

**MINUTES OF THE WHEATHILL GOLF CLUB MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29th January 2020**

PRESENT:

Janette Stewart-Burnett JSB Chair

Chris Reed CR Club Captain

Joan Stone JS Ladies’ Captain

Pete Dunford PD Club Secretary

Jill Byrne JB Committee Member & Junior Organiser

Dave Gregory DG Club Treasurer

Darren Martin DM Competition & Handicap Secretary

Richard Mills RM Seniors’ Captain

1. **Introduction** JSB opened at 19:15 wishing everyone a happy and successful the new a golfing year, she also welcomed the new members to the committee.
2. **Apologies**

AE was unable to attend

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting 30th October 2019**

The Minutes of the last Meeting were agreed, proposed by DG and seconded by JS

**4. Matters arising from previous meetings**

Matters arising were addressed either at the appropriate agenda items or as follows:

**Archiving**

The archiving of club data is in hand but due to time constraints and the size of the task is taking longer than anticipated to complete. PD circulated a draft copy of Wheathill Golf Club Operational Procedures for the MCM to consider who agreed in principle the procedures could now be expanded.

**Action: PD JB & DG on going**

**5. Secretary’s Report and Correspondence.**

PD reported:

That the contract for the Honours boards has been placed with Alpha Signs as the previous supplier was no longer in business.

He also stated that a 8% price reduction had been negotiated.

A wi-fi extender had been purchased and installed in the club house in order to improve the range of the signal.

The Somerset Golf Union AGM is on the 18th February at Burham & Berrow Golf Club, it was agreed the DM, CR and PD to attend.

A new Club V1 display console has been purchased for a cost of £695. Mr Willie Owen had kindly donated £250 towards the cost, the reminder will be split 4 ways between the Men’s, Ladies, Seniors Sections and AE.

It was agreed for PD to purchase Flowers and a bottle of Champagne for Mr Owen as a thank you.

1. **Handicap & Competitions Secretary’s Report**

DM Reported:

The handicap review was held 14 days ago and there has been no complaints.

He went to explain that the new slope rating for Wheathill was available on line which was

White Tees - 115 course rating 66.4

Yellow Tees - 111 course rating 65.3

Red Tees - 124 course rating 69.6

DM stated that he wished to introduce and Order of Merit for each division with the winners receiving a trophy, in addition he wanted to introduce a keep sake for the Club Champion and the Hedges and Ditches winner.

DM proposed competition prices including Medals & Stablefords be increased to £3.50p, Knockouts £5 and the Club Championship £10/ person with all monies being given in prizes.

There will no longer be supplementary rounds as everyday there will be a competition.

The Committee agreed that these proposals be taken to the Playing Committee for ratification

**Action: DM**

**7. Treasurer’s Report**

DG reported:

See attached appendix A or the latest finance figures

**8. Captain’s Report**

Good Evening all,

Not a lot to report on yet, however:

The Air Ambulance Day was a great success and we raised an amazing amount of money for the charity. Thank you very much to Alan Forscutt for running it so well and to Andrew for letting us play when it was so wet.

Thank you as well goes to Daz for the New Year’s Texas scramble, which was also very well supported.

1. **Management Report**

AE reported:

Committee Officer’s are able to contact their sections directly with regards to Golf Club business, Competitions and Tee Times through Club V1.

Polite reminder to Competition Organisers, closing dates for competitions must be 2 weeks + 1 day before the date and the Pro Shop made aware of how many tee times required to reserve.

New scorecards with marker box and new SSS have been delivered for new season.

New PSI screen has been installed this week. Willie Owen has kindly donated £250 towards the cost.

There is a carbon monoxide alarm fitted along with the gas fire service in the Clubhouse.

Staff Heads of Departments are scheduled in for First Aid Training.

New wider bridge will be installed on the 17thleft of the gap.

The Clubhouse will be seeing a new cooker installed within the next few weeks.

New Trees have been planted on the 6th in memory of Maurice Cox by his friends.

Course Spring Renovations are scheduled and planned from the 16th March onwards as conditions allow.

1. **Ladies Section Report**

JS Reported:

My year started off with the Chicken Run. This was well supported as usual. I would like to give a big thank you to Sandra Bradshaw for supplying the fabulous wooden reindeer and of course the Santa twig decorations. The raffle for the reindeer raised £72 for my charity.

Next was the Mixed Christmas Cracker, this was another enjoyable day. We had participation from a lady Santa as well as men dressed in tutu’s.

The Rogers Cup was drawn on 14th Jan.

Wheathill has been given a bye in the first round and play Mendip Spring at Cricket-St-Thomas in the next round. This must be played by 17th June

Centenary Plate was also drawn. Wheathill play Cricket St Thomas in the first round at Burnham & Berrow. This is to be played between 1st April – 13th May.

Due to the terrible weather the Senior Ladies Christmas competition was postponed & was finally played on 23/01/2020.

1. **Seniors’ Section Report**

RM Reported:

**Friendly Matches**

The last Friendly match of 2019 was played on Thursday 31st October in a re-arranged fixture at Axe Cliff Golf Club.

The weather got steadily worse during the day but undaunted, Wheathill ran out winners by 4 matches to 2. (one Wheathill pairing won their match 8 & 7 and therefore avoided much of the bad weather)

Overall it was an enjoyable day and a satisfying way to finish the season of Friendlies.

**Club Competitions**

The Everyone’s a Winner competition on 8th November was a great success with 69 prizes given out and was followed by the Seniors AGM with 72 members in attendance.

The Seniors Christmas Corker was played on Wednesday 11th December 2019. The day was overcast and rain threatened but held off until everyone had finished. A total of 49 players took part after three dropped out on the day.

The winning team of Rob Hirons, Ian Mckenzie and John Haydon accumulated 132 pts between them and John Twose was nearest the pin on the 18th.

A total of 52 players, non players and one wife enjoyed Vicki’s excellent carvery.

**Seniors Texas Scramble – 8th January 2020**

The Texas Scramble proved typically chaotic with a couple of double entries and six withdrawals in the two days before the event.

In the end we had 44 starters so it was played as an 11 team 4 man team event, (switching from a 3 man event).

The winners were John Twose, John Sandle, Martyn Underdown and Steve Mead.

The weather stayed dry

**Invitations**

Wheathill have been invited to play in the Jurassic Challenge Trophy at Lyme Regis G.C. on Tuesday 31st March and The Quantock Stag Trophy Competition at Enmore Park G.C. on 14th August.

A team of 8 players is required for both events.

1. **Junior Section Report**

JB Reported:

Very little to report on the active involvement of the Juniors for the moment however all the League Events are now sorted beginning in March and continuing until the end of August. The League is being run in two sections this year and we will be competing at Yeovil, Long Sutton, Oake Manor and Burnham & Berrow.

Andrew, Martin and myself attended the re-launch of the Golf England support for Somerset Junior Golf Development, at B&B last Wednesday. The approach was much more practical in focus and we as a club are well ahead in the ideas that we are using to recruit and retain our juniors and also in becoming a SafeGolf accredited club. This status will be statutory by January 2021. Martin is in the process of completing much of the paperwork and Andrew has already attended the required training module as the Club Welfare Officer, to safeguard young and vulnerable members of our club. There is a meeting coming up soon with Natalie McColl the Golf England Somerset Club Support Officer, at Wheathill to ensure we achieve this accreditation as soon as possible. The closing recommendation at the meeting from the Somerset Secretary drew everyone's attention to Tomos Wray’s interview that was published on the Golf England website during their health focus week last summer, a real boost for Wheathill!

Junior membership numbers are steady and I am looking forward to working with Oscar to see if we can do more to unite the more experienced juniors with our newer recruits over the coming season.

1. **AOB**

**Internet Connection**

AE has spoken with the Internet supplier who quoted an extremely high cost to install super-fast fibre to the club. Local residents are expecting super-fast broadband to be supplied to the local area as part of the Government initiative.

PD to look at providing a Wi-Fi booster. PD suggested a two part power line adaptor costing £35.00. MCM agreed one could be purchased.

**Action: Closed** Extender bought and installed

**Flag Pole**

PD has investigated the cost of replacing the flagpole, the consensus of the meeting was it was expensive and a cheaper solution is to be investigated. Can Jim Palmer reinforce the current broken pole?

**Action: Closed** Pole modified

**Dummy Hawks**

JSB has seen dummy hawks being used on golf course as a deterrent to unwanted birds. PD reported the average to be £30. MCM are very keen to purchase a couple to see if they are effective. The committee agreed in the first instance to give this a try if this fails more drastic action may be necessary in order to minimise the damage being caused to the green by birds

**Action: PD**

**Benches**

The dirty benches have had the bird fouling removed all benches will be spruced up over the winter, in addition 3 or 4 new all weather benches are being purchased

**Action: Closed** New benches purchased and installed

**Presentation Night**

CW stated that he will not be available to organise Presentation Night, it was therefore agreed that the Club Captains would take on the organising task.

**Action: Closed**

The committee agreed to fund food to the value of £300 for the evening.

Mrs Snook to be approached to take the photographs on the night, the photos are to be provide to Jim O’Connor for displaying on the web site

**Action: Closed** photographs are now on the web site

Flowers as a thank you are to be presented to Mrs Snook for the photographs

**Action: Closed**

**Standard Scratch Equalisation Shots**

There has been considerable debate and some hostility from members of the men’s section on the number of additional shots ladies receive in mixed competitions.

The professional shop staff has researched this issue and has produced a table attached as Appendix 1 showing what additional shot ladies receive dependant upon what tees are being used by both the men and ladies.

This table is now posted on the notice board

**Action: Closed**

**Report by Head Green Keeper**

Simon requested that all members during the winter should walk as much as possible in the rough grass in order to protect the fairways he also requested we keep trolleys away from the fringes around the greens in order to minimise the use of ropes.

He stated that he is planning on reshaping the tees, in order to make them look more professional, they will also be levelled.

The 18th tee will be redesigned and rebuilt together with extending and levelling the 11th

During the winter general play will be from mats but the grass tees will be used for competitions.

This year Simon stated that he has focussed on reshaping the course next year the focus will be on the greens.

Simon requested a dedicated a one week period be allocated in next years diary for course renovation. The date chosen was week commencing 7th September,

**Action: Closed**

Temporary tee boxes will be pressure washed and cleaned in the spring before storage.

Simon is keen to create areas around the course for wild life, butterflies, bee’s bird, bats etc. Donations of bird boxes and wild seed will be appreciated.

**Action: Closed**

AG raised the issue of disabled facilities in the club house especially toilets.

**Action: AE to review**

**Captains Vs Vice Captains Challenge Trophy**

CR requested the competition rules are changed to include more low handicap players.

PD who introduced the competition into the club during his as captain explained that the rules were set to ensure higher and mid handicap players were not excluded and that he was not prepared to change the concept, however if an increase in the number of players would suffice then he had no objections.

It was therefore agreed that the competition would be increased to 18 players per team with a shot gun start.

The competition sheet would be modified to reflect the increase in numbers. DG stated the funds are strong enough to provide bacon baps prior to the start of the competition for all players.

**Action: PD**

**Cleaning Area**

CR raised the issue of excessive mud in the cleaning area, it was agreed to talk to Mike Strode to see if there was any funds left over to install grating.

**Action: CR**

**Diary Charge**

RM asked if it was sensible to charge £1 for the club diary, this was unanimously considered not necessary.

RM also raised the issue of restricting handicaps in certain competitions. DM stated that it was against EGU Policy to restrict competition handicaps, however it would seem that this is currently only a proposal.

JS suggested that the seniors section should review the policy operated by the Ladies section.

**Action: RM**

Meeting closed at 20:30

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th February 2020 (venue TBA)

Signed: Janette Stewart-Burnett Date: 27th July 2020

Chair

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |



