



Donnington Grove Golf Club	
Attendees:	Andy Storer (AS), Tom Fleming (TF), Steve Lillywhite (SL), Alison Lillywhite (AL), Sandy Byfield (SB) Nigel Roberts-Green (NRG), Patrick Griffin (PG)) Nigel Bell (NB) Gary Rinaldi(GR) Gill Lane (GL)
Apologies:	Cliff Westly (CW) Dave Knight (DK)
Minute Taker:	Andy Storer(AS)
	Date: Tuesday 2nd March 2021 19.00 Location: Digital meeting (Teams)

Agenda

- Welcome and Apologies.
- Minutes of last meeting
- Matters/Actions arising from minutes.
- Officer's Reports received by e-mail prior to team's meetings.
 - General Management Report by e-mail
 - Director of Golf's Report (Inc. Course Report) by e-mail
 - Treasurer's Report by e-mail
 - Competitions & Handicaps Secretary's Report by e-mail
 - Comps Committee report (Feb Comps Report)
 - Lady Captain's Report by e-mail
 - Seniors Captain's Report by e-mail
- Questions only Re above reports
- Memorial Garden
- AGM
 - Constitution. pending AGM
 - Committee Structure including sub committees. pending AGM
- Members Question
- A.O.B

Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the November meeting were approved by committee and signed by the Captain

Matters/Actions arising from minutes

(AS) Where are we up to with taking card payments for competitions through the V1 system is this 100% in place. All members who entered Robert Burns competition had charges applied to their competition accounts, this would indicate the system works. Information regarding topping up of competition account is required to be made available to the membership. Also, the Sandtrend merchant number is also required to be added to the system for payments to be taken (NRB)and (TF)

(NRG/TF) Will look by 3rd March. Will then speak with (GL) reference monthly invoice for monies received to Sandtrend for payment back to committee for competition fees taken on the V1 app. Possible % deduction for CC/DC usage. All competitions with payment facility, will be adjusted not to take payment at booking.

(AS) A lady member informed me she has had two falls due to the slippery nature of the foot bridge over the river. (TF) I will ask Dave to have a look at the bridge. has several non-slip strips which could be applied to the bridge surface, a more permanent solution is trying to be sourced.

(NRB) Rod will be cleaning the bridge and securing all loose boards and will re-fit nonslip strips. Completed by end March

(SB) Do we think there is an opportunity for us to publish a weekly/monthly newsletter to the members. All agreed a great idea, a one-page document with input from all sections of the club, including management and greenkeepers

Each new Sub-Committees will be producing a newsletter each month.

(SL) to canvass the membership for a willing editor via the website.

(Ongoing) **(On hold pending restructure)**

(SL) Has produced a notice for the website and notice boards to encourage possible applicants for the post of editor. (On hold pending restructure)

General Managers Report

Positive times ahead as we enter march and look forward to the 29th which will see the return of golf to Donnington Grove. From the 12th April we will open the halfway hut and serve food and drinks from the bar for daily table service outside. From the 17 May, all being well, we plan to open all services including inside seating in the bar and restaurant, overnight accommodation, and meeting rooms. From the 21 June there are no restrictions applied to capacities so larger social gatherings can begin. We have already seen an increase in the parties and weddings being booked for the summer months which is very encouraging.

Step 1 - 8 and 29 March

Changes on 8 March

Education

In Step 1, our priority is to ensure that all children and students return safely to face-to-face education in schools and colleges from 8 March. Childcare and children's supervised activities can also resume where necessary to enable parents to work or engage in similar activities. We are introducing twice-weekly rapid testing for secondary and college pupils - in addition to regular testing for all teachers - to reduce the chance of the virus spreading in schools. Higher Education students at English universities on practical courses can also return from 8 March.

Social contact

People will be allowed to leave home for recreation and exercise outdoors with their household or support bubble, if they are eligible for one, or with one person from outside their household. Care home residents will also be allowed one regular visitor.

Changes on 29 March

Social contact

The evidence shows that it is safer for people to meet outdoors rather than indoors. And this is why from 29 March, when most schools start to break up for the Easter holidays, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.

Business and activities

Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, and open-air swimming pools, will also be allowed to reopen, and people will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports.

Travel

The 'stay at home' rule will end on 29 March but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes. Travel abroad will continue to be prohibited, other than for a small number of permitted reasons. Holidays abroad will not be allowed, given it will remain important to manage the risk of imported variants and protect the vaccination programme. The government has launched a new taskforce to review global travel which will report on 12 April.

Golf open at Donnington Grove Pro-shop manned to register players but shop will be "closed"

Step 2 - not before 12 April

Business and activities

Step 2, which will be no earlier than 12 April, will see the opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen (but only for use by people on their own or in household groups); as will most outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues, zoos, theme parks, and drive-in cinemas. Self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households, can also reopen.

Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors at Step 2 and there will be no need for customers to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and no curfew, although customers must order, eat and drink while seated ('table service'). Wider social contact rules will apply in all these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.

Events

While funerals can continue with up to 30 mourners, the number of people able to attend weddings, receptions, and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15.

Halfway Hut open but no seating indoors allowed.

Beau's Bar open offering table service for outside seating only.

Hotel remains closed

Step 3 - not before 17 May

Social contact

As part of Step 3, no earlier than 17 May, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.

This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply - we will keep under review whether it is safe to increase this.

As soon as possible and by no later than Step 3, we will also update the advice on social distancing between friends and family, including hugging. But until this point, people should continue to keep their distance from anyone not in their household or support bubble.

Business and activities

Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen. In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits. Indoor hospitality will reopen - and as in Step 2, venues will not have to serve a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks; nor will there be a curfew. Customers will, however, have to order, eat and drink while seated.

Other indoor locations to open up in Step 3 include indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; and indoor adult group sports and exercise classes. The government will also allow some larger performances and sporting events in indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number), and in outdoor venues with a capacity of 4,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number). In the largest outdoor seated venues, where crowds can be spread out, up to 10,000 people will be able to attend (or a quarter-full, whichever is lower).

Events

Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions, and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.

Review of social distancing

Finally, before Step 4 begins, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home – which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.

All Hotel services to open, including bedrooms.

Indoor seated table service for food and drinks in Beaus' Bar and Restaurant

Step 4 - not before 21 June

Social contact

By Step 4 which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.

Business, activities and events

We hope to reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease the restrictions on large events and performances that apply in Step 3. This will be subject to the results of a scientific Events Research Programme to test the outcome of certain pilot events through the spring and summer, where we will trial the use of testing and other techniques to cut the risk of infection. The same Events Research Programme will guide decisions on whether all limits can be removed on weddings and other life events.

As we move through each of these phases in the roadmap, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives. We are going to have to keep living our lives differently to keep ourselves and others safe. We must carry on with 'hands, face, space'. Comply with the COVID-Secure measures that remain in place. Meet outdoors when we can and keep letting fresh air in. Get tested when needed. Get vaccinated when offered. If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.

For now, I know that the golf course is seeing lots of improvements thanks to Dave, Tom and the team that have returned from their time furloughed. We have met with the environment agency to review water levels on the 10th and in the balancing ponds. They have given us assurance that there is no work downstream that would have affected the levels being high. They have suggested and highlighted some positive opportunities that we will explore that may clear the water in the ditch allowing more surface water to run from the course. I am meeting with the directors on Wednesday (tomorrow) to finalise the membership renewal offer and incentive which will be communicated to the members this week.

Matters/Actions arising from the GM report

(AS) Will the halfway house not be open 29th March for members refreshments. It must be considered a takeaway venue.

(NRG) Will investigate the feasibility and definition of a takeaway, we will open the halfway house if possible.

(CW) What is the plan for inclement weather for outside the hospitality when we are able.

(NRG) We have several parasols and large umbrellas.

(PG) Will there be signage posted around the estate to indicate the golf course will be opening, and public right of way will not be allowed.

(NRG) Signage will be posted around the estate by Friday of this week.

(SL) Will the proposed gate at the estate main entrance still go ahead.

(NRG) The gate project is still on the list; however, we will have more pressing expenditure in the coming months.

Director of Golf Report

England Golf have released an exit plan for the 29th March. Play will resume in fourballs. The Tee booking system will re-open, to book two weeks in advance 22nd March. Members and guest only to start, will monitor tee bookings and may open non-members bookings for next day availability if demand allows. Locker rooms will remain closed except for access to retrieve clubs etc, and for toilet facilities. I will be sending out correspondence regarding the clubs' expectations regarding gatherings and the consumption of post round drinks on the premises.

Myself, Dave, and Andy have been busy around the course, focus has been the front 9, drainage works have been completed, I hope the long-term effect of these improvements will be good. All the Tees and greens have now been cored and dressed ready for fertiliser when the greens team return to work. A new path has been completed from the buggy path up to the men's yellow tee on hole 11, this was a particular area for damage through the winter months.

All aprons and green approaches will be scarified and seeded before we return to play, and all greens are to be overseeded prior to the resumption of play also. All fairways have had first and second cuts.

Areas of overgrowth have been trimmed back in areas enabling easier use of the buggy paths on return to play, and some major clearance work has been completed around the 6th tee area and the 2nd green and 3rd tee also. It is hoped the course will grow back behind the men's 3rd tee and it will be easily managed in the future by the greens team.

Special thanks to Kevin Walker who has been a painting dynamo, re-painting tee signs bell posts and anything else that needed a spruce up. The course Marshalls have also been busy cleaning buggies and collecting balls from the range as well as digging balls out of the ground on the range. Thank you to all members and DG team who have help improve and keep the course close to ready to play over the lockdown period. Dave is keen to carry on the great work next winter, to complete some smaller projects on the front nine and to make a start on the back nine as well.

Matters/Actions arising from the D.O.G report

(GL) The county Duncome trophy is played in a two-ball format, are we OK to enter the competition considering the possible demand for tee space.

(TF) **That should not be a problem, I would just ask to be kept up to speed when you know dates and times. I would prefer weekend times post noon if possible.**

(SB) Will we be able to book 18-hole rounds or still only 9 holes to start.

(TF) **Due to lighter nights after the clocks go forward, I am hoping demand will not exceed availability, so full 18-hole rounds will be available. With this in mind as reported booking will be members 13 days in advance, Green fees 3 days, and members guests will only be allowed to play 6 times in a year at the guest rate, eg; - Fred the guest can play as many times as he wishes with any member, however he will only be charged a guest green fee 6 times, any more visits he will pay a full green fee to play with a guest. In addition, trollies will be allowed, buggies will be paths only as some areas of the**

course are still soft. Only roll-up competitions please in April to allow all members access to the course.

(CW) We have a TOGS event scheduled in the first week of return.

(TF) We will have to look at rescheduling this later in April.

Treasureres Report

No Report Given.

Matters/Actions arising from Treasureres report

(GL) I have been asked by the bank to provide a new bank mandate for the committee accounts, for signatures. I would propose Tom (D.O.G) and Andy (President) as they are the more permanent members of committee at present.

(PG) As the committee accounts contain committee funds for members should the signatures not be employed by Sandtrend Ltd.

A discussion took place regarding this point and a vote was taken.

Andy Storer (President) and Tom Fleming (D.O.G) were proposed for the position.

Proposed by; - Cliff Waller

Seconded by; - Patrick Griffin

Vote; - In favour 11 against 0 Motion Passed.

Competitions Report

Competitions Report – Mar 2021 Committee Meeting

Competitions Held

- None

Planned Competitions

- With the assumption that we will be playing 4 balls from 29th March
 - April Medal – 3rd April
 - Sunday Stableford – 4th April
 - Captains Drive In – 10th April
 - Booking opens 8th March
 - Japan Cup – 24th April
 - Booking Opens 28th March

Knockouts

- Knockout coms are ready to open bookings.
- Currently set at 8th March
- Plan to have a 'paying in form' which players will need to deposit in the pro shop before playing their 1st round match.
- Any player who has not yet paid will forfeit the match.
- Action for meeting – confirm we are happy to commence the knockouts

World Handicap System

- No change since meeting

Competitions Sub-Committee

The subcommittee met on 9th Feb. Minutes of that meeting are attached below.

Agenda Items for that meeting were

- Club Champs
 - How to manage the possibility of being over-booked
 - Agreed the format to manage this
- Senior Club champs
 - Agreed details

- Rota for comps:
 - We are introducing a rota to ensure the work load is shared.
 - Starting with the April comps
- Casual Entry cards
 - Agreed a set of simple rules we as a club will adopt
 - You must book in.
 - You must deposit your card.
 - Your marker must be recorded.
 - Otherwise, we will remove the score.
- Updated Comps manual
 - Awaiting feedback from sub-committee members.
 - Will be issued following next sub-committee meeting on 4th March

Matters arising from Competition Report

(TF) I would prefer not to have bookable competitions during April. Roll-ups pay on the day competitions are OK. Wish to let as many members as possible to be able to play casual golf if they wish.

Competitions Sub-Committee minutes

Handicap and Competitions Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

9th Feb 2021

Present

Sandy Byfield, Gill Lane, Steve Lillywhite, Steve Gridley

Apologies

None

Club Championships

1. It was agreed to keep both Gentlemen's and Ladies competitions on the same day
2. 30 Ladies spaces will be allocated
3. Remaining spaces for Gentlemen
4. If not overbooked then there are no issues
 - 5. If overbooked (Gentlemen and Ladies) the following will be applied to cut the numbers
 - a. A number of people will be guaranteed spaces
 - i. Past Winners of the Gross and Net Championships
 - ii. Board Comp winners since the last Club Champs, for singles competitions only
 - iii. Gentlemen with a Handicap Index of 8.4 or less
 - b. If overbooked, players with the highest handicap indexes will be removed
 - 6. All players must be eligible e.g., if a past winner, but no longer a 7-day member they will not get a place
 - 7. All players must have played 3 qualifying rounds in the 12 months prior to the Club Championships.
 - 8. Preferred Zone booking will be allowed but overbooking a Zone will be resolved on the same basis as overbooking the competition. No guarantees will be given to actual Zones in the draw.
 - 9. Cut off will be 2 weeks before the Club Championships, with the draw taking place 1 week before the Club Championships.

- 10. No buggies allowed unless the player has a medical exemption.
- 11. Entry Fee is proposed as £20.
- 12. No gift, but food up to £5 will be provided on day 2 – need to liaise with Catering to determine what can be achieved.
- 13. Water & Fruit will be provided.

Actions: None

Senior Club Champs

1. The Senior Club Champs will consist of separate Gentlemen's and Ladies competition
2. Net Strokeplay only
3. Played off the Yellow / Red tees
4. The proposed date is 14th July
5. Steve L raised the question of playing on a Monday or Friday rather than midweek to maybe make it easier for all seniors to play

Actions: Steve L to speak to Tom re the date.

Rota for Competitions

1. In order to spread the workload a rota will be introduced for responsibilities for each comp
2. The upcoming comps rota will be on the agenda of meetings going forward
3. Tasks include, but are not limited to a. Prep Scorecards
- b. Prep Desk sheet
- c. Check Scorecards, enter missing scores and close comp
- d. Availability for decisions re changing format, calling off comps, delays etc

Actions: Sandy to create a draft rota.

Casual Entry Cards

1. We (the club) reserve the right to reverse any entries with no marker recorded.
 2. Cards must be put in for review
 3. A simple sheet stating simple rules will be created and distributed to the membership a. We will check that your round was booked (on BRS)
 - b. We would pull those if no marker recorded
 - c. We will pull those if no card
4. Casual Entry Card checking can also be added to a rota

Actions: Steve G to produce the 'simple sheet'

Updated Comps Manual

1. Need to get this published

2. No feedback received yet

Actions:

1. Feedback to Sandy any comments (All)
2. Sandy to update with feedback and pass to Steve L so it can be added to the website.

Future structure of committee

1. A proposal has been made by the full committee regarding the shape of committees withing the club.
2. There will be 3 sub committees feeding into the main committee.
3. Sub Committees will run monthly. The comps subcommittee will be the first week of the month
4. Roles for members of the comps committee was discussed. The current proposal is Comp Sec, Handicap Sec, Club Captain, Finance Sec, Teams Rep, midweek Rep, Senior rep.
5. This committee feel that there should also be places for those with no particular responsibility i.e., 'doers' / people willing to help out

Actions: Feedback to the full committee the need for additional spaces on the comps committee.

Any Other Business

1. Gill - comps were available on Club V1 for booking. We need to hide them for now.
2. Gill – can we remove charging on all Comps for the time being

Actions:

1. Stop booking for all comps (Sandy)
2. Remove charging from all comps (Sandy)

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thurs 4th March at 7:30

Lady Captains Report

March Committee Report – Ladies Section

Just a very brief report this month. With the government announcement it is great news that we will once again be able to get out on the course just in time for the clocks going forward and hopefully some milder weather also. Thank you to Tom, the greenkeepers and Andy Storer for all your hard work on and around the course over the last few months. I am sure it is greatly appreciated by all members of DG. Firstly, I am incredibly pleased to announce that Debbie Goodsell has agreed to become our Ladies County Delegate, taking over the role from Katherine Hartwell. Katherine has spent the last 5 years keeping us all up to date with County matters, attending meetings on DG's behalf. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to her for her time and effort. Following my newsletter request for help within the Ladies section and indeed within the committee / club, I have so far had 3 ladies that have indicated that they would like to become more involved in a small way. This is great news and I hope that we can get them and more ladies contributing to how the club functions.

Thanks Ali

Matters arising from Lady Captains Reort

Senior Captains Report

No Report Given

Matters arising from Senior Capyains Report

Members memorial Area

(AS) I have received a verbal estimate for the groundwork for the area which at present is in excess of the expected budget. More estimates will be acquired.

A.G.M

Everything is in place for the A.G.M, (SL) and (NRG) will liaise regarding Teams Hosting best practice for the evening. All annual reports will be read during the meeting, and all committee members giving reports are asked to dress as they would for a face-to-face meeting. It is the intention to keep the format of the meeting as close to previous meetings as possible.

A.O.B/Corrospondance

e-mail received from (PG)

Hi Andy,

With my last committee meeting approaching I have one bit of unfinished business that I would like the committee to give thought to.

When I joined the committee, I was surprised to find that it looked after a bank account of some £9000 (to say nothing of the eight club ties!) with no brief with what it should be doing with it. I subsequently learnt that it had accumulated from small annual surpluses over many years normally due to uncollected price money!

With all membership funds going to the venues owners and the Members Club having no income of its own it means there is no money other than this small surplus to help improve the club other than by what the owners can be persuaded to do.

Competition entry fees being the only means of raising an independent fund I think they should have a "levy" aimed at providing a small surplus each year that can be spent on improvements the owners would not think essential but that would improve the members experience.

With an competitions income of £10000 (2019/20) a small levy of even a pound per entry would provide a reasonable income.

I would like to propose that such a levy should be considered.

I hope the members appreciate all the work you have been doing on the course!

Best wishes

Patrick

A long discussion took place regarding the above correspondence, a working party is to be formed to discuss further. Working party members Patrick Griffin (PG), Alison Lillywhite (AL), Cliff Waller (CW), Gill Lane (GL), Andy Storer (AS). The working party will meet and discuss and report back to the main committee.

Committee Sub-Committee restructure

There has been a great response from the e-mails for prospective committee members. All names have been passed to the Captains to form their committees for the coming year.

Next Meeting –

Date – Tuesday 6th April 2021. Amended date;- Monday 12th April

Time – 19.00

Location – Teams (Digital)