

## Seniors Committee Minutes for June 26th 2018.

1. **Present:** Keith Hitchcock, Allan Davies, Peter Kirton, Robin Marling, Tony Pawson, Nigel Teale, Mike Travis.

**Apologies:** Andy Peet, Les Facer, (Ron Barker)

In the Captains absence, the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Captain Keith

### 2. **Previous Minutes/Matters arising**

Allan reported that the Historic Photographs project is not yet quite complete. The current spend is £341 with the projected final spend less than £450. There will be a plaque showing that the displays were funded by the Seniors.

### 3. **Secretary's Business**

Nil

### 4. **Opens Report**

- Robin reported that overall the opens have done well and that, except for the Singles, they had attracted more visitors than last year.

	Singles		Pairs		Am Am		Mixed	
	Visitors	WGC	Visitors	WGC	Visitors	WGC	Visitors	WGC
2018	44	49	116	36	114	42	91	29
2017	55	38	99	47	96	48	56	32

- Robin noted that it had been a challenge to get 93 entrants to the Singles Open and, with the drop in visitors wondered if the format of the event is correct. A discussion followed with various options discussed.
- One option discussed was for the Singles Open to be combined with a Three-ball alliance. This might be more attractive to visitors and overcome the problem caused by the computer booking system where a group of players have difficulty booking to play together.
- *Following the meeting, after consultation with the Pro, it is now proposed to run the Singles Open simply as in 2018.*
- Robin Noted that the new format for the Mixed Open has boosted entrant numbers although it seems difficult to fill start times prior to 1000. This is also a problem for the Ladies Opens. He wondered if a later

start should be considered in the future, but noted that tee times for the 2019 Mixed open would remain from 0900-1430.

- Financially the opens have been a success, generating for the club £5500 in green fees and £2500 to Catering. The contribution to the Senior section funds figures are yet finalised, but are likely to be approximately £600 spread across the four events. The twos showed a slight profit overall.
- Robin will propose to the Club Opens meeting that due to high demand he would like to extend the Am Am first tee time forward to 0800. He considers, backed up by the committee that 1430 should remain as the last start time to allow other WGC members use of the course on Opens event days.

## **5. H & C Report**

- Mike reported that there are only 25 entrants for the Coreless Goblets so far and he will need to discuss with Tony the prizes for that event.
- The Seniors 'International match' (between the Peoples Republic of Hanley Swan the Anglos and the Celts [west of the hills]) is very popular with 40 entrants. Mike had to remove the sheet early but this number will still necessitate a rolling lunch. He hopes that early tee off players will stay for the presentation.
- Mike is suggesting that the Champion of Champion's event is moved forward to October rather than December.
- At the recent H & C meeting, many items were discussed.
  - Mike Sterry will remain in post following his resignation until replaced at the now delayed Club AGM.
  - The increased number of Club fixtures is causing many Tee closures but is mainly a weekend problem. Despite this, we may be affected.
  - With the last point in mind we note that from the agreed number of Seniors matches in 2018, two home fixture dates were not used and, even if we do not use them every year, we wish to retain their approval to act as a buffer when introducing new clubs to our fixture list.

- The 2019 diary update information will be available by the end of October hence, Andy needs to get our dates in by then but currently, Kington is the only outstanding fixture to be confirmed.
- From October, following the experiment of dual tee events, midweek competitions will be played from both the white and yellow tees. Prizes will be organised by having a single division for the White tee entrants and another for the yellow tee entrants.
- Following a member complaint, the R & A have been approached regarding Greens Staff playing in club competitions. They confirmed that this is approved.
- For Club competitions, again following a member complaint, a new Rule has been approved giving the Chairman discretion to approve date extensions.
- Following examination of previous H & C committee minutes, the following starting Tees are approved for Club matches. 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> for starts before 0930. 1<sup>st</sup> plus 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> providing the 2<sup>nd</sup> fairway is clear when starting off the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The previous item is relevant due club members complaints about speed of play during Seniors matches. The meeting also noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> tee is often opened to club members prior to the advertised end of closure, this contributes to the problem.
- The Club prize presentation day will follow a shotgun start competition which will be open to members but will include all prize winners in the field.

## **6. Treasurer's Business**

- Tony reported that the section finances are very healthy with £2640 in the bank and £113.35 in cash.
- The year's tankards are bought with the contributions from 2018 opens to be added when the final figure is agreed.
- When the Photo project is complete something less than £450 will be paid out.
- There is an ongoing anomaly in the way the club office is allowed to calculate profit from the Opens, this causes difficulty in accounting but its resolution is not in our hands.

## **7. Captain's Business**

In Andy's absence, Keith presented his points.

- Invitees to the Seniors Annual Dinner. Following discussion, the meeting felt that the past practice of inviting the Club Captain and Ladies Captain including partners should continue. In addition, although it was not common practice, we felt that the Club chairman and partner should be invited in order to assist Seniors integration within the Club.
- The Menu for the annual dinner will be on the notice board very shortly.
- Andy notes that he has had significant problems raising teams of 16 for all fixtures. He has had to ring round on numerous occasions including at the last minute. Discussion followed with past Captains reporting the same issue. Possible reasons include:
  - Increase in club midweek competitions
  - Late starts at two away matches
  - More than one match in a week
  - Cost
- Discussion followed where the meeting felt that we should over time move towards a mix of 16 and 12 man teams. Some clubs will not entertain less than 16 players; they should remain providing we wish to play them. New clubs should only be brought in on a 12 man team basis. Direct contact with other clubs might meet with a mutual agreement to reduce to 12.
- The meeting also noted that some may not put their names down for matches because they perceive a clique of 'match players' that they do not belong to. This perception needs to be changed and Keith intends to formalise his plans at the AGM in order to attempt to encourage others to participate.

## **9. Any Other Business:**

- Robin raised a question regarding the current defunct club sign on the approach to the Club. He wondered if we might offer to commission a new cast iron sign made by a member of the Seniors section as previously offered to the club. On examination of the likely costs, the meeting felt that this was not an option but that if a painted wooden sign was proposed by the club, we might contribute. Alan will investigate the Clubs plans.
- Keith noted that next year's Captains away day will be at Ladbrook Park on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

- Keith asked if there was an approved formal process for the selection of Vice-captains. Opinion was that there is not but that good procedure might be for current Captain and Vice-captain to discuss the matter, approach any individuals and then propose them to the committee. It was also noted that in some circumstances this is not always possible.

**10. Date for the next meeting:**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 1000

The meeting closed at 1200