

Minutes of Arscott Golf Club Board Meeting Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Nick Jones (Chair) Paul Buckley
 Steve Turner Barbara Parnell
 Meurig Jones
 Helen Pearson (Lady Captain)
 Nigel Easton (Seniors' Captain)
 John Morris (Club Vice Captain)
 Dave Wallace (Club Captain/minutes)

1. Apologies

Stuart Thomas, Alex Hughes.

2. Declaration of Any Other Urgent Business

NJ: One staffing matter, to be an exempt item.

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st September were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising that would not be covered in the main business of the meeting.

5. Reports

Managing Director

NJ: referred to AGM arrangements (see later item).

Finance

BP: circulated a spreadsheet showing monthly income and expenditure to the Directors and reported a very healthy position, notably with regard to income from membership fees. PB: membership was now over 420, up from under 300 last year. BP: Monthly Green Fee income was also still good.

BP: the annual accounts (now published for the AGM) showed a surplus for the year of £111,000, but £55,000 of this was set aside for committed expenditure. The Club was still in uncertain times and needed a buffer. NJ: the surplus was up from £30,000 at the end of the previous year.

NE: do we have a forecast for next year? NJ: there was no standard year yet to base this on, given the unusual circumstances prevailing since the Club's

establishment as a member-run organisation. BP: membership fee income and fixed costs were spread over the year as part of the financial plan monitoring.

JM: any Corporation Tax to be paid on the surplus? NJ: no, as the Club was a not for profit Company.

HP: was the cost of the Club's lease due to increase? NJ: no, it was now up to the maximum level of £25,000 p.a., subject to a rent review at the end of 5 years.

PB: A member had posed questions regarding staff pension contributions, accruals and deferrals, and partial VAT exemption. **Action: NJ to reply.**

NJ: finances looking a good – a tribute to all the hard work being done by all involved with the Club.

Clubhouse

PB: reported on progress since the last meeting on the provision of hospitality services, with a good team now in place led by the new Hospitality Manager and encouraging feedback from customers and the Sections.

NJ: there had been further discussion about the coffee machine, with Sian checking the termination of the lease and a new machine having been trialled.

NJ: A Clubhouse Committee meeting was to be held on 29th October.

Course

ST: the Course was doing well, helped by the weather being kind, enabling better maintenance for longer – hopefully this will help to reduce potential closures later in the winter. A Greens Committee meeting was to be held on 29th October. This would include looking at a 9 hole course to remain open in wet conditions.

NE: is grass cutting still being done? ST: yes, while the grass continued to grow.

ST: leaves were an ongoing issue – the mulching knives on the new mower had not yet been tried. The 5th tee had been levelled to some extent. The turf was being used to re-structure the bunker on the 18th hole. Work had started on the path to the 15th hole – there would be costs of about £1,800 for grids, gravel, membrane and stone. There would be some winter works on trees around the Course. Growth on the mounds etc were all under control – NJ: credit to the work done by the staff and volunteers.

DW: asked about the improvement planned to the 8th tee – ST: now pushed back to next year. BP: need to check trees on left encroaching on the line to the Green from the ladies tee.

DW: asked about getting a scorecard printed for the Back 9 (white tees) for next year's Club Nights. NJ: would need about 1,000 for a full season. BP: could the Club print a card for the Front 9 (red tees) too please. **Action: PB/DW.**

Marketing

NJ: Patrick actively promoting Clubhouse services and events – e.g. Mind Over Matter event on 29th October.

NJ: had sold another tee sponsorship. JM would approach a couple of businesses which he thought might be interested. MJ: contact local firms? NJ: promotional leaflets in Sian's office.

JM: new caravan park and lodges going up at Lea Cross Fisheries (Salop Caravans) – marketing opportunity.

Business Compliance (including Health and Safety)

PB: need to improve Clubhouse locks, including internal doors.

HP: lighting to car park not good/safe. PB: and need a security light at the rear of the Clubhouse. Could there be timers on the outdoor lights? **Action Agreed.**

JM: raised lighting options for bar lounge and dining area. **Agreed: new modern fittings to be installed in bar lounge, but dining room just to be re-lamped. Action: JM.**

6. AGM Arrangements

PB: AGM agendas and reports, with electronic voting option, had been emailed out following test run to Directors. Arrangements were discussed – **Action: PB to email current and incoming Presidents and Captains, plus confirm to Past Lady Captain regarding presentation of charity cheque to the Ark.**

7. 2022 Club Vice Captaincy

JM: reported a change since the last meeting following the withdrawal of the first agreed candidate. Patrick Cudmore was now his proposal for Men's and Club Vice Captain. **Agreed: No objections from the Board.**

8. Club Development Fund

DW reported that the total raised from Captain's Fundraisers plus a donation from the Men's Section was £2,148.50 – he would report this at the AGM. The top priority for the use of the funds for the Board to consider from the Men's Section was as a contribution to an improved trolley and shoe cleaning facility (ahead of new furniture for the balcony). There had also been discussion regarding a new hole cutter for the Greens, if needed, but ST did not think that this was required and any improvements could be funded as a maintenance item.

9. Projects

Balcony

NJ: work on the groundworks for the new balcony had started and he hoped that the new structure might start to go up at the end of the next week.

10. Any Other Businesses

DW: could the winter mats be cleaned? ST: done.

DW: suggestion from the Men's Committee to try bird scarers (e.g. cut outs of birds of prey) by some of the greens.

PB: Invite from Shropshire Chamber of Commerce to join (annual fee £250) – potential networking benefits. **Agreed: Club to join Chamber for a year as a trial.**

PB: letter from Club's Solicitors regarding an issue with the lease with the owner – could be resolved by the owner and his nephew by a land swap.

PB: email from a member regarding the potential for an honorarium for the Seniors' Captain. NE clarified that the Seniors' Captain does already claim expenses back from the Seniors' Section. The Board's position was that it was for each Section to re-imburse their Captains for their costs/provide an honorarium from their Section's funds but, with the planned clarification to the Constitution that the Club Captain could be from any Section, costs specific to that role could be met by the Board from wider Club funds.

PB: AGM question regarding an issue arising from the Seniors' multi-tee starts when other players were on the Course. NE set out his understanding regarding the precedence for the Seniors in the time blocked out for them. PB: the short answer for the AGM was that the query raised was not an AGM matter.

JM: date for a Diary meeting? Agreed meeting to be held in the afternoon on 3rd November – **Action: PB to prepare spreadsheet.** Note: Captain's Plate to be moved back to a Sunday, but avoiding dates for the Hargrove Trophy.

HP: emptying of bins by the Clubhouse still an issue. **Agreed: the duty needs to be included in the role of a member of staff.**

NE: what is the strategy on litter clearing on the Course – why no bins and could the hedgerows be cleared e.g. by 7th tee? NJ/ST: need to educate members and visitors. NE suggested reinstating all the bins then seeing if it improved the position.

PB/DW: would like to see two or three bins put out at main path crossovers (e.g. 8th/3rd and 9th/10th/14th) as previously discussed by the Board – could be a trial. NJ: would need good quality bins with lids. **Action: ST to discuss at Greens Committee.**

NE: Martin Oakley was now the Seniors' Vice Captain for the coming year.

NE: One PC touchscreen for score entries insufficient for the Seniors on Thursdays, even with some using the mobile phone app – could there be a second one? Board considered that this would be too expensive, but use of a tablet suggested – **Action: PB to investigate availability of a tablet.**

NE: the Seniors were releasing their tees on June 23rd for use by Shrewsbury School.

NJ: there was an issue with the behaviour of a Member – a serious incident on 9th

October and other problems in the past. **Agreed: written warning to be sent –**
Action: PB.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on **Monday 22nd November 2021 at 5 p.m.** in the Clubhouse.