

Men's Committee Minutes
Meeting 15th November 2022 @ 19:30

Admin Building, Skerries Golf Club

In attendance: Captain Chris Alcock, Vice-Captain Billy Concannon, Jim McDonnell, Ivan Cole, Tony Kennedy, Joe Hilliard, Paul Branagan, Nick Sharkey

Apologies: Stephen Coomey

1. Minutes & Actions

Minutes for 18th October 2022 were approved.

Actions arising from 18th October 2022 (✓ confirms action was completed / ✗ indicates action remains open and carried forward for next meeting):

- IC to draft a section on course etiquette including use of bad language for the next edition of the Club Newsletter. ✗ (To be completed by 20.11.22 to coincide with next newsletter)
- IC to arrange for a communication in relation eligibility criteria to be issued to all members ✓ (email issued 31.10.22)
- BC to assess member appetite for a swap day with Balbriggan GC for a Wednesday in 2023 and make contact with Balbriggan GC. ✗ (Action will be carried forward into 2023 when member appetite will be assessed closer to next spring / summer)
- CA agreed to discuss purchase of hamper competition vouchers with SuperValu and endeavour to negotiate favourable terms. ✓ (SuperValu management to confirm. It is noted that a 3% discount has been offered by Dunnes Stores however SuperValu is considered the preferred choice as it is a local business and a strong supporter of the club)
- TK to send a communication to members outlining the full details of hamper competitions, including new prize arrangements. ✓ (Included in the Men's Competition update email issued on 03.11.22)
- JH to set hamper competitions up on the BRS system and liaise with Ladies Committee in relation to same. ✓
- IC to reach out to Lisburn with the view to setting a date in April 2023 for next year's official match. The 22nd April 2023 was proposed. ✓ (IC has been in contact with Noel Robinson Honorary Secretary of Lisburn Golf Club who will bring the proposed date to the next Council meeting which is scheduled for the end of the month)
- TK to circulate a revised draft of Club Championship rules for 2023 to Men's Committee members before final approval. ✗ (Action will be carried forward into 2023 when updated club championship rules will be circulated to all members)

- TK to update GOY rules to include clarification of rules in the event of a GOY competition being rescheduled (e.g. due to bad weather causing course closure). **X** (Action will be carried forward into 2023 when updated GOY rules will be circulated to all members)
- TK / Competitions Team to issue a communication to all members of the Men's Club outlining scorecard marking rules i.e. WHS handicap holder can only mark a scorecard in a club competition. **✓** (Included in the Men's Competition update email issued on 03.11.22)
- TK to review 9 hole prize matrix prior to the commencement of the winter season. **✓** (TK confirmed that he has reviewed the 9 hole prize matrix and advised that the top prize under the current matrix is €40. It was agreed that this was appropriate with no further action needed)
- IC to arrange for a reminder in relation to the club's dress code to be issued to the member whose guest's attire was not in keeping with the agreed standards. **✓** (Issued on 31.10.22)
- JH / TK to purchase prizes for the end of year prize giving and TK to confirm funding with the Honorary Treasurer. **✓** (End of year prize giving took place on Saturday 30.10.22).
- IC to issue invites to the annual prize giving to all prize winners. **✓**
- IC is to write to the Honorary Secretary to obtain COM approval for Skerries GC to host the Boys Inter Club Leinster Qualifying North Area on Monday 26th June 2023. **✓** (BC brought this matter to COM and it was approved)
- BC to progress matters in relation to the official measurement of the junior blue course **X** (Action to be brought forward with the view to having the measured course ready for summer 2023) and discuss fitting permanent markers with the Course Convenor. **✓** (BC has discussed this with the Course Convenor who will include this in the winter works programme)
- JMcD to circulate details of Golf Ireland's Club Activator to the Men's Committee and Club Professional Bobby Kinsella. **✓** (This was circulated immediately following the meeting)
- BC to discuss white out of bounds stakes on the 13th and 15th holes with the Course Convenor with the view their removal. **✓** (Out of bounds stakes have been removed and member's updated by email on 03.11.22)
- IC to liaise with CA / BC and other committee members in relation to nomination forms and other items required. **✓** (IC confirmed that all nomination forms were received by 19:30 on 15.11.22 as required)
- IC to confirm that proposal for a replacement chair of the Men's AGM (in the absence of the Men's President) is in accordance with the club constitution. **✓** (IC confirmed the procedure for the appointment of a replacement chairman which will be followed at the commencement of the Men's Club AGM on 23.11.22)
- BC to progress 1st tee clock proposal (recognising that this will be an ongoing action into 2023). **X** (Action will be carried forward as a longer term project and retained on the Action List as an ongoing reminder)
- IC agreed to forward relevant correspondence to the Honorary Secretary in relation to the member letter dated 15th October 2022. **✓** (completed on 21.10.22 and acknowledged by the Hon Sec)

2. Correspondence

- 21.10.22 email to the Hon Sec enclosing member correspondence dated 15.10.22
- 22.10.22 complaint emails from members re: Pace of Play on Sat morning 22.10.22
- 25.10.22 Pace of Play reminder issued to four members
- 26.10.22 Pace of Play reply received from one member. Men's Committee expressed their disappointment at the content and tone of the reply.
- 30.10.22 reply issued to member in response to email of 30.09.22 relating to suggestions / feedback in relation to eligibility to play in men's invitational / semi open competitions
- 31.10.22 reply / update issued to member re: 2023 Club Competitions eligibility criteria and suggestions made
- 31.10.22 email issued to members re: 2023 Club Competitions – eligibility criteria
- 31.10.22 reminder email issued to member re: club dress code
- 31.10.22 email to Hon Sec re: Golf Ireland Fixtures 2023 Boys Inter Club Leinster Qualifying
- 01.11.22 reply from member in response to Men's Committee email of 30.10.22 and reply issued by return. Matter is considered closed.
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- 02.11.22 email reply from member received in relation to Men's Committee pace of play email issued on 25.10.22. The genuine reasons expressed for the delay in play were appreciated and a reply issued by the Men's Committee on 06.11.22.
- 03.11.22 Club's Thursday update included notice to members re: out of bounds stakes on 13th and 15th holes.
- 03.11.22 Club's Thursday update included notice to members re: invitational / semi-open WHS requirements & revised scorecard marking rules
- 05.11.22 email from member to the Competitions Team enquiring about the rules of golf in the event of a player showing up late for his tee time. IC agreed to reply and clarify the relevant golf rule (5.3a two shot penalty if < 5 minutes late and disqualification if > 5 minutes late).
- 15.11.22 Email issued to members to advise of commencement of winter rules from Wednesday 16th November 2022

3. Competitions

- Schedule for December was presented by JH and agreed, 9 holes singles stableford competitions dominating the schedule.
- Placing will be in play from tomorrow Wednesday 16.11.22 as advised by email to members on 15.11.22.
- Flock Day is scheduled for Sunday 11th December with entry fee remaining the same as last year at €5.
- Following feedback received from a member and for the sake of variety, it was agreed to include a four club competition in the December schedule.
- It was agreed to run the Winter League commencing in the New Year and a dummy timesheet will be set up Sunday 25th December to register names for entry. It was also

agreed that the league will be run on an individual basis based on 9 hole competitions. Competitions Team to set up dummy timesheet and communicate Winter League rules / details to members.

- There will be no competition on Monday 26th December and the timesheet will be available for casual golf.
- Separate 9 hole competitions are being played on both 9 holes courses with the agreed prize matrix being applied depending on numbers of entrants. The front 9 is proving to be much more popular than the back 9 and as a result the quota of 55 entries to enable a hamper prize to be awarded is not being achieved on the back 9. The prizes allocated to the front 9 reflects the higher numbers entering this competition. For example, 104 members entered the front 9 hamper competition held on Sunday 13th November compared to 47 entries on the back 9. The Committee agreed that the prize matrix should be adhered to and it would not be fair on members entering the front 9 if entry fees were used to subsidise a back 9 hamper. In order to strike a more even spread of prizes and to provide value for members, the Men's Committee's preference would be to award two hamper prizes rather than one. Various ideas and solutions were discussed and it was agreed that an email reiterating the hamper competition requirements would be sent to members in an effort to encourage more members onto the back 9 and achieve a more appropriate balance. This also has benefits in relation to protecting the course. IC agreed to draft and issue this email in the coming days.

4. Handicaps

- NS advised that the Handicap Committee are monitoring 'achievements' during the winter rules season with domestic cuts being applied when three achievements have been recorded.
- The Handicap Committee awaits Golf Ireland annual handicap review templates which are expected shortly. The annual review of handicaps will be completed in line with Golf Ireland guidance and NS encouraged committee members to make him aware of members who may be struggling to play to their current WHS index.

5. Juniors

Junior Convenor Jim McDonnell provided the following update on the junior boys section of the club:

- The Junior Committee met recently and will include a motion to the Joint Club AGM to remove the category of membership known as 'Juvenile Member'. This is in accordance with revised Golf Ireland guidance which recommends junior golfers should be categorised based on playing ability rather than age which has previously been the case. This makes perfect sense and those present at the meeting indicated their support for the motion.

6. Teams

- Nothing to report.

7. Course

Vice-Captain BC provided an update on course as follows:

- Members may be experiencing longer / thicker grass on fairways and rough due to the inability to cut grass as frequently due to recent heavy rains
- A section of wet ground on the 8th fairway has been roped off to protect this area. BC will keep the Men's Committee apprised of the cause of this issue when it is fully investigated. BC will review the way the area is roped with course staff to ensure maximum protection.
- A number of volunteers recently spent time removing leaves from the course which should improve the course and help to speed up play.
- New distance markers and etiquette signs advising members on how best to use the practice area are now in place and look very well.
- The licence for felling the poplar trees at the back of the 14th and 17th greens has been approved with work expected to be carried out before the end of the year. The Back 9 will need to be closed off for the duration of the works.

8. Management Report

- Captain provided a Committee of Management update.

9. AOB

- Two's competition: BC provided a brief update on progress. This item remains open to be resolved with the main objective of achieving a satisfactory level of transparency.
- IC outlined details of the Men's AGM which is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd November at 19:30 in the clubhouse. BC agreed to liaise with the Ladies Committee in relation to the room set up as the Ladies' AGM is being held the evening before. CA agreed to arrange printing of member sign in sheets and PB, JMcD and TK offered to manage the sign in sheets on the night.

Actions Arising:

- IC to draft a section on course etiquette including use of bad language for the next edition of the Club Newsletter.
- BC to assess member appetite for a swap day with Balbriggan GC for a Wednesday in 2023 and make contact with Balbriggan GC.
- TK to circulate a revised draft of Club Championship rules for 2023 to Men's Committee members before final approval.
- TK to update GOY rules to include clarification of rules in the event of a GOY competition being rescheduled (e.g. due to bad weather causing course closure).
- BC to progress matters in relation to the official measurement of the junior blue course and discuss fitting permanent markers with the Course Convenor.
- BC to progress 1st tee clock proposal (recognising that this will be an ongoing action into 2023).
- JH to include a 4 club competition in the December competition schedule.
- IC to draft and issue an email to members reiterating hamper competition rules in an effort to encourage more members onto the back 9 course.
- IC to draft reply to member who enquired about the rules of golf in the event of a player showing up late for his tee time.
- IC to book the committee meeting room for the next Men's Committee meeting scheduled for 13th December 2022.
- IC to invite newly elected members of the Men's Committee to the next meeting of the Men's Committee, scheduled for 13th December 2022.

Next meeting: Tuesday 13th December 2022 @ 19:30