

**MINUTES OF THE WHEATHILL GOLF CLUB MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd January 2019**

PRESENT:

Janette Stewart-Burnett JSB Chair

 Geoff Brewin GB Club Captain

Ann Gates AG Ladies’ Captain

 Dave Gregory DG Club Treasurer

 Pete Dunford PD Club Secretary

Chris Whyntie CW Competition & Handicap Secretary

Jill Byrne JB Committee Member & Junior Organiser

 Mike Stayner MS Seniors’ Captain

1. **Introduction**  JSB opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting in the Natterjack Public House which commenced promptly at 19:00
2. **Apologies**

Andrew England

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting 21st November 2018**

The Minutes of the last Meeting were agreed, proposed by CW and seconded by JB.

**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 then anticipated to complete

**Action: PD, JB & DG On-going**

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

PD reported:

The Honours Boards have now been completed

**Action: Closed**

Sadly Bob Symonds after a long battle with ill health had passed away.

A card of condolence is to be sent to his next of kin.

**Action: GB**

A letter has been received from the SGU advising that the AGM will be held on the 19th February. The Committee agreed not to send any representatives.

A letter has been received from the SGU advising that they had accepted a request from Burham & Berrow Golf Club to enter a team from the Channel Course into the Somerset Bowl competition

We have advised by the SGU that the Somerset Course Rating Team will evaluate our course for the new slope system on the 28th may 2019

A letter has been received from Mr John Plested complaining that a team was allowed to enter the New Years Day Texas Scramble after the teams had been selected at random and posted.

The Committee accepted that this was allowed in error, and decide to make a rule that once competition team draws are posted no new teams are allowed to enter.

**Action: CW to communicate to all sections of the club**

Finally a letter has been received from Mr Richard Bargery suggesting that all greens carry a pitch mark repair placard, all tees have a receptacle for the collection of broken tees.

He also suggested the committee considers diverting the River Cary to create islands greens of the 13th and 14th holes.

After a lengthy discussion the committee rejected the suggestions and a reply is to be sent to Mr Bargery.

**Action: PD**

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

CW Reported:

Nothing to Report

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

 DG reported:

All bills are now being paid via BACS £1200 had been paid out recently to cover, the honours boards, trophy engraving etc

1. **Captain’s Report**

GB reported:

Golfing at the club this winter so far has been a very pleasant one, as far as the weather is concerned. We have enjoyed all the winter events all to date and on time.

The Christmas cracker and new year’s Texas scramble both had a good attendance, I like to say how well the Air ambulance charity was well supported, a very good day. The quiz night on the 7th of December was great, especially the selection of questions, a good balance all round.

Although I missed the Rules afternoon meeting, came in at the end, a very good attendance and have got our names up for the meeting on the 15th of Feb.

Long may our fair weather continue.

1. **Management Report**

AE reported:

Nothing to report

1. **Ladies Section Report**

AG Reported:

My year as lady captain got off to an enjoyable start with the chicken run. More than 30 ladies enjoyed the golf and a delicious meal afterwards. It was even more enjoyable for me to present first prize to Jan Street, in her first competition since returning from 2years of injury.

 The ladies section were well represented in both the Christmas Cracker the and the New Year`s

 Texas Scramble.

 We are making good progress in reviewing the entry criteria for all our competitions.

 We just have the Bag of Beans and the monthly medals to complete, but all should be finished by the the end of February.

I only hope the rest of my year proves to be as enjoyable and satisfying as the first 2 months.

1. **Seniors’ Section Report**

 MS Reported:

The Seniors Xmas Corker took place on December 10th with a full complement of 60 players. For the meal only option we had just one taking up the opportunity. We were very lucky with the weather, staying dry until the competition was over, during a week of rain. A lot of compliments for the Christmas lunch, many thanks to the catering staff.

On Wednesday 9th January we played a Texas Scramble and once again we had a good turnout and were lucky with the weather.

A discussion was held at our last Senior's meeting with reference to the Bag of Beans match against the Ladies in June. Because the Ladies seem unable to conquer the Seniors there has been several suggestions to assist them, the latest being that no Senior (apart for our Vice Captain, who captains on the day) can play in that match if he has played in any Senior's matches in the previous year. I have a feeling we may be asking for concessions within a year or two. Attachment 2 was also tabled

1. **Junior Section Report**

JB Reported:

Very little to report except the new format for the League for the forthcoming season which will potentially see up to sixty juniors from twelve clubs in the county playing at four venues one of which is Wheathill this year. Any assistance on the day will be gratefully received.

1. **AOB**

The Committee agreed that instead of placing the plaque for Jackie Lee in the starters hut, that it be placed in the trolley park/smokers area

**Action: AG**

CA emphasised the problems incurred regarding the touch screen computer. Alan Frith has had to enter 60 entries manually as the computer would not work. It needs to be ascertained whether it is a software or Internet issue. PD has discussed this issue with the Pro Shop Mark Singleton and they have concluded the majority of problems are due to the Internet signal dropping off.

AE agreed to investigate the cost of installing Super Fast Fibre Broadband.

**Action: AE On-Going**

It was also agreed to have a training session on how to reset the Internet connection/computer

**Action: AE On-Going**

AF asked if it would be possible to make room in the hall near the computer to put a shelf, which AF would be happy to supply, for the seniors files. This was discussed and it applies to all the files. PD suggested we investigate the purchase of a kitchen unit carcass

**Action: PD On-Going**

**Diary Preparation;**

A volunteer has come forward to take over the role of diary preparation. CA to discuss with G Ovland as well as seeking other volunteers at the AGM and Presentation nights.

**Action: GB**

**Supplementary Cards:**

The seniors section wish to abandon supplementary cards in the winter, however the main committee has agreed to allow supplementary cards based upon course conditions.

The Pro Shop will advise on a daily basis if the course conditions are acceptable.

A notice will be placed by the computer terminal advising players of this rule.

It was agreed that the £3 entry fee would remain in place.

**Action: Closed**

The issue of disqualification from competitions for not entering cards on the computer was also discussed.

It was also agreed that failure to enter your score on the computer would result in disqualification.

CW to display a note by the computer terminal, advising players of this ruling.

**Action: Closed**

**Communication of Events & Notices:**

The management are concerned of the uncontrolled use of personal e-mails within the club.

As an interim measure for officers of the club only, is that they seek player’s permission to use their e-mails for team correspondence.

A further option under consideration is for all members to have a unique Wheathill e-mail address, however until this is in place all correspondence for general circulation is to be passed to the Pro Shop for forwarding.

A Management letter stating this policy will be circulated to all members after the AGM

**Action: AE On-Going**

**World Handicapping System**

CW attended an England Golf symposium on this topic, which prove to be complicated. Australia is being used as a trial year and if successful the new system will be rolled out universally in 2020.

A rules forum will be held in the club house one Saturday afternoon in January to explain the new system.

**Action: Closed**

**Mixed Charity Bowmaker:**

An e-mail from Ann Gates request that the Avalon A and Three counties B league matches which clash with the Mixed Charity Bowmaker on the 22nd June be moved.

Chris Whyntie stated that it has not been possible to move the clash with the Avalon A home match, he is to discuss alternative possibilities with AE

**Action: PD** (Post meeting note letter sent)

**CPR and Defibrillator Training;**

The committee agreed that is was time to refresh the training, GB to liaise with Alan Frith.

**Action: GB On-Going**

**Correspondence:**

A letter has been received from Steve Chinnock asking what the club is doing about selling advertising on the course signs.

AE reported that the company who provided the sign have gone into liquidation, he then stated that advertising is part of the business and not the members.

**Action: Letter sent closed**

A letter from Graham Poynton re attachment 1 requests we revert back to bucket holes on the temporary greens during winter months.

The committee reviewed the letter and concluded that the hole size was reduced to regulation size for two reasons.

Firstly to comply with the Daily Mail competition rules and secondly to prevent ridiculous scores being achieved in winter competitions.

**Action: Letter sent closed**

A further letter was received from Paul Russell re attachment 2

The committee agreed to review the letter in light of the 2019 rule changes.

**Action: Letter sent closed**

**Competitions and Handicaps:**

In light of CW’s current illness and Judith Rowsell’s resignation the committee accepts that assistance is required. PD offered to pick up the silverware competitions

**Action: Closed**

**Memorial Book:**

The memorial book requires updating, MB to discuss with Gunnar Ovland

**Action: AG**

**Ladies Tees:**

As both the yellow and the red tees are currently at the front of the tee boxes considerable damage is being done. The committee would like the red and yellow tees separated and moved to a point away from the current tee boxes whilst the course conditions are wet and muddy.

**Action: AG to discuss with AE**

**Ladies Changing Room**

Concern was expressed by the Ladies captain at the unclean state of the changing and requested that improvements be made in light of competitions being hosted at Wheathill during the Summer namely Somerset Ladies past Captains match in April, Barlow Cup in August and Interleague Anniversary in September. It was stated that the carpets are worn and dirty, there is dust on the window sills etc.

**Action: AG to discuss with AE**

**Out of Bounds Rule:**

 Following on from Mr Paul Russell’s letter ref the new out of bounds rule, the committee has reviewed the new rule and agreed that a local rule will be produced allowing the new rule to be applicable to all par 4 and 5 holes. Par holes are excluded. Stroke and distance is to be applied to all par 3’s.

A notice to this effect is to be posted on the Notice Board and the Starters Hut.

**Action: CW**

GB advised the meeting that this year he will reduce his working week to 3 days in order to concentrate on his Club Captain duties

Meeting closed at 20:35

The next meeting will be held at 18:30 on Wednesday 27th February 2019 in the Club House

Signed: Janette Stewart-Burnett Date: 23rd January 2019

 Chair

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 Appendix 1



**Attachment 2**

Response from the Senior’s with regard to the email from Jen Warmington dated 29th November 2018

\* England Golf Union (EGU) recommends 55 age for seniors

\* Somerset Golf Union (SGU) recommends 55 age for Seniors

 I quote from correspondence- "The age limit in force for all National and County Senior events is 55 and there is no prospect of that being changed....You may disadvantage your club in events such as the Somerset Seniors Bowl if you restrict selection of your team to Seniors Section...The issue of whether the Seniors Bowl Team is picked from the Seniors Section or from all eligible members has been a problem at some clubs"

\* Players between 55 and 60 would not come under the umbrella of the Seniors and would not be on our system, they would not get picked to play in any Seniors competitions, including Friendlies, even if the age limit for that competition was 55.

\* Our friendlies include Yeovil, Cricket St Thomas, Long Sutton, Wincanton, Axe Cliff, Cannington, Worlebury, Vivary Park, Farrington and *Charminster,*  They all have players from the age of 55, why on earth should we be different.

\* There are still men who retire at 55 and looking to join a golf club, possibly looking for a 5 day membership. They could well be put off joining Wheathill once they realise they cannot play in any silverware competitions, no weekend competitions and no Senior's matches during the week until they reach the suggested age of 60 or 65.

\* The Seniors have problems getting members to commit to the various roles on the Senior's committee, looking at my fellow committee members, apart from one, I would say we are all over the ages suggested, unless they have had hard lives. There is nothing to stop the main committee from choosing their officers from all sections of the club including the Seniors!

 \* Of the seven committee members who were present when this email was discussed it was unanimously agreed that these proposals should be rejected.

\* The email mentioned that the Men's and the Seniors' Section would benefit in all sorts of ways, this needs clarification, as we, the Seniors' Committee cannot see any advantage to the Seniors' Section that would outweigh the disadvantages.