



**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY THE 17TH OF
JANUARY 2012**

ATTENDANCE

Mr. Ken Shaw, (Chairman) Mr. Kevin Parr, (Captain) Mr. Norman Wells, (Vice Captain) Mr. Martin Millichip, Mr. Brian Russ, Mr. Garry Wilkinson, Mr. Martin Hardwidge, Mr. Joe Childs, Mrs. Anne Wells, (Lady Captain) Mr. Peter Adams, Mr. Nick Bramley, Mr. John Spencer, Mr. Dan Williams (Treasurer) & Mr. Mick Mulhern (Secretary)

Apologies

Mrs. Sandra Williamson (Lady Vice Captain)

Minutes of the Previous Meeting 8th November 2011

These were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Garry Wilkinson referring to page four of the minutes advised that the GC delegation met with the group responsible for the circulation of the Round Robin Petition in which they questioned the GC decision on realignment of the concessionary allowances. This meeting took place at their request on Monday the 21st of November. The club chairman Ken Shaw opened the meeting by welcoming the delegation and agreed with them the parameters of the discussion. He also reassured the petitioners that the GC had an open mind on the subject and they were then invited to define the key elements of their claim. Mike McClung outlined the detail of the issue from their prospective and was supported at various stages in his presentation by his colleagues Mr. Philip

Eastwood, Mr. Mick Johnston & Mr. Brian Bancroft. After some minor questions of clarification from various members of the group the GC delegation gave an analysis of the developing financial situation faced by the club then went on to reiterated the reasoning behind our unanimous decision to implement what we considered a fairer application of the concession policy. After a general debate conducted largely in a friendly but free and frank manner the Treasurer Mr. Dan Williams on behalf of the GC issued an open invitation to the delegation to provide an alternative solution - apart from an impassioned appeal made by Mick Johnston to recognize exceptional loyalty no other proposals were made.. The delegation was reminded by Garry Wilkinson that we already have in place a system that recognizes loyalty and he identified the most recent prominent recipients. However, the GC delegation gave an assurance that we would take account of all their comments and revisit the issue during the next financial period. The meeting ended without any practical alternative suggestions being proposed by the petitioners on how the general committee deals with this worrying trend. In closing Mike McClung, asked if the GC would be organizing a feedback and was advised that this was their responsibility. He then confirmed on behalf of the petitioners that he would in all 'good faith' be organizing a factual feed- back. We – the GC - are disappointed to learn from two GC members who overheard his report-back that he subsequently chose to advise the members that we the general committee representatives simply refused to listen. It will always be a source of regret for any general committee to witness the truth so blatantly misrepresented.

Correspondence

A letter received from Mr. Tony Storey and the secretary's reply completely refuting the fictitious allegation that the GC considers "all senior members to be within the wealthy bracket" – Noted. A letter from Mrs. Anne Mather and the secretary's reply re - Loyalty Concession – noted Claim from Mr. Dave Holder to pay his cleaning bill agreed to check with the catering staff before considering any action. Thank-you card from Mrs. Anne Poxon expressing gratitude to MGC for meeting the expense of engraving her County Autumn Cup Medallion – noted. Safety Measures seeking to introduce Emergency First Aid Course – agreed to consider other options. E-mail from Mr. Ben Ward referring to recent gun tragedies and questioning our tendencies however tenuous to be glorifying fire arms by our use of a shot gun start in some competitions – it was agreed to investigate the use of a klaxon for this purpose. Request from NUGC for MGC view on proposed changes to the funding of the County Card Scheme – it was agreed that we support no change. E-mail from the 1907 Society – it was agreed to continue with our membership and to post the details of available clubs on our website. E-mail from Mr. Ben Ward relating to our involvement with the forthcoming Queens Diamond Jubilee – agreed the Captains will meet and begin the organization of an appropriate celebration- it was also proposed to include Ben in these arrangements. A letter from GBC setting down the reasons for their decision not to build on MGC – noted. At this point the chairman advised of his

recent contacts with Mr. Mike Ward of the residents association who was seeking to agree with MGC a joint approach to deal with the current circumstances. After some consideration it was unanimously agreed to independently pursue our own agenda. An invitation from Sherwood Forest GC to participate in their invitation open Pro-Am – agreed Martin Millichip will discuss with our professionals. However, all participants would be expected to cover their own costs of entry. Finally, an exchange of e-mails between our professional, treasurer, secretary and a disgruntled green fee relating to the failings of on-line tee time bookings – it was agreed that the Treasurer will discuss these arrangements with the professional and his staff before contacting the company. The Lady Captain inquired if a letter has been received from the Ladies Section relating to the purchase of the new club flag – the answer is no. The ladies are disappointed by the quality of the flag a point of view shared by some GC members.

Captains Report

The Captain began his report commenting on the low turn out for the annual dinner dance. There are many reasons for the fall in numbers mainly the current economic climate. However, those who attended thoroughly enjoyed an excellent evening and he thanked the Lady Captain for all her hard work and organizing skills to ensure its success. Presented a cheque to the Brads Cancer Foundation for the sum of three thousand four hundred pounds (£3,400) and submitted the sum of one thousand seven hundred pounds (£1,700) to support the Lady Captains Charity. He thanked the Lady Captain for making these presentations in his absence. On Friday the 13th of January he along with other MGC members attended the NUGC annual dinner this was a very enjoyable occasion made more so when he and Kevin Spurr accepted the County Foursomes Shield on behalf of MGC. Closing his report the Captain thanked everyone for their support throughout his year of office and for their good wishes when recovering from a recent prolonged bout of ill-health. He was particularly grateful for the help and support of the Vice Captain and the Lady Captain throughout his entire term their contributions made it all the more memorable.

Lady Captains Report

The Lady Captain opened by commenting on the disappointing turnout at the annual dinner out of 67 in attendance 31 members in total of with 10 being ladies. Although disappointed with the number present all those who attended enjoyed the evening. On Thursday the 8th of December we held our annual Cheese and Wine Charity Presentation evening where I presented two cheques one of one hundred and sixty pounds (£160) to her chosen charity Pancreatic Cancer Research from the Ladies Section and another for one thousand seven hundred pounds (£1,700) accumulated from the Captain's Charity weekend. In addition I made the presentation on behalf of the Captain and MGC to the Brads Cancer Foundation of three thousand four hundred pounds (£3,400). The Lady

Captain thanked all our members for their generous contributions and made special mention of all those involved – too many to list - in the hard work and organization required for successful fund raising. Owing to bad weather we held the Bird and Bottle Competition one week later than advertised. This followed on later that evening with our annual Christmas Party. The children's Christmas Party was a huge success enjoyed by all children and adults alike with squeals of sheer joy when Santa appeared. All this would not have been possible without the hard work and organizing skills of Danielle Bramley and Rose Mawer who worked tirelessly throughout. In the winter league after three events we find ourselves lying equal second to Beeston Fields GC. Following our New Year's dinner we held our annual Give & Take this was my last formal event prior to our annual meeting. I have enjoyed the whole experience and I wish my Vice Captain Sandra Williamson every success in her year of office. The enjoyment has been enhanced by the unremitting support of my colleagues on the general committee.

Treasurers Report

The annual accounts will be completed shortly following on from a visit to the site on Monday the 23rd of January by our accountant. This visit is part of the annual process where it is necessary to make a fact finding visit the location. In addition we will receive a visit from our new bank manager on the same day. The accounts are showing lower turnover, lower costs and a trading surplus subject to final audit of £19,700. The Premium Credit Scheme has been updated and payment systems have been revised to include twelve payments over the year. We are also working to up-date our advance direct debit arrangements. Commenting on our decision to increase the annual subscriptions by ten pounds (£10) we also committed ourselves to look at other areas of income generation. The latest bar stocktaking report indicate a margin of just over 50% this is the lowest returns in some years with our highest returns being in the region of 55% by comparison a pub would show returns of around 70 – 80%. For example the standard price of a pint of lager to a member is £2.90p less 20% = £2.32p the Bread and Bitter a high volume high turnover unit charge £2.90p therefore we are by comparison offering value for money. We need to maintain our value for money policy but introduce a more realistic pricing structure. Therefore, the Treasurer proposed an increase of 15p less discount – on beer sales and pro rata on other products. This was seconded by John Spencer and unanimously agreed. Turning to the matter of On-Line Tee time Bookings raised under correspondence Dan agreed to consult with the professional and agree a way forward that will hopefully avoid or at least minimize these awkward occurrences. He will also look at the possibility of establishing our own on-line booking arrangements in consultation with Martin Hardwidge. Arrangements have been made to meet with Mr. Bob King from BRS to consider his system. Martin Hardwidge agreed to accompany Dan to this meeting on the 31st of January we will also invite Jon Newham. Finally, the Treasurer is considering reviewing our

machine gaming license to a system of renewal every 3 months this offers the flexibility of savings through periods of low activity.

MGC Website Up-date

Like the golf course the website experiences lower levels of activity in the winter months. However, we still had 201 visits last week with a 100 new people accessing the site. Nevertheless, Martin would like to see more direct hits to our site rather than introductions through Google. We have 112 regular fans on facebook with 128 on twitter. Colleagues will note the introduction of a fourth button 'Flickr' which accesses our club photo gallery. This is a powerful membership resource so please send in relevant photo's for inclusion. All open competitions other than the Men's BB which will be listed soon have been imported to the website. Martin requested an early up-dated version of the 1907 society so this can be placed on the website.

Ideas & Decisions

Referring to the previously circulated document Brian Russ introduced an up-dated version designed to help the general committee avoid revisiting topics which have already been debated and decided on. With the 'Steering Group' addressing the new circumstances and in the process developing policies to improve the club facilities this suggestion could conveniently operate in tandem. Brian suggested we meet without a formal agenda and with unfettered thinking we each introduce issues to be developed towards a policy in a brainstorming session. The Chairman attracted to the idea suggested Brian collates the comments building them into a set of priorities for future implementation. Garry Wilkinson urged the need to reflect on the new operating circumstances by becoming more pro-active and that nothing is sacrosanct in helping to move the club forward. It was agreed to hold the first session of these meetings on Tuesday the 31st of January commencing at 7.00pm.

Sub Committee Reports

Social: - Nick Bramley reported on the success of the children's annual Christmas Party attended by 45 children who enjoyed every minute of the day particularly the visit from Santa Claus. Equally, 90 adults thoroughly enjoyed the New Year Eve's party. He is involved in the arrangements of one more event before relinquishing his Social Chairmanship to take up the duties of Vice Captain and that is the family and friends quiz event on Saturday the 11th of February and he urged his GC colleagues to work for a maximum turn. This will be a fun night consisting of teams made up of 8 people and will appeal to the

competitive spirit of the participants. Nick closed his report by stating that the event planned for the 4th of February has been re-scheduled to the 31st of March.

Juniors: - After a valiant and successful struggle by the MGC Junior team to avoid relegation the county apparatchiks decided to re-organize the league and as result we now find ourselves in the 2nd division. The only consolation is that the team will next year visit some local premier courses. Cameron Steadman has enlisted in the County development squad and is benefiting from some top class tuition he is a promising young player. We have for various reasons lost the backbone of our junior team however we have a good crop of new players who will join with existing players of 8, 9 & 10 handicap and Martin is looking forward to help develop all their potential.

House: - Opening his report John Spencer expressed the need to look towards replacing the lounge TV. The black line running through the screen has now reached the stage that it spoils the viewers' enjoyment. He proposed we purchase a 51" LED at approximately £700 this was seconded by Peter Adams and unanimously agreed. On the 11th of December it was necessary to agree to some urgent cellar repairs at a cost of £500. After consultations with the treasurer we have agreed to introduce a modest price increase to the bar. Resulting from the GBC announcement to remove the uncertainty from MGC John suggested the need to revisit the new water supply – this was seconded by Joe Childs and unanimously agreed. There is a number of outstanding electrical tasks and improvement that also require re-consideration it was agreed to send these out to quote. Finally, he has in line with our contractual terms issued the Centenary Lodge service provider with a notice of increase. This is a mutually agreed contractual arrangement in which they have so far failed to respond. It was agreed that John would follow this up without further delay.

Greens: - Joe began by commenting on the success of the leaf collector and its contribution to better course presentation this view was universally endorsed by the GC members. In addition he felt that the club needs to return to the procedure of a five year rolling equipment replacement policy that will provide the tools of reliable quality for the job – it was agreed to include this idea in our first brain storming session scheduled for the 31st of January. Sometime ago resulting from some historical HR issues MGC dispensed with the services of two permanent green staff. It was agreed at that time and for pressing financial reasons only to replace one. A recent set of circumstances forced Joe to move Tim Carlisle from his voluntary role into a short term full time contract. The results of this action clearly demonstrate the need to permanently increase our manpower back to the original number. This issue was considered at length with concerns being expressed over our recruitment policy which we are compelled to comply with the current employment law where vacancies are openly advertised and we must remain cognizant of our current lack of financial resources to meet this demand. Failing this suggestion then Joe felt that the general committee would be required to revisit the annualized hour's arrangement with the intention

to revert our working pattern back to a 40 hour week covering both summer and winter seasons. This, he suggest, would be the only way that we can guarantee continuing high quality course presentation. The general committee felt it could not discount this idea but as it was a contractual variation it would require formal discussions with our staff. We are continuing with our agreed policy to remove conifers from the course were they have no value as a safety measure. Finally, we are becoming increasingly aware of the dangerous condition of our temporary tees especially in frosty conditions we are looking at a programme of replacement and we will be experimenting with Astra turf on the 9th tee.

Competitions: - In general terms the winter competitions are progressing well. Recently, through adverse weather conditions, we had occasion to close three additional holes both for the member's safety and to protect the course. Regretfully, we had no contingency plan in place to deal with this sudden emergency. Nevertheless, Martin commented on his disappointment with the ferocity of a few members reaction. In future if such circumstances are repeated we will release more holes for casual play. Joe Childs confirmed the necessity in certain conditions of the need for such actions. The 2012 fixture list is being extensively proof read and will be with the printers in a few days we have decided to introduce the diary format this year. We must learn lessons from last year and better control its distribution to our members. Finally, we are changing the format of our Open Competitions we will introduce a two tee shot gun (Klaxon) start and incorporate into the price of entry a carvery meal.

Membership: - Garry Wilkinson advised that the renewal process is slowly up and running. We have taking into membership eight new members which offset a similar number of resignations. Brian Russ sought clarification on concessionary lockers. It was proposed by Nick Bramley seconded by Peter Adams that we discontinue the practice of free lockers. This was unanimously approved.

AOB

Remarking on the need to keep the membership constantly informed of developments the Chairman gave a comprehensive verbal report on the Steering Group meeting with GBC on the 10th of January. We presented the full range of our agenda items in which the CEO of GBC responded as follows:-

1. Whilst he could not rule out the possibility altogether he nonetheless felt it would be most unlikely that the elected representatives of GBC would agree to sell to the MGC membership such a significant public asset.
2. Agreement was reached on developing more practical areas of support and he would agree to the current Head of Leisure liaising with MGC to work together on promotional ideas – MGC will be represented in this task by Martin Hardwidge.
3. In addition we discussed all three areas of longer term protection i.e. green belt land, a restricted covenant or the implementation of a

Charitable Trust arrangement. The CEO agreed to test all these proposals with his legal advisors.

4. We then considered the need for more long term investment in the facilities and we shared a number of practical ideas that would give us access to cheaper money for investment the payment of which could be covered by a reduction in rent. Again the CEO agreed to run these ideas past his legal team.

All these ideas require further discussion and investigation by both parties and we agreed to continue our formal discussions on these matters in February.

Norman Wells in discussions with his chosen charity 'Wish upon a Star' asked if it would be possible to display the organizations banner on the fence adjacent to the drive – This was agreed. He advised the general committee he has ordered all the glassware for next year but on some minor items he has instructed that date or year should not be included.

Nick Bramley sought clarification from the secretary on nominations and was advised that protocol suggested that outgoing and incoming Captains normally propose and second the new Vice Captain.

Mr. Joe Childs raised the issue of relining the car park including direction arrows and those members who park in prohibited areas should be asked to move. It was agreed to seek quotes on the relining and to initially ask the few members who repeatedly disregard the parking arrangements to comply and stop inconveniencing their fellow member.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

20TH OF FEBRUARY 2012 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM