

Spean Bridge Golf Club

Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 5th August, 7.30pm, in the Clubhouse

Present: John Muncie, Ken Dalziel, Allan Reid, Jim Paterson.

Apologies: Colin Davidson, Willie Atkinson, Aeleen Campbell.

The minutes of the previous meeting had earlier been circulated to members. After no objections were received, they had been published on the clubhouse notice board and on the website.

Correspondence

A poster for the Fort William GC Senior Open was put on the notice board.

1) Committee resignations and replacements

There are three vacancies.

It was decided to leave the Ladies' Section to choose a replacement as Ladies Secretary. Several names were suggested for the other vacancies and members will be approached in the next few days.

2) Review of open events

The "Hookers & Swingers", run in collaboration with the Rugby Club, attracted approximately 60 entries and raised nearly £800, half of which went to our Junior development and half to the Rugby Club for their juniors.

Our Open attracted only 40 entries, which was disappointing. However, arrangements on the day went smoothly and a fair amount was raised for club funds.

The committee will arrange to clean the clubhouse and provide kitchen and bar cover in the afternoon of the Senior Open, with Harry Campbell organising bookings and catering, and Ian Skinner and Brian Bellwood sponsorship.

3) Water supply: update.

Mr Eppins, from Killiechonate Woodlands, was in touch regarding spraying in the area uphill from the course. He offered to supply bottled water while this is going on. The Environmental Health Department was consulted and their Mr Murray should be thanked for the time and efforts he spent on this, concluding that the chemical being sprayed was toxic but, given correct spraying methods, would not affect our water supply. Mr Eppins's offer was accepted, on the principle of it being better to err on the side of caution.

4. Course development:

a) Bunker policy.

The point was made that golfers nowadays see bunkers as a normal feature of a golf course and are surprised if they are missing. Although we feel that we have had a good course up to now without any bunkers, it was accepted that putting in more bunkers should be a continuing policy in the next years, subject to giving paths a higher priority.

b) The Captain's Bunker review.

It was agreed that the bunker has deteriorated rapidly in the recent heavy rains and that it must be redesigned. Probably it would be best to face the top of the bunker with turf and/or sleepers, thus making the sand area shallower and less likely to erode.

5. Financial Report.

Alan reported that the bank balance is about equal to the August balance in previous years, with no major costs outstanding.

6. Membership numbers.

Membership has declined in the last few years, something which many clubs in Scotland have experienced. It is also noticeable that we have fewer "active" members, those who have handicaps and play in club competitions. It was agreed that we should look into ways to improve this for next season, beginning now rather than waiting to April 2015.

A.O.C.B.

Jim raised several points.

- One former member has been seen playing on several occasions. It was agreed to take a firm line with him.
- A glass fronted noticeboard should replace the custom of sticking notices on the club room window.
- The shed has not been fitted with lockers. We will try to find out if there is a demand for them.
- Jim has repaired some of the for-hire trolleys, so there is less need to buy the three decided on earlier this season.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday September 2nd, at 7.30pm.