

Minutes of Arscott Golf Club Board Meeting
Monday 25th March 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Nick Jones (Chair) Claire Evans
 John Simpson Chris Brace
 Geoff Harding Trish Harding
 Paul Buckley
 Paul Owen (Men's Captain)
 Dave Wallace (minutes)

1. Apologies

Barbara Parnell, Keith Morris (Seniors' Captain), Jacqui Mullineux (Ladies' Captain).

2. Declaration of Any Other Urgent Business

GH: Progress on Golf Mark/Safe Golf status – to be discussed where appropriate on the agenda.

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

- a) The Minutes were received and confirmed as a correct record;
- b) Matters Arising:
None.

5. Reports from Directors

a) Managing Director

NJ had obtained two quotations for the improvement of the area around the first tee. One was higher than expected, so he would seek further quotes. NJ also had the costs for the proposed tee signs, for which sponsors would be sought. **The Board agreed that a package should be offered to the sponsors on the basis of £500 per tee for two years (£750 for the first tee)**, to include e.g. a free 4 ball/a golf day, etc. NJ to take the lead in promotion.

Advertisements promoting the Club had been placed in the Chronicle again for the current two weeks, with membership fees for the remainder of the year (to 1st August) to be calculated on a pro rata basis. Also the Shropshire Star was going to do a feature in the week of the Masters. It was noted that a number of new members had joined recently. PB had produced a welcome pack, including a letter from the President, diary, card, badge, bag tag, rules of golf etc, and information would be put on the website too. The Board congratulated and thanked PB for his work.

The Board discussed other matters relating to the website, including adding photos of the the Board members, links to old newsletters, and details of the Open and Invitation Competitions. GH reported that he planned to talk with County Highways regarding scope for improved signage to the Club. CE proposed also to contact the

Pontesbury and Hanwood Parish Councils to provide information and promote the Club.

NJ reported on progress in achieving Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status, with the final element needed being the end of year accounts. The aim would be to submit the application on the 1st of August, even if the accounts would not be fully signed off then, in order to minimise the months when the Club had to pay higher rates.

The Board discussed the level of the discounted afternoon green fees for visitors – **it was agreed that these should be increased from £20 to £25 for two from 2 p.m. from 1st April.**

b) Finance and IT

TH had circulated a spreadsheet showing actual and projected monthly income and expenditure prior to the meeting. This indicated that there should be scope for some funds to be available to invest in the improvements in the Clubhouse/course at the end of the financial year, informed by the results of the members' survey. GH commented that he would be preparing a 12 month plan for the greens, aided by the advice from Chris Knowles (ALS), the local agronomist who had produced a report on the greens – and he would ask Dave Rowson's son for comments (he might be able to help in purchasing materials too, as with the tee mats).

Members discussed various matters relating to the finances, noting the overall position and projections.

c) Business Compliance

PB reported that 20-25 members had not returned GDPR consent forms, despite reminders. Those that had been received were being scanned and placed on file. A positive consent question would be included on the annual membership renewal form.

d) House

CB had circulated a report prior to the meeting, setting out progress and improvements over the last month, including in relation to furniture and furnishings, menus, pricing, staffing, costs and revenues, opening hours and security. The Board discussed the difficult balance between staffing levels, opening hours, costs and revenues, particularly in relation to quiet times in the winter months. There was general agreement that food/drinks should no longer be offered in the bar before 12 noon.

There was also discussion regarding first aid kits, accident book, fire drills, and other health and safety/risk assessment matters – various actions in hand.

Action: With regard to security issues, CB would carry out a full review and circulate his report for discussion.

e) Course

GH had circulated a note relating to a Greens Committee meeting held on 13th March and covering issues relating to drainage and irrigation, maintenance of the

memorial garden, tree husbandry and planting (including along the 6th and 2nd fairways), the annual plan produced by the agronomist, the proposed new back/middle/front flags (on order), the proposed new tee signs, lifebuoys (now in place), machinery/equipment issues and a request for regular volunteers to rake/strim bunkers.

GH reported that in relation to GolfMark, the safeguarding requirements were more or less fulfilled. GH queried whether the Juniors Section should be represented on the Board? PO to discuss with Anthony Mullineux, the link member on the Men's Committee. The Board agreed that the application could be signed off and sent to England Golf. There was a meeting with England Golf on April 24th to discuss this and other matters, including GolfPark.

Action: GH would review all of the large course machinery/equipment before the next meeting, and get quotes for a new mower (leasing).

JS: what happening with the tee boxes, which had been removed due to misuse for litter. It was considered that these could now go back, given that all but two of the litter bins were back in place.

JS circulated the drafts of the new scorecards. Subject to minor amendments and checking the logos with the two sponsors, these were signed off for printing (20,000). The Board congratulated JS on their production.

f) Marketing and PR

CE planned to focus on the website to promote the Club, and also would contact the two local Parish Councils. PB considered that it was important to discuss the results of the first members' survey, and to follow it up, including asking about the Clubhouse. Action: Marketing sub-group to meet, including CE, PB and GH to discuss and take forward.

g) Company Secretary

PB: the premises licence for the Clubhouse bar had been updated.

6. Health and Safety

Covered earlier.

7. Feedback from Section Captains

PO: Men's Section would like to see recognition given in the newsletter to the many years of financial support for the Junior Section given by Bernie Bentick;

KM/CB: nothing specific this time from the Seniors;

TH for BP/JM: raised problems with the computer, updating of front page of website (access to newsletters), uploading of minutes of Board meetings, and a recent incident with under age driving of a buggy by a visitor. PB: thinks that the PC needs replacing, webpage being updated, and Board minutes to be added. GH will talk to Glyn re buggy incident to ensure anyone hiring a buggy is aware of the rules (NJ thinks there is a sign in the buggy).

8. Any Other Business

CB: need to press MH re Clubhouse electrics. PB: also car park lights currently not working;

PO: suggestion that the winner of the Club Championship could have a parking space? The Board identified potential problems with this idea;

PB: items for newsletter please as soon as possible;

GH: need to progress with review of course signage.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on **Monday 29th April at 7 p.m.**