

# DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

## **Minutes of Committee Meeting; Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Present;** Geoff Kells, Lynn Turner, Ann MacDonald, Richard Lomax, Tim Brunsdon, Gareth Williams, Chris Strong.

**Apologies;** Brenda Agutter, Sean Sargeant, Steve Marshall, John Rance.

The Captain took the chair

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

### **Matters Arising**

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

**1111/2** – Richard stated that the photos and frames of the past captains had now arrived, however the frames had come with stands instead of hooks. The hooks have been ordered and should arrive within the week.

**0302/5** – Chris reported that the outstanding cheque from the Christmas Party has been found and is now with Brenda. This matter is now complete.

**0303/1** – Chris had not managed to speak to the owners regarding moving the boards from the ‘toilet’ corridor into the bar besides the new trophy cabinet. This has been carried over to the next meeting.

**0505/01** – The matter of a Committee office and its location is still ongoing.

**0505/02** – Geoff has drafted a letter to be forwarded to the junior members and their parents, asking for their thoughts on a junior section and whether they would be prepared to become involved themselves. This was sent out 18<sup>th</sup> June. There had been no replies so far.

Richard suggested that this letter be reproduced in the website, along with the stated aim to appoint a junior organiser, together with the organiser’s duties.

**0505/04** – Gareth reported on the problems with the computer and Golf 2000 regarding current handicap lists and lapsed handicaps. Apparently Golf 200 had updated the software without informing us. Our computer’s software was too old to handle this, which led to all the problems encountered. Gareth is in the process of updating the software as a matter of urgency and will then update the handicap lists and lapsed handicaps.

**0505/05** – Richard and Geoff have agreed the wording for the plaque for Elfed’s cabinet and have spoken to the engravers.

Richard showed an example for the plaque provided by the engravers, however all present thought that it looked cheap. Richard then produced a stainless steel example which he had sourced. All agreed that this second sample was eminently suitable.

**0206/1** – After reviewing John Rance’s spreadsheet on prize money/number of entrants, all present agreed that the principles were great, in that there needs to be a sliding scale of prizes paid out to the number of entrants.

The following formula was agreed upon for all future competitions (excluding Champagne Roll-up)

<u>No of entrants</u>	<u>Prize fund</u>
Less than 6	No prize fund – money returned
6-10	£5
11-15	£10, £5
16-28	£10, £8, £5
29+	£25, £15, £10

**0206/3** – After reviewing the Club Constitution and Club Rules, the following points were agreed:

**Anglo Japan Cup:** This had not been played for some years and will be removed from the competitions.

**Fourballs not allowed in competitions:** It was agreed that fourballs could be played in competitions during weekdays, as most of the other groups playing the course were fourballs.

### Communications

Richard reported on the progress of the new member's website. The current situation looked promising with Generate providing a half day training package to Committee members on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Hopefully this would enable an effective handover of the site from Generate to the Committee by the end of the week, to allow us to test the system before it goes live.

The process for this had been agreed today with Generate and an E Mail would be sent to all members informing them when the site was live which should be towards the end of next week.

A member, Kingsley Starling had volunteered his services with the website set-up. This was gratefully received as Kingsley is a web site designer and he has been co-opted onto the website sub-committee.

Tim stated that it was important that the site was updated on a regular basis, with the correct information and suggested that each Committee meeting discussed what needed to be put onto the website during the following month – and who would be responsible for doing this.

This was agreed upon, especially as the website was to become a standing agenda item.

Richard had spoken to Gareth re the competition start times and when they should be put onto the site. At present Gareth publishes the draw on the Friday afternoon. It was suggested that if at all possible that the start times be published on the Wednesday. A hard copy of this could be kept in the pro shop and any subsequent alterations could be made on this rather than the website.

All present agreed that this seemed to be the best practice and would be implemented ASAP.

An E Mail address had been set up for members to contact the Committee – **committee@donnington-grove.com**

### **Juniors – matter arising from AGM**

Geoff repeated that the letter had now been sent out to the junior members and their parents and we were awaiting any replies before proceeding with the appointment of a junior organiser.

There followed a discussion on retaining existing and attracting new juniors.

Tim asked if juniors could have a discount on range balls.

Chris replied that this was already in place.

Tim asked whether any thought had been given to applying for a Council Sports Grant to help with travelling costs, entrance fees etc.

None had - Tim would look into this and report back to the next meeting.

Another discussion followed regarding the Junior Organiser position. Matt Bland has expressed a keen interest in this position.

It was felt that the position needed to be advertised to all members, and would be by Gareth's newsletter, the new website and the notice board.

### **Captain's report**

Geoff stated that he had held an informal chat with a junior member regarding his behaviour. The junior in question sat and listened to what Geoff had to say and agreed to improve his behaviour.

Geoff was pleased to report that Paul Bailes, on behalf of his partner and company, have offered to donate the trophy cabinet. This is an extremely generous offer by Paul as we were looking at a cost of around £1,100. Geoff of course thanked him for his generosity, but will also write to him and his partner on behalf of the club.

Geoff has also spoken to Elfed's widow Ann Davies explaining the situation with the cabinet and the surplus funds collected and suggested a memorial bench or donation to a charity of her choice. Ann suggested donating to Kidney research.

Geoff has amended the letter requesting help to run the juniors, which has now been sent out.

The Hillman team won their 2<sup>nd</sup> round match against Birds Hill, 4-3, but lost their 3<sup>rd</sup> round, last Sunday to Calcott. It was a great match with 3½ extra holes, sudden death being played. Congratulations must be given to James Dawes; he has been a great team captain, really getting stuck in, putting in practice rounds and motivating his team. Well done James.

The Concord and scratch Foursomes are on their summer recess at present and will re-start in August.

We took a team to Newbury racecourse to compete against the 8 local clubs- we came 2<sup>nd</sup>, however the stars of the team were Ann McDonald and Brenda Agutter who won the Ladies Doubles with a score of 54 points, better ball.

Geoff thanked Barry, Ali and the kitchen staff for a well run day at the men's open. Entries were up on last year with 48. The day was won by our own Graham Bradley who beat Liam Rollins by 1 point.

The Midsummer Madness certainly lived up to its name. There was mass confusion at around 5.30am with members refusing to understand a new formula of Texas scramble. In the end Geoff reverted back to the standard format for fear of causing more confusion. Despite all this, it was good fun and the breakfast was fantastic. Thanks were given again to the kitchen staff and to Sean Sargeant for putting up with so much stick in the early hours of the morning. The winning team was Steve Clark, Lester Hunt, Paddy Burke and Austin Stone.

Donnington Grove is still unbeaten in the Inter-Club matches.

The Divot Party took place last Sunday. Just 8 members attended and it took just 1½ hours to complete the back nine. In general, members feel aggrieved with so many societies preventing them from being able to get onto the course.

The New Members evening was held recently with 11 attending. The evening went well with Chris Strong inviting those members remaining at the end of the evening to join him in a meal in the restaurant.

### **Management report**

Chris reported that membership was on the up with several ex members returning to the fold during the past month. He hoped to be able to report more success next month.

### **Professional/Course report**

Gareth stated that the bunkers were still causing problems. Dave and his team were continuing to drag them for stones. He said that the new sand takes time to settle.

There had been a problem with the irrigation system. The greens were given priority and hand watered, however this left the tees unwatered and this led to the 'browning off'. Dave had been out at night trying to fix the fault and it has now been fixed. The tees should return to their previous condition soon.

A local embroidery company has been contacted by the Pro Shop which now allows any item to be embroidered with any logo.

New scorecards need to be ordered. A reasonable amount will be ordered to allow for the possibility of a Stroke index change in 2010.

The Bader Cup entries have now been sent in by E mail and post together with the cheque.

The ladies and seniors club shirts will be here this week as will the 6 extra ordered by Geoff for the mens.

### **Competitions and Handicaps report**

Nothing to report.

### **Social report**

Tim reported that unfortunately only 36 tickets had been sold so far for the Barn Dance and was proposing to cancel it. This would leave us owing the caller £400. As we have paid him a £50 deposit, we would need to write a cheque for £350. This amount would be covered from the profit from the Race Night in February. Tim believed that it was better to suffer the monetary loss, rather than press ahead with the event which might fall flat with no atmosphere.

It appears that there is not sufficient interest within the club for a Summer Ball, as similar problems in attracting members were experienced last year.

The Ferret Racing Evening was going ahead on 10<sup>th</sup> July and had been advertised, as had the next Donnington Diners Evening on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

Tim had spoken to Dave Bamford regarding another Quiz Night sometime in October.

### **Lady Captains' Report**

Lynn was pleased to report that 36 ladies entered the Ladies open held 2 weeks ago, of which only 3 were members. The visitors were impressed with the course, clubhouse, catering and how friendly the staff was from the Pro shop to the kitchen and bar. Lynn thanked Dave Knight and the green keepers and all the staff involved in the day. She especially thanked Ann, Fiona and Maureen for their help and support in helping to raise £250 for the Air ambulance charity.

The ladies still hold a 100% winning record in their matches so far. They won 4-0 away to West Berks, and the mixed team won away to Studley Wood 5-1.

The Anniversary Foursomes was won by Julie Davies and Lynn Turner.

The Captains Rosebowl was won by Janice Paulin with 41 points.

The Desert Springs Salver was won by Gill Lane and Jan King. They go on to play at Epsom in July and if they win there, they go through to the finals in Spain. So good luck to them.

Ann and Brenda won the best ladies pairs with a score of 54 points in the Interclub Challenge Trophy played at Newbury racecourse, where the rest of our Committee team came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

Danielle Bailey has won the Berkshire girls County Handicap with a score of net 62.

Lynn mentioned how well Gill and Jan had done in the summer knockout competitions, as it appeared that the men were beginning to live in fear of facing them in the next round, but unfortunately Nick Hills and Steve Clark stopped their reign on the course.

Mixed matches are becoming increasingly harder to organise, as both home and visiting clubs are finding it difficult to raise a team. Any suggestions to remedy this would be appreciated.

### **Treasurer's report**

Nothing to report

### Senior Captains' report

John reported that the seniors beat Basingstoke away 3½-2½, even though Keith Berry got the tee time wrong and turned up an hour late, so the home team found us a player! They also beat Caversham heath at home 4½-1½. Their record now stands at: played 14, won 11, halved 1, lost 2.

The seniors are off to the Isle of Wight on Tuesday, and then play their arch rivals Newbury & Crookham on Thursday.

Later in the month, they play Dummer at home, followed by the seniors v ladies – where the ladies are out for revenge!

Hopefully we are getting lots of enquiries for the Seniors Open in August and John will arrange a planning meeting for this soon.

He has sold 29 of the 30 sets of team strip and all 29 have paid!!

John finished by reporting that it was encouraging to have two or three new players in the team.

### Any other business

Tim asked whether bags of grass seed and soil could be provided outside the Pro Shop to allow those members who wished to take one and repair divots marks as they played their round.

After discussion it was felt that a metal frame could be made to hold the bags, which could be placed on a tee for several days. This would allow each hole several days of work. Another frame could be placed on the walk to the next tee to collect the bags.

**Gareth said he would liaise with Dave Knight and Chris Strong regarding this.**

Lynn requested a bench for the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> tee.

**Chris said he would see if there were any spare benches that could be moved.**

Lynn said that several members had seen a group playing in a 5-ball in buggies on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Gareth stated that on this day Rudie was by himself and that they may have joined up after the first hole.

Chris stated that we have a starter but no course marshals. This was due to costs. A discussion arose as to the funding of course marshals for the weekend.

**Chris stated he would report back to the Committee re this cost.**

Steve Marshall left a question to ask regarding stones in the 6<sup>th</sup> left hand greenside bunker. Lynn added that the bunkers on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> holes were just as bad. The bunker on the 5<sup>th</sup> was showing canvas. Members were worried about damaging clubs and personal injury.

Gareth restated his earlier comments about the green staff dragging the bunkers.

Geoff suggested that the members be told of the problems and of the efforts being made to resolve them, in Gareth's next newsletter.

**Gareth agreed to include an item on the bunkers.**

Lynn mentioned that spike marks have been noticed on the greens.

**Gareth would mention this to the Pro shop staff.**

Lynn said that there had been several complaints from members, after an earlier request from members to tee off on the 10<sup>th</sup> first thing at weekends was refused, due to the need for the green staff to work uninterrupted, only to see a society doing exactly that on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

**Chris stated that this was a mistake and would speak to the Pro Shop.**

Lynn asked if there was to be a 'cut' for the ladies in the Club Championship.

**Gareth replied that due to the low numbers of ladies entered, no cut would be made.**

Richard mentioned that the 3<sup>rd</sup> group out one Saturday morning came across footprints in the bunkers.

**Gareth was aware of this and had spoken to Dave Knight regarding the matter. Dave stated that the green staff conducts a full course check early every morning. Dave was concerned about this and will monitor the situation together with Gareth to ensure there are no repetitions.**

Lynn mentioned some members had been concerned over a member of the staff's attitude over the phone.

**Gareth stated that the person concerned had been spoken to and any further complaints should be put in writing.**

Geoff voiced concerns over how invoices were sent out from Sandtrend to the Committee.

**Chris replied that he had reviewed this and that from now invoices would be sent directly to Brenda, with a copy to Geoff.**

Geoff asked what tee times were available for the Invitation Day.

**Tim replied that he would find out and inform Geoff ASAP.**

Tim asked whether the Champagne Roll-up would be affected by the course being closed on Friday to enable the green staff to start preparing the course for the Club championship.

**Gareth replied that the course was being closed at 6pm and should not affect the competition.**

Richard stated that there were still ongoing problems with visitors not adhering to the dress codes. He wondered whether a copy of the codes is sent out to societies with their joining instructions.

**Chris replied that Ali and Barry do send copies of the dress code out to societies, but would confirm with them that was still the case.**

Geoff asked what the criteria are to employ marshals.

**Chris replied that the club only employs a starter at the weekend, who could police the dress code. The question of course marshals came down to cost, but would review this matter and the cost of marshals with Gareth.**

Richard mentioned that the new tee on the 9<sup>th</sup> was looking dishevelled.

Chris stated that it would not be ready for the Club championship, but hoped it would be ready soon afterwards.

**Gareth would ask Dave Knight to tidy it up.**

Richard stated that he had received a letter from a member complaining about a golf society starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Tim stated that he too was caught up in this and that he had seen 7 members walk off the course by the 14<sup>th</sup> due to the slow play.

**Gareth replied that the society was booked in at this time as the computer calculates the time taken for the first 9 holes at 2¼ hours, regardless of the number playing in that group. In this case the computer had thrown up the tee time of 10am as acceptable for the society not to interfere with the members already on the first 9.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.20pm

**Next Meeting – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009                      7.30pm**

Tim Brunsten  
23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009