

WARKWORTH GOLF CLUB

Note: The published minutes have items deemed confidential withheld.

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Wednesday 16th August 2017

Present: J A Gray (Chairman), G Sawley (Captain), G Douglas (Treasurer), A McKay, D Metcalfe, D Coates

C Douglas (Lady Captain), K Dalby, J Gray, R Barrett

Apologies:

T Capron, I Moyes

Minutes of the Meeting Held Wednesday 17th July 2017:

These were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising

Still no news about the VAT refund. GVD hopes to visit the accountant next week.

DC said that the photographs of the junior coaching and a letter of thanks for the donation still need to be sent to his workplace at COTY

The chairman reported that the stone bollards on the front nine holes met the measurement requirements.

Ragwort has been cleared from the course and disposed of.

No price yet for a touch screen

The chairman spoke to the green keeper about course preparation for future events – however the green keeper already had all the events noted by the secretary marked on his wall calendar

DM still working on finding roofing panels for the green keeper's hut

The defibrillator has now been connected to the electricity supply'.

DM stated that MUTA had nothing to do with the H&S Executive who would only be called in only if a safety issue had happened at an event. He said it was up to the persons/firm/marquee company who supply the marquee, generators, electricity connections etc. to provide all insurance and health and safety documentation to the organisers of the event.

Correspondence

Golf Magazine Adverse Comment by someone who played at the club on 27th July stating that "there was nobody to help at 10.00am, no food available, a tedious experience when other players are slow, course layout fair, condition of course good, stunning views but unable to recommend it".

Finance and Membership

Item withheld

GVD and GS asked for a meeting of the Finance Committee.

DC asked if he could have a list of membership numbers at the club over the last 10 or so years.

GVD would try to supply this.

It was agreed to offer Winter Membership from Monday 2nd October until the end of the winter season – in March 2018 for £125.00

Minutes of Greens Committee

It was agreed that new course furniture will need to be purchased once the course re-assessment has been done.

For the benefit of visitors it was agreed that a direction sign should be placed beside the 3rd/12th tees to indicate the direction of the hole.

It was also agreed that a black and white marker should be placed on top of the first central hump area over the road to encourage visitors to aim for the 5th green from the 5th tee box and not aim for the 6th green.

It was agreed that the greens should not be hollow tined this year, saving £1,000. The greens will be top dressed in late September. The block work in the Top dressing bay can then be repaired prior to ordering a new supply of top dressing in 2018

The green keeper has been given permission to purchase a new product which will kill the coarse rye grass and meadow.

The committee thought that the greenkeeper's suggestion that he could fill in the two lhs greenside bunkers on the 4th green was unachievable with his current workload and the current staffing situation. This project will be put on hold for the moment.

GVD will review the recent spending on maintenance of grass cutting units. Currently the green keeper strips them down, reassembles and then sends them away for blade sharpening. It is thought that if the agricultural engineers could do the whole job, be more cost effective, and allow the green keeper to spend more time on the course rather than be in the shed.

The last divot filling exercise was a disaster with only 1 man and two ladies turning up to help.

A new date has been arranged for divot filling on Thursday 21st September at 5.00pm. GS will put a sheet up for volunteer helpers from The Gents and Ladies sections. If there are not enough names down by 2 days before then the event will not go ahead. JAG volunteered to drive the tractor / Cushman.

Greens Matters

Update on the course re-assessment

Measurement done but the 18th hole will be re-measured as a dog leg on Friday 18th August by Keith Eddy from K&M Golf

GVD will get a price for repairing The Green keeper's shed

The next Greens Meeting already organised for 12th September has been changed to Tuesday 5th September at 4.00pm because the main committee meeting is on Monday 11th September at 10.00is

Concern was expressed by DC and DM that because of work commitments and following the email from IM re pre arranged meetings perhaps we should re-visit arrangements for committee meetings.

It was felt that the bell situation needs improving. The bell needs to be placed on one of the bridge uprights or made in the fashion of the one in killie. The current gas bottle is too large and we need a sign beside it.

A list of course signage required has already been brought to the committee (done by AM) but nothing has been done about it.

Another ball washer has been requested. (DC)

The Green keeper has reported a design fault on the new gang mower in the fact that it will not allow the operator to do sharp 'u' turns. Alan has had a conversation with the machine sales rep from Greenlay about it and they are contacting the supplier.

Competition/Handicap Matter

The Secretary is asked to write to (withheld) regarding an incident where he removed an out of bounds marker on the 9th hole to play his shot (stating that the scorecard indicated that it was a movable obstruction).

The Final of The Glendale Cup Warkworth GC v Alnmouth Foxton GC will be played at Alnwick GC on Sunday 24th September. Support for our fine team of players will be much appreciated.

Captain's Matters

The Captain spoke of The Club Championship in which 31 players had participated. The presentations were made to Ross Young - Club Champion Gross Winner, and to Dale Elgar Net winner on the 18th green. This was much appreciated by members.

DC asked if next year the Club Championship could be arranged so that competitors played in groups of 3.

It had been asked by a competitor if there could be a 'morning' and an 'afternoon' sweep.

The Scratch team has issued a challenge to club members for a match in September/October. Any interested members are asked to add their name to the sheet in the gent's locker room.

GS said that he has been unable to arrange a 'Fun Day' for the Junior section as there are no vacant Sundays left in the club calendar

GS asked if we were having a New Year Party. CD suggested a Pooled supper and JAG asked if 'Before the Mast' were available? (This will have to be discussed at a later date because of the reluctance of many members to attend such functions).

The captain had asked 1 adult and 2 juniors to leave the course as they were carrying clubs – no bags. He asked them to return to the club when the stewardess was there and they would have their fee refunded.

Ladies Matters

Locks in the Ladies locker room are broken. GS to fix new door bolts.

Ladies Bingo night 28th September. All welcome. – Poster required for the Caravan Site

Juniors

IM has provided a press release for Messrs Cussins builders for their donation to The Junior Section.

Photographs of our Juniors with the Sales Rep from the Guilden Place site are required

Seniors

The Seniors section has split apart. – Need for discussion at the next meeting

Update on the Bridge

The Bridge opening will take place on Monday 28th August. George Young will 'open' The Bridge. Michael Sawley has been invited by his brother – Captain Graham Sawley to take photographs.

All bridge workers have been informed that their presence is required for a group photograph. Christine and Tim will arrange 'The Nibbles'

The chairman has invited Alan Dalby- Greenkeeper to be at the ceremony and to play in the golf competition.

No format has yet been arranged or a decision made on how partners are chosen. Some members were unhappy at the thought of 'a draw' and said most people would want to play in friendship groups

The Golf Event needs to happen in a Shotgun Start format so everyone gets back to the clubhouse at a similar time

CD suggested that we have a plaque on the bridge indicating the year of build and the names of those who assisted with the build - Agreed

Environment Agency/Flooding

Nothing to report – no meetings have taken place

Clubhouse/Social Matters

Coffee sachets and stirring sticks are to be provided at the coffee machine

Proposal to remove the cask beer and only sell bottled beer – especially over the winter.

Cask beer could be brought in for major functions.

The new manager at the caravan site is asking for liaison between the golf club and the caravan site. He would like the clubhouse to be available for caravan club functions. DM will contact the new manager perhaps to arrange a meeting at the clubhous

Personnel Matters

Item withheld

AoB

DM said the First Aid boxes currently in place in the clubhouse were not suitable for use in commercial / leisure premises and he would supply and replenish appropriate boxes

IM stated that when he was sleeping overnight overseeing the wedding arrangements a car and its two occupants were trespassing on the premises. He asks if the last car leaving the premises on an evening should shut the gate.

DM thinks we are losing money from green fees from early morning visitors who play at dawn / 6.00am and there is nowhere to sign in or deposit money. He suggests leaving the porch door open. (Perhaps mid April – mid September?) – To be considered for next year!

DoNM

Proposed as Monday 11th September at 10.00am in the Clubhouse

John A Gray 16 August 2017