

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Tuesday 4th May 2010

Present; Richard Lomax, Mike Williams, Tim Brunsdon, Chris Strong, John Tonner, Ann MacDonald, Gareth Williams, Brenda Agutter, Sylvia Davis.

Apologies; None.

The Captain took the chair.

Richard stated that Ray Ross had resigned from the Committee as Members Representative.

Matters Arising

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

0311/03- Chris stated that the new signs for the car park and course were imminent. He had spoken to them today. They had been experiencing staffing problems.

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

0311/10- Sylvia said that the reports from John Heath had been going to the wrong desk and too late, hence the lack of coverage in the local papers. The reports needed to be sent to the Sports editor by noon on Tuesday.

- **Richard and Tim to meet with John Heath and report back.**

0112/11- Richard stated that the website classified advertisements needed to be finalised.

- **Richard meet with Gareth and report back.**

0112/12- John reported that one of the Marshalls had been unsure whether he had the power to take people off the course.

Gareth replied that he was having a meeting with all the Starters and Marshalls and would talk about it then.

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

0802/02- Chris said that Geoff Kells had not yet been in touch with the acoustic engineer's details regarding the noise levels in the bar and restaurant.

- **Richard to contact Geoff.**

0203/02- Sylvia reported that the curtain samples for the restaurant were a good quality. The cost would be £2,324.

Chris replied that he had spoken to the owner who was not too enthusiastic.

- **Chris to report back if there are any changes in owner's outlook.**

0203/03- John stated that he, Sylvia and Richard had met to amend the draft copy of the Club Manual. The only outstanding matter is the main board competition prizes

- **Richard and Brenda to review main board competition prizes for next meeting.**

0203/07- Tee booking system – see later.

0604/10- Gareth reported that new ‘green fee paid’ labels were being printed and should be in operation soon.

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

0804/10- Chris stated that he would arrange for the ladies to pay for their evening meals by club card.

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

0904/10- Sand required in 16th greenside bunker.
See later in Pro’s report.

1004/10- 1st tee in need of attention and improvement.
See later in Improvements to 1st tee.

1204/10- John said that Sean Sargeant had asked for a subsidy for the Winter League prize fund.

Richard stated that he had spoken to Sean and informed him that the League was self-financing and that there would be no subsidy.

This matter is now closed.

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

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

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

Tee Booking System

It was agreed that this still required a lot more research.

Gareth said that Sand Martins ran a roll-up between 7am – 11am, with the remainder of tee times being booked. He reported that there were long queues waiting for the Pro Shop to open from around 6.30am. Lambourne run a system similar to ours in that you can book a weekend tee time 2 weeks in advance, but differs in that the Pro Shop leave a gap (1 in every 3 tee times) for members to book 1 day in advance.

Tim suggested that for the club KO competitions, no time limit should be implemented for booking tee times, however the players booking the tee time need to state what competition they are playing in and all participants.

After a short discussion it was agreed that this would be implemented straight away.

- **Gareth to report back if any problems arise from this new system.**

Tim also suggested that a number of tee slots be held back on the last weekend of each KO round which would be reserved for that competition. This would be for bookings within the last week and might help alleviate some of the current problems members are facing in finding sufficient time to play all their matches. If the slots had not been taken by the Friday, they could then be released to the rest of the members. Again it was agreed to trial this method for the next rounds.

- **Gareth to report back progress.**

Improvements to 1st tee

Richard stated that some work had started namely the new enlarged trolley and buggy parking area.

He suggested that a sub-committee be set up. This would consist of Richard, Tim, Chris and Gareth. They would look at all matters regarding the 1st tee.

Tim suggested that the Committee might fund some of the improvements as it would benefit all members.

This was agreed unanimously, although no amount was suggested or agreed upon. Any expenditure would need to be passed by the Committee first.

- **Sub-committee to report progress at next meeting.**

Imminent Golf Events

Richard stated that he wished for a working party to be set up for this year's Club Championship. After discussion this would consist of Richard, Tim, John, Brenda and Ann.

- **Working party to report back at next meeting.**

The June monthly medal would be held off the yellow tees and alternately with the white tees from then on for the rest of the summer.

Social Events

Richard reported the results of the website survey question regarding a summer party.

Less formal disco	– 24
Black tie	– 18
No event	– 6

With regard to these results Brenda and Sylvia will organise a less formal summer party with disco.

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

Captain's report

It's been quite a month! It started with the Captains' Drive-in, which was a great success, with the competition played in glorious sunshine and £558.67 raised towards the Captains' charities. The 15th hole challenge contributed £150 towards this. Thanks to those members of the committee, a number of volunteers, and Fiona Lomax for helping out on the day. Thankfully, both Captains hit mammoth drives down the range with the old hickory shafted driver.

The Captain's Plate competition and Past Captains' dinner was held during the month. Mike Williams, seniors' Captain, deservedly won the individual competition and was presented with the engraved Captains' Plate after the dinner. The evening dinner was a great success with the highlight of the night being a Chris Strong rendition of a Ronnie Barker monologue.

The annual Presentation Evening took place on 30th April. This year a buffet meal was arranged for those attending. Numerous trophies were presented on the night with many multiple winners. The evening commenced however with last year's captains, Geoff and Lynn, handing over their cheques to their chosen charities. They each raised over £3600 for each charity which was tremendous. Richard thanked Tim for organising the event, TC for filling the MC role and to John Tonner for taking the photographs.

The Champagne Roll-ups have started off extremely well with over 30 taking part on each of the first three Fridays. The weekly cash draw had also produced an early winner and continues to attract a good number of members to the bar on Fridays, after the Champagne roll-ups end.

Tom and Gill Lane won the Rules Quiz, organised by Dave Allen which was held after the AGM

Rudy Fourie, until last year, one of our Pro Shop assistants, has started his professional playing career off with a 4th place finish on the Jamega Tour. We wish him success in his future tournaments.

The Captain's Charity bunker has been moved to the 17th hole and will move around the course each month, to keep members on their toes!

Mark Legg and Mike Evans have unfortunately been knocked out of the Daily Mail Foursomes at Newbury & Crookham in the second round. We thank them for representing the club in this competition having won our club Foursomes competition last year.

The draw for the Summer Knockouts has been done and the competition is now underway.

The two Divot Parties have now been held with 12 volunteers turning out to help on each of the two days. Richard was very grateful to all of them as the divot repairs would have taken up a large amount of the greenkeepers' time without their assistance. Thanks also to Chris Strong who donated the prizes for the subsequent 9 hole competitions and the bacon rolls and coffee to rejuvenate the volunteers after their efforts.

Ray Ross has resigned from the Committee as Members' Representative

Dave Knight has already started implementing some of the course improvements which were discussed and agreed last month. The course is looking great at the moment and the rain over the last few days can only help further. The 1st tee project of improvements has already started but the overall project may take some months to complete.

The mens' inter-club team had a good away 7-1 win over Avon GS at Cumberwell Park in the TT Cup. The next match is on Sunday 9th May.

The Concorde League team, led by Geoff Kells, recorded a comprehensive win over The Springs in April so DG is back into contention in the league. However, it is still early days in this season long competition. The Hillman Trophy team, led by James Dawes, awaits a date for the Plate competition.

Lady Captains' Report

Ann thanked all who came to support her and Richard in the Drive-in and all who did so much behind the scenes before and on the day. Well done to Brenda and her team for winning 1st prize. She was pleased to see her ball fly down the driving range as she had visions of it just falling off the tee in front of her! It was more nerve wrecking knowing that her daughter and grandson were watching her hit a golf ball for the first time. Well done to Goggie for winning and well done to Richard for such a wonderful shot for his drive.

The ladies went to Weybrook Park, and came away with a well deserving draw. This is the first season that we have played Weybrook in an Interclub match and were well received by Weybrook. Later in the month the ladies went to The Springs, where they sadly lost 3/1. However, they did very well as The Springs insist that we field 4 silver and 4 bronze, especially when you consider how few silver players we have.

It was lovely to see some of our past Captains at the Captain's Plate and dinner. The highlight of the evening was Chris Strong's rendition of a Ronnie Barker sketch, which was enjoyed so much by all.

Ann enjoyed her first social evening as Lady Captain with 17 ladies attending the evening, it was very lively and it was lovely to welcome 3 new members into the ladies section, Chris Barton, Helen Huish & Katherine Hartwell, all of whom have settled well into the club scene. The meal was excellent as was the service. These occasions are so important within the Ladies section as it helps all to catch up with each other as well as golf matters.

The Presentation Evening went well and Ann congratulated all the ladies who picked up prizes during the evening, especially Lynn, Julia, Gill, Janice and Jan.

The first Mixed interclub match against the Valley was held last Sunday. Ann thanked Sylvia in managing to get a team together especially it been a bank holiday weekend. Well done to all the team that turned up on a wet Sunday morning to play, thankfully it cleared up later in the day, with a very good win 4/2.

On May the 7th Jan, Lynn, Gill, Fay and Julia have got their second round of the Duncan Trophy at home to Sonning. Four of our ladies, Sylvia, Janice, Maureen and Ann are taken part in the Calcot Ladies Open on Thursday.

The Ladies Coffee morning will be on 12th May.

Senior Captains' report

Mike reported that there were 4 senior matches in April. The first was lost away to Sherfield Oaks 4-2, but the remaining 3 were won, all at home with the last one against Goring & Streetly a convincing 6-0 win.

The match against west Berks resulted in a 4-2 win, however both clubs have now agreed that the Elfed trophy will be decided by the total wins of both the home and away matches during the year. The winner will retain the trophy for a full year.

There has been excellent feedback from visitors regarding the fantastic condition of the course and for the quality of food from the carvery. The beef has been particularly good since switching to the striploin.

Next year's match against temple has now been agreed, so the only ones outstanding are The Springs and the 3 on the Isle of Wight.

Management report

Chris reported that currently there were 265 members, consisting of 235 men and 30 ladies. There were also 12 junior members and 29 still to pay, whom Dave Allen was chasing up. There had been 26 resignations and 41 new members of which 36 were 7-day members.

Richard asked that Dave Allen be made aware of Invitation Day

- **Chris to speak to Dave Allen**
- **Richard to meet with Dave Allen and report back.**

Social report

No report.

Competition Secretary Report

John reported that the annual summer draw sheets for all competitions have been posted. Whilst there were some complaints about the draw, all seems to have been resolved now and lessons learnt and filed for future reference.

John did not believe that the draws needed to be done in public or turn them into anything other than what they are. Club 2000 will provide us with the medium to accomplish this in the future and if this does not meet with the approval of the membership, we in turn should ask them to provide non ASCI based method of competitive golf.

Fiona Lomax is continuing to amend the master copy of the new Club manual following on from our review meeting. Tim Brunsdon has now photographed all of the trophies and will deliver them to Fiona who will in turn pass the master copy back to John for final review and subsequent issue. We are also awaiting some guidance from Gareth who was held up by Icelandic ash!

The take up on the Greenkeepers Revenge has been positive and John has ordered some loud hailer for the Starters (Club Competitions).

John is still looking into the various options available for further golf competitions. Any questions on handicaps will be discussed between John and Gareth.

Professional/Course report

Gareth said that the new divot bags would be out tomorrow on the 6th. He had received a complaint regarding weeds on the fairways. Gareth stated that he thought that the fairways were in good condition, but he had passed the complaint on to Dave Knight who told him that the fairways were having weed killer sprayed on then in 2 weeks.

All the Open competitions have been sent out and advertised on the website and in Golf Empire. Each entry will be told of their start time 1 week prior to the competition. He suggested that we get together nearer the time to discuss the Ladies and Mixed Opens.

- **Gareth to report to Committee any help required.**

Richard asked that a note on inactive handicaps be sent with all acknowledgements.

Garth reported that there would be no more extensions to the winter rules.

He had spoken to Darren Boyce regarding the front right bunker on the 5th where the ball came to rest underneath the matting. The bunker raking machine had caught the matting and the green staff had not looked behind and so had missed the torn matting. Gareth and Dave had spoken to the staff and hopefully this would not re-occur.

A large amount of sand was put into the bunkers over the winter and the bunkers themselves dug out. However the rain washes the sand out of some bunkers and the sand within moves towards the edges. The bunkers are an ongoing work in progress.

Treasurer's report

Brenda reported that currently the deposit A/C stood at a credit balance of £9K with the current A/C running a credit balance of £2.5K.

Any other business

Brenda asked that we decide upon a regular day for the Committee Meetings. After discussion it was agreed to hold them on the 1st Monday of each month, unless it was a bank holiday in which case it would be the following Monday.

Brenda stated that the Champagne Roll-up was not a proper roll-up in that some people were being left without partners, whilst others turned up in groups of 3 or 4. After discussion it was felt that it would be hard to police a proper roll-up and that anyone without a partner should wait on the 1st tee rather than the Pro Shop or clubhouse.

Tim asked that a proper lay-up area be cut to the right and in front of the central bunker on the 4th fairway. He said that anyone who needed to lay up would not be reaching the green in 2 and that a lay-up area ought to be cut short. Gareth said that he would speak to Dave Knight.

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

Mike asked why the 3 club competition had been dropped.

Tim stated that it had not been run last year due to several members complaining that they only played once a week and wished to play a proper round.

John said he would look into the possibility of re-introducing the competition.

- **John to report progress back to Committee.**

Ann asked on behalf of Fay Unsworth that the details of all competitions including their format be placed on the website.

Richard replied that this would all be in the Club Manual, which could be accessed via the website.

Ann asked that signs be placed to prevent cars from parking by the cart entrance to the 1st tee.

Gareth stated that this was in hand.

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

Sylvia stated that The Springs had plastic inserts in front of the greens to marshal the buggies off the fairways instead of white lines. Could we look into a similar system? Gareth said that he would look into this.

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

Richard said that the PSI crashed while names were being entered for competitions. Gareth replied that the system was backed up from 2 days previously, so they published these and waited for the phone calls from those it had omitted. All managed to get in at some time.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.10pm

Next Meeting – Monday 7th June 2010 7.30pm

Tim Brunsten
25th May 2010