

MINTHIS HILLS GOLF CLUB

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2014

Present: Maurice Stephenson (MS) Captain
Steve Mitchell (SM) Vice Captain/Treasurer
Jackie Lee (JAL) Secretary
Neil Storer (NS) Competitions Secretary
Gill Cackett Social Secretary

In attendance: Joke Alexandrou (JA) Management
David Mckibben (DM) Club Professional
Chris Furneaux (CF) Head Greenkeeper

1. Apologies

The Captain thanked those attending the meeting and reported that there were no apologies.

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes from the 4th August 2014 meeting were read and approved.

3. Matters Arising

- a) The Captain confirmed that the total cost for trophies for Knock Outs and Club Championship was €560.
- b) An enquiry about the photographs from the 2014 Annual Dinner was received. It was reported that as these formed part of a large computer file, they had not been generally circulated. However, it was suggested that the photographs could be placed on the Minthis Hills website. This possibility will be investigated. The Captain said he would investigate the possibility of having a professional photographer for the 2015 Annual Dinner. **(Action JAL/MS)**
- c) The format for the recent Captain v Vice Captain competition was changed from Matchplay to Stableford to facilitate more interest, and encourage members to stay for the result.
- d) It was reported that a €500 donation from Minthis Hills management had been received, and the Committee passed their sincere thanks for this contribution to the Members Club.
- e) The Sports Bar renovations are almost complete, and consideration is being given to holding an official opening for members.

- f) The committee had provided a €25 prize voucher for the recent Solidarity Golf Charity Competition, and thanks have been received from the Charity concerned. A copy of the thank you document will be circulated to all members **(Action JAL)**
- g) The Club Professional reported that “Our Children Matter” charity competition, scheduled for Sunday 14th September is being supported by members, and that he is in the process of selecting helpers/players. **(Action DM)**

4. Committee Matters

- a) Concern over slow play has been expressed by some members, and the Committee addressed how this might best be handled. It was pointed out that the CGF had drawn up a pace of play schedule for our course, and it was agreed that the Course Marshall would work with this schedule to monitor pace of play and identify slow player(s) within a group and where necessary issue the appropriate warning. As the Course Marshall keeps a record of actual start times (as opposed to start times on the draw sheet) it is possible for him to identify actual pace of play. It was agreed that slow play in general will be monitored, and the Club Professional will ensure that the Marshall has a copy of the pace of play schedule. **(Action DM)**
- b) A complaint about speeding traffic on the road which runs between the clubhouse and car parking/practice area was raised. JA explained that this is a public road, and as such management were not responsible for general safety aspects. However, it was suggested that signs could be displayed warning drivers to slow down to reduce the risk of accidents with golfers and course buggies/machinery. Speed bumps might also be placed in strategic positions. **(Action JA)**

5. Competition Matters

- a) It was reported that two sponsored events were planned for later this year. The first sponsor is Blevins Franks who will be providing eight prizes for winners, and drinks for all competitors. The second sponsor is 3D Global and negotiations are underway regarding the level of sponsorship they will offer. 3D Global are also holding a Finance and Wealth Management Seminar at Minthis Hills. **(Action MS)**
- b) The Nords versus Rest of the World competition will be held on Tuesday 14th October, and the Captain has agreed to approach Lars Erlandson regarding format and meal arrangements. **(Action MS)**
- c) The Ray Stock Open sponsor will not be able to attend the competition this year, but has authorised Jimmy McBeth to source prizes on his behalf. It was agreed that the entry fee for members would be €1 and €45 for non members together with an optional twos competition.
- d) A suggestion was made that we consider starting the annual Knockout competitions in January (instead of March) from next year with a view to attracting more players. It was suggested that this might encourage our Scandinavian members to enter. The change was discussed in detail, but it was felt that it would not be practicable, as many Scandinavians only play at Minthis Hills for six months each year, which would create difficulties in arranging matches. A possible solution was additional knockouts during Spring/Autumn, but it was thought it would be very difficult to create a workable plan. It was pointed out that

entry numbers could be increased by publicising the enhanced value of prize pots for the various events.

6. Social Events

- a) It was agreed that the ticket price for the 2015 Annual Dinner would be maintained at the same level as last year, despite a small increase in price from the Alexander the Great Hotel. The tickets will be €35 per person for members and one guest. Additional guests will be charged at €45. Taking into account expected numbers and including table decorations and cost of disco, this price level ensures that the cost to the Members Club will be within budget. Promotional material and table plan sheets for diners will be produced and approved at the next committee meeting **(Action JAL)**

7. Golf Course Matters

- a) A question has been raised concerning balls coming to rest on the course after crossing the internal out of bounds between the 10th and 18th holes. It was agreed that a ball merely crossing an internal out of bounds but coming to rest on a playing area is in bounds and as such could be played.
- b) The buggy path behind the 18th green was reported to be in a dangerous condition due to ridges created by rainwater. JA reported that it is the intention to landscape this area and create a new path and low wall.
- c) Certain areas of the course are very wet, and the Head Greenkeeper reported that, in the main, this is due to the irrigation system being unbalanced. This problem is currently being addressed and necessary adjustments will be made. **(Action CF)**
- d) Ridge marks are being created when cutting rough areas. The Head Greenkeeper acknowledged this problem and informed the committee that this was due to very old rough mowers digging in. There is a proposal to purchase a new rough mower with floating heads which will solve the problem. The economic viability of such a purchase has been put forward in view of the fact that the old rough mowers have become very costly to maintain.
- e) The issue of pitch marks on greens is an ongoing problem. However, the Head Greenkeeper reported that when members were allocated with responsibility for particular greens using their surname initial this had worked well. A reminder will be sent to all members of their allocated responsibility. The Secretary was also asked to remind members of the need to repair divots on tees. One problem identified was that scoops were not available in all tee sand boxes. Head Greenkeeper to source new scoops. **(Action JAL/CF)**
- f) It was acknowledged that vines around the course were becoming untidy and in some cases are obstructing player's view of the ball. Additionally the bushes on the bend on the left of the buggy path on the eighth needed pruning as they were also obscuring sight of balls which have been hit to the left. It was pointed out that due to the heavy commitment of greens staff in course maintenance at the moment, and the fact that January is the month to undertake pruning of vines, these issues would be dealt with as soon as practicable. **(Action CF)**

- g) The Head Greenkeeper reported that the 10th tee is scheduled to be re-turfed, utilising grass from the back of the 11th and 14th tees.

8. Financial Matters

- a) The Treasurer reported that budget projections were being met in most cases. Competition entries with the exception of Medals were as forecast and the overall financial situation was very much in line with budget.

9. Any Other Business

- a) It was agreed to make a payment of €25 to Archie, Greenstaff member, for his work in taking photographs of committee members for general publication. **(Action SM)**
- b) New score cards, with revised local rules will be ordered later this month. JA to let JAL know when delivered so that members can be made aware of the changes. **(Action JA)**
- c) It was confirmed that an amount of €200 has been made available for enhanced prizes in the November Waltz competition, and €400 for enhanced prizes in the Christmas competition.
- d) As there were no 2's winners in the August medal, the €34 fund will be carried forward to the September medal. The members who played and paid for the 2's competition in August will have free 2's entry. Other members will be charged two euro's as normal to enter.
- e) A request was put to management for a hanging rail and an electric socket in the ladies locker room. **(Action JA)**
- f) Leaderboard spreadsheets are to be created for Nordic v RoW competition, Club Championship, Celts v English competition and possibly Ray Stock Open. Consideration will also be given to creating Leaderboards for monthly Stableford competitions. **(Action NS)**
- g) A request was made for wall mounted soap dispensers in shower cubicles. Joke said she would pass this request on. **(Action JA)**

10. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 3rd October 2014