

Minutes of Arscott Golf Club Board Meeting (Virtual)
Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Nick Jones (Chair) Paul Buckley
Steve Turner Barbara Parnell
Meurig Jones

Jacqui Mullineux (for Ladies Captain)
Joe Rimmer (Seniors' Captain)
Dave Wallace (Club Captain/minutes)

1. Apologies

Alex Hughes, Stuart Thomas.

2. Declaration of Any Other Urgent Business

None.

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th January were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

PB: the Diary had now been received from the Printers and was available from the Pro Shop.

NJ: going to Sign and Poster Ltd this week regarding Honours Boards updates.

5. Covid-19 Issues

NJ: Course to re-open on March 29, with toilets in Clubhouse available, but will need to decide what to do regarding food and drink.

DW: thinks takeaway only from 29 March, but only two people could be consuming something (e.g. coffee) together outside, then outdoor hospitality (rule of six and table service only) from 12th April.

NJ: put marquee up for 12th April.

BP: need to prevent/discourage members gathering outside Pro Shop door as blocks access to Ladies Locker Room. DW: tape off access? NJ: hopefully the members will now use to outdoor seating area at the front rather than congregating at the side of the building.

DW: need to consider how best to operate table service outside so that runs efficiently. NJ: need a runner going round the tables and upselling – House Committee to consider arrangements.

6. Finances

NJ: no income apart from grants in recent months - £9,000 grant received, hopefully further support to be received for continuing closure.

NJ projections for the remainder of the year prepared, showing a small profit by the

end of the year, allowing for anticipated expenditure, but subject to the weather and the returns achieved from the hospitality service. In the current circumstances, any significant expenditure needed to generating a return/benefit to the Members, so principally the Course and the balcony and outdoor seating project.

7. Projects

Balcony and Outdoor Seating Project

NJ: meeting fitter for glass surround for decking on Thursday, with costs expected to be £1,400-£1,500, then just electrical sockets to be fitted. Martin Oakley was contributing £300.

NJ: hoping to receive two further quotes for the balcony, and Stuart T was also trying to get one. NJ also discussing project with the owner.

The Board re-affirmed its support for the project as a good investment for the sustainability of the Club. NJ: the limited purposes of the £10,000 grant and the associated business case for the project needed to be explained to the members – the Captains could help with their Committees/Sections?

new PB: any pressure from England Golf to complete the project? NJ: not so far, but contact at England Golf now – he would be liaise with her.

IT project:

PB: the equipment had been installed and claim for re-imburement sent to the Telford and Wrekin Council (administering grant scheme for the LEP) – should be paid out in 2/3 weeks.

Pound Lane Entrance:

ST: timber now obtained to install a post and rail fence with gate posts for the Pound Lane entrance (and gate posts for the main entrance). There was some preliminary clearance to be done first. The project aimed to provide improved security/control, as well as improving the appearance of the entrances. PB: a combination lock could be the best way to lock gates, given the need for access by various parties.

5th Tee

ST: planned to level the white tee in the next couple of weeks – then to be kept out of play.

8. Survey of Members/Forward Plan Review

PB: Action for Year 1 (calendar year) would be subject to the availability of finance. PB ran through the priorities for the Annual Plan:

Course: mainly ongoing work so limited financial impact. ST: problems of limited manpower in summer when mowing needed so only a limited window in October/November for groundworks. DW: 8th tee improvement had been a clear priority from the Survey, but if that was not possible, then suggest that include at least intention to draw up a plan and share with members so that can see what was planned.

Clubhouse: improving the changing facilities/toilets/showers was the priority but

scope for expenditure in Year 1 would be limited. DW: include aim of preparing plans as an action?

Buggy/trolley store: ST probably not this year, possibly just first stage i.e. clear the ground at the back of the Clubhouse.

Trolley and shoe cleaning area: potential DIY project/in stages. JR: important for the image and appearance of the Club.

Sand and top soil storage bays for Yard: ST – could be done in stages.

Action: PB to finalise the update of the Forward and Action Plans, and to publish to members together with the summary of the results of the survey.

Current Course Matters

NJ: GreenKeeper keen to do the hollow tining and top dressing of the greens prior to the re-opening of the Course. **Action: PB will ask Andrew when would like to do and issue a call for volunteers.**

PB: putting out a job advertisement for another pair of hands on the Course.

NJ: explained arrangements for replacement of John Potter (retiring on 26th March) - an appointment had been made for a replacement for the three days a week position (who would also be working in the shop two days a week).

9. Review of Constitution

MJ: anything more to be submitted from the Ladies Section and Juniors Organiser?

Action: BP to check re Ladies and PB to provide information on the new Junior Section organisational arrangements.

PB: then need to wait until a meeting can be held to discuss possible changes.

10. Proposed Committees

NJ: new Committees could be the main change to the Constitution.

JM: are we asking members to show interest in serving on Committees?

BP: where to put Business Compliance and Health and Safety? Board needed to have an overview on these matters.

Agreed: 5 Committees: Finance, Clubhouse, Course, Marketing, and Business Compliance (including health and safety);

Members to be invited to serve on three of these: Clubhouse, Course and Marketing. Action: PB to include in Newsletter;

If too many volunteers, decision to be by vote of the Board.

11. Items for the Newsletter

JR: include an appreciation of Dave Rowson's contribution to the Club and his legacy. (NB Graham Palmer was taking on the role in organising the Seniors' Opens).

NJ: has photos of Course etc.

DW: will provide Captain's comments.

BP: SafeGolf?

PB: information on the re-opening of the Course.

12. Any Other Businesses

JR: May Seniors Open cancelled, but September Team Open is on.

DW: Captain's Drive In had been planned for 27th March, so cancelled again. He did not plan to re-arrange it, just focus on the Charity Days.

JM: could the Diary be published a bit earlier in the future? PB: if information provided earlier (October/November).

JM: some enquiries about membership fees in the light of the Course closures.

NJ: Board should wait to see what other Clubs did with their renewal fees. There was discussion about how subscription decisions should be made – purely business decision by the Board v AGM (but November too early to know what was necessary for the following year) v EGM to consider proposals from the Board in run up to end of year. The importance of communication with the members/transparency was recognised, and it was felt that most members were realistic and would support considered and justified proposals from the Board.

JM: photo frames update? NJ: frames for Ladies in their Locker Room and for Men's Committee photos upstairs. DW: has the name plates for Captains' and Presidents' photos.

NJ: potential to run a 4 month membership deal (at more than the pro rata rate).

Agreed: 4 month deal for new members at £275 (pro rata rate £216).

DW: explain to existing members the terms of the deal to make it clear that they are not being treated unfairly.

NJ: some issues with advance bookings. **Agreed: reduce advance bookings for members from three weeks to two weeks (visitors still one week).**

JR offered to release the Seniors slot on the morning of 29th March to free up tee times for members on the re-opening day: welcomed by the Board (**PB/JR to Action**).

NJ: new members information pack needed updating. **PB to Action.**

NJ: drain under former railway by 7th pond: Council has investigated and is speaking with the landowner, who has now removed some material that was blocking drainage.

NJ/PB had removed old litter from near the 7th tee – will need to remind members to use bins.

NJ: pursuing 'loss of business' insurance claim on advice from broker.

PB: there was an opportunity to make another application under the KickStart Scheme. Still waiting to hear outcome of the first application for a Course related placement. Second placement could be Clubhouse related. **Agreed: second application to be made – PB to action.**

PB: looks like England Golf intending to bring in arrangements for independent/nomad golfers to obtain handicaps, paying a fee to EG. The Club needed to consider the implications and make suitable provisions e.g. have a higher green fee for that category. **Agreed: Marketing Committee to consider arrangements for nomad golfers.**

JM: need for the Course to be re-measured from the Ladies Tees. **Action: NJ to send JM information on Eagle Golf to measure.**

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on Monday 22nd March 2021 at 6 p.m. (Virtual).