**Minutes of Aboyne Ladies Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 13th May 2020

1. Welcome

Carmeen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

None

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting of 15th April were approved by Liz and seconded by Karen.

1. Matters arising from Minutes

Prioritising the re-scheduling of fixtures – Carmeen and Loraine have looked at this and reported that the Council will look at this once we get the go-ahead to re-open. It is likely to be casual golf initially, then extended to competitions for fully paid up members only, followed by visitors and Opens. Tammie queried knockout competitions and whether members could still enter them. Carmeen confirmed that the entry lists would be reopened for a short time to allow anyone still wanting to enter to do so and that a newsletter would be issued with this information. ACTION: Carmeen

Competition fees – Carmeen and Loraine reported the decision to keep fees as they are, i.e. no refunds, and pay out all monies in prizes. In the event of no competitions being played it was decided to then give members options on fees in line with the approach that Aberdeenshire Ladies County have taken, i.e. a refund, donate to the club or carry forward to 2021.

Fundraising – The idea of holding a Christmas Fayre was put to Council by Carmeen and it was agreed. However Carmeen reported that it would not be possible to do this due to social distancing and also another event taking place in Aboyne on the date suggested (7th November).

1. Reports

* **Captain’s Report**

Fundraising

Following the last meeting I raised the issue of holding a Christmas fair fundraiser on a Saturday in the clubhouse with Council. They had no objection to holding this on Saturday day time if it were to raise a few hundred pounds, but stipulated it would have to also give Euan business.

After some initial enquiries, unfortunately it seems that it may be a non-starter. This is because (1) Social distancing will restrict the number of stalls in a venue and (2) the number of attendees may also be down because of social distancing, a general reluctance to mingle and a preference for online shopping and (3) There is clash of dates - there is already a big craft fair scheduled in Aboyne for Sat 7th November which will have an adverse effect on holding a similar event the same month in the same village.

In view of the anticipated prolonged period of social distancing I suggested to Council that we should put out a request to the membership for ideas (for Council to consider) of how to boost the club's revenue to counteract the loss of income from holding Opens and the loss of visitors’ green fees. I also recommended a move to highlight the 50/50 club and try to entice more donors with the chance of winning some cash, as a way to assist the club through these tough times.

Since last meeting there has been no further fundraising for the ladies’ locker room and no further fundraising ideas were offered by the ladies’ committee.

Fixtures

Loraine and I have looked at the ladies’ fixtures with a view to possible rescheduling and have advised other sections of potential changes. However, until there is any movement on lockdown and guidance on returning to golf this will be in limbo and subject to change.

We expect that golf will initially be restricted to members of the same household and be casual/non competition golf only, then to playing with other members of the same club first of all casual golf games only, then to include matchplay and then later on in strokeplay competitions and eventually be opened up to visitors and thus allow the possibility of holding Open competitions.

With the above in mind we expect that if we get back to golf before the end of May it may well be possible to hold the knockout competitions and the Club Championship. We would look to hold as many of our ladies club competitions as possible.

I have asked Council to look at rescheduling to late August early September the Open 3 ball better ball which was scheduled for 4th June and also the Lucy Gordon Quaich club silverware competition from Sat 18th April to a later date.

The Scottish Veteran Ladies Golf Association (SVLGA) initially decided to postpone the Open meeting and Championship at Aboyne on 25/26th May and have now decided to cancel all competitions this year. They have requested that the event be rescheduled for 2021, on Mon 31st May for the Open meeting and Tues 1st June for the championship playoffs. The divisional champion would then go forward to play in the SVLGA championship at Blairgowrie in Sept 2021.

VMS demo

Loraine and I both participated in a 2 hour webinar/demo by Scottish Golf on VMS presented to Aboyne Council on Fri 17th April. Council is working on preparing the club for possible implementation of this but have expressed reservations which need to be addressed before committing to it.

World Handicapping System

Prior to his resignation Fraser was tasked with coordinating the implementation of the WHS at Aboyne GC. Back in September 2019 I previously supplied Council with summary notes I compiled on WHS following the workshop I attended with Hugh Rapson in August 2019 and I reissued these at the last Council meeting.

Returning to Golf Guidelines

I have been liaising with Graeme Anthony and others in compiling the club guidelines in readiness for the hoped for but not yet promised return to golf. Several sets of guidelines have been prepared to cover the different eventualities. In addition a procedure for use of submitting scorecards digitally and remote closing of competitions has been compiled.

* **Competition Secretary**

Nothing to report

* **Treasurer**

Nothing to report

* **Friendlies/Opens Coordinator**

Nothing to report

* **County Representative**

Val updated the committee on an email she has received from ALCGA, below.

*‘How are you? I do hope that you and yours are well and that you are finding satisfying ways to pass your time.*

*Later today, because the ALCGA Management Committee and officials have agreed now to cancel all 2020 County events, I intend to post a website/Facebook message that includes the following paragraph about ALCGA fees for 2020. Therefore, before I make the post, I want to give you some early warning.*

*"ALCGA fees will not be payable in 2020. However, we are aware that the collection of fees has been disrupted by lockdown. If you have already paid your £10 annual subscription, we are asking your Club Rep to offer you three options: donate your £10 to County funds towards 2020 expenditure; leave your £10 as early payment of your 2021 subscription; or receive a refund of your £10. If you have not yet paid your £10 subscription, you may still donate £10 via your Club Rep to the County funds. If you have already paid a £10 new or lapsed membership fee, you may choose to carry it forward to 2021 or have a refund. I am sure you will bear with your Club Rep and Honorary Treasurer Carol if there is a delay until it is practicable for them to deal with some of these transactions."*

*I do apologise for the fact that this will involve extra work for you but it is difficult to see how we can avoid it because you are the ones with relevant up-to-date information and closest contact with members.*

*If it is possible for you to carry out this task, please get in touch with ALCGA members at your club and find out their preferences in accordance with the above options. Please email Carol with names, making clear who has chosen which option. If you have already paid fees/subscriptions to Carol then she will arrange any refunds: otherwise please deal with refunds yourself before forwarding money to Carol. When Carol sends out membership lists at the start of next year, it will make clear who transferred their £10 payment(s) to 2021 and, therefore, who still has to pay. Please get in touch with Carol or me if you have any queries.*

*Importantly, I realise that it may not be feasible for whatever reason for you to carry out this task: if so, please let me know as soon as you can so that Carol and I can make alternative plans to take care of our members at your club.*

*Thank you very much for the support you always provide so willingly for ALCGA. As I've said before, your role is essential to the maintenance, continuation and growth of our valued association. When times are tough, your support is especially important … so thanks again.*

*Please take care and keep safe.*

*Lorna*

*Lorna M Johnson Captain, ALCGA*

Val kindly agreed to email the ladies who are County members and ascertain their preference on what to do about their subscriptions for 2020.

ACTION : Val

1. Opens 2020

Nothing to report. Carmeen has suggested to Council that the 3-ball Open in June could be re-scheduled for later in the season

1. Fundraising

Carmeen informed the committee that the Club has received £25,000 from the Government in view of the COVID pandemic but the club is taking in no money currently from visitors, green fees, Opens etc. The difficulties of running fundraising events in the current climate were discussed and Carmeen asked that everyone to consider any fundraising that could be done remotely, i.e. using Zoom, Houseparty. A number of ideas were put forward, i.e. online bingo, quiz, expand WhatsApp group and post videos. but it was unclear how to effectively charge for this and raise money this way -it was felt that Ladies might be more inclined to support our Toilet Fund rather than the Club as a whole. Liz agreed to forward information on running a Houseparty Bingo Night. Carmeen suggested a small quiz (for fun/ non-fundraising) by email to Ladies to make contact

1. Outing

Nothing to report.

1. Fixtures

* Ladies’ fixtures

Covered in ‘4 - Matters arising’

* Competition Fees

Covered in ‘4 - Matters arising’

1. Return to Golf
   1. Committee responsibilities on remote closing

Carmeen tabled the Council guidelines on counting competitions. She suggested that the committee share the responsibility for setting up, administering and closing competitions on behalf of the Ladies’ section. A degree of training will be required for this for some members of the committee. This was agreed by all.

1. Suggestion Book/Correspondence

Nothing to report.

1. AOCB

Nothing to report.

1. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 10th June at 1.30 pm.

Ladies Committee 2020 – Email Addresses

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