



MINEHEAD & WEST SOMERSET GOLF CLUB

The Warren, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5SJ

Telephone: Secretary (01643) 702057 Professional: (01643) 704378 Fax. (01643) 705095

Minutes of the Management Meeting of Minehead Golf Club 27th May 2014

Present - Paul Fullbrook , Phil Arbourne, Ian Gover, John A'Court, John Fulwell, Tony Bowden, Jayne Fulwell , Dorian Bickerstaff (voting members)

In attendance - Steve Archer, Club President Trevor John and Steve Kaye (for Will Elston)

1 - Apologies

Ros Chidgey, Kay Lockett, Gerry Mason, Phil Bowden, Will Elston

2 - Minutes of the April meeting

These were approved with the inclusion of Dorian Bickerstaff's name under apologies.

3 - Matters Arising

a - Course Marshal - Various members of the MC and the Pro have been marshaling the first tee in the early evening and some members of the rugby club have been apprehended trying to play golf without paying. The Chairman has spoken to the chairman of the rugby club and they have not tried to play for free since. Some signs have been ordered, stating that we have marshals. We do have a badge that will be left behind the bar for a course marshal to use together with a note book to record who is doing the job and who they find trespassing.

Steve Archer to send out an e-mail asking for volunteers.

b - Craig Valentine has resigned from the MC since the last meeting and John Fulwell had raised a concern as Craig is our active link with Lynch's and therefore the landfill. Craig has agreed to carry on in this role.

c - Green Fees (now we have buggies) - Ian is sending out leaflets with parcels and the positive attitude, constructive attitude shown by the current set up in the pro-shop, was acknowledged.

d - Contracts - Tony Bowden is trying to finalise these. It was suggested that the hourly paid staff might be put onto a higher rate in lieu of being paid separately for their holidays. John Fulwell thought this would be a good idea as the calculation for holiday pay is very complicated and has caused problems in the past. It was also suggested by Paul Fullbrook, that as Liam Fleming was in charge of the kitchen, that he should be on a monthly salary. Any change would need to be agreed by the member of staff concerned as they are not required to change from the current regime. This change would not apply to seasonal staff. The holiday year has already been changed to 1/4 to 31/3 to encourage holidays to be taken. It was unanimously agreed to consult with the staff so that we can move on finalising contracts. Proposals will be e-mailed so that this can be resolved before the next meeting. New contracts could then start from 1/7/14.

e - Course Toilet - The lock has now been sorted out. Thanks to Bob Williamson

g - Bonus for green staff - this will now be paid with their June salary.

h - Financial Sub-committee - Andy Giles has agreed to join this group and the treasurer has 2 other people to contact.

4 - Treasurer

All members of the MC had received a copy of the April accounts and the year to date. John Fulwell went through them in some detail.

a - Subscription income and green fee income are both still disappointing. These are key areas that need to be improved. May Membership Month has not been a success in terms of members bringing friends to play golf, but at the present we do not know what the impact of the £50 bonus for new member introductions will be.

b - VAT claim on green fees - our advisors have recommended that we do not pay VAT on green fees from April 1st. this year. This will give us additional income over the remainder of the year. The situation on the refunding of VAT is still unresolved, but we could receive up to 4 years VAT on green fees as a refund.

c - Money will be set aside from the landfill income to cover the improvements required on the course to accommodate buggies.

d - Bar and catering figures were good for April.

e - There is some concern with regard to the level of spending on the course, this can be fully investigated when there is a new greens member in place.

f - There was an unbudgeted cost for repairs to the clubhouse roof, light and heating costs were falling a little, and this should continue now we are on a new electricity tariff. The lights have still not been replaced as the wrong "frames" were sent. The clubhouse will be out of action for a day while they are being installed.

g - The insurers have received a formal claim from the Taunton Vale member who slipped outside the ladies changing rooms. There is an assessor visiting the club on June 4th.

5 - Section Reports

a - Marketing -

1 - Dave Dennis has resigned due to a new work commitment.

2 - There was some discussion about the Minehead Festival in August and the MC confirmed their former decision to be open to the public on August 13th only, as it was felt to agree to all five days was unfair to staff and members. We are still waiting to hear whether there will be a music event on Friday evening. The traders will be provided with 10 car parking spaces for the duration of the event, some parking stickers will be made.

3 - We will look at putting a banner on the fence by the entrance saying membership available.

b - Competitions -

Only one since the last meeting - The Centenary Cup. Some of the KO's are not getting completed on time, it was agreed to remove names if the deadline was passed and no extension had been granted.

c - Juniors -

1 - Ian is in the process of putting in a bid for financial support for all aspects of junior promotion. To make the bid stronger it also needs to include lessons for one male and one female beginner. John A'Court pointed out that we now have the planning permission for the driving bays and therefore this side of the work with juniors needs to be emphasised. There may be some financial help from county to help with the development of these. The money that Ian Gover is applying for is not for capital projects.

2 - Welfare Officer - Steve Plenty has agreed to take on this role. DBS checks are going ahead.

d - Captains Report -

1 - Match at Enmore away, lost 71/2 21/2

2 - Since the previous meeting Phil has restarted the Captains Committee, with past captains. They are going to carry on the newsletter, look at getting the club in the press as much as possible and help with the Arnold Palmer.

6 - EGM Update -

a - There was discussion on the date and it was agreed to hold it on June 26th.

b - In order for the seniors to be represented on the MC rule 5 will need to be amended. Paul Fullbrook read out the resolution that will be used at the EGM. If passed all sections of the rules relating to the election of officers will be amended to include a specific member of the seniors section. The rule changes also include how the Senior section would elect that representative. Steve Kaye expressed a concern that the resolution was going to be a divisive, because the seniors as, as a section, only wanted to be supportive. Ian Gover expressed concern that other groups within the club may seek representation in the same way, which could have the effect of making an already large group totally unworkable.

c - Proposed change to membership rules. Paul Fullbrook went through the proposed zones for country membership. All new and existing categories will be charged as a percentage of the full membership fee for that year. The term country member would be deleted in favour of simply having members in categories by zone. The boundary change to the current country membership would mean a loss of about £4,000, based on present numbers. We will need to attract 10 new members in zone 2 to make up for this. The changes will be used as a marketing tool, to attract people from the Bridgwater, Taunton and Tiverton areas. Zone 3 would make membership more attractive to people who have holiday homes in the area. The first resolution on membership will be to remove the detailed membership categories from the rules. The proposal to be taken to the EGM was read out. Honorary Members and Fully Subscribed members will still be in the rules. Members would have to be informed of any changes to membership categories at least 3 months before the start of the next membership year. All were agreed with the outline for the EGM, John Fulwell (as treasurer) expressed a concern about the initial loss of income for 2015, but agreed that we need to move with the times to make membership categories more flexible. Work will need to be done to make the new category attractive. Paul Fullbrook and Gerry Mason will be taking the lead at the EGM. Proxy voting will be available.

Date of the EGM Thursday 26th June 7.00pm

7 - Greens

1 - Craig Valentine has resigned from the MC for various reasons. At the moment Rob Barrett is reporting to Paul Fullbrook, with everything in writing. We need someone to take the responsibility as there is a large percentage of the budget that goes on the course and it needs monitoring. Graham Wells has expressed privately that he would be interested in doing the job. After some discussion it was decided that the chairman should speak to him when he returns from holiday, with a view to co-opting him onto the MC if he is interested.

2 - Buggies. All the new buggies are the responsibility of Ian Read, and the pro shop is paying for them. Before the buggies arrived, John Bickerton, Craig Valentine, Ian Read, Paul Fullbrook and Rob Barrett, all went round the course in the teaching buggy and agreed that the course could accommodate them. There are still some areas of the course that will need work doing on them in order to make them "buggy friendly". This has not as yet been done. Rob Barrett has expressed his considerable reservations about 2 seater buggies and a letter from him was read out to the MC. All the necessary insurance for the buggies is in place. Rob Barrett has been given a letter absolving him from responsibility for buggy safety. The chairman has asked Rob Barrett for costing for the changes need, but at the time of the meeting there had been no response. There was another letter from Rob Barrett explaining that there were too many other ongoing projects and therefore, with all the recent grass growth as well, they had not been able to get on with the paths. Rob Barrett also expressed his concern about the single seater buggies that were used by some members, as not being fit for purpose. A concern had been raised by Sandra Atkins who had seen a buggy going over the bridge on the 4th hole. This had happened because the mapping zones had not arrived, so that the GPS on the buggies was not working fully. Signs are now in place.

8 - AOB -

1 - There is a competition in memory of Everett Hartley, it has been penciled in for July 4th, but as we have a wedding next day and they will want to get into the clubhouse from 6pm, another date will have to be found. Dorian Bickerstaff will find a Tuesday to run it on instead.

2 - We have a link with Somerset County Cricket Club and permission was sought to put up some posters around the club. They will be looking to promote a golf day, probably next year. This was agreed.

3 - RND have presented the seniors with a pendant, as they are celebrating 150 years. Steve Kaye asked if it could be displayed in the clubhouse. This was agreed.

4 - Some old lockers were in the way in the trolley shed. Paul Fullbrook volunteered to take them to the tip.

5 - There were some applications for membership. Including applications for full members. John Fulwell will deal with these.

6 - Letter from Dermot Hurley asking for consideration as he broke his collar bone and has been unable to play. He has carried on his direct debit, it was agreed to discount his membership next year.

7 - Phil asked the chairman to direct Rob Barrett to put in clearer directional signage around the 13th green / 14th tee area.

10 - Next Meeting

Monday 23rd June 6 pm (put before the EGM so that any issues can be sorted out)