



MINEHEAD & WEST SOMERSET GOLF CLUB

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday 26th May 2020 – 5.30pm

Present:

(GR)	Glenn Ross – Business Development Officer (Acting Chairman of Meeting)
(IG)	Ian Gover – Club Captain
(TW)	Tiny Welford – Club Vice Captain
(GH)	Gil Hurley – Lady Captain
(RB)	Ruth Ball - Lady Vice Captain
(CE)	Chris Embling – Treasurer
(MS)	Mike Shortland – Premises
(BC)	Barry Chaffey - Premises
(MN)	Mike Nichols – Greens

In attendance:

(ID) Ian Donnelly – Secretary/Manager

The Acting Chairman opened the meeting at 5.30pm.

GR expressed thanks to IG, ID, CE, WJP, Faye & the Greenkeepers for the hard work and efforts to keep the golf club running during the lockdown period. Much work went on during this time behind the scenes that the majority would not be aware of. GR also expressed sincere gratitude to the many loyal members who paid their annual subscriptions during this period in good faith.

GR also announced that sadly Paul Davies had decided to resign his position of Bar & Catering on the MC.

1. Apologies: W. John Perkins (WJP) – Chairman, Denis Compton (DC) - Greens
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (2nd March 2020)

The minutes they were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Acting Chairman (GR).

The minutes of the Sub-Committee meeting on 29th April needed amending and to be re-submitted for agreement at next MC meeting.

3.

Matters arising

- a) Seeking an alternative quote on the heating and hot water system had been dropped as there is currently no funding within the budget to make any alterations. This can be picked up again when financial circumstances allow.
- b) It has been decided not to run a 100 Club for Members.

4. Secretary/Manager

- a) ID reported on the staffing levels over the lockdown period and since subsequently opening. Currently there are 5 members of staff on full working hours and pay (Ian D, Faye and the 3 x Greenkeepers) all other members of staff are currently furloughed. (1 x P/T Chef and 5 x Bar & Waiting Staff). ID reported that the new Chef who was employed on 23 March had unfortunately been “let go” as he did not qualify for furlough payments.
- b) ID reported that the T&C’s of the lease had been settled, the rent would remain the same and that the lease agreement was currently awaiting signature from all of the trustees before sent back to the solicitors for signing by the landlords.
- c) ID reported that safe working practices for the Greenkeepers were in place and the staff were happy with arrangements. This included staggered start times, one person only at any one time in the sheds and the eating of lunch in own cars. ID and Faye are socially distancing in the office. ID reported that Members, in the main, had been observing the guidelines set out by the Club and the use of the facilities in the Clubhouse (toilets and changing rooms) were being kept to minimum and not presenting any problems. Members were also observing the guidelines, in the main, for course useage at present. The Pro Shop was open via the window for the collection of green fees, taking bookings, and providing a call and collect service.
- d) ID reported on the current status of the Membership in terms of the annual renewal of subscriptions. ID reported that over 80% of Members had paid their subscriptions which was a tremendous show of support during the Corona virus lockdown. ID disclosed the number of members who had not paid their subscriptions and was now in the process of contacting each of them to determine their intentions regarding renewing. ID reported on the Members who had been in contact with the club and the reasons behind not renewing. It was agreed that each case would be dealt with on its own merits if/when Members decided to re-join. ID also reported that there had been 12 new Members join since the 1st April, the majority since the course opened, and was confident that the club would surpass the subscription revenue of 2019/20.
- e) Following a very lengthy discussion, with the emphasis on financial implications and subsequent vote, it was decided that the Members were to be offered a so-called “Lockdown Allowance” due to the golf course being unavailable for play for 42 (11.5%) days of the current subscription year. It was agreed that each playing Member would be offered the following options for their 11.5% of subscription paid;
 1. To donate the monies to the golf club.
 2. To have the monies credited to their Bar Account.
 3. To have a reduction made on their subscription fee for 2021/22 year.It was also agreed that the Chairman should write a letter to the Membership offering these choices. The exact mechanism of how this was to be executed and administered was to be determined once the Chairman (WJP) had been fully consulted.

5. Finance

- a) Prior to the meeting, CE had distributed projected year end figures for 2019/20 and 2 versions of a budget for 2020/21, the variance of budgets due to the uncertainty of when the bar & kitchen would be opening. CE discussed various points and the projected deficit for 2019/20. CE advised that the auditors had also been in lockdown and there would be a delay in the final figures being published.
- b) CE commented that he felt the key to 2020/21 was in the green fee area and that the Club should be mindful of that and visitors should be encouraged as much as possible. It was inevitable that the revenue would fall because of the reduction of societies being able to book due to the Corona virus and commented that several societies had had their deposits refunded due to closure. It was also reported that some societies would re-book when the restrictions were lifted and their deposits remained with the Club until then.
- c) There were lengthy discussions regarding the food & beverage offerings the club would hope to deliver once the clubhouse re-opened. It was agreed that a small sub-committee be formed to generate ideas and make a proposal to the MC.
- d) ID introduced the idea of a "Summer Golf Pass" at the selling price of £500 which would entitle the golfer to visitor golf until the end of October 2020. This would be a "no frills" Membership with just playing rights and a bar card, no competitions. This was discussed at length and accepted following a vote. The suggestion of advertising in the local paper was not accepted and other methods of communicating the offer would be explored. ID to produce leaflets for distribution to visitors and guests.

6. Course

- a) MN reported that he had had discussions the Head Greenkeeper (RB) and that both were happy with the general condition of the course given that there had been some furloughing during the lockdown period. RB had expressed concern over the leather jacket situation in some of the greens and was hoping to take delivery of a new pesticide that would ease the problem.
- b) The landfill project was currently being put on the back-burner mainly due to the initial outlay for licenses that would be needed to kick-start the project.
- c) The purchase lease on the rough mower was due to end at the end of June 2020 and administration process to purchase the machine (for a cost-neutral fee) was proceeding.
- d) MN reported that the clutch on Toro workman (used for spraying amongst other things) would need replacing.

7. Premises

- a) The previously reported problem with the cisterns in the Ladies Changing Rooms seems to have rectified itself with no further issues being reported.
- b) A new hanging rail shelf had been installed in the Men's changing rooms courtesy of the Seniors. There were a couple of snagging issues that ID would discuss to BC separate of the meeting. The meeting expressed its thanks to the Seniors Section for their contribution.

8. Captains Committee

- a) The Captain advised that the Captains Committee would be meeting on 1st June to discuss golfing matters for the rest of the season and in the interim the following is in place;
 - i) No team matches for the rest of the year.
 - ii) No section bookings for the rest of the year.

- iii) The following competitions will take preference when the diary is re-scheduled; The Mens Club Championships, the Ladies Club Championships, the Seniors Club Championships, Captains Day, Lady Captains Day, the Arnold Palmer Charity Day, the Buchanan Cup.
- iv) Competitions, when played, will be on a “book your own tee time” basis. Methods of entry, payment of entry, distribution of prizes are being finalised. It was envisaged that Lifestyle Members would be allowed to enter competitions for handicap purposes only.

9. AGM Planning

- a) Following discussions regarding the likelihood of the completion of the audited accounts and the availability of the use of the Clubhouse that the date of the AGM should be provisionally scheduled for Saturday 12th September. If the Clubhouse was still unavailable for gatherings at this time then other methods of holding the AGM to be explored.

10. AOB

- a) It was commented on that generally that social-distancing was being adhered to but that visitors and guests perhaps weren't following the guidelines. ID commented that the Pro Shop had guideline flyers to hand out to each guest and that the guidelines were also available in the visitors/green fee section of the website. ID would emphasise to the Pro Shop the importance of advising visitors and guests.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.30pm

11. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th July 2020 at 5.30pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Glenn Ross
Business Development Officer (Acting Chairman of Meeting)

In the absence of
W. John Perkins
Chairman