

**DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB**

**Minutes of Committee Meeting; Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009**

**Present:** Geoff Kells, Lynn Turner, Richard Lomax, Sean Sargeant, Ann MacDonald, Gareth Williams, Tim Brunsdon, Brenda Agutter, Chris Strong.

**Apologies:** Steve Marshall, John Rance.

The Captain took the chair.

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

**Matters Arising**

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

**1111/2** – Richard stated that the photos and frames of the past Captains were now up.

- **This matter is now closed.**

**0505/01** – Chris reported that it was becoming harder to identify a suitable location for a Committee room as the hotel was employing extra staff and the previous area was now needed for them.

Richard asked if the old halfway hut could be utilised.

Chris replied that this seemed a good idea as it is currently being used by the security staff.

- **Chris, Geoff and Richard to look into the feasibility of using the halfway hut.**

**0505/4** – Sean stated that he was halfway through updating the handicap list, together with the lapsed handicaps. However it will take some time.

- **Gareth and Sean to continue with this work in progress**

**0607/2** – Gareth stated that he was going to start publishing the competition start times this coming Wednesday, instead of the usual Friday.

- **Gareth to monitor situation and report back to the Committee.**
- **Gareth to show Sean and Mark Rollins how to work the PSI.**

**0607/6** – Gareth stated that the divot bags for the portable rail system would cost £2.75 each. Dave Knight will build a trailer to hold them. Apparently Newbury and Crookham have stated that these have made a big difference to the fairways.

- **Gareth to speak to Dave re the purchase and construction of the system.**

**0607/7** – Geoff stated that the memorial bench is now in situ on the 8<sup>th</sup> tee.

Tim said that he had spoken to Dave Knight about securing it. Dave has said that he is aware of this problem and will be seeing to it.

- **Gareth to speak to Dave to ensure bench is secured.**

Chris stated that another 2 benches were on order.

- **Chris to report back to Committee when extra 2 benches arrived.**

**0607/13** – Gareth stated that he has measured the new 9<sup>th</sup> tee. It is 334 yards from the front and 346 yards from the back of the tee. The front tee will be roughly the same as the existing white tee. He stated that an official measurement from the BB&O was not required as each course has a leeway of 100 yards to adjust their course as appropriate. The BB&O will measure it at the next official upgrade.

- **This matter is now closed.**

**0508/1** – Tim stated that the picture frame for the monthly medal winners had been purchased and he was awaiting the inserts to be cut. He had agreed a location in the bar with Chris for it.

- **Tim to have frame put up and enter winners' details and pictures.**

**0508/6** – Geoff stated that he and Richard are to meet with Matt Bland regarding the juniors organiser a week on Tuesday.

- **Geoff and Richard to report result of meeting at next Committee.**

**0508/12** – Chris stated that he was awaiting a quote from Camp Hobson for curtains in the bar and restaurant.

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

**0508/15** – Tim stated that a stand alone, 3-sided, 5 foot tall, green felt pin board, which could be used at registration for all competitions costs £135. Brenda asked whether a White Board would be better.

- **Tim to research White Boards and report back at next meeting for approval.**

**0610/04** – Sean stated that he was still awaiting the juniors details for the final draft of the club manual; he also needs to complete the active/inactive handicaps and the supplementary scores. The manual currently stands at 56 pages.

Geoff asked whether it should be issued to all members. After discussion it was decided that it only need be published on the website and a copy kept which would be available to members, preferably in the Pro Shop. Sean stated that he hoped to have it ready for publication for the 1<sup>st</sup> January, with an E-Mail draft sent out to Committee members within 2 weeks, for replies and amendments by the end of the month. Brenda commended Sean on his sterling work on the manual, which was endorsed by the rest of the Committee.

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

**0610/07** – Gareth reported that signs for the course and parking spaces had been ordered and he was awaiting delivery.

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

**0610/08** – Richard stated that the closing date for nominations for next year's Committee would be 20<sup>th</sup> November. He asked all present that they needed to consider whether they were continuing or standing down from the Committee by this date as well.

- **Richard to report progress on applications, etc. at next meeting.**

**0610/09** – Geoff stated that an additional reciprocal course with Weybrook Park has now been agreed. It will be limited to 1 fourball per day on weekdays. A handicap certificate will be required as well and it needs to be booked through the office.

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

As in 0508/6 above, there have been no applicants for the post apart from Matt Bland. Richard and Geoff are to meet with him before the next Committee meeting and will report progress then.

### **2010 Committee nominations**

Richard reported there had been no official applications at this time.

### **Captain's report**

Geoff reported that the memorial bench was now with Dave Knight, who states that it will be in place by the 8<sup>th</sup> tee before the end of the week.

The Concorde team had a great result in their last home fixture against The Springs winning by 6½ - 1½. Unfortunately this was not enough to win the league, as Mill Ride had a very strong finish, winning their last 2 matches, home and away. Geoff congratulated the team for a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

The Charity Day was blessed with good weather and plenty of sunshine. Although it was an extremely busy 24 hours, it was a fantastic day, raising over £6,500, including the auction and hole sponsorship. Geoff thanked the Committee for all its hard work and also gave thanks to those who were involved in making the day run so smoothly.

A letter has been sent out to all members answering some of the grievances and questions put forward by members and the Committee over the past few months. The management is working to address the issues put forward and hopefully we will see an improvement for next year.

### **Lady Captains' Report**

Lynn thanked everyone involved in making the Charity Day so successful. She also thanked all our sponsors and supporters. All the hard work paid off.

This summer the ladies have certainly put Donnington Grove on the map, with their wins in various Opens at other clubs. There are 2 remaining Interclub matches still to play, with the team having a very good winning average so far.

Lynn and Fiona Lomax were runners-up in the Angela Uzielli Trophy at Calcot Park last month with a foursome's score of 34 points – 1 point behind the winners from Goring & Streatley.

As usual, the ladies social evening was a very enjoyable event. The next 'social' gathering will be a Christmas 9-hole golf and lunch in December. This will also be attended by Santa and his Elf!

### **Treasurer's report**

Brenda stated that the money was still coming in for the Charity Day and so she could not yet give a final figure for this.

She stated that there were only 10 entrants in the Mixed Greensomes this year. This means that the prize matrix needs to be adjusted for this competition due to the regular small entry.

- **Brenda to revise prize matrix for the Mixed Greensomes.**

### **Competitions and Handicaps report**

Sean stated that a lot of his report had been covered earlier with the draft club manual.

Sean mentioned that the medal in April or May was shown as only one division.

- **Gareth to look at this.**

### **Social report**

Tim reported that despite only 7 teams, the night golf had been a great success. Graham Gourlay and his team play each year at Deanwood and all stated that our night was far superior.

The night was run for the Motor Neurone Charity, after a request from David and Annelie Green. Tim asked that the Committee buy back from them all of the night golf equipment that could be re-used next year. This was agreed and Brenda will issue a cheque for £272.90.

The Xmas Ball was progressing nicely. There had been a couple of tables pulling out, but there still remained a solid core of 80 -86.

### **Professional/Course report**

Gareth reported that the bunkers were now in a better condition due to the effort of Dave Knight and his team. The recent rain had watered the sand in and it was now of a more consistent quality. He had received several positive comments regarding them.

- **Gareth to continue to monitor the condition of the bunkers.**

The greens and tees have now been scarified and over seeded. This will continue once a month. They have also been vertidraind. The greens will be fertilised this month and the worm casts sprayed.

The 9<sup>th</sup> green had experienced some flooding problems, but Gareth stated that the pools of water after the recent heavy rain cleared within 30 minutes.

New trees were being planted around the course. These are a combination of moving existing trees and bringing new ones in.

The tree and plant beds have been thinned out between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> fairways and also the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> fairways.

Dave Knight is to take clippings from the bed behind the 13<sup>th</sup> green to use them to frame the 15<sup>th</sup> green.

Lastly he reported that the PSI was up and running in the Pro Shop.

### **Senior Captains' report**

No seniors report this month.

### **Management report**

Chris thanked Richard with his help in drafting the letter sent out to members.

There has been a good response for the position of extra marshals from within the membership. Gareth is now compiling a list of those interested for the next stage. They will be in place for the 1<sup>st</sup> April next year.

Chris expressed concern that member's tee times were encroaching past 11am on some weekends next year.

Gareth explained that the tee times were carried over from previous years automatically. He will adjust the number of tee times and the start times to ensure they are completed by 11am.

- **Gareth to adjust tee times in diary.**

Chris asked that everything regarding golf competitions be passed through Barry in the office. This included food and drinks, as well as tee times. Any non-golf function i.e. ferret racing need only be booked with the bar/restaurant.

Chris stated that it was now the intention of the management to hold a New Years Eve Party. The cost would be £70 per head and would include the dinner/dance, bed and breakfast and entry to a golf competition the following day.

### **Communications**

Richard reported that there had been a problem with the seniors section of the website, in that each time the seniors' button was used, the site would return to the home page. It had now been fixed.

Richard suggested a meeting be held before the end of the year to review the website and how to improve it for next year. He suggested it should consist of himself, Tim, John and Kingsley Starling, plus any of the Committee who wished to have an input.

Richard was going to circulate a calendar of events for next year when it was ready.

- **Richard to circulate calendar of events.**

### **Any other business**

Richard read an E-Mail from Keith Davies who asked whether tee times could be brought forward at the weekends, as several slots were being lost after it became light. Sean stated that the green staff needed to get on with their work on the first few holes at this time.

**Chris** stated that he considered that it was important to try to accommodate this request if possible.

- **Gareth to book new tee times and reply to the E-Mail.**

Gareth stated that members were not tuning up for their tee times at the weekends, and not informing the Pro Shop.

Sean stated that we needed to have a list of these members.

- **Gareth to monitor situation and go back for past 3 months and compile list of names.**

Richard stated that there was a possible conflict of dates surrounding next years' Captains' Drive in and Easter.

After discussion it was decided to run with the following dates:-

Japan Cup	-	13 <sup>th</sup> March.
Monthly Medal	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> April.
Captains' Drive in	-	10 <sup>th</sup> April.

- **Gareth to change dates in diary.**
- **Richard to change date on website.**

Chris said that several members had asked him why the club was not mentioned in the Newbury Weekly News.

**Tim** replied that John Heath had taken this responsibility on and was taking his material from the website. As far as he was aware the items were being reported.

- **Tim to monitor the papers.**

Sean complained about the pace of play from some members. Last Sunday there were 3 groups in the half way hut when he entered and the group ahead of him had rung the bell on the 8<sup>th</sup> while he was on the 7<sup>th</sup> tee! He also reported seeing members sitting down to a plated full English breakfast and would not let groups play through.

It was agreed within the Committee that the halfway hut is not part of the round and that anyone asking to play through should be allowed.

Gareth suggested that a limited menu be established specifically for the half way hut, with a limited choice.

Lynn passed on a complaint from Sylvia Davis that she thought that the food on the Charity day was poor for the cost.

**Geoff** replied that members paid £10 for a bacon roll, coffee station, lasagne and chips.

Brenda asked when the AGM was to be held.

**Richard** replied that it would be held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, with Geoff chairing.

Brenda also asked whether consideration could be given to a trolley storing area, where batteries could also be charged – at a suitable cost.

**Chris** stated that he would look into it but the question of security arose, as clubs with this facility had a purpose built area for this. He feared that the cost would be too prohibitive.

Geoff stated that he was having a meeting with Brenda during the week over the outstanding money for the Charity Day.

Geoff also asked Chris whether the management could present their invoices to Brenda earlier.

**Chris** stated that this would be done.

Tim stated that he was going to attempt to write an index for the Committee Minutes. He would start it from April 09.

- **Tim to write index of Minutes.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.01pm

**Next Meeting – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009      7.30pm**

Tim Brunsden  
25<sup>th</sup> November 2009