

**DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB**

**Minutes of Committee Meeting; Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

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

**Apologies**; John Tonner, Sylvia Davis.

The Captain took the chair.

**Matters Arising**

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

**0311/03-** Chris stated that the new signs had now arrived and were in situ. This matter is now closed.

**0802/02-** Richard said that Geoff Kells had passed on the details of the acoustic engineer and he in turn had passed this onto Chris. He also stated that it was possible to buy acoustic panels that could be printed with any image to go on the walls of the restaurant.

- **Chris to research the cost and speak to the owners.**

**0203/03-** Richard stated that the Club Manual was with him for final editing. The only outstanding matter was an agreement for prize money for the competitions.

- **Richard and John to report when complete.**

**0203/07-** Research regarding other club's tee booking systems. To be kept on agenda until further information forthcoming.

**0604/10-** Gareth reported that new 'green fee paid' labels were being printed and should be in operation soon. They will have a tear off strip which needs to be handed to the starter.

- **Gareth to report when in operation.**

**1404/10-** Competition fees to be increased. This will be kept under review for the foreseeable future.

**1504/10-** John stated at the last meeting that he was looking into the feasibility of running some Sunday competitions.

- **John to report back with any progress.**

**0205/10-** Richard said that he and Gareth had agreed the process for the website classified adverts. The design had been completed for the website and was now awaiting a link.

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

**0305/10-** Gareth had met with one of the Marshalls regarding an incident where the Marshall was threatened by a member of a golf break. After a lengthy meeting it was agreed that Gareth would have regular meetings with the Marshalls and Starters. A number of ideas from the Marshalls had been taken on board and were to be implemented and a process designed in the event of a reoccurrence

Chris stated that they had the details of the persons involved and had told them that they were no longer welcome at Donnington Grove. He would also be writing to Golf breaks informing them of the incident.

All present were of the firm opinion that this was totally unacceptable behaviour. This matter is now closed.

**0405/10-** After discussion it was agreed to cut the men's board competition prizes from the first 5 to the first 3. The amounts would be £30, £25, £20.

Due to the small number of ladies entering the board competitions, the same prize money could not be justified. Only the first lady would win a prize of £20 (if 5 or more entered) or £15 (if 4 or less entered).

- **Gareth and Brenda to report back when this system is implemented.**

**0705/10-** See later for 1<sup>st</sup> tee improvements

**0805/10-** Richard to convene meeting regarding Club Championship.

- **Richard to report result of meeting.**

**0905/10-** Brenda and Sylvia to organise Summer Party. They handed out tickets to the Committee to be sold. There were also tickets available from behind the bar. It will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August and will be a casual dress disco/buffet.

- **Brenda and Sylvia to report progress at next meeting.**

**1005/10-** Chris stated that the Invitation Day was for members to invite someone along to play with them. The onus was therefore on the membership, not the Management.

Brenda stated that it had been very successful in the past, but had not been run last year.

Tim replied that it had been cancelled as the year before it had been badly attended and there did not seem to be much enthusiasm from within the club.

After discussion it was decided that no date be set for this and that the Committee should sound out the membership as to whether to run it this year.

Richard said that this could be a question for the website.

To be kept on the agenda pending further information.

**1305/10-** At the last meeting John was to look at the possibility of reintroducing a 3-club competition.

Tim stated that it would best be suited for a weekday as it had been cancelled due to members who played once a week wishing to play a proper round of golf.

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

**1505/10-** Gareth stated that he was still looking into a system to place in front of the greens to prevent buggies abusing the rules.

- **Gareth to report back with results.**

### **Improvements to 1<sup>st</sup> tee**

Richard stated he, Tim, Chris and Gareth had met and discussed various improvements to the 1<sup>st</sup> tee. It was doubtful that they would be in place for the Club Championship and any extension to the tee itself would need to wait until the autumn. However it was agreed that some DG logo banners and flags would be appropriate and £500 would be set aside from the Committee for these.

- **Richard and Tim to report back as work continue.**

### **Competition Analysis as at end of May 2010**

Brenda circulated a number of graphs showing the monthly revenue from competitions. Despite the reduction in membership, the core players have remained, although the figures do show a slight reduction in the number of entrants each month.

### **Bader Cup entry**

The Mixed Greensomes is the qualifying competition for the Bader Cup. Those pairs wishing to enter the Bader Cup have to pay an additional entry fee. Brenda stated that for the past 2 years this additional fee has not covered the entry cost to the Bader Cup that the Committee pays at the start of each year.

This year there were 12 entries of which 7 entered the Bader Cup. There will always be fewer entries in this competition due to the small number of ladies within the Club. After discussion it was decided that the Committee would pay any shortfall as this benefited the members. The amount came to £56.

### **Imminent Golf Events**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Anniversary Foursomes        | - No action required.   |
| Midsummer Madness            | - John, Richard and Tim to do registration.<br>Tim to get prizes. |
| Captain's Rosebowl           | - No action required.   |
| Newbury Inter-club Challenge | - Tim to organise team.   |
| Club Championship            | - Subcommittee to organise.<br>Tim to arrange volunteers.         |

### **Social Events**

Brenda reported that the Summer Disco was all in hand. Tickets were now on sale and could be bought from any Committee member or from behind the bar.

It would be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August and would be a disco and buffet. They were hoping to sell 100 tickets.

- **Brenda and Sylvia to report progress at next meeting.**

### **Captain's report**

Richard started by reporting on the much needed divot parties repairing the front nine. This annual exercise involves a working party of member volunteers taking a couple of hours out to assist the green staff in repairing the hundreds of divots. He thanked all those who took part, and to also Sandtrend for funding the prizes for a nine hole competition which took place afterwards.

The new Divot Bag Repair system was introduced during May and was working well until the nice blue divot bags started disappearing! This is a sad reflection on golfers who cannot resist the temptation to take a bag home. Dave Knight is replacing the blue bags with plastic throw away bags as a result. So much for the environment! It is hoped, however, that this new system may help keep the course in good condition throughout the year and perhaps avoid the need for annual divot parties.

The inaugural Green Keeper's Revenge competition was on the 8<sup>th</sup> May. There was no doubt Dave Knight enjoyed the pin placements, some of which were very testing. However, they didn't stop John Tonner from scoring 45 points on his own card and being part of the winning team, with Sylvia Davis and Ann MacDonald. Richard was very pleased to present Dave and his team with a "bonus" on behalf of the members to thank him and his staff for their care and attention to the course after a very trying winter.

He also congratulated the DG Birdies - Sylvia Davis, Maureen Heath, Fiona Lomax, Janice Paulin and Catherine Moody who successfully completed their half marathon Moonwalk, and in the process raised over £3000 for Breast Cancer research.

The new Bonus Ball sweepstake has got off to a great start with four winners of £40 so far and £64 raised for Help for Heroes in the process. The weekly sweepstake sheet may be found on the club bar and a £1 stake provides you with a much better chance of winning something than buying a lottery ticket!

The charity bunker has now moved to the 15<sup>th</sup> for June.

Richard congratulated past Captain Tony Coleman, known to all as TC, for his two years as President of the BB&O Alliance. His two years culminated with a successful Pro-Am at DG last month. Mike Williams came second in the Pro event and Austin Stone won the amateur with 39 points.

Congratulations to Ron and Ann MacDonald for qualifying for the Bader Cup by winning our Mixed Greensomes. Also, to Dominique Bailey who was part of the winning Berkshire Girls team at Sunningdale.

Finally, the interclub teams have had a good month. The Concorde team had a great result over Wrag Barn (7.5 to 0.5) which sets them up nicely in the league. The men's' inter-club team hosted Manor House and fought out a hard won draw in the TT Cup. The Hillman Plate draw drew DG against Maidenhead Artisans who, unfortunately, couldn't raise a team and so we go through with a bye to the next round.

### **Lady Captains' Report**

Ann said that it had been a very busy few weeks with lots of events. One of them being the Ladies Coffee Morning which was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May and was very successful, raising £220 for charity and Ann thanked all the ladies that helped run such a wonderful morning. With their help it makes everything easier to run. Ann is now looking forward to the Ladies Open on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May the Mixed Team had a good win against the Valley 4/2 on a very wet Sunday morning. On the 17<sup>th</sup> May the Ladies went to Studley Wood and came away with a well deserved draw. Yesterday the Mixed team had a well deserved draw against Studley Wood.

The ladies have been very active in various golf matches and Ann congratulated the following-;

- Gill, Jan Lynn Fay and Julie in winning their 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Duncan Trophy against Sonning, They now meet The Valley on 17<sup>th</sup> May in the 3<sup>rd</sup> so we would like to wish them the very best.
- Gill, Jan, and Lynn for coming 4<sup>th</sup> in the Interclub Shield that was held at Blue Mountain in a field of 28
- To Gill and Jan for winning the Ladies Open at Magnolia Park.
- To Gill and Tom for coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Mixed Open at Goring & Streatley
- To Lynn for winning the Parasampia Bogey,
- To Sylvia, John and Ann for winning the Green Keepers Revenge held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May
- To Ann and her husband Ron for winning the Mixed Greensomes and for getting through to the Douglas Bader golf knockout.
- To Maureen Heath and Ann for coming 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Calcot Open
- To Dominique Bailey who was part of the Berkshire Girls winning team at Sunningdale.

And last but not least a special well done to Dympna Batley for taken part in her first club match with her husband Luke, We now hope that she will be able to join us sometimes in our ladies friendlies

### **Senior Captains' report**

Mike stated that there were 5 matches throughout May with mixed results – Won 3, halved 1 and lost 1.

It is still a problem raising a team for some of the matches which is a surprise considering the number of senior members. Mike is constantly relying on the regulars to fill the places. This can prove difficult when there are 2 matches in a week. As John and the seniors Vice-Captain, Bernie Parker were both away for 2 weeks, John Rance agreed to oversee arrangements for 3 of the matches and Mike wished to express his thanks to John. The Springs have now confirmed dates for next year's matches so the only outstanding ones are the Isle of Wight.

### **Management report**

Chris stated that the Top Barn (by the bridge between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>) was sold last month. Access to this is through the golf course at present until another route is made.

The L shaped barn (on right as you drive in, in front of castle) has just completed and some activity will commence soon.

The buildings by the 10<sup>th</sup> will be going out to tender soon.

### **Social report**

No report.

### **Competition Secretary Report**

No report this month.

### **Professional/Course report**

Gareth stated that there had been numerous good comments regarding the condition of the course.

He stated that the ground temperature had been low for the time of the year and most courses had suffered which goes to show what a great job Dave Knight and his team do day in, day out. There had been too much grass on the greens on occasion, but this could be dealt with easily and was preferable considering the recent weather.

The greens were running at 9½ for the June Medal. This compares to the recent PGA competition at Wentworth where the greens were 10. Regular top dressing every 2 weeks will help speed up the greens even more. As the greens are sand based they drain much faster and those on the 6th and 7<sup>th</sup> are further dried out by the wind. This is a slight drawback in the summer, but a benefit in the winter.

Due to a number of members complaining that the ball washers were not filled with water, Gareth has instructed that the Green staff place a water container under each one.

The work continues on the bunkers. The sand needs to be moved around every 2 weeks. When dry it becomes fluffy and then the wind blows it out.

The slow release fertiliser spread earlier in the year is now kicking in.

**Richard** asked that the boxes for seed and earth on the tees be kept topped up. Gareth said he would pass this on to Dave.

**Richard** asked that Dave look at the pitching green as it needed repairing. Gareth said he would pass this on as well.

### **Treasurer's report**

Nothing to report this month.

### **Any other business**

**Richard** said that 1 or 2 visitors were not complying with the dress code last Sunday. Gareth replied that they were selling white socks in the Pro Shop and Mark and Gareth were working hard to ensure all conformed with the dress code. A picture of what was and was not acceptable was in the shop now.

**Richard** asked if the orange netting on the right as you drove in by the L shaped barn could be removed.

Chris replied that work was due to recommence soon and it needed to remain.

**Tim** asked for the laurel hedge to be cut by the orange netting as drivers could not see other vehicles.

Gareth said that he had already spoken to Dave.

**Richard** stated that Sky Sports 3 was missing from the bar.

Chris said he would look into it.

**Brenda** asked where all the old Captain's photos were.  
Richard stated that he had them.

**Tim** asked if there was another Scratch League that the Club could play in next year.  
Gareth said he would look into it and also stated that there was a scratch competition held over 1 weekend each year.

- **Gareth to give Tim details.**

**Ann** asked on behalf of Jan King that the chicken wire be replaced on the bridge leading down to the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Richard also asked that the boards be screwed down.

Gareth said he would speak to Dave.

- **Gareth to report when repairs complete.**

**Ann** said there was a lack of rubbish bins, especially on the ladies tees.

Gareth said they would reposition some bins from the men's tees if the ladies do not have to pass the men's tee to get to their tees.

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

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.22pm

**Next Meeting – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010      7.30pm**

Tim Brunsten  
27<sup>th</sup> June 2010