



Board Meeting Minutes – 18th February 2021

Present: Ray Smith (President), Derek Hughes (Vice-Captain), Richard Blackburn, Jeremy Sheard, Miles Foster, Paul Sharman, Phillip Stanton, Charlie Turner, John Winn, David Jones, Stuart Carnie (Managing Secretary).

Apologies: Paul Sharman.

Presidents opening remarks: No specific opening remarks.

Minutes of previous meeting: Previous meetings minutes proposed by Derek Hughes & seconded by Richard Blackburn.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

- Club rule adjustments following the introduction of 5/6 day membership categories were agreed;
 - Country Members - Must reside outside a 50-mile radius or be a member of another club within a 50-mile radius of Howley Hall Golf Club.
 - Junior Members – The only persons eligible for this class are those having attained the age of 9 years and up to the age of 18 years. Junior Members shall be entitled to the use of the Club's Golf Course, Clubhouse and property, but they must at all times give place on the course to other members and shall be allowed to compete for prizes or play on competition days providing they are accompanied by at least one full playing member.
 - Honorary Life Members – these members shall be elected by the Board of Directors of the Club and shall be entitled to the use of the Course, Clubhouse and property without payment of any entrance fee or subscription. Such members are entitled to vote at General Meetings.
- Vice-captain nomination – Derek Hughes to liaise with Ian Gledhill to discuss the process and potential nominations.

Suggestion book: None due to clubhouse being closed & cross contamination prevention.

Correspondence:

- David Peel: Email received Sunday 14th February with regards to removal of Rhododendrons on the golf course, response from Greens Committee sent to David 19th February, proposed face to face meeting/course walk of Head Greenkeeper & David offered to explain justification of removal and other projects planned.
- Dean Robinson: Email received Thursday 18th February with regards to visiting parties/societies on Sundays, response sent from the Competitions Chairman 19th February, which has been acknowledged by Dean.

Finance report (Richard Blackburn):



FINANCE REPORT -
February.docx

- Reports shared with board and invited questions invited by Richard, of which there were none, Richard proposed for any questions following the meeting to be directed to himself & Stuart Carnie.
- Accountants at the club Monday 15th-19th February to finalise 2020 trading accounts, they are planned to be ready and shared by Monday 1st March 2021.

House report (John Winn):

- Staging removed and walls plastered, awaiting to dry out sufficiently enough to begin painting.
- Dance floor proposed to be removed entirely and first section of the lounge (Bar – 1st partition) to be re-carpeted in the short term. This was agreed in principal by the full board, quotes to be acquired and shared.
- Stock taker shared his appreciation of the bar stock management over the lockdown period and was impressed with results.

Greens report (Miles Foster):



HHGC Board notes
February 2021.pdf

Additional notes:

- Work to be carried out on greens will be slightly different as some greens have struggled this winter due to being saturated. The 2nd, 6th, 9th, 11th & 15th greens will be hollow cored, top-dressed and then the shockwave will be used. This will help deal with the areas that have been saturated and relieve compaction at depth.
- The other greens will be top-dressed and then verti-drained to a depth of 150mm (6") and then the shockwave will be used. This will help getting more sand into the profile that will assist both drainage and root development.

One of the main reasons for only carrying out two operations per green is to ensure quicker recovery from the works.

- The greens and tees have all been applied with early season fertilisers including iron that will give them a slight boost and green them up.
- The path at the 14th has again washed out massively. Main reason is no base material, and the red topping is too thick and just washes away. The section we managed to introduce a base into last year has held so the plan for the forthcoming year is to introduce a solid base on all the path, insert a couple of drains and then top of with the red topping. Also need to investigate the amount of water that comes onto the course from the land next to the 14th tee as this is also a factor.

Report shared by Miles; no specific questions were raised.

- Jeremy Sheard posed the question as to some random branches that seem to have been missed when tree works were taking place, MF confirmed that these had been identified and actioned.
- Ray Smith asked for the tree on the left side of the 7th fairway to be looked at, greens committee to consider.
- Trees that line the 16th tee to be potentially removed in future plans, resident (Maria) to be approached by John Winn with regards to proposals for netting/fencing to potentially replace and provide protection to gardens/property etc.
- SC suggested that Kevin O'Neill send his videos currently being posted on the "Greens" twitter page to him to share via email to the membership as not all members will be subscribed to twitter.
- The green committee asked for the below link (BIGGA article) to be shared within the minutes.
 - <https://www.bigga.org.uk/news-listing/greenkeeping-through-the-pandemic.html>
- It was requested that Mr. Frank Eastwood be specifically mentioned and thanked for his continued support and assistance to the greens team in recent times which is extremely appreciated by all. SC to send a written letter to Frank.

Competitions & Handicaps (Phillip Stanton):

- Nothing specific to share.
 - Bag tags due anytime now in readiness for the return to golf.
 - Club diary with printers, PDF to be proofed and shared on website, email to membership etc
 - Green fees for 2021 to be no lower than £25.00 in off peak times. SC to manage.

Directors Items:

- AGM – Communication with regards to the remote/virtual AGM & process of it to be communicated to the membership on Tuesday 23rd February once we have further information from the government announcements on the 22nd February.
- Return to golf – To be discussed in further detail following government announcements on the 22nd February. General feeling was that we should be "MEMBERS ONLY" for a period from the date golf returns.

AOB:

- Phillip Stanton posed the question as to have the club enquired about insurance claims in relation to COVID-19 impacts following media reports, Richard Blackburn confirmed that we have been in regular contact with our insurers and continue to ask questions however it looks likely that at this moment in time we are not able to claim anything via our insurance policy.

Meeting closed 19:54pm

Next meeting date TBC