

**Stockwood Vale Golf Club Committee Meeting
February 15th 2023**

Present: A Hooper, M Edenborough, I Mason, P Dawson, J Harper, P Gray, K Blakeley, A Jordan

Apologies: P Hopkins

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising.

The new rakes have been delivered and will be distributed at the beginning of Spring. As always – please use the rakes when you’ve been in a bunker.

The rep for the flag company hasn’t yet visited so the cost of flags with our emblem on is still not known.

Treasurers Report:

	Total Funds	Charity	Net Funds
Club	10280.44	4348.34	5932.10
Seniors	1503.06	330.00	1173.06
Ladies	902.67	370.20	532.47
Other	5000.00	5000.00	0.00
Total	17686.17	10048.54	7637.63
Bank Accounts			
Current	16289.37		
Savings	1396.80		
Total	17686.17		

The committee agreed to add an agenda item to our next meeting to discuss possible use of the Club Committee funds. Also to discuss ways to keep it at more manageable levels in the future.

AJ to add to March agenda.

It was also agreed to discuss an additional medal for the three 2023 Champions. The committee will be responsible for their purchase and engraving.

AJ to add to August agenda.

Matters arising prior to meeting and answered in advance:

IM: Should the Winter tees be moved around and not left in the same spot for more than a few days as this seems to destroy the boxes.

ME: The tee markers are moved 2-3 times per week. This time of year, there is very little grass cover on the tees so it is likely you will be playing from a worn area.

IM: Please can we consider a white tee box behind the original tee box on top of the hill on the 13th to get back the yardage lost in the 16th.

ME: We have worked extremely hard over the last 3-4 years to improve slow play. The 13th hole plays at an average of 5.17 for all scores returned off the white tees, the 6th hardest hole on the course. A tee further back will make the tee shot extremely difficult for the average player and will inevitably cause more slow play.

PD: The new trees on the 17th - why are the cages not square around the new trees as usual and why do they have scaffold poles around them? This is potentially dangerous if playing behind the trees. Should there be a local rule giving relief and will the cages be changed?

Will the scaffold poles be replaced with the usual wooden poles?

As these trees are potential replacements for the large tree. When will this be removed as currently this makes the hole a lot harder to play?

ME: The club employs a tree safety advisory consultant who last June advised that the ash in the middle of the 17th has the beginnings of ash dieback disease. It is impossible to say when the tree will become unsafe and have to be felled but it is likely to be in the next few years. The two new lime trees have been planted to replace the ash tree. The protective netting supported on three 48mm diameter galvanised posts are each fitted in a "V" shape. A "V" shape tree protector is better than a square shaped protector as there is slightly less chance of the netting causing an obstacle. Likewise, the 48mm diameter posts are thinner than 100mm wooden posts. We have ordered durable UV resistant padded pole protectors for the galvanised posts which should arrive in the next two weeks. A rule is already in place for staked trees and is printed on the reverse of every scorecard (abnormal ground conditions).

N.B. Following a discussion about the new staked trees on the 17th Hole, Martin will establish why both new trees have been planted in front of the existing tree rather than having one on the far side.

IM: Please can we have more information on the net on 5.

The following is an extract from an email sent by the club on this issue:

This is a safety measure so that our Greenkeepers can drive up the 5th hole and see when it is safe to proceed in front of the tee.

This is to be treated as an immovable obstruction, so you only get a free drop if your intended stance or swing are interfered with (NOT 'line of sight'). If your ball strikes the fence, the shot still counts, and you must play your next shot from the position it finishes in.

IM: Entrance and exit paths to the side of the greens on the 4th and 5th would speed up play, especially in the winter.

ME: Entrance and exit paths to and from greens concentrate the traffic in to one area and cause more wear.

IM: Please could we have some screening or a fence behind the 18th as many members have complained of not being able to see the flag as there is a lot of activity etc behind the green.

ME: I have been out to the 18th fairway and I'm struggling to understand the need for a screen. If you are far enough back that you can't see the flag, I don't see what difference a screen will make. I am also not sure what activity you mean. Surely the trees (when in leaf) provide a screen? I also can't see where you could put a screen. If it was too close to the back of the green it would come in to play. If it's further back, then it's in front of the trees and serves no purpose.

PD: When will work start on the tee box on 3/15?

ME: Over the last eight months we had to move the Men's 3rd tee forward to an area 130m from the front of the main 3rd tee on numerous weekday occasions. This was to enable contractors and our green staff to safely carry out tarmac preparatory works, the installation of three new drains from the right side of the main path, the laying of base course tarmac and wearing course, the rebuilding of the protective corridor from the 14th to the 15th and the extensive scrub clearance to the left of the hole. Inevitably those that play during the week have been impacted by the 3rd tee closure and have grown weary.

The rebuilding of the new 15th tee will involve the importing of about 500 tonnes of material which will need to be consolidated, shaped, levelled and turfed. In the interests of those members who play weekdays, we have decided that we will delay the reconstruction of this tee until 2024. In its place we have just agreed terms with a contractor we have used before to strip, level and re-turf the 1st tee closest to the clubhouse, the middle of the 5th tee, the 13th tee, the lower 17th tee and a winter tee on the 9th.

New Items for discussion:

IM: Why are the results no longer being posted on Facebook?

ME: The results are on HowdidIdo and a paper copy is kept in the folder in the club house. The committee agreed that this was sufficient and to also post them on Facebook would be unnecessary.

ME: The on-course defibrillator will hopefully be installed soon. The organization providing this equipment are a charity and do not wish to be reimbursed. In 2022 we received a refund of £1851 from Somerset Golf Union from last year's subscriptions. This money is to be used to benefit the club.

The committee agreed to donate the money to The Heart Foundation.

AJ: We currently have £5000, collected from donations, earmarked for junior golf. As it has been decided not to have a Junior Coordinator role. We need to decide how best to use this money.

The committee agreed to donate the funds to the Bristol Sport Foundation.

ME will, where possible, contact donators to ensure they are happy with this course of action.

AOB:

Please can people not take their trollies or buggies beyond the signs which ask them not to. The damage, especially to the front of the greens, is currently quite severe.

This activity, in conjunction with the lack of pitch mark repair on the greens is fast leading to some holes being out of action whilst the greens, fringe and approach area are allowed to recover.

The mats on the 4th and 14th have seen better days.

In the short term ME will check to see if they need power washing. In the longer term, it is planned to replace them in 2024.

ME: the remaining winter work, mostly on the 3rd and 13th will take place over the coming weeks.

AH: The 1% transaction fee for the new card reader has been queried as it has an impact, albeit small, upon the size of the prize money pot.

The explanation for this policy decision is contained in the minutes of the meeting held 07/01/2023. ME is happy to speak to anyone who has any queries on this topic.

Date of the next meeting – Wednesday March 15th 2023 at 19:00