

FRESHWATER BAY GOLF CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday 14th October 2019

6PM START OF MEETING

- 1. Attendees** Seven directors and the Secretary were present. Also present were Robin Humpage (Finance Director Elect 2020) and Richard Frost (Captain Elect 2020.) Apologies were received from Ray Beer.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes September Meeting –**
Proposed by David Lindsay, Seconded by Steve Orchard Carried

Reports

3. Chairman

David Cooke has talked to Tony Moore regarding re-routing the 14th path, and the cost of this will not be particularly expensive (the cost of digger hire and 2 days labour.) However, the Board decided that once the cost of surfacing the path is taken into account, it would prove to be unfeasible to go ahead with this project.

David has been asked to be FBGC Seniors Captain in 2021. He said that without a change in rules this will mean that he cannot sit on both the Board and Captain's Committee. The Secretary advised for the rules to be left the same and for David to concentrate on the Senior Captain role for that year.

Tony Hammonds will begin work on renovating the two pillars outside the clubhouse entrance, as soon as he gets a break in the weather.

4. Captain

John Sexton's hip operation has unfortunately been delayed and is now scheduled for 25th October.

The FBGC Mixed Open was well received by those that played in it, but the bad weather caused the cancellation of the BIFFA Autumn Open as well as postponement of an Alliance event.

The Past Captains v Captains match on 2nd November will be 14 a side, and the timed start will be planned so that it doesn't clash with the Rugby Union World Cup Final.

The last Fristab of the year on 25th October will be followed by the presentation of the Tiller Trophy and then a few rounds of bingo hosted by Dave McArthur.

Two further social events planned are a wine tasting evening on 23rd November and a quiz and curry night on 7th December.

Richard Frost gave a summary of the IWGU Captains' meeting. There were two main issues arising; firstly it has not yet been decided how to fund the 2021 Island Games Golf Teams; secondly the format for the IWGU Foursomes League 2020 will be the same as this year, but no definitive decision has been taken yet regarding the Greensomes League. A meeting of League Captains will be held shortly to agree on the format.

5. Greens Director

Steve Orchard reported that the green staff will be spiking and sanding the greens in the coming couple of weeks. This will be slightly later than originally planned due to the incessant rain that we have had recently.

More extensive work will be done on the 1st green to try to ensure that the moisture in the soil reaches the drainage system installed earlier in the year.

The wooden posts around some of the tees will be disappearing, as they have become rotten and their usefulness does not warrant the cost of replacement.

The green staff have done an excellent job in tidying up the bottom greens sheds, and by doing so have created quite a lot of additional space.

The Secretary will endeavour to get James Sanders through all relevant spraying accreditation, but this may mean James having to travel to the mainland to complete his training.

The Winter Work jobs are underway, with priorities being the 14 path barriers and the 12th green bunker.

6. Marketing Director

David Lindsay gave an update on his income target for the next two year cycle, with him now being fairly confident of being able to generate in excess of £6500. Definite sponsorship deals are; The Hut (flags), Avenue Road Dentist (scorecards) IPower, Eversons, Tapnell Farm, Island Ales, Charles Stanley (all tee boards.)

David has also had some success with Red Funnel. They have agreed to sponsor two buggies at £500 each, and would like one white and one red.

The Secretary informed the Board that if new buggies are to be bought, the Board will have to decide on how to buy them, and how many. There is money in the bank for outright purchase; there are HP options or Lease options.

After further discussion it was decided that the Secretary will enquire as to the cost of each option and then a decision will be made at the next meeting on how we proceed.

David hopes that this is just the first part of a relationship with Red Funnel, and has asked for a member deal of £50 or less for a vehicle return on the Red Funnel route. However, this is a different department within the organisation so no agreement has been reached yet.

7. Secretary

The Secretary informed the Board of a workplace accident involving one of the green staff, Tim Harmer. This has led to Tim being off work the rest of the week. A new Risk Assessment and Safe System of Work will be produced to make the task safer than at present, to try to ensure no such accidents occur in the future.

The Secretary referred back to the spiking and sanding of the greens. He said that a decision to do this work later in the year was taken between himself and the Head Greenkeeper to alleviate disruption to the members during the main playing season. He thinks that next season hollow coring and sanding will need to take place in the Spring, and it may be advantageous to the condition of the greens to carry out similar work in September rather than October, but this will disrupt some of the September trophy events.

8. Finance – End of Year Accounts

The Secretary went through the draft accounts, picking out a few noteworthy items;

- a. A £14000 figure has been allowed for in the accounts to cover money owed to the Water Companies. This is due to a discrepancy on the meter that they have been using to bill the Club.
- b. Clubhouse Maintenance expenditure is well down due to last year's figures including the bulk of the refurbishment of the men's locker rooms.
- c. Natural England income looks down, but this is misleading. This is a net figure after expenditure, and this year an additional £3000 was spent on maintaining the course, the majority of which was paid to Dougie Weedon.

- d. VAT – the Secretary explained that the Golf Club operates as a Partial Trader and there are certain rules that affect whether we can claim back all our VAT, or only a partial amount of it. To complicate things further the VAT Year does not run in conjunction with our Accounts Year, so there are two VAT quarterly returns that affect our Annual Accounts that have not undergone the VAT Annual Adjustment.
So in the 2018/19 Accounts there is an amount of £2166 of unclaimed VAT that the Secretary is confident will be able to be claimed back once the 2019/20 de minimus test has been carried out. However, he has shown it in these accounts just in case the de minimus test is not passed.
- e. A question was asked regarding the lack of Other Income in 2018/19 compared to the 2017/18. The Secretary explained that 2017/18 there was a bank refund of £5500 and the rest was made up of advertising revenue from the two year sponsorship deals negotiated by David Lindsay.

9. Secretary Vacancy

The Chairman told the Board that three candidates had been interviewed for the position of Secretary. They were Russell Macgregor, Thomas Moore and Kim Tyrell. It was felt by the Interview Panel that although Kim would be more than competent fulfilling the duties of Secretary, she was the least suited of the three people, and therefore discounted.

Out of the remaining two people, each had different qualities to bring to the job, as well as having areas of weakness. Russell will be strong on social media presence and golf knowledge, whereas Thomas will be strong on administration and finance. Thomas however, has no knowledge of golf.

One factor that the Chairman asked the Board to consider was cost implications. Russell was only after a part time role, whereas Thomas wanted a full time role if possible.

The Secretary then gave rough calculations of the potential savings of a part time Secretary over a full time one, but tempered this by saying that these would only be fully realised when he was completely off the payroll.

After further discussion it was agreed that Thomas Moore be invited to become the new Secretary and for Kevin Garrett to negotiate with Thomas on salary issues.

10. AOB

David Lindsay asked for an update on when the entrance road will get some attention. The Secretary said that it is on his immediate todo list.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 18th November

6pm

Robin Humpage gave his apologies; Richard Frost was invited to attend.