



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)
Apologies:	Cliff Westly (CW) Nigel Bell (NB) Gary Rinaldi (GR) Dave Knight (DK)
Minute Taker:	Andy Storer (AS)
	Date: Tuesday 12th January 2021 Location: Digital meeting (Teams)

Agenda

Welcome and Apologies
Minutes of last meeting
Matters/Actions arising from previous minutes
Officer's Reports; -
General Management Report by e-mail
Director of Golf's Report (Inc. Course Report)
Treasurer's Report by e-mail

- Competitions & Handicaps Secretary's Report
- Club champs 2021
- Seniors championships 2021
- Summer formats
- WHS update (casual entry)
- Handicap & Competition Manual

Lady Captain's
Senior Captain
Questions Reference above reports
Memorial Area
Constitution
Committee Structure including sub committees
Members Questions
A.O.B.
Date for next meeting

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)

(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.

(DK) has several non-slip strips which could be applied to the bridge surface, a more permanent solution is trying to be sourced.

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

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

General Managers Report

Firstly, a very happy new year to you, I do trust that everyone was still able to enjoy the celebrations we all experienced to be a quieter, yet memorable festive season.

As we optimistically swung into 2021 it was regrettable that our attempts to provide catering for the members playing golf was short lived, - one day of sausage rolls followed by the national lockdown. Many thanks go to Tom and his staff for the assistance to provide hot drinks and snacks from the Pro-Shop as takeaway items. Thanks also goes to Dave, his team and Tom who have been working on the course. The weather conditions have not been favourable to progress with maintenance projects, so while the greenkeepers take a short break Dave and Tom have begun to verti-drain the greens, in a program of planned maintenance that will continue through lockdown to present the course in its best condition, in advance of a re-opening, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

There are two companies involved in providing the software for our tills/EPOS systems and through November into December they struggled to successfully integrate their operations that would have allowed the normal use of the members payment cards. Eventually a simple solution was implemented, and the members offer to top up and claim £15 back was introduced as an incentive – for a few days... In addition, those that topped up with £100 are entered into a prize draw to win a bottle of champagne from the club, the draw will take place at tonight's meeting. While walkers are not interfering with golf play during our closure, we will not encourage use of the buggy paths as was a recent request. Correspondence has been received from a "local neighbour" communicating the opinion that we should be more lenient etc... there are many public footpaths that remain open to enjoy the countryside on our doorstep. It is an impossible task to chase everyone off the private grounds we will not actively promote the public use of the estate, it is

valued as a members' privilege. Finally, it was a pleasure to phone Steve Gridley and let him know that he was the winner of the members prize draw winning 12 months membership. Steve was thrilled and surprised with the good news!!

Matters/Actions arising from the GM report

(NRG) Carried out the £100 top-up draw for a bottle of champagne. The winner is Tim Barton. **(NRG)** Will inform Tim of his win.

(PG) What would the management require the residents to do when encountering non members using the course during the lockdown period.

(NRG) We do not want to put residents in confrontational situations, however, please inform anybody using the grounds that it is private property. New concise signage has been placed around the course, which we hope will help.

(GL) Is the chain across the main entrance still in use.

(NRG) The chain is still in use, a little more diligence by those using the entrance to replace the chain when they have passed through would be appreciated, the team in the staff house at the entrance do monitor the chain throughout the day and replace it when necessary. It has been tampered with at times in an attempt to stop it being used.

(SL) Are the plans for a permanent barrier at the entrance still ongoing.

(NRG) Yes, the barrier is still ongoing, it will not be at the top of our to do list post lockdown, once we are back in full swing with business it will be-visited.

(PG) A few cars have been parked in the passing places on the drive.

(NRG) This has been noted and cards will be placed on the vehicles to inform the owners they are illegally park on private land.

Director of Golf Report

Not much to report this month. Work is still ongoing on the course; the greens and aprons have been Vert cut. The sand has been delivered this week ready for the greens to be cored and sanded, this is weather dependant, a window of three days dry weather is required for this to be completed.

The course is still very wet in places, we are still hunting down drain covers to check the drainage system is clear in the wet areas, this is proving a challenge. The lockdown is helping the course to recover from the wet weather, and the lack of members playing although not great is massively reducing the wear and damage to the course.

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

Treasureres Report

The balance sheet for the year shows a loss of £1092.00 this figure is due to our contribution to the purchase of the information boards on the first tee and outside the pro-shop. Provision for the prize giving's for 2019 and 2020 are in line with the projected budgets for both events.

The income and expenditure sheet is still showing a number of expenses (£460) for county club competitions, these are payments made for the 2020 year, these competitions were cancelled, the payments will be used for the 2021 competitions.

Captains Charity account is showing a fantastic total of £7563.69. A special mention to Maureen Heath for raising £470 for the manufacture and selling of festive face masks.

Matters/Actions arising from Treasureres report

(TF) There is still an amount of money in the pro-shop which is for refunds for the winter knockouts.

(ALL) These monies are to be distributed post lockdown to the members concerned; a possible solution would be to deposit the monies onto members competition accounts with their permission.

(NRG) Will this year's charity total be match funded as in past years.

(GL) The match funding at present is only available for specific projects. (SL)&(AL) to contact the charity for more information.

(GL) The ladies last year entered England Golf Medal competition, Katherine Hartwell has qualified to play in the event in Northampton in June, would committee pay the entry fee of £30

(ALL) Yes.

Competitions Report

2021 Club championships and new Seniors Championships

These competitions will be discussed at length in the next competitions subcommittee meeting. A provisional date for the Senior Championship of Wednesday 14th July has been agreed in principle this will need confirmation at the meeting. The competition will only be played midweek.

2021 Summer knockouts.

This year's knockouts will be played in the following formats.

- Senior
- Doubles
- Singles
- Foursomes
- Scratch
-

WHS (Casual Entry)

The new system seems to have a few holes. England Golf have been contacted on numerous occasions for advice and confirmation, not always with a positive response. Moving forward it is felt as a club we need to trust members to be diligent when entering casual entry scores. All scores entered will be audited weekly, all entered scores must be completed by an independent scorer on the day of the round, any non-complying scores will not be accepted for WHS purposes.

Competitions and Handicap manual update

The first draft of the manual is complete and has been distributed to the subcommittee for editing.

Matters/Actions arising from the Competitions report

(AS) With the present restrictions in place likely to be in place for some time is it not possible for members to pre-register for the summer knockouts, to enable us to be up and running ASAP when we can.

(ALL) After discussion it was thought this would be a positive action if possible **(SB)** to look into feasibility of an on line pre-registration.

(AS) To speed the editing of the new competition's manual, could it be distributed to general committee.

(SB) Yes, will get it sent out.

Lady Captains Reprt

Not much to report this month. Many thanks to Nigel and the team for our socially distanced Christmas competition food. I was very happy with a field of 40 ladies who braved the cold, a great day was had by all, a nice end to a hard year.

Memorial Area

The proposed relocation of the club's Memorial area has been slow going so far due to restrictions that are in place. It is felt the new location should be in an area where family members may have space to remember those who have passed. **(AS)** Has identified an area behind the 14th green, which is suitable, **(TF)** & **(DK)** will assess the proposed area for safety. After some discussion **(PG)** has volunteered to draw up a proposed plan for the area.

Constitution

The proposed alterations to the club Constitution are in place, and are ready to be presented to the AGM, hopefully we will be able to hold an AGM this year, if not in person, possibly digitally. AGM scheduled 17th March 2021

Committee Structure

A digital meeting has been set for Thursday 14th January to discuss the proposal.

Members Questions

No Questions asked

A.O.B

(AS) Some competition winners from 2019 are no longer members of Donnington Grove, does the committee wish to present trophies and/or vouchers to these non-members.

(ALL) After discussion it was felt the correct thing to do is to post any trophies to those who are eligible and send M&S vouchers in place of pro-shop vouchers to those who are eligible. It was also felt that there should be a section in the competition and handicap manual to reflect this decision. **(SB)** to add this to the manual.

Meeting Closed 20.45

Next Meeting –

Date – Wednesday 3rd February

Time – 19.00

Location – Teams (Digital)