

Seniors Committee Meeting Minutes on 2nd July 2019

Present: Keith Hitchcock, Tony Pawson, Peter Kirton, Robin Marling, Mike Travis, Nigel Teale, Ron Barker.

Apologies: Andy Peet, Les Facer, Andrew Whiteley, Allan Davies

1. Previous Minutes/Matters arising

- Online booking system review and Singles Open in a later item.
- A letter of thanks was sent to the Board Chairman regarding the Christmas competition shotgun start.
- GDPR investigation is ongoing.

2. Competitions Secretary's report

Mike reported that competitions are progressing well with only minor items outstanding.

3. H & C Report

- Mike pointed out that H & C were conducting an experiment, allowing individual midweek competitions to run as 4 balls.
- There will be a competition during this summer with men playing off the red tees.

4. Treasurer's Business

- Tony reported that the section finances are healthy.
- Bank balance £2260.90, Cash £37.30.
- The Clock and Whiteboard had been paid totalling £604.99 and the year's prize tankards purchased for £208.89.
- Outstanding expenditure is prize money for Seniors competitions, (£360 last year)
- Current membership stands at 104.
- It was decided to reassess prize money distribution for Tankard competitions in the future. Reason, for a recent competition forecast bad weather might have meant that only a handful of players entered. It is felt

that awarding the same prize money irrespective of the numbers on the day needs to be considered. *Action, this will be reviewed prior to the AGM for next year's Tankard competitions.*

5. Captain's Business

- Keith reported some confusion with the date for the Staffordshire Away match. This was confirmed as Monday 29th July.
- The Captains away day was unfortunately not well supported including a late dropout. Ladbroke Park had however been very accommodating with this.
- Team selections are causing a significant problem. Regularly numbers are not sufficient and made more difficult with late dropouts. Lack of availability of contact details makes the problem worse.

6. Opens Report and discussion regarding future Single Open

- Singles Open: 78 entrants at booking closure, but an extra 12 eventually played with some late encouragement. This increased profit from approximately £60 to £120.
- Pairs Open is full.
- AmAm is full.
- Mixed Open is still only 62% booked but should break even financially.

Robin had provided the meeting with information prior to the meeting regarding the difficulty in running the Singles Open.

- The Online booking software allows double bookings, this is a major problem for the Singles Open and occurred this year. Without mitigation on the day, compensation might have been claimed by the non-WGC player involved.
- The Online booking system conceals contact details from the organiser hence not allowing management and avoidance of problems.
- These problems are mitigated in the other opens which are team events.

- The online booking system does not have a visible start sheet which means that some players forget their booking and others cannot add their names to a friend's tee time

Robin considers that the difficulties mean that he cannot run a future Singles Open while the Club uses this booking software.

Significant discussion followed with the committee deciding that in 2020 the Seniors would replace the Singles Open with a 3-Ball Alliance Open.

Running another 4 ball AmAm might have produced greater profit but the committee felt that this different format would be a better choice.

Action: - The Secretary will write to the Chairman of the H & C committee informing him of our decision.

7. Any Other Business:

The genesis of all the following items is that team selection for matches is proving difficult, not enough players volunteering, contact details being hidden due to GDPR and not enough Club members joining the Seniors section.

- In the future, we will try to reduce from 16 players in a team to 12. Some clubs that we want to retain will only consider teams of 16, this will be accepted, but other clubs may be happy to move to 12 and new clubs should only be accepted at 12.
- The Clubs data system and interpretation of GDPR is under review.
Action: - Ron is using his experience to liaise with other team selectors and the Club to ensure that a new Club system is a positive help.
- Other Clubs are softening their post-match dress requirements to smart casual rather than jacket and tie. This should be at the Senior Captains discretion in consultation with the opposition Club.
- Some Clubs set a maximum match handicap of 28, this again needs to be flexible.

- During the discussion it was noted that one problem regarding team selection may be the scheduling of matches. Occasionally there are a number of matches close together.
- A suggestion was made to reduce the number of matches by 2 Clubs to help with team selection. Clubs proposed unanimously were Evesham and the Staffordshire.
- *Action: - a working group is set up to address team size, availability of contact data and the reduction in number of clubs played against. Members, Ron, Robin, Andy.*
- The question of whether the Seniors £5 membership fee proves a barrier to participation of some over 55 WGC members in matches was raised and considered but with no conclusion drawn.

9. Date for the next meeting:

Tuesday 3rd September at 1000

The meeting closed at 1200