



Chairman's Blog - December 2018

I would like to firstly take this opportunity to thank all the members who have expressed their support for me in my new role as Chairman and echo the thanks to those guys that gave their time in completing the new Golf Nets, which are a real benefit to golfers. The area surrounding the nets behind the Pro Shop is being costed for the laying of Tarmac and this will be taken forward at the next Board Meeting.

Talking of which, I give below a short summary of the major points discussed at the December Board Meeting:

Fire Risk Assessment: Steve Murphy presented the up-to-date position re the FRA and following a recent false alarm in the evening. The Health and Safety Consultant has complimented the staff on the progress made since the last inspection and all staff will receive additional Fire Training, including extinguishers in the New Year. In the meantime, the bar staff will be reminded of the exit procedures. All tests on fire points and emergency lighting are up to date.

Voting Procedures Update – BP and SM to meet towards the end of January to produce a more up-to-date voting procedure for the meetings and to present back at the next Board meeting.

Golf Plan: Club Membership Insurance – A tremendous success and approx. 100 members have already signed up. Full policy wording, T&Cs, Policy Schedule and Information on Insurance Act, have all been posted on a separate page for members' access, entitled Golf Plan Insurance Documents and this can be found under the "Golf" tab on the website.

R&A Rules Modernisation – SM gave a brief synopsis of the impending Rules Modernisation, which takes effect from 1st January 2019. All of the Golf Committee have attended the England Golf Rules presentation, and this will be presented to the membership on Friday 11th January at both 2pm and again at 7pm (similar to the website launch earlier this year). The Club will provide a finger buffet for attendees. An article will be posted on the Forum of this important change, and also a follow-up e mail to all Golfing members.

Treasurer's Report – Neal has been working on a useful spreadsheet to enable easy comparison on monthly, cumulative and full year basis. Cumulative profit so far is in line with last year with main income lines holding steady. The Spreadsheet will be reviewed on a monthly basis in conjunction with the cash flow forecast. The recent valuation organised for Santander has a useful synopsis of the golf industry and the challenges that it faces.

Catering update – SM is still spending an inordinate amount of time organising the catering business, but things have started to turn around. Recent staff changes have improved, service in the kitchen and the three most recent events (Sunday carvery / Probus and Seniors Christmas Lunch) all received excellent reviews for both service and quality. Despite numerous reminders a presence in the bar on Sunday lunchtimes would undoubtedly improve both relations and takings

Then it was onto the Directors own Reports:

Captain:

Annual Dinner Dance it was suggested that this be moved to a Summer Ball, replacing the Captain's Summer party on the 8th June 2019 – will have the same dress code ie lounge/dinner suits, to retain the more formal format. The normal presentation of the Captain's Drive In ball and his first speech will be made at The International as this will be the Captain's first official event.

Captain's Prize - also a suggestion for a change from the sit down (of those invited), to a more informal 'all-comers' buffet. Both of these were agreed as it is the Captain's choice, and these will be taken into account.

Membership:

Numbers are holding up pretty well and a handful up on last month. The new winter recruitment drive has just started, we have Facebook launch and flyers are due to be received this week. Winter offer will be free golf until 31/5/19 as long as the 2019 subs are paid in full (or in two instalments). The budget of £6k has not been utilised, yet with the brochures / FB / wedding and Surrey Golf Magazine, anticipated spend is only half the budget. An in depth discussion followed, re maximising top line income and possibly approaching a professional marketing company.

Guests' sign in procedures – were discussed and it was agreed that, with affect from the 1st January 2019, the maximum no. of guests' visits per person will drop from 12 to 6, and this includes concessionary vouchers and ordinary GFs. It seems a fair number for one person to have the benefit of reduced fees. It was also confirmed that if any reduced fee is charged that the member introducing that person, must be in attendance in the pro shop to sign them in.

Golf & Greens:

Practice Nets update – have been set up and have been well received. The area surrounding the nets is now in need of refurbishment and LC to obtain quotes for tarmacking the area. The large veteran oak tree has been pollarded and will go some way to helping this area.

Despite staff shortages and RE's extended absence, the guys are doing a great job on leaf collecting. Winter Tee Mats – will be in operation by Friday 7th December.

House:

Garage Doors – to be completed by the end of this week.

Discussion about a wall mounted heater for smokers and LC & SM to assess the situation and report back.

Ladies Vanity Unit – various quotes have been obtained and it was agreed that Steve Denman be approached to install at £540 quoted all in, including the mirror.

Visitors' Toilets – Michael Piludu has done some remedial work to these and has been charged minimal labour. Re the refurb, Keith Smith has been given a list by MP to get prices from Harris & Bailey for numerous items which can then be price checked.

Social:

Events 2019 – BP, SH & TP met with Dave Langton re the 2019 entertainment and it was agreed that for functions like NY's Eve, there should be no break in the entertainment and to have a DJ in the interval. For Friday nights at the Club where we have an act, it was suggested we have a quiz, the band, break with results and the band then return.

That pretty much wraps up the year for the Board and the next meeting is in January to follow up on these topics.

That just leaves me to wish all our Members a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. If you are joining us for the New Year's Eve Ball, then you will have a great time.

Kind regards

Nick Phipps

Chairman