

Minutes of the Greens Committee Meeting held in the Club House at 1:00pm on Monday 12th November 2018

Club officials present:

Stuart Boags – Chairman
Terry Payne – Handicap & Competitions Secretary
Nancy Mackman – Lady Representative
Tom Craig – Member
David Culm – Member
Andy Ryder – Head Green keeper

Apologies:

None

The minutes from the last meeting were read and agreed as a true reflection of events.

- **Matters arising**

- It is difficult to know where the flag is positioned when playing into the 5th / 9th and 11th greens as they are elevated from the fairway.
 - We will trial having sliding flags for these three holes.

- **Course work during the winter period**

- **Work to further improve the course drainage**
 - Starting on the 3rd December the ditch running across the 12th / 18th hole will be extended to the left to join up with the ditch running alongside the boundary hedge. A new bridge will be located to the left of the fairway (within the rough area) with the existing fairway bridge being removed. This ditch may also be extended to the right to eventually run into the main ditch running down the left-hand side of the 1st hole. This right hand extension may be deferred until a later date.
 - Some of the soil from this excavation will be used to re-align the white tee at the 1st hole to have it pointing down the centre of the fairway.
 - The rest of the soil will be used on the 2nd hole to form a bunker to the right of the fairway in the vicinity of the 150-yard marker. (This replaces the 'old' bunker that used to be on this hole but was removed some 3 years ago).
 - Should timing permit (the equipment required is on hire for a set time period), a new ditch will be created running from the right of the grass hollow on the 1st hole to the large ditch between the 2nd and 3rd holes. This will necessitate the repositioning of the ladies red tee slightly further back from its current position.
 - Again, soil from this excavation will be re-used to extend the 1st left hand bunker at the 2nd green slightly forward and across part of the front of the green. In addition, the two bunkers in this area may be joined together.
- **Tree pruning**
 - It had been planned to remove branches from the large beech tree to the left of the 12th / 18th driving area to improve the 'view' from the 18th white tee on Friday 9th November but unfortunately the 'cherry picker' required for the work was not made available. The work will now have to be re-scheduled.
 - Further tree pruning will be undertaken throughout the winter period to remove some of the bottom branches from trees either to improve visibility or to assist in playing from close to the trunk.

- **Winter rules**

- Some confusion has arisen over what is and is not allowed with regards to the winter period and including the proposed rule changes being introduced from 1st January 2019. Terry Payne will produce a notice outlining the situation which will be posted on the website and on each notice board.

Any other business:

Stuart Boags:

- Again – as at the last report - wanted it to be noted the excellent work that Andy was doing on the course and to point out to members that our course compares very favourably with all the other courses in our area having played at most of them recently.
 - *Secretary's note:* this is borne out by the increased foot fall and great comments received from visitors + an increase in membership for the latter part of 2018.
- With the new rules allowing the flag to be left in on the green whilst putting – Stuart proposed that the flag should always be left in to further speed up play. He has seen this being adopted at other clubs.
However, after some discussion it was decided to leave the in /out decision to individual golfers.
- Stuart was of the opinion that some tree removal suggested by the course assessment team should not go ahead with all such trees being left in situ.
The committee agreed.

Tom Craig:

- Suggested that the 'new 8th tees' should have the grass cut before next season so as to not have a large amount of cut grass lying on the ground come the spring.
Andy agreed to do this.

Nancy Mackman:

- No other issues.

David Culm:

- Stated that the sand in the front bunker on the 6th hole was too shallow and needed more adding,
Andy replied that it was probable that the sand was sufficient but needed re-positioning within the bunker. He periodically looks at the sand in all bunkers and 'tops up' as necessary.

Terry Payne:

- Following the course review earlier this year the white course has had its Standard Scratch revised to 70 (from 69) which effectively means that to shoot par on this course a stableford score of 35 is required. A score of 36 points would probably be 1 under par.
- The new world-wide handicapping system will be introduced in 2020 and to prepare for this all courses are being given a 'slope rating'. You do not need to concern yourselves as to what this entails but only need to know that it is a measure of a course's difficulty.
The higher the 'slope' figure – the harder the course.
A median course has a 'slope' of 113 (again you do not need to know how this number has been arrived at) and all course are being assess against a range of 55 to 155.
The White course has been rated as 126
The Yellow course at 126
The Red course at 122
These ratings go to show that the work carried out on adding features and different tee boxes over the last few years have enhanced the course significantly and is giving Brailsford a higher profile within the golfing community.

Addendum:

Stuart stated that after 4 years as chairman he was standing down but would remain a committee member. Tom Craig has agreed to take over as chairman.
David culm after a similar period in office has also decided to stand down and Andy Overton will be co-opted to the committee in his place. These changes to be ratified at the next AGM.
Our thanks go to all involved for their contribution over the last few years which has been invaluable in moving this club forward.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 25th February @ 1.00pm in the Club House