

Minutes of Birchwood Park Golf Club Committee Meeting 156

Monday 21 March 2005

Present:

Peter Holland (Chairman)
Ian Keith (Secretary)
Terry Skeggs (Treasurer)
Steve Deacon (Competitions Sec)
Stuart Morrison (Handicap Sec)
Paul Howes (Asst Treasurer)
Steve Houlton (Committee Member)

David Grey (Captain)
Jan West (Ladies Captain)
Peter Devaux (Seniors Captain)
Mick Batten (Vice Captain)
Anne Jenner (Ladies Vice Captain)
Scott Morley (Birchwood Park
Centre Manager)

Item

Action

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Barbara Fielder and Lee Venus.

2. Minutes of Meeting 155

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mick Batten and seconded by Jan West.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 3.1 – Move of club office – ongoing. **Mr Morley**
- 3.2 3.2 – Mr Keith reported that he had not yet written to those with outstanding fines from 2004 as he had to tally up his list with those who had recently paid but he would write within the next few days. **Mr Keith**
- 3.3 3.3 – North Kent & Yeoman's League – Catering costs – Ongoing. **Mr Venus**
- 3.4 3.6 – Club Constitution - the revised wording had been passed to Mr Morley
- 3.5 3.7 – Past Captains and Committee Day 2005 – a new date would have to be found as 22 July clashed with a ladies competition. **Mr Holland**
- 3.6 3.9 – Members Memorial Bench – the bench is still being prepared and Mr Morley offered to have it installed as soon as it was ready. **Mr Devaux**

3.7 3.11 – Etiquette Banner – Actioned.

3.8 3.12 – North Kent League – Allocation of Tee times for Final – Ongoing.

Mr Morley

3.9 3.13 – Who’s Who Board – Ongoing.

Mr Morley

3.10 4.3 – Future Club bookings – Complete.

3.11 6.3 – Non-payment of Dinner Dance ticket money – Complete.

3.12 6.4 – Collection of Outstanding Fines from 2004 – Ongoing. The Secretary was writing to all of the members concerned. Mr Howes volunteered to chase up the outstanding fines once the individuals had been written to.

Mr Keith

3.13 8.2 – Lack of Ashtrays in Bar – Mr Morley had written to Mr Grey explaining that the phasing out of ashtrays was to discourage smoking at the bar and in preparation for future announcements on smoking in the clubhouse.

3.13 8.4 – Slow Play – Times of the gaps between groups finishing their rounds are again being recorded on the scoreboard and this seems to have resulted in some improvement in the overall times of rounds in recent weeks. Gaps exceeding **13 mins** would be marked in red and recorded. Players appearing repeatedly within these slow groups would be invited to appear before the committee.

3.14 8.8 – Redecoration of Clubhouse – Mr Morley had written to Mr Skeggs explaining that the refurbishment of the clubhouse was ongoing. The provision of new chairs is complete, new tables will be phased in, the bar tops are to be refurbished and the bar pumps have already been upgraded. Redecoration would probably now take place next year.

3.15 8.14 – Status of Ex-Captains/Captains’ photos etc – Responding to Mrs Fielder’s comments, Mr Morley emphasised that Birchwood is not a private golf club but a sports facility that has a golf club attached to it. However, he stated that several new things were planned for this year which he hoped would improve that relationship (e.g. the centre has adopted the Captains’ chosen charity – Ellenor Hospice at Home – as the main beneficiary of its charity events, including the Fun Day, this year.) In the absence of Mrs Fielder, it was decided to defer the rest of this discussion until next month.

Committee

4. Correspondence

4.1 Mr Keith had received an e-mail from Iain MacKay asking if members club shirts, sweaters etc were available as the shop had not seemed to stock them for some time. Mr Morley commented that we could expect a far greater range of items in the new shop that would open in mid-April including Birchwood Park branded goods.

5. Competitions

Mens

Mail on Sunday: Lost 1 – 5 to Sundridge Park.

Whitbread League: Won 4½ - ½ against Austin Lodge

Daily Mail - Mick Batten and Dave Grey had received a by into the second round.

Ladies

Daily Mail: Jan West and Anne Jenner won 4 and 2 against Shortlands.

Pearsons: Lost 2 –5 against Ashford
Lost 2 – 5 against Shootershill

Seniors

Won 5 –1 against Fawkham Valley

6. Finances

6.1 Club finances were currently in deficit of what Mr Skeggs described as “financial drag” but the position would improve. Lots of fines were being collected due to an apparent increase in people dropping out of competitions on the day.

7. Social

Please look on main notice-board in reception for forthcoming events.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Jan West pointed out that, under CONGU rules, an annual meeting should be held between the ladies’ and mens’ handicap secretary. To be arranged in due course.

8.2 There was a discussion on the organising of ladies’ knockout competitions which currently fell to Mr Deacon as the overall competitions’ organiser. It was agreed that any disputes relating to

ladies' competitions should be dealt with by the ladies committee to help reduce Steve's workload.

8.3 Mr Morley reminded Mr Skeggs that he needs to see details of our club trophy insurance.

Mr Skeggs

8.4 Mr Morley reported that Burhill golf had appointed a course superintendent who was responsible for monitoring the quality of all of its courses. The course superintendent would in future be responsible for announcing when winter rules would be introduced and removed.

8.5 Mr Morley had written to the club captains reminding them that he needed to know whether allocated concessions were to be used for inter-club competitions that they were arranging. They needed to ensure that the form was properly filled out and Mr Skeggs needed to be informed so that he could keep a running record of concessions.

Mr Grey/Mr BattenMrs West/Mr Devaux

8.6 Mr Morley reported that due to problems that were occurring around the course, members may see police occasionally operating around the perimeter but should not be alarmed by this.

8.7 Mr Morley reminded members again that bags and trolleys should not be placed on the tee boxes as this was causing damage to them. This was a particular problem on the 10th tee. Mr Keith was asked to place a reminder on the notice-board.

Mr Keith

8.8 Mr Devaux asked Mr Morley why it was no longer possible to get a mini-basket of 15 balls at the driving range? Mr Morley said that mini-baskets were not available at any other course in the area and this was a decision that would not be changed. There would be a number of improvements at the driving range when Burhill took over the golf academy from Cranfield Golf in the summer. It was hoped that there would be a big investment in a short game practice area in 2006.

8.9 Mr Houlton said that it was not clear what a member's spend was over the year and what rate a player should be paying for their round. Mr Morley explained that the recently installed computer system allowed for reception to provide members with details of their spend and till receipts also showed the rate that members were currently on.

8.10 Mr Deacon said that he had recently seen evidence of members putting their bags in line with the flag as a marker when playing from the hill below the right of the 16th green. This is against the rules of golf although they may ask a playing partner to indicate the line and then walk away.

8.11 Mr Grey said that he was already making plans for the Dinner Dance in November and proposed booking a new band. This band would be more expensive but he planned to cover this by inviting members with businesses to sponsor the event for around £100 and to get a small advert in the menu in return. Several members had already supported this venture and Mr Morley offered £500 on behalf of Birchwood Park. The committee thanked Mr Morley for this very generous gesture.

8.12 Mr Holland said that there was still evidence of members playing social golf from the white tees. Mr Morley said that he would deal with those involved if he or the rangers see any such incidents.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 18 April

(Any member wishing an issue to be raised at a committee meeting should refer it to the Secretary (ikeith@btopenworld.com) at least 3 days in advance