



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE WHEATHILL GOLF CLUB MAIN COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 27th January 2016

PRESENT:	Janette Stewart-Burnett	JSB	Chair
	Mike Strode	MS	Club Captain
	David Eynon	DE	Seniors' Captain
	Pam Frith	PF	Ladies' Captain
	Dave Gregory	DG	Club Treasurer
	Chris Whyntie	CW	Handicaps & Competitions Secretary
	Les Wills	LW	Junior organiser
	Jill Byrne	JB	Elected member
	Pete Dunford	PD	Club secretary
	Gunnar Ovland	GO	Invited to take the minutes

1. Introduction

JSB welcomed everyone to the 1st committee meeting of 2016. She welcomed the new captains and the new club secretary and welcomed back those who had already given so much time and effort to the committee and their roles in the club. She reminded those who were representing a sub-committee that the main committee represents the entire club membership and as individuals you are part of that too.

2. Apologies

Apologies from Andrew England (AE), Proprietor

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting 25th November 2015

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

4. Matters Arising from Meeting 25th November 2015

Matters arising were addressed either at appropriate Agenda Items or as follows:

2016 Diary – Progress report

MS: The complete diary was sent to the printers before Christmas, and they estimated the work would take 19 days. A proof sample should have been received from them today, but did not arrive.

Action: MS to pursue.

Open competition (Men's)

CW produced a leaflet for the event that will take place 7th August 2016

CLOSED

Honours Board

PD explained that the spread sheet of past & present winners started by Rhod Palmer will be finalised by himself and Rob Hardy within the next few days. Once completed, it will be archived for posterity, and copy sent to "Print Solutions" for updating of the boards.

Action: PD to pursue.

Scorecard boxes & computer monitor

MS: Boxes, signage & keys complete. 2 spare sets of keys behind the bar. PD suggested one of the sets should be kept in the Pro-shop. Awaiting the moving of touch screen. See Management report below.

Action: AE & Mark Singleton to finalise.

Charities

MS asked if it was up to the Sub-committees to decide where monies from competitions should go. MS nominated the Club as his charity of choice.

Action: PD will investigate via old minutes.

Club rules, Members' handbook, Constitution

PD had circulated a draft of the Club Rules, which he invited individual committee members to review and comment on.

Action: Committee members to advise PD & JSB prior to the next meeting.

With regards to the members' handbook, PD said that in the past, every new member was given a copy by the Pro-shop. This is no longer the case. The ladies' section has their own handbook, which they give to new lady members.

GO suggested that there should only be one Club Members' Handbook. PD proposed that the Club rules, when finalised, should be in the Club Handbook as appendices.

Action: The Men's and Senior's Section to review the handbook and advise JSB and PD of their opinions. To be further discussed at the next meeting.

JSB suggested that the Constitution committee (JSB, PD, JB & DG volunteered) be reinstated and this was agreed by the Committee.

Action: Constitution committee (JSB, PD, JB & DG) to work with the proprietor on this.

Committees, non attendance

This situation has come about at Playing Committee meetings, where one of the team Captains has failed to attend on numerous occasions. The Constitution states that a member of the Main Committee can be disqualified if not attending for 6 months or for 3 consecutive meetings. However, PD was of the opinion that, as the team Captains are elected at the AGM to represent our club at league matches, the same rule should apply. There should also be a job description for team Captains. CW has had a word with the Captain in question, who has promised to improve his attendance record. MS, in his capacity as Club Captain, will also have word.

Action: Situation to be monitored, also to be included on the agenda for the next Playing Committee meeting.

5. MCM – Re-naming to Executive Committee?

PD suggested that the Main Committee should be re-named the Executive Committee in order to re-enforce its authority.

Action: Delegated to the Constitution Committee. CLOSED

6. CONGU – Club handicap

From the 1st January 2016, CONGU has introduced a Club Handicap, which would allow for clubs to raise the HC above 28 / 36 in club events in order to encourage new novice members & high handicappers to enter these competitions.

Action: Handicap secretaries to determine those who it could apply to. Calculate the individuals new one, and discuss with them to get their view.

7. Avalon League, Senior team participation

CW informed the committee that arrangements have now been made for this league to start this year. Wheathill Golf Club will be entering a seniors' team. Please see explanation received from Jeff Lewis:

“Thanks to all of you who were able to make the meeting last night and for the apologies from others. I think we made good progress in agreeing to commence the Avalon Seniors League this season. As confirmed last night we shall have 2 divisions for this 1st season as attached. I have included all the contact details I have at present for the respective teams to enable you to arrange your fixtures as soon as practical.

At present there are 4 confirmed teams in each division and the potential of an additional team in each depending on further consideration being undertaken at Isle of Wedmore & Wells. We should know from both clubs by 1st Feb about their final decision fyi.

For clarity, I shall try to summarise & paraphrase what we agreed last night as the format & protocol for this 1st season of the Seniors League:-

- *The overall basis of the seniors league will follow the format as laid out in the constitution of the main league in terms of teams, matches etc..*
- *The maximum handicap is 20, although anyone off higher handicap may play but off 20.*
- *Age for playing in seniors league is 55 and over.*
- *Fixtures window is from 1st Feb to 16th Sept for divisional fixtures.*
- *For 2016 there will be semi-finals between the top team in division against the runner up in other division. The top teams will have home advantage. The final shall be played at neutral venue and completed by 7th Oct.*
- *The annual subscription per team will be £25 to the League.*
- *The match fee will be £120 per team per match (=£12 per head)*

If there is anything else please let us know. Otherwise, on behalf of Rob, myself and the other committee members we wish you an enjoyable and successful 1st season of the Avalon Seniors League.”

2016 Avalon Seniors Clubs - 21.1.16								
"EAST" DIVISION		Contact	Tel #	E-mail	"WEST" DIVISION	Contact	Tel #	E-mail
Confirmed	Long Sutton	Nigel Griffiths	07771 814165	nigelgriffiths173@gmail.com	Enmore	Mike Rossiter	07956 834174	rossomj1954@gmail.com
	Mendip Spring	Tim Nicholls	07885 397321	timnicholls152@gmail.com	Minehead & WS	Graham Walsh	07837 009073	grahamwalsh390@gbtinternet.com
	Wheathill	Chris Whyntie	07790 993736	whyntie@tiscali.co.uk	Tall Pines	Mark Hewlett	07501 259582	mark.hewlett101@hotmail.com
	Worlebury	Keri Allchurch	07885 839300	keriallchurch@gmail.com	Taunton & Pickeridge	Mike Robertson	07772 816775	robinsonm16@sky.com
Potential - tbc	Isle of Wedmore	John Russell	tbc	jr1953@btinternet.com	Wells	Dave Hayward	tbc	dpahayward@gmail.com

Action: DE to post details of team players & dates on notice board

8. England Golf Club Team Championship

The main committee unanimously agreed Wheathill would continue to enter a mixed team every year in the England Golf Club Team Championship.

After some discussion, it was agreed the entry fee would be paid by the main committee as the team has been drawn to represent the club. Those representing Wheathill in the 2016 are Dave Eynon, Sue Harrop, Peter Dunford and Kate Cleverley. This was done by a draw of the previous mixed pair winners.

Action: CLOSED

9. Assistant to Club Handicap & Competition Secretary

CW: 12 Club members had expressed interest in taking on the job, and in the end, Judith Rowsell was selected. . Judith was chosen due to her experience, both with handicaps and competitions. It is envisaged that Judith (JR) will focus on the competition side of the Secretary's job and also attend the meetings of the Playing Committee. CW to concentrate on the handicapping and attend the Main Committee meetings. This arrangement is purely provisional until the Playing Committee determines their exact structure. It will then become an elected role for 2017.

Action: CW to report back to Main Committee on progress.

10. Formal Handicap Committee

MS asked if it was a requirement for the Club to have a formal Handicap Committee with chairman. JSB answered that the UHS compliance checklist states under "Responsibilities of the affiliated club" that it is required to appoint a Handicap Committee. It would suffice to continue as at present, with Club, Ladies' & Seniors' HC secretaries meeting on a quarterly basis. There would be nothing stopping them from electing a chairperson, and MS volunteered for the job for this year.

Action: Captains to ensure their handicap secretaries check each of their section conforms to the UHS compliance checklist.

11. Course Change Proposals

Although this item (Club & Course Enhancement) was closed at the November meeting, PD reminded the Committee that there were still outstanding items on the plan that had been

drawn up by himself & Rhod Palmer & presented to AE some months ago. The rest of the Committee had not been aware of the plan, detailed below. See also this month's Management report.

WHEATHILL GOLF CLUB AND COURSE IMPROVEMENT PLAN			
ACTIONS WITHIN 3 MONTHS	ACTIONS WITHIN 12-24 MONTHS	ACTIONS WITHIN 5 YEARS	ASPIRATIONS
New Trophy Cabinet over fireplace	Improve drainage 1st Hole	Large horseshoe bunker in front of 1st hole	Install lockers in shed for club/bag storage
Install Timing Clocks on Course	Improve drainage of 2nd fairway	Improve drainage of 1st bunker	Build permanent Winter Tees as on 1st Hole
Refurbish Lobby	Remove stones and improve sand in bunkers	Improve drainage of 4th fairway	Forward Winter Tee on 5th for Ladies
Install shelter at 10th Green/ 11th Tee	Improve drainage of 3rd fairway	Improve drainage of 8th fairway	Forward Winter Tee on 11h for Ladies
Improve website	Improve Winter Greens and replace large with standard cups	Improve drainage of 10th fairway	Improvements and enlargement of the pond on 15th Hole
Install small GUR signs by all Temporary Greens	Remove old winter tee hard-standing from 15th Hole	Improve drainage of 11th fairway	Dig out pond/grass hollow to right of 9th fairway where water collects, also assisting 10th & 12th Holes.
Place sign on 15th Tee warning players not to intentionally drive onto the 14th fairway to better access 15th Green,	Incorporate capabilities of Club V1 into Pro Shop for competition entry and on line Tee bookings etc	Improve drainage of 12th fairway	Re-site Temporary Greens on 15th and 17th Holes.
Consider establishing Greens Committee, consisting of Proprietor, Head Green-keeper, Chairman, Club Captain and Sec to manage this plan and report to Main Committee.	More rubbish bins	Improve drainage and enhance 15th fairway	Enlarge 5th Medal Tee.
Maintain slightly longer grass on fairways in Winter and layered cutting of rough.	Plant more trees to strengthen Cyril Gallie copse on 16th to deter corner cutting.	More ball washers	Invest in a Leaf Collector
Allow hedge left of 5th Tee to grow to protect players on 4th Green from poor drives.	Re-plan right hand side of 15th Hole to deter approach from 14th fairway.	Improve drainage of the 6th fairway just forward of the Tee Box.	Build bunkers central and to right of 8th Green.
Produce a card for each trophy on display naming current winner.	In Winter force players to walk through in rough/trees and away from approach to Greens, e.g. area to left of 5th Green and ground to the right of bunker on 12th Hole.		Build horseshoe bunker in front of 10th Green.
Clean and tidy up Starter's Hut.			Create some bunds on e.g. Holes 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 16th, 17th.
Repair roof to Starter's Hut			Invest in a Mini-Cultivator for conditioning sand in bunkers.
			Improve paths throughout course.

			Move 6th Medal Tee rearwards to lengthen hole.
			Move Men's Winter Tee on 16th back towards the Medal Tee and have separate Ladies Winter Tee.
			PA system for Clubhouse.
			Lighting for trophy cabinets.
			Return Jubilee Room to smart function room and not use as storage facility.
			Extend Clubhouse.
			Build stone bridges over water courses.

Action: PD to follow up

12. Slow play

MS suggested better marshalling of the course. It was then discussed if volunteers from the membership could act as marshals, but it was feared that ordinary members would not receive the required respect from the players.

Action: Request that AE try to find a solution to the marshalling problem.

13. Ladies' request for bin by "Halfway House"

Action: PF to make request to AE directly

14. Ladies' request for 4-Ball voucher for Mendip GC members

Action: PF to make request to AE directly

15. Money from Somerset development Group.

PF: Somerset Golf Development Group has an amount of money to donate to clubs in relation to the pro working with new ladies to encourage them to take up golf. The club must write in to the group explaining how they would use any money given.

I have approached Mark Singleton who suggests we use the money to give reduced rates to new ladies for group.

JSB commented this was a matter for the ladies section

Action: PF to conclude with the Ladies' committee - CLOSED

16. Apology to Andrew England (Cancellation of Playing Committee meeting)

MS forwarded his apology to AE (not present) for omitting to inform him of the cancelled meeting

Action: CLOSED

17. Secretary's report & Correspondence

GO: An invitation has been received from the SGU for the Club to nominate and send delegates (max. 3) to the AGM of the council at Burnham & Berrow GC on the 25th February. Until his illness, Rhod Palmer has been Wheathill GC's representative at the SGU events. PD suggested that he, MS & Rob Hardy attend the AGM.

Action: PD

18. Treasurer's report

DG presented the following accounts:

Wheathill Golf Club Accounts 26th November 2015 - 27th January 2016					
	General Section	Mens Section	Junior Section	Ladies Section	Senior Section
Opening Balance	£688.83	£1,297.02	£841.49	£1,181.68	£1,554.78
Income					
Members Levy	£2,498.00				
Totals	£3,186.83	£1,297.02	£841.49	£1,181.68	£1,554.78
Expenditure					
Cheque No. 835					
Captains Sweaters	£209.96				
Cheque No. 836					
Junior Coaching			£300.00		
Cheque No. 837					
Ladies Engraving	£130.00				
Cash					
Mens Championships					
Engraving		£16.00			
Totals	£2,846.87	£1,281.02	£541.49		
General/Mens/Junior					
Cash at Bank	£4,669.38				
Cash in hand	£8.94				
	£4,678.32				

19. Captain's report

No report

20. Management report

AE reported:

The monthly newsletter is going well; let us have any information to put on it.

Green staff is busy moving the course around to alleviate wear and tear, painting woodwork and they will cut the course if given an opportunity with the weather.

The very popular carvery continues on Sunday 31st January.

Any changes to any bookings in the Clubhouse must be notified to staff in the Clubhouse.

The new set up with the Clubhouse computer system, with the screen in the corridor and laptop connection, is underway. Then we can tidy up Captain's corner.

We will remove cabinet from jubilee room, move screen to corridor and make stand alone computer unit hidden in desk. Replace the main computer for a laptop, giving freedom to work whilst screen in use. Make corner unit into bigger desk and seat.

Remove wall debris and put up seniors' Captain and Chairperson pictures. Information board etc moved into corridor.

Course records will be put next to Martin's picture.

Printer to be connected to laptop.

21. Ladies' Section Report

PF reported:

The lady captains 'report for January 2016

The hand over at the ladies AGM went smoothly. With a very good turnout which I expect was due to the event being held on a Tuesday evening rather than a Friday.

The chicken run started dry and finished wet, but went quite well.

The senior ladies competition double on 5s was played over 11 holes which proved wise in the end as it finished very wet. It was a fun day with a warming hotpot after.

The seniors Christmas dinner was a grand affair with the food being the best ever. The numbers I thought were down this year.

The Christmas cracker was noisy, wet and very muddy. There were lots more decorated trolleys this year; I enjoyed the judging, which proved difficult.

We have just received the first match in the Mail on Sunday competition. We have drawn Farrington Park, to be played at Farrington on January 31st.

22. Seniors' Section Report

DE had no report at this stage, but raised the following point on behalf of the Seniors' Committee:

Cancellation of matches:

This topic has been extensively discussed. Competitions to take place as long as course remain open. Decision to close the course is taken by the Pro-shop. (see minutes of MCM of 28.Oct. Item 6.)

DE: If some holes are not in play due to wet conditions, but the course remain open; would that be justification for cancelling competitions?

Action: to be included on next meeting's agenda.

23. Junior Section Report

LW reported:

The junior section has been quiet but we are hoping to have a quiz/ get together in the near future utilizing some of the money left to us by Jackie.
We will also be looking into the possibility of another grant from Somerset Development for 2016.
Four out of the five juniors who took part in 2015 coaching reduced their handicaps by between 5 and 13 shots.

24. AOB

GO: Where to keep the "In Memoriam" book?
Until a permanent place can be found, it was proposed to keep it in one of the trophy cabinets.
Action: GO - CLOSED

CW requested that he is given the password to the ladies' section in order to access computer scores.
Action: CW to contact Mark Singleton

PF had found an old document issued by Val Boothman regarding setting rules for the various competitions.

Quote: *"This set of rules shall be implemented to control the day to day affairs of the ladies' Section, to determine all matters concerning competitions, finance, handicaps and social activities, at all times in accordance with the LGU rules and with the agreement of the Proprietors."*
Unquote.

PF: Therefore, the vote taken by this committee at the November (2015) meeting, making 5 qualifiers for all Silverware competitions a requirement across all the sections, should not include the Ladies' Section. The ladies still recommend 5 qualifiers should be required for only the prestige competitions which are set down in the Lady Captain's report in the November minutes of this committee.

JSB clarified for those absent from the November meeting the men had turned full circle, from various discussions which had taken place during 2015 and wished to stay with five qualifiers for silverware as it has always been. The ladies section wanted the Main Committee to recognise the work they had done to reach a compromise, which it did. The 'Club rule' was introduced in order to avoid any misunderstanding.
JSB suggested the situation be reviewed in October and asked all sections to monitor their competitions quietly, for their own review in September.

Action: CLOSED (for now)

PD: Can the ladies take part in the Pro-shop stableford? JSB commented, it had been very difficult to co-ordinate before. With the new system, it maybe different.
Action: MS to ask Pro-shop, why not?

PD advised two delegate positions becoming vacant on the Somerset Golf Union. Rob Hardy has offered to be involved. After discussion it was agreed to put him forward.
Action PD

25. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1830 on Wednesday, 24th February 2016 in the Clubhouse.
Signed: _____ Date: _____