

FRESHWATER BAY GOLF CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday 9th September 2019

5PM START OF MEETING

1. **Attendees** All eight directors and the Secretary were present.
Head Greenkeeper, James Sanders was also present for items 2 & 3

2. **14th Path**

The Secretary gave an update to the Board on remedial measures taken to improve the slip resistance of the path which so far has been to apply weedkiller and then pressure wash the worst areas. Still to do is treat the path with salt and give it another application of weedkiller. However, it is the Secretary's opinion that the banning of buggies down the path in damp conditions should remain in force, and this was agreed.

Attention then turned to erecting a barrier on the right hand side of the path. Dave Cooke informed the Board that Jim Whitehead considered the installing of a barrier would be more dangerous than leaving the path as is. After discussion the Board disagreed with this opinion.

It was agreed that concrete spurs would be fitted and then wooden sleepers would be installed, but this would only be from the gully below the Ladies 14th tee to just beyond where the accident occurred.

Dave Cooke will obtain a quote from Tony Moore to reroute the existing path through the sheep pen so that the gradient is lessened.

3. **Greens Report inc. Winter Work**

Steve Orchard outlined his priorities for the coming winter, and then others contributed;

1. Fill in and seed the 12th Bunker
2. Level at least 1 tee, starting with the 17th. This may include incorporating all three tee blocks on one area
3. Fill in the 5th Bunker
4. Look at decreasing the size of the 16th bunker to allow a wider path for traffic.
5. Carry out hollow tining and top dressing in late October
6. Carry out extra renovation on 1st green to help improve drainage channels
7. Replace mats on practice ground
8. Repair buggy path at back of 16th green with type 2.

David Lindsay asked James Sanders to instruct his staff to keep water levels topped up in the ball washers.

The Secretary brought to the Boards' attention his concern that at weekends the sand bunkers on the course take a battering from animals /weather conditions etc. and that at present will not be raked on either day unless a large competition is being played. The Board asked the Secretary and Head Greenkeeper to discuss solutions and cost implications and then report back.

4. **Chairman's Report**

David Cooke started his report by letting the Board know that Mike Dowsett had passed away. On behalf of the Club, David will write to Mike's wife expressing his sympathy.

David has approached Robin Humpage regarding the vacant position of Finance Director. Robin's work background is in banking, and David thinks he will be an ideal appointment. The Board agreed that Robin be co-opted onto the Board until the 2020 AGM.

David has received a quote of £300 from Tony Hammonds for renovating the two pillars outside the clubhouse entrance, as well as the top gable end. The Board agreed to the work being carried out.

David and Brian Friend have been working on a draft "Roles and Responsibilities" paper for assisting in the future recruitment of Board Members. However, this will not be put as an item on the agenda until the appointment of a new Secretary, as their skill set may have a bearing on the final wording of the document.

5. Captain's Report

John Sexton reported that FBGC have come second in both the IWGU Leagues held through the summer.

Other FBGC successes include the Rosebowl v Shanklin, and the annual match v Bramshott.

It has been a busy time since the last Board Meeting, with Captain's Day, Charity Day, Golfer / Non Golfer all taking place. The diary is being looked at for next year to try to spread some of these larger events around the summer, rather than having them condensed into a short space of time.

John was disappointed that the winner of the Sid Egford Trophy was not present to receive the trophy from Sid's grandson who had travelled from the mainland especially for the day. He thinks a stipulation should be added to the start sheet saying that it is expected that the winner of such events will be in attendance for the prize giving.

The Jazz Evening was well received by those that attended, but John was slightly disappointed in the numbers. However, it is planned to hold another evening on similar lines.

John will talk to the Secretary regarding the upcoming Mixed Open to ensure that the event runs smoothly.

6. Marketing Report

David Lindsay will talk to Biffa to try to secure sponsorship for the Men's Autumn Open being held on 12th October.

So far, David has secured £4,300 in sponsorship deals for the next two year cycle.

He is also confident of another £1440 that are deals in the final stages of completion.

David is in talks with other local firms to try to secure further sponsorship deals. One of these is Red Funnel who have expressed an interest in buggy sponsorship. If this comes to fruition it will mean purchasing new buggies at a cost to the Club, with some of that cost being offset by the sponsorship deal. It was agreed that some of our buggies are coming to the end of their life, so new buggies will need to be purchased anyway.

David has had an enquiry from Paddy Hodgson regarding purchasing one of our existing fleet of buggies, so if the Red Funnel sponsorship materialises, there may well be an opportunity to recoup further costs from the sale to Paddy.

On his recent trip to Donnington Grove, David was impressed to see how they advertised upcoming events through a laminated A5 sheet. He thought that this would be a good way of promoting events within the Club and passed on an example of this to the Secretary.

7. Secretary's Report

The Secretary informed the Board that the 2018/19 Final Accounts will probably show a slight deficit for the year. He explained that without being able to increase revenue significantly, and with ever rising costs, this will probably be the new norm.

It is still proving difficult for the Secretary to resolve the outstanding balance of the water account with Business Stream, despite having changed suppliers.

Our Natural England representative, Mark Larter has not yet completed the SSSI assessment for the course. The Secretary will continue to chase this up.

8. Secretary Vacancy

So far there have been 6 expressions of interest, with two returning their C.V.s. Two of these are from within the Club, two others with a golf background, and two with no connection to golf.

It was agreed that Wednesday 18th September will be the cut off point for return of applications, shortlist for interviews drawn up by Friday 20th and then interviews to take place week commencing 7th October.

The interview panel will consist of David Cooke, Brian Friend and Kevin Garrett. Ratification of the successful candidate will take place at the next Board Meeting on Monday 14th October.

9. AOB

Tim Rees informed the Board that Peter Bonnell will be the Past Captain's nomination for the 2020 position Vice Captain of FBGC.

The Past Captains' v Captain's match will take place on 2nd November. Tim Rees will liaise with John Sexton as to how many Past Captains will be playing in the event, and John will organise the catering.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 14th October

6pm

It was noted that John Sexton will not be available; in his absence, Richard Frost will be asked if he would like to attend in his place.