

Barnard Castle Golf Club.

Management Meeting.

Tuesday 18th July 2023

Attendees: Geoff Wall, Tony Buckley, Dianne Wilkinson, Yvonne Carr, Craig Hamilton, Colin MacLeod, Joy Pallister and Andrew Hall.

1) Apologies

Graham West

2) Minutes of last meeting.

Proposed: Geoff Wall

Seconded: Andy Hall

3) Actions List

Action list reviewed and updated.

4) Updates

1. Chairperson

Finance

AGM date to be set and communicated. **(Action: Colin).** *This will be done on completion of first quarter accounts, in order to be shared also during AGM*

2. Welfare

Guidance from All England Golf reviewed regarding youngsters playing on the course. Junior membership application forms to be updated **(Action: Joy)**

3. Greens Report

WEATHER - June / July weather saw an average of 15 degrees per day with a total of 41mm of rain (39mm of which in 3 days). This contributed to lots of dry areas throughout the course especially on fairways and aprons where there is no irrigation. Considerable labour time was used throughout the month to “hand water” those areas.

GREENS – During the last 7 weeks we have continued to establish good growth and cover on putting surfaces by use of both granular feeds, trace element liquids and wetting agents. The bare areas we were left with after the heavy constant rains earlier in the season are pretty much grown back in due to slitting, overseeding and dressing. We carried out a light pencil tine a couple of weeks ago which helped surface aeration and provided opportunity to seed and top dress again to firm up surfaces. Weekly verti-cutting has been carried out and will be for the foreseeable to remove lateral growth and seed heads which have been constant throughout the dry spell.

Aprons / Approaches – as aforementioned the aprons have suffered in the last 6 weeks with the constant dry weather and temperatures and we have lost the lovely grass cover we had, nothing we could do with no irrigation to utilise other than weekly hand watering to keep them going. Hopefully now the wet weather has returned they will come back nice and green. Fertiliser and wetting agents are due to be applied this week to give them a boost.

Tee Boxes – majority of our tee surfaces have not been too bad where the irrigation has good pressure and in decent working order – the tees that struggle with this have been hand watered weekly – unfortunately we still have a lot of faults and issues with many heads and we are repairing adjusting when we have the budget and opportunity. We managed a little aeration early in June with a little top dressing but the hot spell put paid to any further works. We will carry out more in a few months. We are also hoping to level the 7th white tee before the next report and re-seed rather than turf as irrigation pressure to this tee is an issue

and turf would suffer more than seed – which ever way we went doesn't change the fact that we are unlikely to use the tee until beginning of next year. Unfortunately we have been hard hit with the long wet spell and now long dry spell.

Fairways – as mentioned we lost a lot of grass cover to the heat but hopefully with the rain in last few days and forecast over the next couple of weeks we shall see some green again and providing a bit definition. Still concerning how the 17th puddles up so quickly after heavy rain so we will investigate and add drainage where required late autumn / early winter. Ideally we will look to organise a divotting day for volunteers in the next month or so.

Bunkers – as you would have noticed we have excavated and reshaped a few more bunkers that were causing us issues with stones coming through / soil intrusion or drainage issues. These are both greenside on 2nd, 7th left greenside and hopefully before the end of month both 18th – we will then look at 6th right greenside and 13th both greenside in next 6 weeks.

Finally a thank you to the volunteers for strimming ditches so we could concentrate on the above and have the course somewhere near to what we want.

5) Competition

Competition calendar well underway – no issues.

6) Captain's Report

We are now midway through my Captains year and this month's main item is my Club Captains Day that was held on Saturday, July 15th.

The day before I watched the weather forecast on an hourly basis with little change from the predicted heavy rain with thunder and lightning spreading across the area all day.

I woke early to find a light shower, so I set off to Barnard Castle and as I entered the car park I was met by bright sunshine and more importantly no rain.

I breathed a massive sigh of relief and kept my fingers crossed in the hope the weather would be kind, and so it was with only a couple of brief showers during the day, otherwise the weather was fine with a northeast wind keeping the heavy rain away.

Before we played final touches to the course by our Head Greenkeeper David and his staff presented each of the 18 holes in fantastic condition, they are a credit to the club.

The day was a massive success, starting with Mick Browns 2nd target shot from 85 yards into the small splash pool, this was only followed by 3 other players throughout the day, the one-handed putting comp was won by Nigel Mawer. All other winners announced on the clubs FB page.

During the evening we had prize giving followed by a well attended Race Night run by members of the CLIQUE, a excellent buffet was supplied by our caterer Jack.

Six items were auctioned, 5 horse racing memorabilia and a sleeve of 'ancient' Penfold Commando golf balls. The raffle of over thirty prizes was an eye opener, thanks to all those that donated a prize.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Colin McCloud (Chairperson), Craig Hamilton (Competition Secretary), Lisa McCloud (Admin) without your advice and assistance in planning and prep the day would not have gone as well. A special thankyou to my Vice Captain, Graham West, my wife Elaine, family members and friends who sold raffle tickets, ran the halfway house, target golf etc. and kept my feet on the ground throughout the day.

Thank you to all the well-wishers and lovely comments I have received since Saturday, they are very much appreciated.

The whole day and evening activities together made it a day that I will remember as Club Captain for years to come and though to date I have not counted the donations, raffle, money from the Race Night and auction yet, I believe I have raised for my nominated charity from my Captains Day alone in the region of £2,500.

Again, a very big thankyou to all, I am humbled by the continuing support I receive from the Management Committee, staff, and members of Barnard Castle Golf Club.

7) Ladies Report

Lady Captain's Day on Saturday 24th June was very well supported and a very enjoyable day was had by those who took part. The half way house was open for refreshments and a lovely cold buffet was enjoyed after the ladies had played. Thanks go to our caterer Jack Hutchinson and his team. Also to the Greens Staff, the course was in great condition. Originally this day was going to be a Joint Captains Day, unfortunately a short time before the date The Club Captain moved the date for his own competitions due to representatives from his chosen charity being unable to attend on the evening. He did however contribute to making the occasion a success for the ladies and this was appreciated.

The Ladies Section AGM is in November when current Lady Captain Yvonne Carr will step down, but she will continue supporting the section as Past Captain. As no one has shown interest as yet in taking up the role of Lady Captain, the Ladies Committee met on July 5th to discuss the way forward. Options continue to be explored.

8) Seniors

The Senior's team has continued its winning ways with victories:

- A. Home v. Penrith a 6 – 2 win on 28th June
- B. Home v. Appleby a 8 – 0 whitewash on 5th July

Tomorrow's match is away at Thirsk and Northallerton.

The "Early" Senior's Open held on the 24th May was a great success with very good weather and full turn-out. A lot of very complementary comments on the day especially about the course, followed by some written plaudits to the club afterwards.

A Senior's Scramble Open was held on the 12th July with 41 teams from all over northern England. Again the weather was ideal and most of the teams were very complementary about the competition and especially about the course and its condition.

(The competition was won by a team from Barnard Castle GC.)

The Seniors Monday morning round-ups were again reminded about raking the bunkers and divots, but it should be pointed out that there are many players going out on the course before the Seniors tee-time of 09.15.

The Senior Captain's "Away Day" is on the 27th July at Durham City Golf Club.

9) Matters Arising

- None

10) Correspondence

- None.

11) AOB

- Club rules to be updated on guidance for funding of Captains' Days and Away Days (**Action: Colin**)

- Quotations for replacement / repairs to flat and clubhouse windows received and reviewed by committee. Agreement to progress works on Flat during current financial year and defer Clubhouse works until next financial year. **(Action: Colin)**
- Investigate improving wi-fi signal in club-house **(Action: Colin)**
- Sage Pay option being removed from Club V1 members App from end of September. Members to be advised **(Action: Colin)**
- Wifi camera to be installed to monitor the area from the bridge adjacent to the pro shop, along to the first tee during times when the pro shop is closed. Members to be advised **(Action: Colin)**

The next management committee meeting will take place, Tuesday 22-Aug.

Colin MacLeod