

DONNINGTON GROVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting; Monday 4th October 2010

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

Apologies; Brenda Agutter, Mike Williams.

The Captain took the chair.

Matters Arising

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

0802/02- Richard stated that feedback from members and visitors confirmed that the noise levels in the restaurant and bar were excessive.

Chris said that he was totally aware of the problem, but had been unable to speak to the owner as he had been ill for some time.

- **Chris to report any progress when appropriate.**

0203/03- Richard stated that he was still awaiting a few minor items from Brenda.

- **Richard/John to report progress at next meeting.**

1404/10- Competition fees to be increased.

This will be kept under review for the foreseeable future.

1504/10- John said that he could organise and run a Sunday Competition any time from November.

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

0705/10- Tim stated that the 1st tee improvements would have to wait until the winter months for the hard landscaping required.

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

0706/03 – Gareth stated that he 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.

Tim said that this needed to be progressed quickly as the wooden boards become slippery during the wet weather and frosts.

- **Gareth to report completion.**

0507/01 – Gareth said that the sign for the Charity Parking Space had been ordered and was due tomorrow.

- **Richard/Gareth to report when complete.**

0208/01 – Tim stated that the Invitation Day for next year would now be held on Friday 12th August. He felt that the majority of members would not appreciate it being played on a weekend as it would take most, if not all of the members tee times. The next best day was a Friday and although this may result in fewer participants, it seems to be the best compromise.

This matter is now closed.

0208/02 – Tim stated that the Christmas Ball was progressing well. To date there had been over 70 confirmations.

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

0208/03 – Gareth said that he had been unable to meet recently with the Marshalls as Alan Agutter had been away. He will meet with them on Alan's return.

Richard asked if a diagram could be put on the buggies to show where they were not allowed to go.

Gareth replied that a diagram was in the Pro Shop and was explained to visitors when ordering buggies.

Sylvia asked if white plastic strips could be placed in front of the greens to marshal the buggies off.

Gareth said that this was not necessary. Dave Knight was happy with the present system and that ant sensitive areas would have 'no buggy' signs e.g.: 11th and 14th holes. Also as winter progressed the buggies will be confined to the paths.

2011 Committee – Nomination of new Committee members

Richard stated that this needed to be progressed. Notices and nomination forms needed to be placed at the club and on the website.

Tim stated that he had been approached by several members expressing an interest.

Sylvia said she has been approached by a lady member as well.

- **Richard to put notice on website**
- **Tim to place notices at club and nomination forms in Pro Shop.**

Club abuse – Amendment to Club Rules

Richard stated that he had forwarded Gordon McNair's E Mail to the Committee with his thoughts on the matter.

Richard asked if the Committee were in favour of amending the Club Rules to specifically cover throwing clubs and equipment abuse.

The Committee unanimously agreed.

Richard said he would inform Gordon of this and asked someone to draft the amendment. He wished to agree the wording at the next meeting.

- **Tim to draft amendment and distribute it to Committee members for comments.**

Imminent and Future Golf Events

Charity Day (9th October)

Richard said programmes were at printers and was due to speak to Katarina regarding the DVD and projector. He required 2 volunteers to go round and collect the auction names and had 55 items for auction which would be run by TC.

John Heath would drive the drinks buggy.

Maureen Heath and Catherine Moody would run the 5th hole for Tim.

Geoff Kells organising.

Concorde Final (23rd October)

Social Events

Richard stated that Tim was now organising the Christmas Ball and that the next Donnington Diners would be held on 22nd October. He had put a notice up on the board at the club and on the website.

Tim said that he needed to ring around to get the names as few will put their names on the notice board.

Richard said he was going to ask Dave Bamford if he would run a quiz night in November.

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

Captain's Report

September has not been quiet, notwithstanding that there was not a committee meeting. However, the month started with an away day for the Committee at Studley Wood. It was unfortunate that only six could make it, but the day was very enjoyable and of course there was a very useful meeting in the clubhouse afterwards discussing The arrangements for the Charity Day.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee was convened to consider a matter arising from the Parasampia Cup competition and its knock-on impact on the Summer Doubles. The outcome was to DQ a player from the Doubles for playing with the wrong handicap. Notices have been posted but it exposes the need to remind members of their obligations to always enter a score for a qualifying competition and, Importantly, to hand their card in.

As for club competitions there have been several results. Unfortunately, the Concorde team have now no chance of winning the league, having lost 7-1 to Mill Ride and then to The Springs. It seems the winner will be decided between Mill Ride and Studley Wood. DG is, however, hosting the end of season Grand Finale of the Concorde League on the 23rd October and Geoff Kells plans to make it a great day with up to 60 players taking part together with a meal afterwards.

The Hillman Trophy team, however, have won their way through to the finals with very closely fought quarter final and semi final wins. The team beat The Springs 4-3 in the QF having been 3 down after the first three matches. The subsequent semi-final against Shrivenham went down to the last match and the 18th green with DG just squeezing out another 4-3 win. So, well done to James Dawes and the Hillman squad. We meet our great rivals Donnington Valley in the final, which will be played at a neutral venue. This is the first time we have reached a BB&O regional final for several years.

The Champagne roll-ups concluded in September with a good turn-out and many bottles of champagne being awarded to mark the end of another successful season. The last of the cash draws for 2010 didn't find the winner in the clubhouse and now ceases until next April.

The bonus ball charity sweepstake has raised £250 so far for Help the Heroes since I started it in April.

Yet another reciprocal course, Caversham Heath, has been added to the list during the month....now 12 in total. We play Caversham Heath both in the Concorde League and also against their seniors, so we are very happy to add them to our reciprocal list.

Lady Captains' Report

Ann said she was delighted to welcome 2 new lady members to - Krishna Mohindra, & Sue Kingham. Ann has also E mailed two other ladies that were on the list Dave Allen has sent.

First off, the Ladies Away day to Botley Park in Southampton was very successful, the weather and golf were great, but the food left a lot to be desired. The ladies have played 8 interclub matches; The Valley, Bearwood Lakes. The Racecourse, Hennerton, Studley Wood, Weybrook Park and W. Berks. They have won 4, halved 3, and lost just 1.

The Mixed Team have played Castle Coombe, The Springs, Bearwood Lakes, Weybrook Park, The Valley, and Studley Wood, winning 3 halving 2 and again losing only 1. So far we have played 14 Ladies and Interclub Matches winning 7, halving 5 and losing just 2.

The August summer disco was very good, and Ann thanked Sylvia, Brenda & Fiona Lomax for organising it.

DG hosted a very successful Mixed Open at the beginning of September which was very well attended, a couple from Royal Ascot and Blue Mountain won the visitors prize, while Ron MacDonald and Ann won the members prize. Everyone enjoyed the course and food afterwards.

The Ladies also took on the Seniors in September, which has now become a very good competitive event, Sadly the ladies lost, However, the Ladies have now decided that the Seniors will have to play off the white tee's (probably not in the Feb match as winter tee's will still be in play), but certainly in the September match. Ann congratulated all the ladies that took part and in all they had a very good day.

There is a few Well done to some of our Ladies

Julie Davies and Ann won the final of the Foursomes Comp, beating Phil Kenyon and Neil Gaunt

Lynn Turner for winning the Parasampia Cup and to Gill and Tom Lane, Jan and Allan King for winning the Wiltshire Mixed Open in August. It was a 4 ball team event and they came in with a score in the 90s to win.

Ron MacDonald and Ann lost the Regional Final of the Bader Cup in August by one point to a guy who had a hole in one.

DG won this year's Interclub Challenge at Sandford Springs winning back the Trophy from the Valley who held it for 3 years. So well done to the Committee that took part in the day.

Marjorie Follows had a hole-in-one on the 7th and to Viv Lewsey also had one at a Ladies Interclub match at Hennerton.

Competition Secretary Report

No report.

Senior Captains' report

Tim read out Mike's report.

The results have not been as Mike would have wished now that the season has come to a close, but he thought that they had maintained a fairly good record with 21 wins, 4 draws and 9 losses.

Unfortunately one of the losses was against west Berks for the Elfed Trophy. Hopefully Bernie Parker will regain it next year.

The seniors won the match against the Ladies on 13th September 4 – 2. It was a most enjoyable day which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Following the success of the Isle of Wight tour, it has been decided that it will continue next year. It was well organised by John Rance who mentioned afterwards that someone else could run it next time, but John being John has already booked the hotel and has a full list of 12 players with 3 on the waiting list!

The senior's Dinner is on Friday 8th October. As numbers are so few there will be a welcoming drink and a small gift for the ladies.

Lastly the senior's donated £100 to the Captain's Charity Day to sponsor a hole.

Management report

Chris stated the club had received its 100th new member since April – however we have lost 88 so the nett gain has been 12. The total membership at present is 296 adults with 15 juniors, giving a total membership of 313.

The fish farm is being revamped with 8 to 9, two bed golf apartments being built. They will be sold on 1,000 year leases. The black wooden hut on the concrete toadstools is being converted into a 1 bed apartment and the existing buggy path will be diverted behind it.

A new road to the maintenance sheds is being built and will bypass the reservoir.

A private company has been commissioned to drag the lakes for balls, so divers may be seen in the next few weeks.

Chris finished by saying that he was sad to have won the Summer Doubles in such a manner as their opponents had been disqualified.

Social report

No report.

Professional/Course report

Gareth stated that Dave Knight has been moving the sprinklers on the aprons of the greens, this will ensure a more consistent area covered by the irrigation. The practice nets have been moved to an area much more accessible to the 1st tee.

Preferred Lies are now in operation and the winter tees will come into use but we will remain on summer tees for as long as possible.

Every two weeks the greens will be aerated with pencil tines, as the holes are very small there will be little disruption to play. The greens will be sprayed whilst conditions remain mild, the spray will be a preventative measure against disease such as fusarium. Verti draining of tees, aprons will take place as late as possible to maintain a good playing surface for as long as possible, while the bunker reshaping programme will begin in December and the replacement of bunker sand will remain ongoing.

The contract to clear the lakes of golf balls has been given to a golf ball retrieval company so you may see divers with Scuba gear in the lakes at quiet periods from time to time.

Treasurer's report

No report.

Any other business

Richard said that Bernie Parker had informed him that a new member had been bumped off his tee time to accommodate a golf break by the Pro Shop and that this member had now left.

Gareth replied that he thought this extremely unlikely. He would look into the matter and speak to Bernie.

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

John asked if we needed 3 different coloured team jumpers. Currently the senior's were red, Men's blue and Ladies white with lime green jumpers! The Mixed team can end up with combinations of all 3.

Tim stated that he intended to look into this next year. He thought it important that we establish a standard colour. It would probably need to be phased in gradually.

This matter is now closed until the new Captain's year.

Sylvia asked if Dave Allen could forward new members details to the Committee as 2 new couples joined which she and Ann knew nothing about. Apparently the letter sent out to the new members said that the captain and Lady Captain would contact them.

- **Chris to speak to Dave Allen**

Tim said that Dave Allen had queried the need for a Committee member to sign a new member's card to get a handicap.

After discussion it was agreed that this rule would remain as it got the Committee to meet new members.

Tim said that Colin MacDougall had complained about the slow pace of play during a recent competition. The problems arose after the half way house as groups bunched up on the 10th tee and he had to wait there 25 minutes to tee off. Colin had put forward several suggestions – a) 2 tee starts. b) 10 minute gaps between tee times. c) Either everyone stops for 10 minutes at the halfway house or no one does.

After discussion it was agreed that the intervals between tee times would remain at 8 minutes. 2 tee starts are being introduced anyway from November through the winter. The Committee will monitor the half way hut situation once the 2 tee starts begin to see if this alleviates the problem.

- **Committee to review this at December meeting.**

Tim asked whether the BB&O had been informed of the fact that a member of the Hillman team had inadvertently played off the wrong handicap during the semi-final. Gareth replied that he had informed the BB&O of the matter and they were happy for the result to stand as the player involved had lost his match.

Tim asked whether visiting teams be allowed free range balls as this was the case at several of the clubs we played this year.

Gareth replied that the teams already got courtesy of the course and buggies at the reduced member's rates and that range balls would have to be paid for.

Tim stated that he had circulated 2011/12 diary dates to the Committee and that they were due to go to the printers on Monday. It is envisioned that they will be sent out to the members in November.

Tim said that Mike Williams had asked if it was possible for names on the PSI to be replaced as his name had disappeared from a completion.

Gareth said he would speak to Mike regarding the exact circumstances as there were several possibilities.

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

Tim asked if the Committee would fund the purchase of 2 books – R&A Decisions on the rules of golf 08-11 and the CONGU unified handicap system.

It was agreed that 2 copies of each book would be purchased by the Committee and would be held by the current Captain and Competitions and Handicap Secretary.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.05pm

Next Meeting – Monday 1st November 2010 7.30pm

Tim Brunsten
19th October 2010