

Minutes of Aboyne Ladies Committee Meeting

Wednesday 15th April 2020

1 Welcome

Carmeen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Val.

3 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting of 26th February were approved by Tammie and seconded by Loraine.

4 Matters arising from Minutes

Due to the COVID situation Matters arising from the Minutes will be parked for the time being.

5 Reports

- **Captain's Report**

A short time ago I was looking forward to enjoying my year as Lady Captain and eagerly anticipating the start of the golf season. Suffice to say things have not gone to plan.

The coffee morning took place on Saturday 14th March as planned despite the beginning of concerns about the spread of coronavirus. In the absence of any advice from the government to the contrary the committee took the decision on Thursday 12th to go ahead with the coffee morning.

The Club issued a newsletter to all members on Friday 13th with advice on Covid 19 and the measures the club was adopting, stating that the coffee morning, social quiz and curry night were going ahead.

The coffee morning was well attended, with 25 ladies attending plus 6 of the committee members, making 31 present in total. Many paid competition fees and signed up for matchplay knockouts. Several ladies have already signed up for the outing to Brechin in July. The raffle was generously supported by donations from the committee and ladies enjoyed a sociable morning. Little did we know how rapidly and drastically things were to change.

Council Matters

At the last Council meeting on March 10th some discussion took place on the course of action to be taken following the resignation of Fraser Dunlop, our Director of Golf. Happily, the cottage is due to be rented out from mid April and insurance monies

have now all been received. The clubhouse refurbishment is due to start on 16th March with the reopening to coincide with the season opening shotgun start on Saturday 28th March.

An emergency Council meeting was called for 17th March. On the evening of Monday 16th the UK government advised against non-essential travel. Having flown to Portugal on Sunday 15th for a week's holiday I was affected by these changes. On Tuesday I received an email from Council and spent some time liaising with them on matters urgently requiring attention. As a club, in addition to Covid 19, we were dealing with the untimely resignation of our Director of Golf and preparing our response to this for the start of the golf season. On the evening of Wednesday 18th March Portugal announced a state of emergency. I, myself, was greatly relieved to fly back to the UK on Thursday 19, 3 days earlier than planned, albeit to a different airport. Although I felt very well, in view of the social contact incurred by travelling through airports and in case I was asymptomatic, I embarked on a period of self isolation to avoid unwittingly spreading the virus.

On Friday 20th the government announced the actual closure of bars and restaurants, having previously requested that people avoid them. On the same day the club issued a newsletter to members with advice on measures to be adhered to when golfing to prevent the spread of Covid 19. Further restrictions were to follow. On Saturday 21st March in response to some ladies' concerns I issued a ladies' newsletter advising of an additional option of sending their scores to us by email or photo.

Over the weekend, having considered information, various enquiries and members' input, I issued a further newsletter to the ladies on Monday 23rd imposing further restrictions on using the locker room, payment of competition fees by BACS and advising of the cancellation of our County Golf Open. At this point ladies were still enjoying some golf whilst staying at least 2 metres apart.

Later that day in the now daily briefing the government announced a nationwide 'lockdown', thereby drastically restricting movement and requiring people to stay at home except for 4 limited reasons: essential work, medical reasons, shopping for necessities and daily exercise. Whilst clubhouses were now closed golf clubs were still trying to interpret guidelines to see if any golfing, ideally placed as a potentially solitary sport, could continue as daily exercise.

However, in the early hours of March 24th Scottish Golf advised all golf clubs to refrain from golfing. Aboyne GC closed the course and cancelled all golf for a minimum period of the next 3 weeks. A further conference call was held by Council and another newsletter to all members was issued to advise them of the closure. Council agreed that course maintenance would be a priority and would go ahead as far as possible subject to Covid restrictions. Council is looking at and constantly reviewing the effects of the coronavirus restrictions on the golf club and its finances and staffing.

The pace at which the situation is evolving is remarkable and it is now looking increasingly unlikely that any golf will be possible for the next few months, and possibly for even longer. The coronavirus pandemic has entirely altered the outlook for the season. Already the County Open at Aboyne has been cancelled, round one of the Daily Mail Foursomes competition has been suspended with the hope that they can recommence with Round 2, and interclub friendlies have been postponed across all sections of the club until further notice. To predict when we may be able to play our first golf competition of the season would be pure speculation.

In response to demand from the ladies, and having cleared it with Council, tee times have been added on Wednesday evenings for the 9 hole Stableford competitions. At time of writing slots have been entered on the timesheet up to the end of June.

Fundraising

Ragbag collection: I have advised the charity that our club is closed and thus no collection can be made until further notice.

We received a donation of £25 from Jenny Mackie towards the toilet refurbishment and I have emailed our thanks.

Other

Sadly we learned that Sandra Nurcombe has had a stroke and a card has been sent from the ladies committee wishing her a full and speedy recovery.

I have also called Joanne Wilson to convey our sympathy following the sad news that her father had died after a period of ill health

- **Competition Secretary**

It has been a quiet month. I was unable to find a replacement for the bronze division medal final to replace Maureen Craigie but now the medal final at Deeside is cancelled.

All fixtures for the season are on the V1 system.

Loraine suggested that due to the current COVID situation and uncertainty about when or if competitions would be played we should prioritise the fixture list to play for silverware. Carmeen indicated that when play re-commences priority should be given to outings/paying groups and thereafter club competitions on a priority basis. Carmeen and Loraine to work on prioritising fixtures.

ACTION: Carmeen and Lorraine

Carmeen updated the committee on ladies memberships, giving details of a number of resignations, changes from playing to social membership, some changes in category of playing membership and a number of girls withdrawing membership. One member had increased from Social membership to Twilight. Fraser is in the process of chasing up outstanding memberships.

Liz asked whether competition fees should be halved for this season due to cancellation of golf during the early part of the season and thus halve the prize fund as well. Carmeen indicated her view that we should scrap all competitions and concentrate on bringing income into the club, however the view of the men is different. This issue was discussed at some length with a number of views expressed. Suggestions included:

- Halve the competition fees
- Refund competition fees
- Pay on the day to play in competition (as the men do)
- Suggest no refund but donate to toilet fund
- Prizes for some competitions

It was suggested that lady members be given a number of options and that the majority view should be adopted. Liz pointed out that all money taken in for competitions must then be given out in prizes and that there will still be other costs, i.e. engraving.

It was decided that agreement on what competitions might be played should be taken first and then further discussion on the next steps.

- **Handicap Secretary**

Annual review changes have been made in V1 system.

- **Treasurer**

At the coffee morning we raised £137 from the raffle, slightly down from the last year figure of £150. We took competition fees from 31 ladies with another 18 to pay if they all remain playing members. Eleven ladies paid £10 deposit for the outing in July.

A £25 donation for the toilet refurbishment has been received from Jenny Mackie. This makes the current total £1750.

Club funds, therefore, stand at £3362.12 and £1750 in the toilet refurbishment fund.

- **Friendlies/Opens Coordinator**

Notification of cancellation of all our home and away friendly matches has been sent to the relevant clubs. All have been acknowledged bar one. I have been encouraged by the take up of ladies willing to play and some matches were filled on the day of our coffee morning..

- **County Representative**

The ALCGA Management Committee and Officials notified cancellation of County events until the end of June. The following events have therefore been cancelled: County Opens at Ballater, Banchory, Aboyne, Fraserburgh, Westhill, McDonald Ellon. Watt Duffus Interclub Trophy at Newburgh-on-Ythan has also been cancelled. Golf View League has been cancelled for this season.

If you have placed an entry for any of these competitions the relevant club rep or Karen will be in touch with you.

The date for payment of fees to club reps will be moved to the beginning of July. I will update the committee when there is any news.

6 Opens 2020

Nothing to report

7 Fundraising

A suggestion at the previous committee meeting on holding a Christmas Fayre was discussed at length. This would involve inviting people to rent a table at our fayre and sell their arts/crafts, etc. Tea or coffee would be included in entry fee and there could be a separate box for donations. Susan suggested that one table should be reserved for the sale of items donated by lady members. Susan agreed to identify a suitable charge for renting a table in line with local similar fayres. A suitable date was discussed and it was agreed that a Saturday in early November, prior to the start of winter golf, would be suitable. Carmeen and Loraine agreed to put this to Council to obtain agreement on a date.

ACTIONS: Susan
Carmeen and Loraine

8 Outing

Nothing to report.

9 Newsletter

A newsletter will be issued once more is known on the COVID situation and that of the golf club going forward.

10 Get into Golf

Nothing to report.

11 Social

Nothing to report.

12 Ragbag

Carmeen suggested a reminder should be sent to lady members that although this is on hold at the moment due to COVID situation we would hope to continue in the future. However she expressed some concerns whether they would still be in business and it was agreed that we should wait until things are up and running again and a new date can be set for collection.

13 Suggestion Book/Correspondence

Nothing of note to report

14 AOCB

For information, Teda and Charlie have been placed on furlough as have 2 of the green staff. The cottage residents have moved in. The clubhouse refurbishments are almost finished with the furniture still be put in place.

15 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 13th May at 1.30 pm