

Minutes of Arscott Golf Club Board Meeting Tuesday 22nd November 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

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

1. Apologies

Amrit Singh.

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 26th October were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

NJ: Staff pensions query – reply sent;

PB: Shropshire Chamber of Commerce joined;

PB: a tablet for the Seniors for additional score entry would require an additional licence to be purchased;

PB: Diary done;

PB: warning letter sent to member, as discussed.

5. Reports

Managing Director

NJ: new coffee machine ordered for bar – to operate with tokens purchased from the bar or Pro Shop.

NJ: limited progress with balcony, but contractors expected tomorrow with machinery. DW: are the contractors doing what is required to comply with Building Regulations e.g. photographing foundations. **Action: NJ to check with contractors.**

NJ: Leaf collector has been broken – should be working again this week.

Finance

BP: circulated a spreadsheet showing monthly income and expenditure. There had been major expenditure in relation to the balcony. Six new members had joined in October, and income from subscriptions was already close to the total for the whole of last year. Income included the contribution from the owner towards the costs of the balcony project and the funds raised by the Captain and Men's Section for the Club Development Fund. Bar staff costs included additional training/certificates – these costs needed to be monitored, but it was recognised that the new Team was in a stage of development and service improvement.

NJ: month to month reductions in income from food and drink sales and green fees were due to seasonal factors and were to be expected. BP: it was still difficult to compare to earlier years due to previous winter/Covid closures.

Clubhouse

PB: Hospitality Team was doing well, with compliments being received on the improvements to services. The Team was holding a Christmas Party on 15th December.

JM: investigating scope to hold a Race Night.

PB and BP would be meeting with Patrick to review progress in the near future.

Course

ST: the weather was still holding up, so the Course was in excellent condition for the time of year. There was the annual problem of leaves – the Greenstaff were doing their best, but the leaf collector had been out of action for two weeks. Work on the 18th bunker had been completed and good progress was being made on the path to the 15th – the costs for the path were working out as anticipated (approx. £1,700), although some additional sand and stone might be required (£100).

ST: not yet progressed making the new bins for the Course – would action when wood available.

DW: asked NE to explain his suggestion made at the Men's Committee to make and install 'periscopes' to solve issues of forward visibility e.g. from 7th and 10th tees. NE thought that the Seniors would be prepared to fund one (cost approx. £250) if the Board was in support of installation. JM: would ask the Men's Committee to fund the second one. **The Board welcomed the proposals and agreed to the installation of the equipment.**

HP: concern from Ladies Committee regarding their tee mats on the 6th (slippery and raised) and 7th (small) tees – **Action: ST to check.**

Marketing

PB: Patrick doing a great job, and Dave Bickle photos of Course excellent – will use in Diary/Facebook etc.

NJ: Printing of Diary – quantity and costs? PB: last year cost was £650 – this year has got one quote for £575 for 200, but will get a quote from Eagle. **Action: PB.** PB proposing to put an advert promoting the Clubhouse facilities and hospitality

services in the Diary this year - **Agreed.**

JM: recommended advertising the Club/services in the village newsletters, particularly the Pontesbury area one.

NJ: there was still the problem of not having a person/group taking the lead on marketing, to follow up ideas like this. PB suggested a potential member to approach.

MJ: had approached a number of businesses regarding tee sponsorship (email from Sian) – awaiting responses. Any other companies to approach? **Action: NJ has a list – will pass to MJ.**

Business Compliance (including Health and Safety)

PB: Details of Directors updated to Companies House.

6. Projects

Balcony

Discussed earlier

Path to 15th hole

Discussed earlier.

Trolley and Shoe Cleaner

DW/JM: Men's Committee had confirmed that this was their priority for the use of the Club Development Fund. **The Board agreed that this was seen as the next project, once the path to the 15th was completed.** DW: One member had suggested having a shoe cleaner near to the front door of the Clubhouse, to reduce the amount of dirt being brought inside (especially as men had to use the front door to access the changing rooms at present). **Action: DW and JM to try to find one of the shoe brushes and place at front of Clubhouse in an appropriate location.**

7. Any Other Businesses

Captains' Reports (to be added back in to future agendas)

JM: nothing to add.

NE: Seniors' Xmas lunch on 9th December – ok to close bar to others from 1.30 p.m. as usual? **Agreed.**

HP: need for better liaison between the Handicap and Competition

Committees/Officers – could there be a joint Committee meeting on a regular

basis? NE: Seniors would like to see ongoing collaboration.

PB: there was a joint meeting tonight – he would suggest an ongoing arrangement.

Other Business

NJ: was the Board happy with the new light fittings in the Bar area? Yes, plus the replacement of missing bulbs in the Dining Room – thanks to JM.

MJ: had approached a number of businesses regarding tee sponsorship (email from Sian) – awaiting responses. Any other companies to approach? **Action: NJ has a list – will pass to MJ.**

PB: correspondence with a member initially regarding an honorarium and subsequently suggesting a year's free membership for the Senior's Captain – he had explained that the Captain did reclaim expenses from the Section, and the Board had agreed the principle that each Section was responsible for refunding their Captain's expenses, if they so wished, with the Board being responsible for any additional Club Captain's costs. As regards the question of a year's free membership for the year following captaincy, to date this had only been provided to the Club/Mens' and Ladies' Captains, with the Seniors being seen as a Sub-Section of the Men's Section. MJ: Seniors' Section is a very important part of the Club now, and there is a lot of work for the Seniors' Captain – he thought that he should also be rewarded with a year's free membership. On being put to the vote, **it was agreed that the Seniors' Captain should also be given free membership for the following year.**

NJ: raised the question as to whether it was still appropriate for the Board to pay over levy funds (£3 per member) to the Men's and Ladies Sections, as the owner had historically done, as the Board was now paying costs previously covered by the Sections e.g Handicap Master/Club V1, computer costs etc. JM indicated that if the Men's Section did not receive the funding, then it might be less able to contribute back to the Club Development Fund at the end of the year, but recognised that it made little sense for the Board to give the Section funding which the Committee then gave back. DW: with the Board meeting Club Captain's expenses, there was less need for the Men's Section to have the levy funds. HP confirmed that the Ladies Committee was no longer contributing to software/computer costs, so did not require the levy funds. After discussion **it was agreed that the Board no longer paid over the levy contributions to the Men's and Ladies' Sections.**

BP: Trish Harding and BP had attended a recent Women in Golf Workshop, where they had met the new England Golf representative for the area. They planned to promote Women in Golf again in the Spring, and they would be setting up a meeting with the England Golf representative soon.

HP: explained that a decision had been taken not to hold the Children's Christmas Party this year, due to Covid-19 concerns.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on **Monday 10th January 2022 at 5 p.m.** in the Clubhouse.