

THE DARENTH SENIORS

Minutes of Committee Meeting(DarCom 17) (Rev00), held in the Club House on Thursday 17th November 2022

The meeting opened at 12.27

Present were: John Green, Niall Maxwell, Brian Vickers, John Rampling, Jim Connor, David Long. Later joined by Trevor Harvey and David Watts

Apologies for Absence: received from Bob Spillane

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 16th July 2022 (DarCom 16), were accepted as a true record and signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Report as appended.

Matters Arising: On the issue of low membership numbers, JC enquired re members joining us from Park Wood, but it was felt that we would need to await their membership renewals in that respect. DL suggested lowering the qualifying age to 50, but this was felt not beneficial. With regard to low handicappers having little chance of winning, and hardly getting a mention for good rounds it was suggested that a season-long competition be raised rewarding the best cumulative gross scores attained on Qualifying rounds during the summer. This found favour and would be implemented next season.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Report as appended.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Meeting was advised that the online facility of our bank account had been suspended by Barclays owing to the fact that we did not fit in with their 'Know Your Customer' tick boxes. He was in constant liaison with the bank over this issue. Also reported that a change of signatories mandate actioned back in February had not been implemented by the bank, for whatever reason. We needed to go through the process once more. Due to his inability to gain access to the account, Treasurer was unable to supply meeting with an up to date balance of accounts.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Advised that the proposed Quiz Night had been a wipeout owing to lack of support. Although there was support for the upcoming Extravaganza. We had an attendance of 63 last year, and at the moment there were 47 signed up. He was still liaising with Kerry re some differing catering requirements. Final totals needed by next week, the 24th.

ALMONER'S REPORT: Report as appended.

COMPETITION & HANDICAP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Declared that things were running smoothly, with adequate tee times, as we were not getting the numbers that we were previously. Advised that he was taking over the Monday Swindle, and bring it more in line with Thursday games. JC raised issue that SMS contravenes our Rules and Guidance, as technically doesn't meet the criteria as non-members shouldn't be playing with us. But was assured that the SMS would stay as a separate entity.

MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: All fixtures were agreed for next year. Also gave notice that he would be standing down at the next AGM.

KGVL REPORT: As appended.

TOPICS

- a) Ladies Match: JG pointed out that the meal following our match this year was not up to standard, and there were several complaints. Jason had been aware of the situation, and in recompense would be discounting next year's event by 50%.
- b) WhatsApp: DL explained reasoning for proposing to set up a group specific to the Section had arisen due to a recent situation where it was blatantly obvious one morning that there would be no play due to continual heavy rain, but the CompSec still had to make a wasted journey to come to the club, only to abandon play. It was proposed that the CompSec could have autonomy to cancel a game on any similar situation arising, and would advise the membership of such decision via the WhatsApp. This found agreement with the Committee.

AOB:

JG had received an email regarding KVGL clubs looking to receive discounted/free taster familiarisation rounds, and asked if this was possible. *(Sec Note: on later enquiring with Jason, it transpires that he doesn't honour the County Card, and would offer no discounts).*

BV enquired if everyone was happy for him to liaise and arrange the Ladies Match. There were no objections.

JR advised that he had presented us with a trophy. This would be played for by a Winter Eclectic. This was well received.

JR also spoke about doing something for Tony Bavin, in recognition of all the years that he has run the SMS. It was proposed to purchase a trophy which will be played for annually by a single strokeplay round during a Monday in July. Any oncost for keepsake trophy would come out of SMS funds.

The Date of next meeting will be on 2nd February 2023, at the Club House.

The meeting closed at 1.35pm.

Sec Note: These minutes are in the order as per agenda, and not as actually conducted.

XX Captain signs here XX

Captain's Report 17th November 2022.

Whilst COVID has not gone away, we have seen an uninterrupted period of golf during my tenure as Seniors Captain. Members have and still continue to go down with COVID but it has not stopped us playing golf at any time.

I'd like to start by talking about the course. I think the condition, excluding the bunkers, throughout the season has been of a very high standard. Latterly the improvement around some of the tee boxes and path work by the third tee has improved the appearance of the course no end. There are still areas around some of the greens where the turf needs more time to grow or be replaced but I think the ground staff should be congratulated. If we could only persuade Jason to improve the bunkers we'd be laughing.

The use of the iron on the greens has also improved them. Certainly, other clubs playing in club matches have voiced their approval to the condition of the course.

I have concerns as to the size of the membership and whilst not knowing the answer I feel we must look to expand. If fees to be a member of the Seniors continue to increase next year at a time when the general cost of living is going up and up, I fear we may lose more members.

The very dry summer on the course meant extra roll on the ball and higher Stableford scores coming in from the membership. It was not unusual to have winning scores in the 40s.

Like other clubs the new handicap system still seems to be a major talking point. Handicaps for a lot of people have come down during the summer and we are already seeing that those same handicaps, mine included, starting to rise again as the winter conditions take hold.

I'm still convinced that club competitions should be split into two handicap tiers giving everyone a fair chance to win something. The idea that a player should have to give two shots to another including on a par 3, on some holes still seems to me to be wrong. At the very least we should find a way of rewarding lowest gross score.

I would like to thank all members who took part in the Club matches both friendly and League during the season and would like to note my thanks to Trevor Harvey for his efforts arranging the Friendlies. I still am mystified why we have a better turnout of members for the Friendlies than we do for the League matches and hope that more people will come forward to play next season.

As of last Tuesday my charity fund stood at £1,773.54 and I would like to note my thanks to everyone who have made donations outside of the normal functions. In lieu of a Captains Awayday I intend to make a personal donation to the fund of £200. This is not yet included in the figure I gave just now nor is the donation made by SMS at the lunch last Monday as I have not received it at the time of writing.

Lastly, I would like to give my thanks to the rest of the Committee for their hard work, picking out Dave Long for his work as Secretary and also John Rampling for his work as Competition Secretary, especially on a Thursday morning. Having sat next to him most Thursdays I know how difficult some members make his job.

Thank you.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: DarCom17

No new arrivals or departures since last we met, although we may have a potential new member turning up in the next week or two.

I note that since Jan 1st, there are five companions who have not entered to play with us. Eric Bunton, Jeremy Coyle, Barry Lowe, Peter Shove and David Vidgeon. In the main their absences have been down to health issues, and we can only wish them well.

I can report that the 2023 schedule is complete with the exception of our match with the Ladies, which Brian has kindly offered to liaise over. And I do need advising by Malcolm Fox for the Over-80s League fixtures. I must comment that during the compilation of this report, just two days ago, my inbox pinged with missives via Trevor from Park Wood, wanting to change their dates. This has been accommodated.

Key dates being AGM on March 9th, Summer Dinner on July 13th and Extravaganza on 14th December. These dates have also been agreed with Kerry.

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Almoner's Report to The Darent Seniors - 17th November 2022 Committee Meeting

Barry Lowe continues to join us from time to time for tea/coffee. David Athawes was admitted to hospital last Monday. He has had keyhole surgery for cancer in the colon etc. and has had a Stoma bag fitted (it is reversible). The doctors are pleased both with the operation and his progress and he was released from hospital last Friday. It will probably be a month or two before he is able to be back playing golf. Barry Bright has had the contraption that was on his arm removed. He will now undergo five months of physiotherapy and then hopes to resume playing golf. I have had a BCC removed from my back - photos are available on request. Still awaiting date for BCC on face to be removed.

Jim Connor 17th November 2022

KGVL Report 17th November 2022.

As everyone knows we played twelve matches in the League this past year, we won 4, lost 5 and 3 were drawn 5 points each. We did for the first time win one match 10-nil, a very good result, although we also lost one at home to Nizels 10-nil in a match played late in the year after the dry conditions on the course had finished which was not to our advantage.

This I feel was a much better effort than last year which was our first in the League, particularly when for one match we only had nine players available.

As the Committee knows there was a promotion available and we did manage to get through to the play off against Wrotham Heath. Two teams playing here at home, two away at Wrotham and one at Poult Wood. Unfortunately, we did lose this match which means we stay in the same league as last year.

This League next year is made up of Shortlands, Redlibbets, The Ridge and ourselves as last year but now includes Poult wood and Lamberhurst. Top of the League at the end of the season will see the winners going up to the other league.

Personally, I think in hindsight losing the play off against Wrotham was a blessing in disguise because it gets us away from the likes of Nizels, Wrotham and the Weald of Kent who have a much higher availability of players with very low handicaps and long courses.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of the players that played in the matches during the year and congratulate them on their performance.