

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Monday 1st November 2010

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

Apologies; Brenda Agutter, Gareth Williams.

Also present; Dave Allen

The Captain took the chair.

Matters Arising

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

1404/10- Competition fees to be increased.

This will be kept under review for the foreseeable future.

0706/03 – Chris said that Gareth had spoken to Dave Knight regarding the bridge requiring chicken wire. It was still awaiting brackets for the wooden beams to be fixed to metal runners. Apparently this is not as easy as at first expected. It is on Dave's to do list.

- **Gareth to report completion.**

0203/03 – John reported that there were still formatting problems with the word documents containing the Club Manual. He hoped to have resolved them by next meeting.

He also stated that he was awaiting 3 pictures of trophies from Tim.

- **John to report progress at next meeting**
- **Tim to provide photos to John.**

0802/02 – Chris stated that he required the quote regarding the curtains for the restaurant from Sylvia, as it now appeared that this was back on the agenda with the owners.

- **Sylvia to provide quote to Chris.**

1504/10 – The question of running Sunday competitions is to be held over until February 2011. See also AOB.

0208/02 – Tim said that the Christmas Ball was progressing smoothly. There had been 98 confirmations.

- **Tim to report result at next meeting.**

0208/03 – Chris said that Gareth was still waiting to meet with the Marshalls.

- **Gareth to report result of meeting when completed.**

0705/10 – Tim reported that a start had been made to the 1st tee, with a path being laid from the car park to the tee. It awaits tarmac which should be completed when the contractors return to tarmac the pathway around the fish farm.

He also stated that he and Richard had seen a starters hut and put a deposit down on it. The total cost to the Committee would be £900 which included installation.

Sylvia queried the cost as she believed that it was agreed to spend only £500 on it.

Richard replied that the amount was within the £1,000 budget for 1st tee improvements. It just meant that we would spend less on the other improvements planned.

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

0410/02 – See later regarding amendment to Club Rules regarding club abuse.

0410/03 – Richard stated that the Quiz night had been cancelled to another function at club.

- **Richard to research new date.**

0410/06 – The Committee would review the winter tee booking system, pace of play and halfway hut issues at next meeting.

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

Proposal to change Club Rules re: ‘social golf’ during competitions

Dave Allen had circulated a paper regarding this and some proposed changes to the Committee prior to the meeting.

He stated that some members had complained that they were not able to play ‘social’ golf on Saturdays when a Club Competition was being played.

After discussion it was agreed that some social golf should be allowed within the members tee times during competitions.

All the proposals were discussed and it was agreed to trial the following during the winter months:-

- a) The first 2 tee times on the 10th to be reserved for social golf during competitions.
- b) That these 2 tee times are for a maximum of 3 players so as not to hold up the competition.
- c) Members could play in a competition in order to gain a handicap, although they would not pay the entry fee or be eligible in the completion results.
- d) Members can enter the monthly medal/stableford competitions at anytime during the day i.e. outside the drawn times. However they would have to play with another member who is also entered in the competition.

- **Gareth to report progress at next opportunity.**

Imminent and Future Golf Events

Winter Warmer (13th November)

John and Tim to arrange. Prizes for the first 3 teams. Vouchers from the Pro Shop.

2011 Committee – Nomination of new Committee members

Tim stated that to date three members had expressed an interest in joining the 2011 Committee. Notices inviting nominations were on the notice boards and on the website. The closing date for nominations was 26th November.

Brenda had agreed to stand for re-election as Treasurer as she had been a Committee member for 2 years.

Tim also said that the Club Constitution stated:-

'If there are only sufficient or less than sufficient nominations to fill the vacancies, those nominated will be considered elected subject to the approval by the members of the existing Committee, and no ballot will take place'.

- **Tim to report nominations at next meeting**
- **Committee to either**
 - a) **Ballot members on prospective new Committee members, or**
 - b) **Vote on electing nominated candidates if sufficient or less than sufficient to fill existing spaces.**

Captain's Report

The month of October has been one of the busiest months, with the main activity being the Captain's Charity Day. The preparations in advance and the work still ongoing in terms of chasing the outstanding monies due have been very time consuming. However, it has all been worth the effort as Richard was delighted to report that the day was a huge success in terms of raising nearly £7000 for the charities.

The generosity of people who either donated auction items, sponsored holes or prizes, or bid generously for the auction items was amazing. Richard mentioned three examples – the £1,250 bid for the Loch Lomond 3 ball, the gentleman from Wokefield Park who bought Sandy MacDougall's cake for £200, and Jan King who, donated her £50 for being nearest the pin in three on the 13th to the Charities

Richard expressed his thanks to the several volunteers who helped out on the day, manning holes and driving his complimentary Drinks Buggy. He particularly wished to thank Tim, Sylvia, John, and Sandtrend, for their support before and on the day, and also to Fiona Lomax for her support and assistance throughout.

The summer competitive season ended on a high with James Dawes and the Hillman Trophy team winning the Plate final against Donnington Valley. This was a great achievement and can only be surpassed next year by winning the main competition itself!

Congratulations to Tim Brunsten, and all those who played for the Men's' Inter-club team, for winning the TT Cup. The grand finale at Castle Combe was enjoyed by all and was followed by a celebratory dinner back at DG.

DG also hosted the Grand Finale of the Concorde League at the end of the month when all of the teams competing in the League came and played in a friendly end of season competition organised by Geoff Kells. This was also followed by a celebratory dinner in the hotel and prize giving. Mill Ride successfully defended their title, having won the competition in their inaugural year last year. Richard thanked Geoff for captaining the team throughout the season and to Sandtrend, and members, for the tee times and courtesy of the course to the visitors on the day.

The first tee improvements have been on the agenda for some time now, recognising that most of the work can only really be done during the autumn and winter months. However, as a contribution to this project the committee has donated a Starter's Hut and this will be installed during November. Other works involve the construction of a new path and the enlargement of the tee, which will follow on during the winter months.

Richard's charity bunker for the month is staying where it is – on the 10th.

Lady Captains' Report

Things have quietened down a little in the ladies section, but they are still playing in the Bronze League, with the next outing to Hennerton on Thursday.

Gill Lane and Sylvia Davis won the final of the Angela Uzielli at Caversham Heath on 5th October. Well done to both of them.

The Captains Day went extremely well and was enjoyed by everyone. TC did a fantastic job as auctioneer. Ann has never seen anyone who can sell anything from a golf bag in Loch Lomond to bags of horse manure and make a profit from it! The amount of money that was raised was amazing and Ann expressed her sincere thanks to all the sponsors and to everyone who contributed items to the auction. She also thanked the ladies who helped in every way that they could, from manning the 5th and 7th holes - some feeling the cold more than others, but with the drinks buggy going around the course they were able to take advantage of some hot drinks.

Ann and Richard really appreciate all the effort that was put into the day to make it so successful.

There have been a few new members and Ann had the pleasure of marking a few of their cards - one was Chris Clancy who has come back into golf after the death of his best friend Adam Clayton.

There is one Mixed Interclub match left for this year against Newbury & Crookham on the 21st of this month that will bring a very good golf season to a close of ladies and mixed interclub matches for the year.

Management report

Chris reported that the Club had managed to buck the trend in the present financial climate by attracting 100+ new members. This did not include the loss of existing members. When this was taken into consideration there was a net gain of 14 members.

He was hoping to bring in curtains for the restaurant and would liaise with Sylvia regarding quotes.

Lastly, Oscar the hotel manager was leaving in 2 weeks. Chris was not looking to replace him.

Competition Secretary Report

Nothing to report.

Senior Captains' report

Nothing to report.

Richard asked that consideration be given to introducing additional competitions for seniors.

Mike replied that this had been raised before with the seniors and that there was not enough interest.

Social report

No report.

Professional/Course report

Tim read out Gareth's report.

The work on the 1st tee has now started. The outline for the extension of the actual teeing area is in place and the pathway from the car park to the buggy path has been carved out. The hardcore has been put into place and made firm. Tarmac will be the final surface and laid in conjunction with another job which will be completed fairly soon.

Gareth is sure Richard will update everyone on the starter's hut, which will sit nicely to the side of the tee. The bench and Pergola will be moved. The pergola will form an entrance to the 1st tee area and will be placed where the new footpath meets the car park. The bench will be repositioned after the starters hut is in place.

There is very little other news to report this month. The lads who are not involved in the work on the 1st tee will be continuing to keep on top of the cutting, as the grass is still growing.

Good reports continue to come in regarding the condition of the course and Gareth thinks that the course condition holds us in a good position as we enter the winter months. Gareth finished by thanking Dave knight and his staff for all their hard work.

Treasurer's report

No report.

Any other business

Ann stated that Ron MacDonald had asked for some Sunday competitions to be held.

Sylvia stated that the mixed matches took place on Sundays and competitions would impact on these.

John stated that anything that improved the number of people playing was a good thing and added that the buffer times don't work as if people are on the tee, they start as soon as they can rather than waiting for their time.

John also stated that we may need to ask the membership as Sunday competitions would be a major change to the way golf is played at this club.

Richard agreed with John on this last matter and stated that this may be suitable for the website questionnaire.

John said that we had run a badly attended Winter League this year on Sundays.

Tim stated that we would need a fair number of members wishing us to run Sunday competitions to make them viable.

- **More research required. To be raised again at next meeting.**

Richard asked that the driving range include an area of grass instead of mats.
Chris said he would get Gareth to speak to Dave Knight.

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

Sylvia asked if the Club could apply for a 'Golf Mark', which was a standard of excellence for coaching. It was aimed towards juniors and required a junior organiser.

Tim stated that this had already been looked at last year and that no member was prepared to become the junior organiser.

Sylvia stated that there were no nominations for Ladies vice Captain for 2011. She was proposing to delegate the responsibilities to 4 lady members to share.

Tim stated that the Club Constitution shows the Lady Vice Captain as an 'Officer of the Club' and that we could either run the year without the position, or considering the small number of lady members, disband the post. This last measure would need to be made at the AGM and voted in by the members if adopted.

- **Sylvia to check constitution and consult lady members.**

Mike asked where the divot buggy had got to.

Chris replied that he would speak to Dave Knight.

- **Chris/Gareth to report result at next meeting.**

John asked that a clock be bought for the starters hut.

Tim said he would donate a clock to the Club.

Richard asked about the signage required at the entrance to the course by the car park.

Chris replied that Dave Knight had not had the time, but would see to it, time permitting.

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

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm

Next Meeting – Monday 6th December 2010 7.30pm

Tim Brunsdon
30th November 2010