

Minutes of Arscott Golf Club Board Meeting
Tuesday 8th June 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Nick Jones (Chair) Paul Buckley
 Steve Turner Meurig Jones
 Barbara Parnell
 Jacqui Mullineux (for Ladies' Captain)
 Joe Rimmer (Seniors' Captain)
 Dave Wallace (Club Captain/minutes)

1. Apologies

Stuart Thomas, Alex Hughes.

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 17th May were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

DW and JM confirmed that the Men's and Ladies' Committees respectively were happy with the proposal that the subscription fees for 2021/22 should remain at current levels, while JR reported that the Seniors' Committee supported the fees staying the same or even going up, if necessary. There were no other matters arising that would not be covered in the main business of the meeting.

5. Reports

Managing Director/Finances

NJ: the Club's finances were looking good with additional new members joining, although green fees had been down in May due to the wet weather and food sales were also down for the month. The expenditure on the new cutter did not yet show in the figures, while there would also be the major expenditure to come on the balcony.

NJ: reported on a problem with the electrical power at the Greenkeepers' sheds – this had been supplied by a generator, which had now died. Western Power had been approached for costings to provide mains supply, to include a new transformer. The owner had been approached and had agreed to the proposed work, which needed doing and would be the best long term solution. There was a 12 week lead in to the work being done. Having considered the cost estimates, **the Board agreed that the work to provide a mains electrical supply should proceed.**

JR: had the option of leasing the new cutter been considered? NJ: yes, but the purchase was good value, with a significant saving from new (being a demonstrator).

ST: the cutter came with mulching blades, which might assist with dealing with leaves on the Course, in the autumn.

Clubhouse

PB: job adverts had been placed for bar/catering positions, with limited interest to date. The need to appoint new staff was stressed, as one member was leaving next month and there would be holiday absences to cover as well.

PB: bar takings had been quite good, with a profit showing for the month of May.

JR: Seniors were happy with the price agreed for food after matches. PB: thought that it would be good to have some standard options/prices – **Action: PB and BP to discuss with Nia.**

Course

ST: the Course was looking good and the staff and volunteers were doing a great job. Arrangements were in hand to ensure adequate staff cover for the coming weeks.

ST had spoken with the owner about extending the Pound Lane entrance fencing with a knee rail on the edges of the tarmac drive – the owner had agreed (and planned to build up the edges as well). **The Board agreed to the work proceeding on the basis of the costs estimates provided. Action: ST to send a confirmatory email to the Owner and to look at directional signage to the relief parking area.**

ST: a member was investigating costs for a Golf Club sign at the Pound Lane entrance.

ST: hoping to start work on the permanent resurfacing of the path towards the 15th tee (same treatment as for the 1st tee) in July.

DW: the Men's Committee had enquired as to whether there were any plans to employ an extra greenkeeper/for extra hours? NJ: no plans at present. PB: it was hoped to appoint a temporary (6 months) employee under the Kickstart scheme. ST: there was only a need in the summer months, and the need was reduced thanks to the strimming by volunteers.

DW: the Men's Committee had also asked what was intended regarding the provision of two or three litter bins on the Course, as previously indicated. PB: not being done at present due to the Covid-19 restrictions/guidance but would like one at the junction of paths at the top of the 8th and towards the 10th tee. The Kickstart appointment could provide an extra pair of hands to assist with the maintenance required.

In answer to a question, ST said that he would mount, on a post, the food sign which had appeared on the path from up the 8th Green.

Marketing

NJ: this was ticking over through regular social media postings.

PB: a couple of new members had joined this week, so the marketing was having an effect, but there needed to be a marketing drive now aimed at retaining the new members who had joined.

ST: also need to start thinking about the idea of the permanent 9 holes to stay open in wet winter conditions. JR: and then promoting this.

BP: organising a meeting with Laura Yapp (or successor) at England Golf regarding another Women in Golf event, which could include ideas on member retention.

DW: the Men's Committee had suggested the provision of a free pitch repairer in the Welcome Packs for new members – Glyn was going to investigate sourcing a quantity.

JM/BP: the Ladies' Committee had discussed retention and thought that it would help to stress the improvements made and the plans to keep the subscriptions at the same level.

PB: looking to hand over the production of the Members' Newsletter to another volunteer...suggestions for candidates welcome.

DW: the Men's Committee had asked what the position was regarding the sponsored tee signs. NJ: there had been a problem in getting the logos in the form required and difficulties had been encountered with the Company lined up to produce the signs. DW asked that the members (and particularly the sponsors) be kept informed.

Business Compliance including Health and Safety

BP: BP and PB were working through the Risk Assessment. Advice needed regarding Legionnaire's Disease question.

PB: PB and MJ making progress on Fire Safety requirements review. A fire drill was required. Glyn was the designated Fire Warden. PB was looking into the on-line training option as discussed at the last meeting.

6. Projects

Balcony and Outdoor Seating

NJ: had emailed the contractor last week – structural drawings awaited. ST and PB would cover for NJ while he was away on holiday.

DW: reported that the Men's Committee had raised questions regarding the provision of information on the project to the members, and the possible merit of asking the members prior to committing significant finance. NJ: the Board was in place to make decisions and had decided to proceed having secured external funding and having full regard to the costs and benefits. DW felt that there was scope to provide more information to the members, including on what was planned, timescales etc.

ST: would like to see the structural drawings first.

Board: suitable content for the Newsletter.

7. Constitution Review

PB: reported on a meeting held last week (PB, BP, MJ and DW) and ran through the amendments suggested to the Constitution so far, which were set out in a document circulated to the Board. These were largely agreed, with just a few changes duly noted.

The Board noted the need for a Board member with particular interest in/aptitude for finance to be in place so that the Managing Director was in a position to take an overview.

PB: a further meeting of the group would be held to get through the remaining sections (Articles etc).

8. Any Other Businesses

JR: drew attention to a 'Longest Day' golf challenge being undertaken at the Club on 18th June, raising funds for MacMillan – promotional opportunity?

JR: plans for new outdoor furniture? PB: when the balcony was done.

JM: Club V1 still not working for mixed competitions. PB was talking to Club V1 and would discuss with Helen Pearson – the hoped for upgrade had not yet happened.

JM: requested more transparency from the Board e.g. about why the fees were proposed to remain the same but also generally, e.g. through the Newsletter.

JM: scope for a drop zone after the 18th pond? PB: R & A said no. JM: County said there should be one. **Action: PB will talk to Glyn.**

DW: the Men's Committee had discussed again a request from some members for tees to be blocked off for the men up to a certain time (e.g. 11.00 a.m.) on weekend competition days. There had been mixed views with no clear consensus, so he was gathering further information prior to further discussion. Board members considered that there would be issues of equal rights and level fees if such a measure was to be put forward.

DW: the Committee had also discussed whether or not to make Club Nights qualifiers – the decision was to leave them as non qualifiers this year, but there was some acceptance that they would have to become qualifiers next year.

PB: commented that it was becoming evident that there was a need for some written procedures regarding e.g competitions and handicapping to assist incoming Committee members. PB was prepared to draft something out and JM offered to set out what she had gleaned. PB: there could be benefit in having an email address just for handicapping issues.

NJ: raised pre-registering issue for WHS qualifying scores. DW: Men's Handicap Secretary and Club Pro were agreeing procedures. In answer to a question on non-returns (NR's), DW set out the Committee's planned approach in recognition that NR's should be discouraged.

ST: arrangements for 'Nomad' golfers now coming in for Scotland...and on the way

for England next month.

NJ: reported on position regarding claiming for loss of business due to Covid-19 under the Club's insurance policy. In light of the grants received from the Government for this purpose, a claim was not being pursued.

JR: thanks to all for support for the RBL Charity Day - £1,064 had been raised.

DW: the Junior Section had its programme up and running, including coaching sessions and matches, with plans for a Super Six league for Academy players.

NJ: the Robert Rock Junior Tour event held at Arscott on 23rd May had gone well, with good feedback received. The Junior Captain had won the Under-18's category.

BP: the first round of Women in Golf lessons were coming to an end. She was hopeful that this would result in some additional green fees for the Club, if not new members. The Club was signed up to do another promotion.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on **Monday 19th July 2021** at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse.