

Minutes of Arscott Golf Club Board Meeting
Monday 16th September 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Nick Jones (Chair) Paul Buckley
 Claire Evans Trish Harding
 Geoff Harding
 Jacqui Mullineux (Ladies' Captain)
 Paul Owen (Men's Captain)
 Dave Wallace (minutes)

1. Apologies

Chris Brace, John Simpson, Keith Morris (Seniors' Captain).

2. Declaration of Any Other Urgent Business

None

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Meeting of 12th August

a) Subject to two amendments, the Minutes were received and confirmed as a correct record;

b) Matters Arising:

PO and DW reported that the Men's Section Committee had reconsidered the question of funding the two winter tee mats and had agreed to pay for the mats, using funds raised for Club Improvements.

5. Reports from Directors

a) Managing Director

NJ: Golf Mark status had now been achieved – an article had been included in the Shropshire Star, but unfortunately the photos of the presentation had not been useable.

NJ: letter received from Glyn reflecting on the past year, promotional initiatives and the need for support for the Pro Shop. The Board expressed its appreciation for Glyn's excellent work in helping the new Club to prosper in its first year, and agreed that all Sections should be made aware of the importance of supporting the Pro Shop through competitions, prizes, and purchases etc., whilst recognising also the importance of the Shop being flexible and responsive to members' needs for goods and services. **Action: PB/NJ to reply accordingly.**

NJ: report from a member of a visiting society being unhappy with food provided on a recent away day – Glyn contacting the society to discuss.

NJ: in CB's absence, provided an update on current Clubhouse management and staffing. The Assistant Manager had put new procedures in place and NJ was

hopeful that there would now be improvement in the service provided.

NJ: meeting held with Martin, with agreement reached on a number of matters.

Martin had now done some work to the Pound Lane entrance, and works relating to the electrical certificate were to be carried out in October.

b) Finance and IT

TH had circulated a finance report for August prior to the meeting, showing 282 member renewals to date, a similar position to the same time last year, and there were more to come through via Orchard Finance and renewal reminders had been sent out. The CASC application to HMRC was ongoing, awaiting final accounts for the year (hopefully by the end of the week), but in the meantime business rates had to be paid (reduced by 20% thanks to SafeGolf accreditation). The Club needed to be very careful until the outcome of the CASC application was known, only paying out for essentials. TH had also prepared the July Quarter VAT return.

The August expenditure and income figures reflected a number of extra but essential course and Clubhouse expenses during the month.

c) Business Compliance

Nothing to report.

d) House

In his absence, CB had circulated a report prior to the meeting including staffing matters, issues with the deep fat fryers and the oven, the new bar menu being in operation, adjustments to the Clubhouse opening hours, replacement of defective window locks, and re-siting of the defibrillator and first aid box in the lobby.

e) Course

GH had circulated a note relating to a Greens Committee meeting held on 4th September, with topics covered including the hollow tining/top dressing carried out (with thanks to volunteers who helped the Greenstaff), aiming for County standard for the Pee Wee's course, strimming of banks (with possible scope for volunteers to help in the winter), recent problems with the irrigation system, trimming of trees carried out, and arrangements for hedge cutting. GH was holding off on the purchase of additional bunker sand for now. Some accidental machine damage to two greens was noted. Queries were raised on potential income from acorns and power line wayleaves.

Discussion of Greenstaff matters was deferred to a future meeting.

f) Marketing and PR

CE reported on the press release relating to Golf Mark (article in Shropshire Star), and Mark R had been asked to publicise it though England Golf. Twitter and Facebook likes were steady at 1,200-1,300. CE had analysed the effectiveness of the second half of year member deals (41 members) – about half had re-joined so far, with about 40% of those being under 35 years old. The Board will need to consider what deals to offer in the coming year.

The next PR opportunity would be the Junior Team's appearance in the Junior Team Golf Semi-Final England in the Home Nations Inter Club Championship. PB had put

this on the front page of the Club Website. He was happy to review the webpage regularly to keep it current. CE was still aiming to set up a Marketing Sub-Group, perhaps with representatives from each Section, plus Glyn/Sian, PB and maybe Mark R from England Golf.

JM suggested that Yvonne Beaumont had excellent photos of the course, PB said that Dick Bickerton might also be able to help with photos.

On the drone idea from JS, NJ thought that it was now the wrong time of year and there was a need to review costs up front. CE referred to a potential licence issue.

NJ: had set up an Instagram account for the Club, but not yet sure how to make use of it.

NJ: need to promote the selling of the tee signs – hopeful of three sales to date. Members asked to provide names of any firms to approach. GH: scope also for a main Club sponsor?

JM: Ladies Section prepared to sponsor the 10th tee – confirmed ok by NJ.

g) Company Secretary

PB: asked Board to endorse the **Section Captains' for 2019/20**:

Men's: Dave Wallace;

Ladies': Sue Lane;

Seniors': Joe Rimmer;

Juniors': Carter Sayce

– **Agreed unanimously.**

Proposals for Vice-Captains for 2019/20, then to be Captains in 2020/21, were also received for the Men's and Juniors' Sections. These proposals, to be announced at the AGM, were also agreed unanimously. (Proposals for the Ladies and Seniors' Sections to be considered when received).

PB: suggested that a booklet be produced on duties, responsibilities and Club conventions for incoming Captains. **Action: PB to draft.** NJ: it would also be useful for roles of the various Secretaries on the Committees to be set out. DW: also clarity on financial responsibilities of the Committees now would be helpful e.g. Men's Committee re PC and receipt of the levy per member.

PB: EGU Seminar on new handicapping system being held at Ludlow GC on 15th/16th November. **Action: PB and JM to attend.**

NJ: currently three electronic systems in operation at the Club – need to get Club Systems installed professionally. TH – potentially integrated with SAGE?

Discussion of **use of Club Improvement Funds – Agreed process: each Section to put forward their priorities, plus how much raised by the Section, to the Board; the Board then to prioritise, having regard to the funds available/costs of improvements and scope for voluntary input; the Board then to put any proposed use of the Fund to the AGM for decision.**

NJ: asked Sections to consider the improvement of the 1st tee as a potential priority.

6. Health and Safety

Accident Book: No further incidents reported.

7. Feedback from Section Captains

PO: matter of payment for mats – reported under Matters Arising from the Minutes. NJ explained the scope and normal practice for the Section Captain and Committee to use some of any surplus funds raised from competition entry fees (after paying for Captain's honorarium, Honours Boards, trophy inscriptions etc) over the year to pay for a project (past examples included winter tee mats and fountain in pond on the 18th).

DW: Men's Section are also considering a change to entry fees and cost of 2's to increase prize money for competition winners, possibly with some structuring of prize money depending on the status of the competition.

KM: no report in KM's absence, but GH referred back to Seniors' agreement to fund remaining 7 winter tee mats – now depended on funds available/costs, so there might be a shortfall.

JM: some queries/suggestions regarding safety for users of path to the 15th (maybe mark alternative route via 18th?) and taller flag stick for 5th green – GH to consider. JM: could there be liaison with all Sections prior to major work being done on the greens, especially when impacts on qualifiers? GH stressed that, whilst the greenkeepers had priority on the golf course, he and the Greenstaff did have regard to members' competitions being held and to visiting societies, and tried to minimise their impact whilst presenting the course to the standard expected. Grass cutting was carried out every day at this time of year, while the recent hollow tining had to be done, and many tasks were also weather dependent. **Action: JM would feedback to the Committee, stressing that the Ladies Section was no more affected than any other.**

8. Any Other Business

PB: advance warning that Arscott GC might be the venue for the Shropshire Star Team Trophy next year (possibly Wednesday 13 May), with potentially 100 players to be accommodated.

NJ: installation of new practice net – GH to ask Andrew to look into – will need concrete base. NJ: also need bases for the new winter tee mats...could be scope for volunteers to help?

NJ: recent Wrinklies v Youth match had been very successful, helping to bring members together, putting money into the Pro Shop and raising funds for the Club Development Fund. JM: could have a Ladies v Gents match – JM to take back to her Committee for next year.

CE: AGM preparation? NJ – may need two meetings pre-AGM.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on **Monday 7th October at 8 p.m.** (following Men's Section Committee meeting).