time.

The senior's AGM is to be held on Thursday 10th March at 7.30pm. It has been decided to have a meal of bangers and mash followed by the meeting. There will be a welcome drink for all those seniors attending.

Plans are still going ahead for the new senior's winter league and we are at present awaiting the final details to be confirmed.

The match against Temple on 12th May has been rescheduled to 24th May. This was at the request of Sandtrend, which we were happy to oblige.

Social report

No report

Professional/Course report

Tim read out the following report from Gareth:

First of all, please accept my apologies for my absence.

There is very little to report this month. Dave Knight is continuing with the tidying work that was reported at the last Committee meeting.

I did report at the beginning of the 2011 season, that there would be a need to hollow core due to a slight thatch layer in the greens. We have now found a faster, less disruptive way to achieve the same results without putting holes in the greens. This is called grading and works by slicing the greens as opposed to putting holes in them, thus allowing the green to be rolling perfectly again within a much shorter space of time.

Dave will be changing the positions of the signs on the 12th tomorrow morning. These are the ones asking drivers to beware of golfers. These will be positioned so that drivers will see them right in front of them as they turn into the estate.

The divot buggy will be back out and in working order sometime in mid March. Maybe we can coincide this with a divot party to kick the season off. I will check out some dates and let you know.

I have sent payment to the BB&O and returned the entry form for the Hillman Trophy for the coming year. I will let you know when the draw has been made.

Dave and I spoke about the area to the left hand side of the 16th green and decided that he would dress the area concerned rather than put hoops up and guide players onto another area that would not get worn out.

Vince mentioned that the greens were in a poor state of repairs at present and that last year in the weekend competitions, the greens had not been cut.

Chris replied that the greens were not generally cut for every competition. They were cut on the Thursday or Friday and then left over the weekend. There was too little time for the green staff to cut the greens and do all the other preparatory work on the mornings at the weekend.

Any other business

Richard asked that any Committee members still to provide their biographies and photos for the website to do so asap.

- **Andy, Vince and Bernie to provide Richard with biographies and photos.**

Richard said that a new communications officer was required for the coming year as he no longer wished to continue with the post. Richard was happy to act as a backup if required.

Tim replied that he would continue to do the role as he had last year and that John had agreed to do it with him.

- **Tim to get John as administrator on website.**

Richard said that the Committee E mail address needed to be transferred from his account to Tim's and John's, although he was not too sure how this was done.

- **John to look at transferring address to his and Tim's account.**

Vince asked that a password be set up for access to the members' link on the website. Tim replied that this was looked at when the website was set up, but was considered too time consuming to administer. Other benefits were that prospective members could see what was going on at the club which might influence their decision to join.

Mike said he had some fixtures to book already for the 2012/13 season and asked when the diary would be set up.

Tim replied that the 2012/13 diary was John's responsibility.

- **Mike to speak to John regarding fixtures in 2012/13.**

Ann said that on the last Saturday medal a member had parked a buggy directly in front of the restaurant doors at the halfway hut. It was not possible to get in or out by those particular doors.

Andy said that it was parked in the door.

- **Richard to have a word with member concerned.**

Andy said that the flower beds on the 15th and 17th required weeding.

Chris said he would speak to Gareth regarding this.

- **Gareth to ask Dave Knight to weed beds concerned.**

Andy said that cars were now parking on the pavement outside the Pro Shop on Saturdays.

Chris said he would speak to Gareth regarding this.

- **Gareth to monitor situation and report back at next meeting.**

Vince asked if the car valeting was to be permanent.

Chris replied that they had gone.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.25pm

Next Meeting – Monday 7th March 2011 7.30pm

Tim Brunsdon
1st March 2011