

WARKWORTH GOLF CLUB

Note: items deemed confidential have been withheld from the published minutes

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Monday 8th August 2016

Present: J A Gray (Chair), T Capron (Secretary), G Douglas (Treasurer), K Dalby (Lady Captain), J Douglas, Mrs J Gray, L Wraith, I Moyes. A MacKay

Apologies: none

Minutes of the Meeting Held Monday 18th July 2016:

These were approved as a true record.

Matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:

- (i) In the absence of any progress on money for the juniors from Rotary it was agreed to drop this investigation.
- (ii) There is still no progress with the matter of water ingress into the committee room. The Treasurer will discuss this with Garry Henderson. **GD**
- (iii) The Secretary has yet to deal with the stroke indices for the men's course. **Sect**
- (iv) It was noted that some local clubs are reported to have had a VAT refund. The Treasurer will follow ours up with the accountant as a matter of urgency. **Treas**
- (v) The Secretary reported back on his meeting with ADT Alarms over the false alarms. It appears the problem lies in the Greens shed and is caused by birds. Attempts have been made to stop this but to little effect. Consequently, since we cannot disconnect the alarm due to insurance issues, we will have to live with it until the birds fly. Eventually the only solution will be to completely renovate the shed to try and prevent further bird ingress.
- (vi) The problem with the toilet in the ladies has not been resolved. It was agreed to engage a plumber to fix the problem properly. **Treasurer**
- (vii) The Secretary reported that he has a photo of IM as Safe-Guarding Officer but he has still not yet publicised the position. **Sect**
- (viii) IM advised he has not yet investigated registering the Club as a wedding venue. **IM**
- (ix) It was agreed not to progress any change to drink prices.
- (x) The Secretary advised that the revised clubhouse opening hours had been posted and advised via the newsletter.

Correspondence

None

Finance and Membership:

Item withheld

The Treasurer also gave a summary of spending from October 2015 to June 2016 compared to the previous year. Figures were broadly as expected other than:

- An increase of £2,222 (36%) in clubhouse expenditure. The Treasurer will investigate and report back at the next meeting. **Treasurer**
- An increase of £1,620 in subscriptions. This is due to the County fees having been paid earlier than last year.
- Item withheld

Greens Matters

The minutes of the Greens Committee held 27th June had been circulated previously. Key matters:

1. The weather has prevented treating the clover.
2. The Greenkeeper is taking remedial action to deal with the thatch/fairy ring damage to the 5th and practice greens. However, so far this is not working, and it may be more substantial work will be needed in the winter season.
3. Concern over the state of some tee-boxes, especially the long seed heads that are not removed when the grass is cut.
4. Concern was expressed that the greens appear to be running more slowly than in previous years.
5. Work is to be done on the bunkers to the left of the 8th, right of the 8th fairway and right of the 9th. A member asked why all bunkers are riveted and whether it might be easier if some were sloped to facilitate cutting and to allow grass to grow. A major problem with the riveted bunkers is that the faces dry out and over time collapse.
6. It was agreed that if we hollow-tine this year it should be done in the spare days between the end of summer competitions and start of the Turkey trots. This would be in line with previous practice. This will be discussed with the Greenkeeper to get his expert opinion. However, there was general agreement that the 2016 January tining and subsequent long delay in top-dressing could not be repeated. (See also item (iv) under Competitions.)
7. Comments on the state of the gang mower were noted. It was noted that our financial projections show a fair year-end surplus and that at the year end when the size of this is clear we will decide how best to spend it.
8. Date of next Greens Cttee was agreed as Monday 5th September. The Chairman will advise Cttee members. The matters 1-6 above will be taken up with the greenkeeper either immediately or at the next meeting of the Greens Committee. **Chairman**

Competition Matters

- (i) Mel Patterson & Gary Scott, representing the Club in the Daily Mail Foursomes, have progressed further to the last 32 having beaten Consett.
- (ii) The Match Sect has posted the sheets for the Pat Johnson mixed and the Invitation Day. In respect to the latter it was agreed an entry of £15 per pair. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, longest drive, nearest the pin on 6th and 10th and nearest the pin in 2 at the 18th. A real effort will be made to get a good field. JD to give out cards for the first group, Chairman for the second and Secretary for the final groupings. The Secretary will approach Dave Wilkinson for starting.
- (iii) The Match Sect is still working on the men's errors in the CDH. **Match Sect**
- (iv) Arrangements for Men's Championship Day:
- Match Sect will do the cards/result, assisted by Secretary if the competition overruns.
 - It was noted that some members with handicaps greater than 18 have entered. The Secretary will contact them and ask them to remove their names.
 - The Treasurer will make the presentation after the conclusion of the event.
- (v) In respect to work on the greens it was noted that we are encroaching on the 'free days' built in to the calendar to enable this without too much disruption to playing. The Lady Captain also highlighted the proximity of the Joe Shotton/Lady guest day and Men's Invitation/Ladies Open and that this put a big load on clubhouse and greenkeeping staff. It was agreed this will be looked at for the 2017 fixture list.

Captain's Matters

The Treasurer had previously circulated a list of members in order that possible candidates for the 2017 Captaincy could be identified. The secretary advised that he had approached Alan Hill and was hopeful he would agree. Whilst we wait for an answer we will identify possible fall-back from the list.

Ladies Section

1. The Lady Captain reported that she and Penny Lewis had enjoyed the day representing Northumberland at Harrogate against a Yorkshire team.
2. The Lady Captain gave an update on the proposed 125th anniversary event scheduled for September 28th.

Juniors

It was noted that Adam Wales had won the John Angus Trophy in a countback from Freddie Bremner.

Update on the Bridge

1. The Treasurer is liaising with Northern Structures to ensure the necessary steelwork is on site and ready for use when the time comes for its use.
2. The Ladies highlighted the need for a 'proper' opening when the bridge is complete. They had been thinking about involving those surviving members who had been involved in the construction of the first bridge. The Secretary had also been thinking about this and thought we might be able to get a golfing 'luminary' to do the actual ceremony. The actual detail will be considered further when the time comes

House/Social Matters

1. The Chairman has still to investigate with Michael Scott some form of BBQ. **Chairman**
2. It was noted that Carly Henderson has resigned as cleaner wef 26th August (or earlier if a replacement can start sooner). The Chairman and Treasurer are meeting a possible replacement later in the week. It was agreed the Secretary would arrange for an appropriate leaving gift to Carly in recognition of her support to the Club. **Secretary**

Personnel Matters

The Secretary advised that we need to be taking action wrt the forthcoming pension arrangements. The Club's vesting day is 1st January 2017. He will liaise with the Treasurer to ascertain if the Greenkeeper's current pension meets the requirements. If not we will need to make appropriate arrangements.

Environment Agency

Nothing to report

Wedding

IM gave feedback on the recent wedding held at the Club. He circulated a written report. Overall the event had gone well and the bride and groom had written to the Club thanking it for a good day. A number of improvements we can make for the next wedding in May 2017 were noted.

The Chairman thanked Ian and Carole for organising this event.

AoB

1. The Secretary advised members of the 125th anniversary event being organised by Rothbury GC. On 2nd September. It was agreed the Club would offer first refusal of the available places to those who had gone to Ryton. It was noted that the event clashes with the seniors friendly against Rothbury at home and this might create problems getting enough players.

2. It was agreed that since the Club had a trophy to collect we needed representation, both committee and team, at the NNL dinner. Bearing in mind the Club is required to purchase five tickets, if more than five wish to go the additional cost above that paid by the Club for the five tickets would be split between the total numbers going.
3. IM highlighted the need for an accessible first aid box in the Clubhouse. He will arrange purchase of same. **IM**
4. LW asked about getting a defibrillator. The Secretary will investigate costs/training **.Secretary**

DoNM

Monday 5th September at 10.00am in the clubhouse. **Note – this a week earlier than the date on the calendar.**