

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Tuesday 2nd June 2009

Present; Geoff Kells, Lynn Turner, Ann MacDonald, Richard Lomax, John Rance, Tim Brunsten, Chris Strong.

Apologies; Brenda Agutter, Sean Sargeant, Gareth Williams

The Captain took the chair

May 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 he now has all the past Captains' photos and frames at home and is in the process of inserting the correct names. This should be completed within the week and he will then give the photos to Chris to be put up.

1301/3 – Richard reported on the current position of the new members' website. He was still awaiting several biographies from Committee members. The key item to be completed is the diary of events, which needs to be in an acceptable format. However he was experiencing problems accessing the spreadsheet provided by the website designers. Once this has been finalised he suggested that a working party be set up to look at, review and edit the content before the website 'goes live'.

John Rance suggested that Richard send the spreadsheet to him to have a look at. Richard agreed to do this.

Richard has also been sent a CD of course photos from Gareth, for inclusion in the site. Tim is to send Richard his photos from previous social events to be included also.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the Club Constitution and Club Rules be added to the website by means of a PDF download.

0604/9 – Chris stated that the letter regarding the New Members Evening on 16th June had now been approved and would be sent out by Ali this week to 34 members.

Richard expressed his apologies, as he would be in Scotland on this day.

0505/01 – Chris stated that Oscar's office and the sales office were to be moved upstairs into Chris's current office, near to reception. Chris would move downstairs to one of the vacated offices and was looking at the remaining office as being suitable for use by the Committee.

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 will be sent out this week.

0505/03 – Richard has now received the manual regarding all the relevant information and guidelines for individuals working with juniors. It also informs readers about the correct method of forming such groups.

0505/05 – Richard stated that there was room above the glass doors of the Trophy Cabinet to affix a silver plaque. There followed a short discussion on the format and wording of the plaque to be dedicated to Elfed.

0505/07 – Geoff reported that he had been sent a pocket to be embroidered for the new Seniors Captain's jacket. It requires the correct spelling and spacing. John will action this and send the finalised version to Gareth. Gareth has stated that the turn around for the completed item should be within 7 days.

0505/08 – It was reported that the rubbish behind the 10th tee had now been removed.

Juniors – matter arising from AGM

Geoff said that he could not see any problem with organising a joint adult/junior competition, whilst we awaited feedback from the letter sent to the juniors and their parents. Geoff would liaise with Sean regarding this and a suitable date.

John asked that the letter also mention that the roll-up on Tuesdays and Thursdays was open to any junior who wished to participate. Several had played in the past and he felt that it was a good way to for members to get to know them.

Management report

Chris Strong stated that the new rooms by the old Pro Shop were now open.

Peter Allis mentioned the Club during the last televised PGA Championship. It is the venue for 'Help For Heroes' Golf Day on July 16th. This is now sold out having been advertised far and near. There is a seniors match running on the same day, but Chris and John have agreed an earlier start time for the seniors.

Chris was concerned that two Committee cheques had been returned by the bank, as being ineligible. He will agree a new format with Brenda when she returns next week as a matter of urgency.

Richard asked when the new 9th tee would be ready.

Chris replied that it had just been cut. There was no projected time scale, however he hoped it would be ready for the Club Championship.

Richard also asked whether there were still plans to move the 7th tee, in order to incorporate the lake.

Chris said that he was keen to do this, although sufficient tree cover would be required to protect those on the tee from golfers coming up the 6th fairway. Chris did not envisage this being started until the autumn, which would be better for moving and planting trees.

Tim asked whether the 'through the green' white lines could be replaced as there were numerous buggies directly besides the various greens.

Chris replied that Dave Knight had said that these lines had channelled the buggies through one particular patch of the course on each hole, cutting it up. By removing the markings, the buggies were free to roam over a wider area.

Captain's report

Geoff reported that there were less teams than expected at the Adam Clayton Memorial Day. However the day was a great success with 64 entries and the evening action raising over £5,000. Graham Murty paid over £500 for Adam's old driver. On behalf of Chris Clayton and Swings and Smiles, Geoff thanked Chris Strong and Sandtrend for allowing the use of the course. He also thanked Gareth Williams, Matt Woods and TC for all their hard work.

Geoff had received a letter from a member complaining about the behaviour of a junior member. Geoff has verbally responded to this letter and believes that the best course of action is for him to speak to the junior in question. He stated that the matter was not, at this moment in time, suitable for full disciplinary action.

Geoff also reiterated the fact that a letter had been drafted to the juniors and their parents requesting their thoughts and potential help.

He thanked Mike Williams for giving up his time to play with Geoff in the first Captain/Pro Challenge. They came second to Richard Lomax and Ray Ross to whom he gave his congratulations. Mike is off this week to play Ballybunion in Ireland on the seniors tour. Best of luck.

The seniors pocket has now arrived for embroidery and he asked for any ideas on the jacket presentation.

It was sad to report that Jon Millar had resigned from the club. Geoff would now be running the Concord team. The team is currently 2 points off the lead.

The Hillman Team play their 2nd round match on Sunday 7th June. Good luck to James Dawes and the team.

Lastly, Geoff reported that Donnington Grove remain undefeated in the Interclub Matches. Well done to all involved.

Lady Captains' Report

Lynn thanked Gareth for the arrival of the ladies shirts. The money would be collected ASAP, however several ladies are currently on holiday.

The ladies have won all four of their Interclub Matches so far this season, beating The Springs 4&2, Studley Wood 3&1 and both Castle Combe and Newbury & Crookham by 5½ – 2½. She hopes that their luck continues.

Lynn and Ann MacDonald were knocked out of the Daily Mail Foursomes, away to The Springs, while Gill Lane, Jan King and Lynn came 'middle' in the Ladies Interclub Shield at Royal Ascot.

Lynn won the Parasampia Cup. A winning Stableford score of 37 points takes Ann and Ron Macdonald through to the regional finals of the Bader Cup in Hertfordshire.

Lynn stated that the ladies were looking forward to winning the Seniors v Ladies Trophy in July.

She finished by wishing everyone a successful day in the Mens Open on Friday 5th June.

Treasurer's report

Nothing to report

Social report

Tim reported that the next Donnington Diners had been brought forward to Friday 12th June. This is still going from strength to strength and has been very well received.

Matt Woods is running a Golf Academy chipping workshop between 8pm – 9pm on Friday 19th June after the Champagne Roll-up. It is free of charge and open to any members or guests. It will be run from the putting green outside the dining room and will culminate in a chipping competition for those interested. It was originally intended to run a BBQ alongside this event, but Chris expressed reservations, stating that without exact numbers, it would cause staffing problems and staff would not know how much food to prepare. Tim stated that in that case there would be no BBQ.

Tickets have now gone on sale for the barn dance on Saturday 25th July. They are available from behind the bar and members can buy them on their Club Cards. Tim reminded the Committee that guests were welcome.

Tim was still awaiting food costings and would be chasing Ali up over this.

Senior Captains' report

Nothing to report

Competitions and Handicaps report

Nothing to report.

Professional/Course report

Nothing to report

Any other business

John said that he had looked into the matrix that Gill had prepared re: prize vouchers v number of entries, to ensure that the prize money was kept within the entry fees. He had tweaked Gill's matrix and circulated one he had prepared, for comments at the next meeting.

Lynn asked for a rubbish bin to be placed by the ladies tee on the 11th, as this was the most used bin on the course when in situ.

Chris will mention this to Dave Knight.

Lynn also asked for the bench to be put back on the 7th tee. Several members stated that it had been. John said that a bench was required on the 8th tee while awaiting the bell.

Chris said that he had ordered 2 new benches and would get Dave Knight to follow this up.

Lynn stated that Gill Lane had asked if there could be a notice clarifying whether there is relief in the small 'copse' between the 1st and 9th fairways, as some of the trees had chicken wire around their bases. After a short discussion it was agreed that if there were no notices to this effect, then no relief is allowed.

Lynn raised the matter over the lack of water pressure in the ladies showers. Chris replied that they were aware of the problem and that it was being fixed at the moment. The problem has stemmed from the boosters required to get sufficient pressure onto the top floors. Unfortunately this has resulted in the men's showers with far too much pressure and the ladies with none. They are currently installing reducers in the basement to remedy this matter.

Lynn asked Chris whether the ladies could use the men's changing rooms for the Ladies Open on Wednesday 24th June due to its larger size. Chris said that this was no problem and he would get Ali to put up posters and notices to this effect nearer to the date.

Richard mentioned that the competitions computer had broken down again and that that there were still serious reservations with the software. Richard will mention this to Gareth.

Tim asked that consideration be given to changing the dress code to allow men to wear white sports socks that came below the ankle, as allowed to the ladies. The rest of the Committee rejected this unanimously.

Tim stated that the Captains' Charity Box was falling apart. Geoff said he didn't believe that it had been emptied for some time and would do so.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.50 pm

Next Meeting – Tuesday 7th July 2009 7.30pm

Tim Brunsten
3rd June 2009