

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Monday 11th January 2010

Present: Geoff Kells, Lynn Turner, Richard Lomax, John Rance, Gareth Williams, Tim Brunsten, Chris Strong.

Apologies: Sean Sargeant, Steve Marshall, Ann MacDonald, Brenda Agutter.

Also present: Mike Williams, Ray Ross, Dave Allen.

The Captain took the chair and welcomed Mike Williams and Ray Ross to the meeting. Mike and Ray will be taking up the posts of Seniors Captain and Members Representative respectively on 1st April.

Geoff also welcomed Dave Allen, the new Membership Secretary for Sandtrend

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

Matters Arising

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

0303/8- Richard asked when the review of the stroke indexes could be started. Chris replied that he believed that signage contract ran out in April. Gareth said he would speak to the BB&O regarding any limitations or regulations. Dave Allen stated that it was up to individual clubs as to how they managed their stroke indexes, however the EGU have issued guidelines, which he stated are best to try to follow, but they were not compulsory. Chris said he saw no reason why we could not start compiling the statistics for this straight away.

- **Gareth to provide hole statistics for next meeting.**

0505/01 – Gareth reported that the kitchen area of the old half way hut was not feasible as a Committee office, as it was too cluttered with storage.

- **Richard to look at other options for Committee office.**

0505/4 – Gareth said that the updating of the handicap list, together with the lapsed handicaps was now completed. Sean has the annual handicap review in hand.

- **Sean to report progress on handicap review at next meeting.**

Chris asked that a letter from Geoff/Richard be included in the membership letter that would be sent out in mid February.

Geoff asked whether there was an implementation date for lapsed handicaps.

Gareth replied that members had been aware of the necessity to put in 3 cards, since last January, so there was no leeway at all.

- **Richard/Geoff to write letter for inclusion in membership renewal letter from Sandtrend.**

0607/6 – Gareth stated that Dave Knight was currently awaiting the arrival of the divot bags for the portable rail system. They should arrive next week. Dave will deploy them during dry weather.

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

0607/7 – Chris stated that he would chase up the whereabouts of the 2 new benches ordered.

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

0508/6 – Geoff reported that there had still been no reply from Matt Bland regarding the Junior Organiser's vacancy. He suggested that the post be kept open in the event anyone else steps in.

- **This item to be kept open until post taken up or Committee vote it completed.**

0508/15 – Tim stated that he and Geoff had seen a good whiteboard design at Henley G.C. which catered for all events over 2 days. The board would cost £63 and the lettering and lines would be around £65.

After a short discussion it was agreed to go ahead with this option.

- **Tim to purchase board and order stencilling.**

0610/04 – Geoff reported that he had spoken to Sean, who was still working on the draft club manual.

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

0311/01- Gareth said that Sean and Mark were now up to speed with working the PSI and Luke would be trained over the upcoming competition. This matter is now closed.

0311/03- Gareth said the Committee car parking signs have been ordered and been signed off. He was currently awaiting delivery.

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

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.**

0112/01- Richard stated that he had not yet ordered a plaque for the members memorial bench on the 8th tee.

- **Richard to order plaque.**

0112/02- John stated that the cheque for £100 had been sent to Terry Riordan's charity. This matter is now closed.

0112/03- Chris stated that he had not yet received any prices from Ann regarding cheaper curtains for the dining room/and bar. Ann had said at the last meeting 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.**

0112/04- Gareth stated that the two tee time start had been implemented, but had been severely disrupted by the recent weather.

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

0112/05- Gareth said that he had spoken to a few of the members who had not turned up for their tee times without informing the Pro Shop.

- **Gareth to monitor situation and report back to Committee.**

0112/06- Gareth asked whether a notice could be placed on the website, informing members that they need to confirm any cancellations with the Pro Shop.

- **Richard to place item on website.**

0112/07- Brenda reported that the new voucher issuing process was going well. This matter is now closed.

0112/08- Brenda stated that the monthly statement of invoices from Sandtrend was working well also.

This matter is now closed.

0112/10- Chris stated that from the 1st April there would be a Starter on the tee and a Marshall on the course at weekends.

This matter to be kept on action list until commencement of Starters and Marshalls.

0112/11- Richard stated that he had asked Kingsley Starling to place a BBC weather link on the home page of the website. He also wants a box for the monthly medal winners, similar to the photo frame in the clubhouse.

- **Richard to implement changes on home page.**

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.**

0112/12- Richard asked if there were any new questions for the members survey on the website.

After discussion it was decided to pose the question whether members were content with the present 'time slot' booking system, or would prefer some other method.

- **John to draft question**
- **Richard to include question on website.**

0112/14- Tim stated that he had agreed prices for the Men's Interclub matches.

Chris stated that he now wished that all catering costs be agreed with Barry Wray, rather than through the kitchen, reception etc.

Tim also stated that he believed that Ann and Sylvia Davis were due to see Barry regarding the Ladies and Mixed matches, but had had to cancel.

- **Tim and Ann to agree prices with Barry.**

0112/15- Gareth stated that he had looked into the situation regarding whether the pond on the 14th should be red or yellow posts. He had come to the conclusion that they should remain red. This would provide protection for players, from those teeing off on the 15th. He also believed that it would lead to all sorts of confusion if the hazard was changed.

This matter is now closed.

0112/16- Gareth stated that he had contacted the BB&O regarding a rules evening. However they no longer provided this service.

Dave Allen stated that he had run several rules evening at The Springs and would be prepared to do the same for Donnington Grove.

This offer was gratefully accepted and left to Dave to arrange a suitable date.

- **Dave to provide date for rules evening to Tim.**

0112/18- It was agreed to rename the Alan Doe competition in memory of all past members. The new name will be the 'Members Memorial Competition'. The winners will still receive the Alan Doe trophy.

This matter is now closed.

0112/19- Richard asked that the number of new team shirts required be agreed. Tim stated that 10 should be enough for the Men's Interclub. John stated that the seniors' would only require a few. Ann was not present regarding the Ladies and mixed Team requirements.

- **Tim, John and Ann to provide Gareth with sizes and numbers of shirts required.**

Agree Committee Dates for 2010

Due to several members being unable to attend on Tuesdays, it was agreed to hold the Committee Meetings on the 1st Monday of each month from this date forward.

2010 Committee nominations

Geoff reported that Sean was standing down from the Committee from 31st March and that there was now a vacancy for Competitions and Handicaps Secretary.

Richard stated that Gill Lane had agreed to run the handicaps section, but would not be on the Committee. This still left a vacancy for competitions.

Captain's report

Geoff thanked Gareth and Dave Knight for their sterling work clearing the greens on Boxing Day to enable golf to be played between the Christmas and New Year break.

The New Years Eve party was very social and well attended and he congratulated everyone concerned.

Lady Captains' Report

Lynn said that the happy New Year she had wished all our members had certainly started with challenging weather conditions. She congratulated the green staff for their high standard of maintenance with the snow and water, which enabled the course to re-open as soon as possible.

Partygoers who attended the marvellous New Years Eve Party are hoping it will be repeated this year. The catering and bar staff offered excellent food and service and Lynn thanked them on behalf of the guests.

All the Ladies and Mixed matches are booked and confirmed. They are all in the 2010 fixture list.

Fiona Lomax will be stepping down as the Donnington Grove County representative at the end of March and Lynn thanked her for her enthusiasm and communications throughout the year, which had helped to lighten Lynn's load as Ladies Captain.

This position will now be filled by Sylvia Davis, who Lynn confirmed has accepted Ann's request to be her Vice-Captain for 2010/11. Gill Lane will continue to be the County Handicaps representative.

Lynn stated how helpful and informative the website has been, thus encouraging many more members to use it. May it continue!

Treasurer's report

No report this month

Social report

Tim reported that the first Donnington Diners for 2010 would be held on 19th February. He reminded all that it was open to guests and might be a suitable occasion for Dave Allen to invite any prospective or new members.

There was still an outstanding amount of £325 from one table from the Xmas Ball. Brenda has all the details.

Professional/Course report

Gareth stated that the severe weather conditions had badly affected the course maintenance and progress of works. However the refacing of the bunkers would begin shortly. The greens have been vertidraind to allow air in and reduce compaction. They will be liquid feeded this week to provide iron.

The divot bags are expected to arrive this week. Dave Knight has the portable frames constructed for them. They need to be used in dry conditions however.

Next week the fairways will be 'slitted' to a depth of 10", again to aerate and reduce compaction. The tees and aprons of the greens will then be vertidraind as well.

Dave Knight hopes to have the new distance markers in place on the fairways by the end of the month. The stone 150yd markers will remain at the side of the fairways.

The main work for the coming month will be catching up, due to the time lost with the snow.

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.

Management report

Chris stated that the New Year had got off to an awful start due to the weather.

But looking forward he was delighted to have Dave Allen join his management team as Membership Secretary. Dave brings with him a wealth of experience having held this position at The Springs for the past 9 years. His role is to promote Donnington Grove and help build the membership towards 400.

Chris stated that the subscriptions for 2010/11 would remain the same, but would have some inclusions, e.g. EGU association fee £10 per member.

Communications

Nothing to report. See actions list for communication items.

Any other business

John asked what the current membership stood at, if Chris was hoping to achieve 400.

- **Chris to give membership details at next meeting.**

Richard stated that members were taking too long in the half-way hut. He had spoken to Charlie. Charlie and Chris were happy that it was being run efficiently. However both Richard and Lynn did not agree with this.

Richard suggested that an abbreviated menu be made specifically for those stopping at the half-way hut.

Tim suggested that as anyone stopping at the half-way hut is deemed to be 'off the course'; players who wish to play through should simply walk past. This would mean people could take as long as they wished eating.

- **Chris to speak to catering staff and report back at next meeting.**

Richard stated that there were insufficient signs warning members of the public that the course was private property, as walkers and joggers were routinely seen on the buggy paths on the 8th, 9th and 10th.

- **Chris to look into problem.**

Richard stated that he was looking to introduce a new 'Green keeper's revenge' competition. In this the green staff could be as cunning and devious as they wished with the pin positions. He suggested that the proceeds from this be distributed among the green staff. He had two provisional dates in mind – Sat 8th May, or Sat 17th July.

- **Gareth to speak to Dave Knight regarding the best date.**

Gareth asked that a profile of Dave Allen be placed on the website.

- **Richard to place profile on website.**

Tim asked where the bench on the 10th tee had got to.

Gareth stated that he did not know, but would ask Dave Knight if it was being repaired.

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

Tim asked whether both parties should be made responsible for playing their matches by given dates in the knockout competitions.

After discussion it was decided that it would remain the responsibility of the top party to contact the other and give 3 dates, BUT the rules would be changed to state that this had to be done within 7 days of the start of the new round.

- **Richard and Gareth to update rules for this summer's knockout competitions.**

Tim stated that the following competitions had no permanent trophy. Did we wish to purchase any?

Grove Foursomes, Summer Matchplay Foursomes, Winter Senior Singles.

It was decided to buy a trophy for the Summer Matchplay Foursomes only.

- **Tim to cost and purchase trophy.**

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

Next Meeting – Monday 8th February 2010

7.30pm