

Minutes of Arscott Golf Club Board Meeting Monday 10th January 2022 at 5.00 p.m.

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

1. Apologies

None.

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 22nd November were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

DW: had explored locating a brush shoe cleaner near the front door, but there were no suitable sites at present with the ongoing balcony works.

All other matters would be covered in the main business of the meeting.

5. Reports

Managing Director

– NJ: reported on the damage to the Course caused by two vehicles at the weekend this did not seem likely to be a malicious act and the damage had now been largely repaired, so he did not propose any further action. However, plans for gates on the entrances were in hand – **Action: ST to discuss further with Andrew.**

AS: there had been a cyclist on the 6th hole who had caused some damage – might more signage help? Signage stressing the dangers and or prosecution for trespass were suggested. ST commented that there were locals regularly trespassing and these were unlikely to take any notice of signs.

NJ: the new coffee machine was now in place in the bar – currently only coin

operated, rather than tokens.

Finance

BP: circulated a spreadsheet showing monthly income and expenditure, commenting that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. Green fees were down for December, as was to be expected, but November had been good for the time of the year. There had been various items of expenditure such as printing of the diaries, gravel for the new paths, and extra hedge cutting. Overall, there had been a slight loss in December, but the accounts were looking healthy for the first six months of the year compared to last year.

NJ: two new members had joined in the last month.

BP: BP and Sian had been meeting with the accountants to rationalise current accounting practices.

Clubhouse

PB: Hospitality Services were ticking over, with this being the quiet time of the year. However, the Christmas Party in December had been a successful event. One member of staff had left recently – not being replaced for now. PB had had discussions with the Hospitality Manager about plans for later in the year and when the balcony was up and running.

NJ/ST: a temporary fix had been done regarding the plumbing in the men's toilets downstairs. Two new 'systemizers' were required and had been ordered. This was really a matter for the owner, so NJ would discuss costs with him. The problem with the drain in the upstairs toilet was being tackled – thanks to Terry Morris in both cases.

ST: how significant were the losses caused by closure over Christmas? NJ: December was down on wet sales compared to November, but losses were not great. DW: we have to expect some closure periods each winter and, so far, this has been a good winter in that respect.

Course

NJ: Directors had an impromptu meeting last week to consider partial opening options. The Course had been opened for 9 holes (front nine) on 5th January. The idea of creating a wet conditions 'mix and match' short course as previously discussed was not considered to be very practical. However, NJ thought that we needed to be more proactive in explaining why the Course had to be closed e.g. difficulty of getting machinery to/on the greens as well as condition of, and need to protect, the Course.

NE: following strong messaging from the Captain to members regarding repairing pitchmarks etc, can we also be more proactive in promoting trolley discipline?

Action: PB to send out relevant information to members on both matters.

NJ: congratulations to ST and team regarding the footpath to the 15th and clearing out coppices – excellent work.

ST: putting up the first periscope this week and getting on with other work now conditions were improving.

HP: any action on slippery mat on Ladies' 6th tee? ST: not yet – **Action ST.**

NJ: reported on need for new liner for water tank, which was the owner's responsibility. A new mesh roof was also being put on it.

Marketing

NJ: intending to advertise a membership offer for the remainder of the year on a pro rata basis.

JM: new caravan park progressing locally – potential source of green fees.

MJ: anyone approached to provide marketing assistance? PB: no, covering between ourselves for now.

NJ: the accountants have paid for a tee sponsorship – need to keep promoting.

Action: PB to add tee sponsors to website – with hindsight, should have included them in the Diary.

NJ: can invite the tee sponsors to the official opening of the balcony.

Business Compliance (including Health and Safety)

BP: spoken with new England Golf representative (Kiara). DBS checks need to be renewed and safeguarding course attended – BP happy to do again this year. Sian is the Club Welfare Officer meeting the requirements for the Club but it would be good to have a second, male, officer (involves two on-line seminars and safeguarding courses).

6. Projects

Balcony

NJ: would like to see finished by the end of the month – better progress recently.

NE: will it, and the area below, it be no smoking? NJ: yes – no smoking or vaping.

Action: need to identify a smoking area – behind the Clubhouse?

Trolley and Shoe Cleaner

ST: need to decide which trolley cleaner is to be purchased as he needed the dimensions. The Board favoured an air rather than water powered cleaner.

ST: there is an existing drainage pit, but not clear where it drains to. Best to do away with the pit – just have a collecting area/grill. DW: need for surfaced surround/access. ST: can use grids that are left over from path works. Also need to fence the area off to confine it and tidy up appearance.

Waste Bins

NJ: suggest that bins are purchase now – **Action: NJ to get some prices and circulate to the Directors.**

7. Feedback from Captains

NE: a busy December: periscopes made and delivered; very successful Seniors' Christmas Lunch – raised £310 for charity; procuring polo shirts for Seniors through Glyn.

NE: commends the new coffee machine – big improvement.

HP: Ladies also had a good Christmas meal and quiz; Susie is offering a Burns Night themed lunch on 25th January; noted new member who is proving very helpful.

JM: SHUGC AGM to be a Zoom meeting – Brian Barrow going to use block vote on behalf of Club for appointment of officers etc.; decided not to hold a Committee meeting this month, given limited activity; trophies have been updated; handicap League Secretary has resigned – seeking replacement.

8. Any Other Businesses

PB: had circulated information on training courses run by the Shropshire Chamber – grant applied for.

PB: further work done on Constitution review, with first part amended and to be loaded onto website. Group needs to meet again to discuss remaining elements re Director's roles/management structure etc. PB had also created a new Club Rules document.

PB: annual survey of Members normally goes out in January. MJ: could have a **questionnaire for visitors too? Agreed – good idea.**

NE: should Health and Safety/accidents/near misses be a standing agenda item?
NJ: yes, it is under Business Compliance heading, but the **Board confirmed that the Accident Book (now held in the Pro Shop) should be checked before each Board meeting with any matters raised then to be discussed.**

NE: encouraged eligible Directors to join the Seniors' Section!.

PB: following an email from a member of the Seniors' Section, sought clarification of start time for Seniors' block tee booking – NE confirmed that this should be 9.00 a.m. in the winter and 8.30 a.m. in the summer (when clocks change). **Action: PB to amend.**

ST: tees mower needs replacing, ideally for the end of March – he would like to see a machinery schedule with funds set aside annually to allow a rolling programme. **Agreed: prices for a tees mower to be obtained in consultation with Head Greenkeeper, for consideration by the Board.**

DW: any news on the next round of hospitality sector grants announced by the Government? NJ: previous rounds were distributed by the Council – but some bad news is that the Council has decided to stop the Business Rates exemption for Community Amateur Sports Clubs.

DW: raised suggestion from a member of switching stroke indices of holes 7 and 9 for the men to better reflect degree of difficulty. NJ explained that stroke indices were primarily for matchplay purposes – switching the indices for these holes would mean four holes in a row when the low handicappers would be giving away shots in strokeplay. There were also knock on complications - changing the scorecard and tee signs etc, so the Board did not favour any change.

NJ: he was reviewing the Professional's service level agreement.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on **Monday 7th February** or **Monday 21st February 2022 at 5 p.m.** in the Clubhouse, depending on Directors' availability.