

Elton Furze Golf Club General Committee Meeting

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 7 November 2017

Present:

David Tansley	Chairman	
Trish Crighton	Treasurer	
David Smith	Men's Captain	
Marilyn Smith	Ladies' Captain	
Roger Mayhew	Seniors' Captain	
Peter Burgess	Men's Vice-Captain	
Jenny Walters	Ladies' Vice-Captain	
Nigel Widdowson	Seniors' Vice-Captain	
Rob Stone	Men's Handicap Secretary	
Sue Anderson	Ladies' Handicap Secretary	
Andy Anderson	Men's Competitions Secretary	
Barbara Stone	Ladies' Secretary	
Colin Bayliss	Juniors' Organiser	
Liz Johnson	Members' Representative (Communication Coordinator)	
Chris Cordery	Secretary	

Apologies: Sue Dibble, Paul Bolden

In attendance: David Pope

Item	Discussion	Action
1	<p>Introduction The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies The Secretary recorded the names of people who had sent their apologies.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2017 were approved.</p>	
4	<p>Matters Arising All actions from the previous meeting had been taken.</p>	
5	<p>Reports <u>Chairman's Report</u> David T reported on a meeting he had had with the Proprietor shortly before the Committee meeting. Ben had read the minutes of the Committee's previous meeting and expressed concern that the Committee appeared not to be supporting him properly. He mentioned particularly:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Secretary writing to Anna Fray about trimming a tree that interfered with play from the ladies' 17th tee. This issue was for the Club owner (Ben) to take up with Mrs Fray, not the Committee.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Committee should not take for granted the £3 per person levy that he collected through annual membership fees and passed on to the Committee account. Ben emphasised that he reserved the right not to collect this money.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">He <u>did</u> support the running of social functions, but the Committee appeared not to understand that such events had to be financially viable.</p> <p>The Committee collectively agreed that the minutes of last month's meeting were an accurate reflection of the discussion and mood of the meeting.</p>	

	<p>Furthermore, the Committee considered that it was well connected with the Club membership and its discussion more often than not reflected the views of the wider membership.</p> <p>The Committee reiterated its understanding of the need to work closely with Ben and his staff, but this responsibility worked both ways. The meeting considered that it would be helpful if Ben occasionally attended Committee meetings (possibly every quarter) so that he could hear discussion for himself and respond accordingly and immediately when he felt the Committee was not supporting him in the way he wanted.</p> <p>The meeting also considered that Ben's views were disproportionate. Committee members could recall many occasions when they spoke positively of EF when visiting other clubs and internally too. Furthermore, Committee members frequently passed on to the office laudatory comments from the wider membership and visitors too.</p> <p>In summary, the meeting considered that if Ben thought the Committee was not fulfilling the role he wanted at EF, he should require the Committee to stand-down or disband.</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u></p> <p>Further to her written report, Trish mentioned that the £3 per person levy the Committee account received via membership fees was an important income stream. Without it, expenditure would start to outstrip income and the Club would have to find another way of raising money for the maintenance of handicaps.</p> <p><u>Ladies</u></p> <p>Barbara reported that Ben had agreed to the Ladies' Section adding a match against Kettering GC to their schedule.</p>	
6	<p>Club Policy – Discrimination</p> <p>Nigel updated the meeting on action he had taken to deal with the discrimination issue that had arisen recently when trying to organise Seniors' matches for next year.</p> <p>Chris informed the Committee of the Club's Equality and Diversity Policy and the position the Seniors' Section were taking was in accordance with that policy.</p> <p>In summary, the Seniors' position was that:</p> <p>The Seniors' Section of EFGC is a mixed gender section and the Seniors' Captain reserved the right to select both men and ladies to play in matches. This selection was to be based on ability and form. If other clubs stipulated that they would play only against single gender teams, this would be against the ethos of EF and we would refuse their invitation to play matches against them.</p> <p>This was a Seniors' Section issue, but the stance taken by the Seniors' Committee was endorsed by the General Committee.</p> <p>Following recent communication with Milton and Burghley there would be no Seniors' matches against them next year and Nigel was still waiting to hear from Luffenham Heath about the position they wished to adopt.</p>	
7	<p>Preparation for AGM</p> <p>Liz would be covering for Chris in the run up to and conduct of the AGM. At this stage there were no formal proposals that would require a vote and the closing date for receiving them was 13 November.</p>	

