

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Tuesday 6th October 2009

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

Apologies; Steve Marshall.

The Captain took the chair
August Minutes were approved as correct and signed off by Geoff Kells, as no September meeting was held.

Matters Arising

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

1111/2 – Richard stated that the photos and frames of the past captains were awaiting Barry to hang. He is aware of the agreed location.

- **Chris to speak to Barry and ensure they are hung ASAP.**

0604/7 – Tim stated that he was awaiting the Committee's approval to purchase an oak presentation picture frame which would hold the photos of the 3 divisional monthly medal winners each month.

- **Tim to buy suitable frame and collate details of Medal winners from April 09 and enter winners on website.**

0505/01 – Chris reported that no further progress had been made regarding a Committee Office, as this was dependent on the reorganisation after the current reception was moved.

0505/4 – Gareth stated that he had commenced the handicap list update, together with the lapsed handicaps. However it will take some time.

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

0607/2 –Gareth is still looking at the possibility of publishing the competition start times on the Wednesday.

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

0607/6 – Gareth had spoken to Dave Knight regarding the introduction of a system for repairing divots (bag on rails that members take with them). He envisaged this being used at the start of next year.

- **Tim to speak to Dave Knight.**

0607/7 – Geoff stated that he has purchased the bench (3 seater) to go on the 8th tee. After some discussion it was agreed that this bench would be used as a memorial for past members, as it can accommodate several plaques. Geoff asked whether Dave Knight could put it together and place it in situ.

- **Chris to liaise with Dave and to chase up 2 other benches.**

0607/8 – Chris stated that the Management were actively looking for new Marshalls. The intent is to take more on next season and use them on the course at weekends and at busy times during the week.

- **Chris to write a letter to members explaining the increase in Marshalls.**

0607/10 – Gareth said that the problem reported by some members of visitors wearing spikes was a minor problem. He had spoken to the staff in the Pro Shop to remind them of this. All agreed that only a very small minority of golfers were causing this problem.

- **Gareth to continue to monitor the situation.**

0607/11 – Gareth stated that he and Dave Knight had both been out monitoring the raking of bunkers by the Green staff early in the mornings.

- **Gareth and Dave to continue to monitor this at regular intervals.**

0607/13 – Gareth stated that he would get Dave Knight to measure the yardage for the new 9th tee and advise the Committee when it will be ready for use.

- **Gareth to speak to Dave Knight re measuring hole and to advertise when ready for play.**

0508/1 – Tim stated that he would cost up and purchase the picture frame for the Divisional monthly medal winners. (See also 0604/7 above).

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

0508/7 – John reported that he had yet to meet with Terry Riordan's family regarding flowers or donations.

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

0508/8 – (See also 0607/7 above). Geoff stated that the bench purchased from the Elfed's collection cost £352. It would be used as a memorial bench for all members who have died.

0508/11 – Sean gave details of the format and dates of the Winter League. It was decided to play the matches on Sundays.

- **Sean to publish details and arrange dates with Gareth and Pro shop.**

0508/12 – Chris stated that he was meeting a representative the next day to cost up curtains for the bar and restaurant areas.

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

0508/15 – Tim stated that a stand alone, 3-sided, 5foot 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.**

Juniors – matter arising from AGM

Geoff reported that there had been no response to the adverts for a junior organiser, other than Matt Bland. Geoff has since talked to Matt who is still keen to run the juniors.

- **Geoff and Richard to meet with Matt in next 10 days.**

Captain's report

Geoff reported that the last 2 months had been extremely busy. He mentioned the tragic loss of Peter Curry. Peter was a member and part-time Marshall and was always willing to help out at Charity Days and the last Captains Drive-In. We also lost a very popular member in Trevor Evans who recently lost his battle with cancer. Both of the funerals were well attended by members, Committee and past Captains.

On the 4th August The grove held its annual Pro-Am Competition run by the BB&O. It was oversubscribed with 44 teams, but still ran smoothly, with many positive comments. Geoff thanked Gareth and his team for a very successful day.

The Concorde Team still have a chance to win the league. They need a big win in their last match of the season, at home, later this month.

Geoff offered his congratulations to the Captain of the Scratch Team, Steve Clark for winning the league with 1 game to play.

Congratulations were also in order for Richard Lomax, who took a great half, away at Castle Royale with the inter-Club Team. Richard has had a very successful year.

The mixed open was held on Sunday 6th September, with 34 teams. 1st place went to our own Mike and Viv Lewsey. They were closely followed by 2 guests with the Bailey brother and sister team coming 3rd. Geoff stated that he thought that for next year we should consider having a members prize and a guests prize.

Tim asked who had the lead in the Open Competitions – The Management, or the Committee.

- **After discussion it was agreed that the Management had the lead on the Opens, but the Committee would help where necessary, if required.**

Geoff has written disciplinary letter to a member, outlining member's and Pro Shop staff's complaints about the misuse of buggies. Geoff confirmed that the letter had been read by the said member and the comments have been taken on board.

The Champagne roll-Up finished with a good attendance of 24 members and guests. All competitors went away with a prize of a small bottle of Lanson and some chocolates. Geoff thanked Tim for all his hard work on the Roll-Up during the year.

There was great tension in the clubhouse when Geoff announced that the winner of the last Prize draw of the year was in the clubhouse and it gave him great pleasure to present Richard Lomax with £400. Richard was the 3rd winner this year. The Draw will probably return next year with the commencement of the roll-Up in April.

All preparations are under way for the Captains' Charity day. We have managed to obtain sponsors for every hole and the auction items continue to come in.

Finally Geoff addressed the meeting regarding the increasing number of complaints from members, guests and societies regarding the length of time it takes to play a round.

Lady Captains' Report

Lynn said that the ladies had also been busy in the past 2 months with high days, holidays and a hen night for Ann which was exceedingly enjoyable....as the pictures show! The golf started with a shock defeat at home to Bearwood Lakes 5-1. The Mixed match at home to Bishopswood cheered them up with a 4-2 win. 2 other matches have had to be re-arranged due to a lack of available players.

Lynn arranged a Ladies away day on 26th August to Weybrook Park. 13 ladies enjoyed the day with good weather and golf which was won by Fiona Lomax.

Thankfully the mixed open was well attended after some on-line advertising and it turned out to be a very successful day with Mike and Viv Lewsey winning. £120 was raised for the Charities from the raffle. Many of The Grove's ladies have been successful in winning other club's Opens and Lynn congratulated them all.

The Ladies Parasampia Cup was won by Gill Lane with a net score of 79, beating Janice Paulin on count back. As silver and bronze winners Lynn and Fiona Lomax are to compete in the foursomes format Angela Uzielle Trophy at Calcot Park next Tuesday.

Lynn accompanied Fay Unsworth at the impressive Moor Park on 17th September as Ladies Captains

The unveiling of the memorial tree for Trevor Evans will take place in the afternoon of 17th October. It is to be planted over the bridge on the approach to the 2nd tee. Trevor's wife Lisa will attend and hopefully fulfil Trevor's wish to scatter his ashes on the course.

Lynn ended by looking forward to a successful and prosperous Charity day on Saturday.

Treasurer's report

Brenda handed out copies of the Income and expenditure accounts, stating that the current A/C held £1,865. The deposit A/C £10,000, with £1,572 already in the Charity A/C (this is made up from monies off Lynn, seniors and Charity Boxes).

Brenda reported that she had not yet taken over the vouchers.

Gareth replied that he had finished all the information required earlier in the day and was ready to hand over the voucher issuing system. He stated that the vouchers had been printed up to the end of August, with the remaining vouchers to the end of September in the computer, just requiring printing.

- **Gareth to hand over voucher issuing system to Brenda ASAP with printed vouchers up to the end of September.**

Brenda reported a problem with the invoicing from Sandtrend over the sleeveless jumpers ordered.

- **Gareth to look into the problem.**

Competitions and Handicaps report

Sean started by apologising for being unable to attend several of the past meetings. He and Gareth are to meet to re-arrange matters since his last attendance.

- **Sean to meet with Gareth.**

Sean produced the format and dates for this year's Winter League. After a small discussion it was agreed to change the days from Saturday to Sundays. It will mainly be the same format as last year, with a small amount of tinkering to the handicap allowances. 1 game will be played in November, January, February and March, with the best 3 scores to count.

- **Sean to re-arrange dates and publish details.**

Sean stated that he hoped to have the draft manual ready for the next meeting, but was waiting on the seniors and juniors.

- **Sean to produce draft manual – ongoing.**

Social report

Tim reported that sales of tickets for the Xmas ball were going well with over 90 sold. Places are limited to 110 although this may be a bit of a squeeze.

Tim thanked Chris Strong for his help in acquiring the car for the hole-in-one prize for the Charity Day.

The quiz night was going ahead on Friday 23rd October with Night Golf fully subscribed for Saturday 31st October. The Donnington Diners continues to go from strength to strength, with the next dinner on Friday 30th October.

Professional/Course report

Gareth stated that the persons disqualified in the Greensomes Cup over the wrong handicaps entered on the card, would be re-instated as they were wrongly advised by the Pro Shop.

- **Gareth to ensure re-instatement.**

The new Premier Valet Service is now in situ. Gareth reminded everyone that this can be booked through the Pro Shop and the car keys needed to be deposited in the Pro Shop as well.

Luke Williams, a young scratch player, has joined the staff in the Pro Shop.

Gareth asked that the PSI system be moved into the Pro Shop, as this would greatly reduce the amount of time he spends sorting it out (about 2 hours). The only problem being that members would not be able to book times when the Shop was closed.

- **Gareth to mover PSI back to Pro shop.**

Dave Knight had painted white lines in front of the greens to prevent buggies from approaching them. The Pro Shop had been told to inform users of this when issuing keys.

Senior Captains' report

John reported that the Senior Mens Open had 90 players, on a 2 tee start, with 3 divisions. Sadly there were no Marshalls or Starters, but seniors and ladies rallied around. The raffle raised around £200 and all the prizes went to players from different clubs. The food was great and everyone had a great day.

The seniors had a fish and chip evening to plan their future events.

John has sold all the team shirts, jumpers and sleeveless jumpers, save 1 shirt. All the money has been collected, although it is a shame the colour has been discontinued!

The seniors have now played 28 matches with 21 wins, 5 losses and 2 halves. 32 different players have been used in these matches (usually 12-a-side).

Mike Williams has been elected as the new Vice captain and the Seniors Dinner is on 27th November.

The seniors 'toured' Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight on the only day of the year when the wind did not blow! They are looking at a 3 day trip next year playing Shanklin and Osbourne as well.

John requested that 3 tee times be reserved for the winter roll-up at 8.30am and 9.30am.

- **Gareth to enter these times in the Diary.**

John finished by saying that now all the interclub matches were complete, the Senior Winter League will now commence.

Management report

Chris reported on the following measures to be implemented after receiving several letters of complaints and following a meeting with all the staff.

1. Initiatives implemented by management
 - **Members tee times extended to 11am at weekends**
 - **Chris will discuss with Gareth the possibility of implementing 2 tee start times during winter**
 - **Gareth will look at society bookings which encroach on member's times at weekends and re-negotiate tee times with societies.**
 - **Gareth will send amended society time sheet to Richard for publication on website**
2. Items from Committee meeting
 - **New signage requested for Committee parking spaces, and to be relocated nearer to building**
 - **Gareth to send master copy of the notice for Committee nominations to Richard**
 - **Gareth to speak to Weybrook park re reciprocal**
 - **Chris to chase up 2 benches for 7th**

3. Letters from members

- **Chris to meet with Dave and Gareth and review letters. Geoff and Richard to meet with Gareth and Chris after their meeting with Dave**
- **Chris actively looking to take on more Marshalls and keep them on Course at weekends and sometimes during week next season**
- **Chris, Richard and Geoff to meet member over discipline matter.**

Results of meeting

- **Revise prices – everything up**
- **No more than 1 corporate per day**
- **Will restrict the number of people allowed on course – to be SET IN STONE**
- **More Marshalls.**

Chris stated that at the beginning of the year as the recession took hold, membership decreased and the Management were unsure how the year would pan out. Therefore management made numerous deals with golf breaks etc. With the benefit of hindsight Chris admitted that too many golf breaks were booked. This has led to many of the problems experienced by members. Hopefully the measures above will alleviate most, if not all of these. He finished by stating that everything will be better policed/managed.

- **Chris to write letter to all members explaining new measures**

Communications

Richard reported that the web site was working well, with members becoming increasingly aware of its existence and learning to use it correctly.

Richard then gave the following statistics for the period from 5th |September -5th October:-

- 4,474 pages viewed.
- 1,627 visits.
- 3 mins 24 secs – average time spent on site.
- 19.98% new visits.
- 2.75 – average number of pages viewed per visit.
- 40.44% bounce rate.

Richard reminded members of the importance of keeping the site as up-to-date as possible.

Any other business

Geoff stated that 2 letters had been received from members re the course condition and dress codes and etiquette.

This was discussed at length. Hopefully the implementations covered in the Management report will cover most of these problems.

- **Chris, Gareth and Dave Knight to review letter.**
- **Geoff and Richard to meet with Chris after this 1st meeting.**

Richard asked that the Captains and Vice-captains parking spaces be moved nearer to the clubhouse and that new signs be made.

- **Gareth to get Dave knight to comply.**

Richard said that notices for next year's Committee nominations needed to be published.

- **Gareth to send master copy to Richard.**

Geoff stated that Weybrook Park wished for a reciprocal. He asked whether a fact-finding round could be arranged.

- **Gareth/Richard to arrange visit.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.20pm

Next Meeting – Tuesday 3rd November 2009 7.30pm

Tim Brunsten
27th October 2009