



ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB  
WOODCOTE PARK  
GOLF COMMITTEE

Meeting held at 5.00 pm on Monday 5 October 2021 in the Library, Woodcote Park Clubhouse  
and Via Video Conference

MINUTES

Nick Westwell (Via Zoom)  
Andrew Wolstenholme  
Jacqui Ballard  
Suzy Earland  
Maggie Simkins  
Julian Taylor  
Martin Vertigen

*Vice Chairman of Golf  
Captain  
Lady Captain*

In Attendance

Philip Worthington  
Iain Dye  
Stephanie Aldridge

*Director of Golf  
Course Manager  
Committees' Secretary*

ACTION

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Director of Golf welcomed the Committee, both those in person and Via Zoom. He said there were apologies for absence from Giles Harper (Chairman of Golf), Freddie Gay and Dan Healy.

2. **MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Golf Operations Committee meeting held on 2 August 2021 were approved. An abridged version of the Minutes would now be published on the Club website and IG.

PW Complete

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The Director of Golf confirmed all actions from the previous meeting which were accepted as complete or as noted within the margin of the minutes.

3.1 ***Myra Moonie Trophy***

The Lady Captain canvassed a number of past lady captains along with Myra Moonie's daughter, following Jo Stein's request for the Myra Moonie Trophy to be played on the Coronation Course. Opinions varied. The Lady Captain replied to Mrs Stein explaining that the committee understood the history and logic behind her request and when possible, it would be played on the Coronation Course. In order to be flexible however, the rules would be updated to state that either course could be used

3.2 ***Guest Invitation Day***

This had been a great success, the Director of Golf confirmed, noting he had received compliments about the day from several Members.

**ACTION**

Stuart Brahms would hold a fixture meeting with the incoming Captain's to discuss 2022 dates and consider a revised invitation day schedule.

PW Complete

**4. DIRECTOR OF GOLF UPDATE**

Philip Worthington gave his Director of Golf report noting the following.

Although he did not have September Accounts to show to the Committee, he confirmed the draft accounts suggested Golf had performed well in September. It had been a strong month and he had been able to re-invest 20% of the additional revenues in essential materials to help combat pests on the courses. Once Accounts are finalised, he confirmed he would forward them to the Committee.

PW Complete

Staffing levels within the department were low.

The Director of Golf and the Course Manager informed Committee they had held a meeting with Greenkeepers, where they informed them that although it was a challenging time, they needed to work together as a team and assured them there were doing an excellent job. The Committee went on to extend further thanks to the Greenkeeping team for the current presentation of the courses.

A new trainee professional, Louis Kanwal, was about to be appointed as an addition to the shop team. He is a 19-year-old scratch golfer with experience at the Surbiton Golf Studio, and despite not being a qualified professional yet, he has shown great enthusiasm for the role.

It was confirmed that club fittings would now be a chargeable service with the £50 fee taken off the cost of any clubs ordered as a result of the fitting.

The 2022 budget process was well underway with a second meeting booked. The Director of Golf informed Committee he would update them of progress at the next meeting.

PW Ongoing

The Director of Golf fielded questions from the Committee on the theft of trophies in September and their replacement? The matter was agreed to be discussed when further information and options were known.

PW Ongoing

**5. COURSE MANAGER UPDATE**

**5.1 *Course Report***

Iain Dye reported on current course matters. There were no comments. There was a good coverage of grass, and the surfaces were smooth. The team have done an amazing job managing the two courses. The Committee wished to minute their thanks to Iain and the team.

A particular problem at this time of year was the Crane Fly and this issue needed to be addressed with sprays and treatment. The Course Manager said he would discuss this with the Director of Golf.

ID/PW Complete  
Spray 1<sup>st</sup> Week Nov

**5.2 *Course Work Update***

- **Bunkers** - It was reported the rakes were not repositioned correctly after use. It was agreed they should be left in the bunker with the handle on the outside edge. The Director of Golf would put a note in Golf News with a photograph of the correct positioning.
- **Conservation Rough** - Approval was given for this to be cut. Everything would be cut and sprayed for 2022 with a chemical called "laser".
- **Winter Work Programme** - Following emails to the Director of Golf he presented slides to the Committee of the planned Winter Works. He confirmed that up until

PW Complete

ID Underway

**ACTION**

- Christmas seeding and turfing would take place and during January to March most of the clearance works would be completed. The Director of Golf would communicate all works through Golf News.

PW Ongoing
- **Putting Green Coronation Course** - The Committee confirmed they would speak with Members and get their views on the usefulness of this green with the resulting feedback coming to the meeting in November.
  - **Development Committee** - Bunkers, course changes and carry lengths and new tees were items agreed to be referred to the Development Committee.
  - **Tee Path - 5<sup>th</sup> Hole Old Course** - This was discussed as it can become extremely slippery during the Winter months. Iain Dye would temporarily put something down to the left of the ladies' tee to offer an alternate route.
 

Committee Update at Meeting
  - **15<sup>th</sup> Hole Old Course - RHS of Fairway** - This area was discussed as one for improvement in presentation. Iain Dye agreed to address the area of concern.
 

PW Complete
  - **Bunker Tops and Mowing of Rough Grass to Fairway Length** - The Director of Golf presented slides on the above matter to inform Committee of potential challenges.
 

ID Complete, Hoops & Sand
  - **Course Ratings** - It was reported Surrey Union are not re-rating courses at present but if significant works have taken place than an application for re-rating would be submitted.
 

ID On Work List

**6. MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

- **Golf Ball**  
The Director of Golf drew the Committees' attention to the attached sheet and the question of lounge suits or dinner suits was discussed.
  - **Drive in Plans**  
The Incoming Captains' drive in was planned for Saturday 27 November. Julian Taylor gave an update of current thoughts with the Director of Golf confirming he would collate that information into a running sheet for the event and then circulate to the Committee.
  - **Tee Times Consideration**  
After much deliberation the Committee agreed to the following:
    - Weekend Roll up Times** - Reduced to two tee times instead of four to increase capacity for general play, and to move the time to 9.00am and 9.10am once the clocks go back at the end of October. The matter will be reviewed in three months.
 

PW Complete
    - Ladies' Weekend Tee Times** - Mrs Earland agreed to ask the ladies who play on a Weekend morning if they would prefer an 8.30am or 9.00am start time.
 

SE Update at Meeting
    - Hillard and Warren** - It was agreed for 2022 that two of these home fixtures for each league (four in total) would be played on the Coronation Course with an 8.30am start.
 

PW Complete
    - Mixed Matches** - It was agreed for 2022 that home matches would be on a Sunday, on the Old Course with a 9.30am start time.
 

PW Complete
  - **On Course Relief**  
It had been brought to the attention of the Director of Golf that some Members were relieving themselves on the course. There had been a complaint from a neighbour stating this. It was agreed a note via Golf News was the best way forward. The Director of Golf confirmed he would take this proposal to the Chief Operating Officer on how to proceed.
 

PW Update at Meeting
  - **Golf Societies**  
It was noted September was a busy month for society golf as we were honouring a lot of cancelled bookings, however there had been no change in policy and the Club weren't seeking additional revenues via this area. The 2022 budgeted income for societies was confirmed as reverting only to pre-pandemic levels and not more.

**ACTION**

- **Handicaps**

It was noted that following Paul Earland's email a list of questions had been sent to England Golf for clarification. The Director of Golf will update Committee when answers are received.

PW Update at Meeting

7. **WOODCOTE PARK COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Director of Golf updated Committee on from the recent Woodcote Park Committee meeting.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 **Ladies' Locker Room**

Mrs Earland brought up the matter of Maintenance of the Ladies Locker Room. She was informed it was due to have a tidy-up in 2022.

8.2 **Starter Hut**

Julian Taylor requested there be a Clock on the starter hut of the Coronation Course. The Course Manager agreed to obtain one.

ID Complete

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Philip Worthington said that the next Golf Operations meeting would be on Monday 1 November 2021 at 5.00pm.