



Donnington Grove Golf Club	
Attendees:	Andy Storer (AS) , Steve Lillywhite (SL) , Alison Lillywhite (AL) , Gill Lane (GL) , Patrick Griffin (PG) , Tom Fleming (TF) , Nigel Roberts Green (NRG)
Apologies:	Nigel Bell (NB) , Gary Rinaldi (GR) , Cliff Westley (CW) , Sandy Byfield (SB) , Dave Knight (DK)
Minute Taker:	Andy Storer (AS) , Alison Lillywhite (AL)
	Date: Monday 30th November 2020 Time: 19.00 Location: Digital meeting (Teams)

Agenda

- *Welcome and Apologies*
- *Minutes of last meeting*
- *Matters/Actions arising from previous minutes*
- **AS)** Where are we up to with taking card payments for competitions through the V1 system. **(TF)** we need to get a team together to finalise this task, (Tom, Nigel, Gill, and Alex from V1 to go through any concerns.
 - **Payments can be taken, payments will be directed to Sandtrend Ltd, (GL) to invoice Sandtrend Ltd monthly to recoup competition monies. Each member will have two accounts on their membership card (bar/competition), entry fees will be taken at time of booking entry, Pull-outs will be manually refunded onto members cards. This will be trialled first bookable competition 2021(Robbie Burns Trophy)**
- **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. **(Ongoing)**
- **(PG)** With the increase in midweek membership and the number of members playing midweek, do we feel there is a need for a dedicated midweek representation on committee.
 - **(PG) has canvassed the midweek membership there is a lack of enthusiasm for this post, suggestion, maybe re-arrange agenda format to enable this position not to attend all the general meeting, or post may be part of the competition sub-committee (Ongoing)**
- **(SB)** Do we think there is an opportunity for us to publish a weekly/monthly newsletter to the members.
 - **This is thought to be 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)** Is it possible for the proposed new Memorial area to be ready for the Members Memorial competition next year, **(AS)** that is the intention, noting will be done until all costings are approved by committee. **(Ongoing)**
- There have been several no shows in the competitions played this month. (SL) & (SB) to coordinate and contact the members concerned.

- **Several no-shows are no longer members of the club, those that are still members have been contacted and have issued apologies and will pay their entry fees for the relevant competitions through the pro-shop.**
- (TF) With reference to the number of senior matches planned for the coming season. These matches must not impact on the members general play when booking tee times, also there are a number of spaces not being used in the weekly roll-ups, as part of the ongoing work regarding tee booking, I may need to reduce the number of allotted tee times for these competitions to enable more members general play.
 - **(TF) All resolved, voiced concern as to the number of fixtures each week, and on bank holidays, alternative dates are being planned.**
- **(AS)** Presented a revised update of the club constitution for committee to read and comment. Feedback at the next meeting.
 - **Feedback was received (AS) to revise some wording and dates and to re-issue proposal to the committee for consideration.**

- **Matters/Actions arising from meeting**

- **Competitions**

- **A robust and concise system is needed to enable members and visitors to be able to enter their general play cards for the new WHS system, this should be possible through the Psi, a document should be in place and posted at relevant positions (notice board/ Psi) and posted on the club website. (SB, SL&TF)**
- **Due to the current "Lockdown" the committee, after much discussion voted to cancel the winter knockouts for 2020/21. All monies will be re-funded through the pro-shop. This may be in cash or added to the membership card, each re-fund is to be recorded by the member signing their entry form to confirm re-fund, and entry forms to be retained by pro-shop. Two signatures will be required for doubles.**
- **(SB) to present a draft of the revised handicap and competitions manual at the next meeting.**

- **Seniors**

- **Proposal for Senior Club Champion ship**

- **A general discussion took place and all attendees in agreement the competition would be a welcome addition to the competition calendar.**
- **The committee will fund the purchase of Competition board, nett, and Gross trophies.**
- **The competition will be organised by the competitions sub-committee.**
- **The competition will be open to all senior members of the club (Male and Female)**
- **Entry fee will be set by the committee to consider, provision for prizes and presentation night expenditure.**
- **The competition will be played from the yellow/red tees, in a strokeplay format, for Gross and Nett prizes.**

- **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
 - Lady Captain's Report by e-mail
 - Seniors Captain's Report by e-mail
- **Questions only Re above reports**
- **Upcoming events**

- December Comps
 - 5th & 6th Competition Weekend
 - 17th Midweek Stablefords
- Winter Knockouts now live **(cancelled)**.
 - Summer formats
- Constitution
- Committee Structure including sub committees
- Membership Draw
- 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

- Payments for Robbie Burns – info sheet to send out to all members **(Competition Now Cancelled Due to Covid 19 Restrictions)**
- Comps manual needs updating on payment method **(SB)**
- Slippery bridge – not much can be done so suggested that it is regularly cleaned so free from mud – continual maintenance – **(PG)** suggested putting anti slip mat on each board. **(Ongoing)**
- Midweek committee member **(Ongoing)**
- Newsletter still **(Ongoing)**
- Memorial garden **(Ongoing)**
- No Shows- ongoing for future comps **(TF)** has spoken to previous no shows – Action for **(SB)** that a plan put into place to ensure no show payments are made
- Seniors matches **(IG)** to reply to email regarding matches in coming months
- Constitution **(Update to be proposed at AGM 2021)**
- Comps – General play now formalised on website – will be emailed out over coming days. **(GL)** is general play for visitors documented? **(TF)** – Steve Gridley to confirm for visitors
- Winter Knockouts **(Content in competitions report Knockouts cancelled)**
- Seniors club champs – discrepancy over prizes – mixed comp is not what is wanted. Nett Ladies & Men's winner. Will comp self-fund? **(PG)** to take proposal back to seniors' section to make decision by next meeting. **(AS)** to suggest some suitable dates for it to be held.

Like many businesses we were disappointed with the restrictions imposed by the Tier system that begins on 2 December, but positively thrilled that golf play can return from Wednesday this week. We were looking forward to welcoming members into the bar after their game in a COVID-19 secure environment, however the resections dictate that in tier two “you may only socialise indoors with people from your own household” and that “bars and pubs must close and only serve alcohol with a substantial meal” We will open on a Saturday and Sunday to capture any additional family tables - for festive lunches and afternoon teas and the bar will have “tables” for one, spaced a meter from the next allowing a meal and beverage / refreshments to be served. There has been a strong emphasis that dictates once the “substantial meal” is consumed this will permit the sale of further alcoholic beverages. So, tempting as it may be, one plate of chips and 6 pints will simply not be possible.

From 2 December face coverings must again be worn by members of the public and staff in all indoor areas of the club/ facility as well as in Pro shops. Coverings may be removed in bar and restaurant areas for the purpose of eating and drinking. Golf clubs and restaurants are legally obliged from Monday 14 September 2020 to collect details of those entering the clubhouse.

Individuals or members of the same household/bubble can use buggies. Equipment for hire should be sanitised before and after each use.

This week I am in the process of ongoing meetings with the directors to plan the months ahead and in the absence of Christmas parties, weddings and similar events that support our business through the winter months I know they are keen to use the furlough payroll to secure the future of our employees and cover payroll costs, where possible. This includes increasing the number of greenkeepers back on payroll. Through the lockdown four have been furloughed and we are all incredibly grateful for the support Tom continues to offer Dave and his team alongside AJ Cornish, to complete projects, while we have been closed to the public. Initial plans will see reduced catering only while all other departments remain closed, the hotel will not offer overnight accommodation or event space. We will operate the halfway hut for hot beverages, soft drinks, and food only. Alcohol will not be sold. Strict social distancing guidelines must be followed. Face coverings must be worn by both staff and customers. We are going to remain positive that after the winter months and as the tier system alters to our favour, that we will operate as normal in 2021, ready for a much-anticipated good year ahead – we all need one! Throughout December we will introduce an incentive for members card top-ups. Any member topping up their card with £100 in a single transaction will receive an additional £15. This will be manually added daily, the halfway hut has the facility to accept payments and top-ups. In addition, these members will be entered into a prize draw at the end of December, to win a Bottle of Champagne. Members offers will also include a glass of wine or a pint when a main course is ordered from the festive menu, served in the bar or restaurant. A complimentary glass of prosecco with every festive afternoon tea, served in the bar or restaurant. Members discount applies to both promotions. I do trust that we can progress with the membership draw tonight, delayed from the occasion of the Captains drive in 2020.

Nigel

Tier Two

- You must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- You must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the ‘rule of 6’
- Businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-Secure manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs
- Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals

- Hospitality businesses selling food or drink for consumption on their premises are required to:
- Provide table service only, in premises which sell alcohol
- Close between 11pm and 5am (hospitality venues in airports, ports, transport services and motorway service areas are exempt)
- Stop taking orders after 10pm
- Hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through

Matters/Actions arising from General Managers report

- **(NRG)** Bar running as per report but not set-in stone, will be flexible as and when restrictions change.
- **(PG)** asked about having a marquee with no sides as an outside space.
(NRG) There would be limited opportunity for this.
- **(SL)** Questioned the drinking of beer brought from home and sitting by cars.
- **(PG)** asked about the chain on the entrance.
(NRG) It will be unlocked in the morning to allow members access to the estate and reinstated after golfers left. Installation of a permanent security gate has been delayed until 2021.

Restaurant Matters

No report Given

Director of Golf's Report (including course report)

(TF) Reported

I am sure all members like myself are happy we can re-open for golf this week. During the period of closure Dave and the team have been busy with general course maintenance, much has been achieved with the full course empty of golfers. AJ Cornish have completed drainage work to the greens aprons of holes 7,11,14, and 18, which we hope will be a great success. They have also cleared the ditch along the length of the 10th fairway allowing the drains to run free. We are still plagued with worm casts, hopefully the drainage work will have a positive effect and make the fairways less muddy, especially the 10th, 13th, and 17th. We think there may be a blocked drain which is affecting the 13th fairway, this runs from the 13th along the 11th and drains into the stream, Dave is investigating this.

The team have cleared the two copses left and right of the ninth hole, we are hoping this will speed up play by enabling players to find errant tee shots on both the 1st and 9th hole more quickly.

The path from the 9th hole through to the car park and halfway hut has been re-surfaced, the same re-surfacing has also been carried out to the path from the halfway house down to the bridges.

There has been a small virus on the greens, this has been treated, there will be signs of scarring on the surfaces for several weeks, but we are hopeful we caught it in time for it not to be a great problem.

There are several fairways and fringes that have been severely damaged by Badgers, we will need to alter some playing conditions for competitions in the winter months to allow fair play.

WHS is still throwing some problems our way, we still have several things to complete as the system updates. Many thanks to Steve Gridley for his attention and enthusiasm to get these problems addressed.

I have changed the midweek roll-ups, they will for the foreseeable future not be zoned, this will enable us to maximise the tee time usage through the coming weeks and monitor usage.

Dave and I have pencilled in the last week of February or the First week of March for maintenance week. This of course will be weather dependent. We do not think there is a need at present for a trolley ban to be put in place, we will be roping off many areas of the course to protect it, and we will encourage the use of carry bags throughout the winter months.

Matters/Actions arising from Director of Golf report

(PG) There used to be a ditch which ran down the side of the 6th fairway from the top of the hill down to the ditch at the bottom where the cattle grid is placed, would re-instating this help with the drainage of the 6th fairway.

(TF) We will need to check the original plans of the course to check the location, this may be something which we need to re-instate.

Treasureres Report

(GL) Reported
Nothing to report.

Matters/Actions arising from Treasureres report

No Questions.

Competitions Report

(SB) Reported

We have a process written for General Play (Casual Play) cards. This is now published on the Web.

- Suggest we try not to keep changing this until we can see how it is working in practice - let us suck it and see

I Have finished the first draft of the updated competitions manual. A copy of the updated Manual has been sent the Competitions Sub Committee for review and I will be arranging a meeting for next week to ratify (giving them a week to review and respond)

I have NOT yet sent an Email ref the Winter Knockouts, this will be completed A.S.A.P (real pain as you cannot do a mail shot to knockout entrants like you can to other comps!!!!)

Many Thanks to Andy, as he was clearly bored out of his mind, has entered all the comps for the coming year on Club V, the V1 diary and BRS.

Matters/Actions arising from Competitions report
<p>The V1 system does not seem to cater for the Ladies 2 shot adjustment – specific rule in WHS that extra shots should be used, should we raise with V1.</p> <p>(GL) to email (SL, SB, TF) with this info so that it can be addressed</p>
Lady Captains Report
No report
Matters/Actions arising from Lady Captains report
(TF) Raised question of the Ladies Xmas golf comp regarding Tee times. As ladies only playing 9 holes could they be moved slightly later to allow those playing 18 to get round – all agreed.
Senior Captains Report
No Report
Matters arising Senior Captains Report
Upcoming events
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The midweek competition scheduled for the 17th December has been moved to the 16th to allow more tee times to be available on the 17th, due to the increased number of Ladies wishing to play in the Christmas Bash. 2. Winter knockouts have been cancelled, all money will be refunded via pro shop either as cash or account credit. SB will email all entrants. 3. Summer knockouts – Singles, Doubles, Foursomes & Scratch, sandy to work on details. 4. Constitution needs to now be put to an EGM or AGM – let Andy know of any changes that need to be made. AGM currently set for 17th March all amendments to be proposed at that meeting – need to ensure 8 voting members attend. 5. Members draw – Winner Steve Gridley, (TF, NRG) to inform.
Members Questions
Matters Outstanding from previous meeting
A.O.B
<p>(AS) Brought to the meeting his thoughts on the structure and efficiency of the General Committee, with the increase in members and the changes from the EGU, is there a need to re-evaluate how the committee is structured.</p> <p>(AS) to set up a working party for deciding how the Committee should be structured. (AS, GL,PG,SL) to be the working party.</p> <p>(GL) Should the Grove Foursomes board for the bar start from 2020 as the format has now been changed to a men’s and ladies’ competition. (All in agreement)</p>

(AL) The original board for the foursomes will not be wide enough for a separate men's and ladies' competition, we will need a new board for this, a suggestion to recycle the old board for use as a photo frame for committee members to replace the existing one in the golf reception outside Toms office. **(All in agreement)**

(GI and AS) To meet to discuss 2020 prize giving.

(TF) proposed the idea of having a club photo wall etc in the halfway house, possible suitable site for low round cards etc as well. **(All in agreement)**

(TF) the club has been approached by the BB&O to host the 2021 Junior Championships. **(All in agreement we should welcome this event, a start to get the club name back in the minds of the BB&O for future events.)**

(PG) Asked how many 7-day members are of senior age. **(TF) to run the report and provide the information requested**

Minutes approved by Donnington Grove Committee and signed by Steve Lillywhite Club Captain

Next Meeting –

Date – Monday 4th January 2021

Time – 19.00

Location – Teams (Digital)