



## BARNARD CASTLE GOLF CLUB – MANAGEMENT MEETING MINUTES

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	16 <sup>TH</sup> April 2024
<b>LOCATION:</b>	BCGC Administration Office
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	Geoff Wall (GW) Graham West (CAP) David Sparrow (DS) Andrew Hall (AH) Pauline Connelly (PC) Lainey Hunt (LH)
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Ken Walters (KW) Sue Blaeford (SB)
<b>MINUTES TAKEN BY:</b>	Lisa MacLeod

### **Action List**

- Action List was reviewed and progress reported.

### **Updates**

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>
Appointment of Treasurer, Sue Blaeford (Blaeford & Richardson Accountants)
<b>ADMIN</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Admin working hours altered and new contracts issued.</li><li>▪ All reciprocal agreements now in place and advertised on web site.</li></ul>
<b>WELFARE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Working on continuous engagement with community and local businesses to increase the profile of the club.</li><li>▪ Issue with conduct of member at SGM has been dealt with and resolved by LH, KW and CAP. All formally recorded.</li><li>▪ LH arranged for the Halfway House to be cleaned ready for re-opening. Gratitude was expressed to Maureen Raw and Shirley Smith for their hard work.</li></ul>
<b>COMPETITIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Craig Hamilton remains as acting Competition Secretary with the assistance of Ross Law (Seniors) and Dianne Wilkinson (Ladies).</li><li>▪ Advert for Competition Secretary will go out to members with Craig and Ross happy to assist and advise.</li><li>▪ Competitions/Fixtures for 2025 been uploaded to BRS by Craig.</li><li>▪ Durham County have given permission to extend preferred lies until May if necessary.</li><li>▪ Local rule re daffodils has been reinstated.</li><li>▪ Players to be disqualified for not returning scores in a timely manner (5 hours after beginning game).</li><li>▪ As per EGU guidance players are no longer required to submit a scorecard.</li></ul>

**GREENS**

- GW will send Head Greenkeepers report to all members of the Management Committee.
- Drainage issues remain and AH will meet with Head Greenkeeper and Chairman to discuss areas of concern and conduct some investigations as to what can be done to resolve the issues going forward.
- Assistant Head Greenkeeper Andrew Burrell resigned and will leave the Club at the end of April.
- Advert has been put out for new Assistant Head Greenkeeper and applications will be reviewed by Head Greenkeeper.
- Stephen Ferguson has been employed as additional green staff on a temporary contract for 2 months.
- Greenkeeper salary reviews took place and increase authorised.
- Possibly three more weeks until all greens are reinstated.

**CAPTAIN**

- Preparations for Captains Day are well underway and dates/activities to be advised.
- Attended meeting with LH regarding member conduct. Resolved and formally recorded.
- Sign in sheet for the Appleby match is almost full. Only two spaces remain.

**LADIES**

- All new lockers have now been allocated.
- No Ladies competitions have been played due to adverse weather.
- Teams for the Ladies v Seniors match are full.

**SENIORS**

- Report delivered by GW in the absence of KW
- Seniors match against Penrith was cancelled.
- Unfortunately for Barnard Castle it was a loss against Appleby in their recent away match.
- Preparation for the upcoming Open is well under way with all arrangements in place.

**Matters Arising**

- LH has been assisting Sheila in the finance areas of the club and will continue to offer support for as long as needed.

**Correspondence**

- No correspondence received.

**AOB**

- Membership Numbers – Membership is still looking healthy with new members still coming in steadily.
- Ladies Tee Box signs – AH will liaise with Head Greenkeeper to update signage.
- The next Management Meeting will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6.30pm in the Admin Office.

**Minutes of Meeting Proposed by: Geoff Wall, Chairman**

**Seconded by: Lainey Hunt, Welfare Officer**

## Acting Comp. Sec. Report

April 8, 2024

Most issues have been 'big surprise' weather related!

### Spring Open.

We had to cancel the spring men's 4BBB Open. I think going forward; we have to consider removing this event from our Calendar. It is not one of our bigger revenue streams and with increasingly wet weather; it seriously impacts the green staff's preseason course preparations. We want visitors to experience our course in the best possible condition to encourage their return. This would mean delaying it till around until mid-May, moving it too close to our summer opens.

### Easter Competitions.

These will be rescheduled to a later date.

### Captains Day

The joint Captains day is pencilled in for the 13<sup>th</sup> July. The 20<sup>th</sup> is also available if the 13<sup>th</sup> is not suitable. I will sort out the competition format with Graham.

### 2025 Calendar.

I have set up a provisional 2025 men's fixture list on B.R.S. and Club V1. This will give us plenty of time to make any alterations.

### Preferred Lies.

The county has given clubs permission to extend preferred lies into May if required.

In the past we have only allowed preferred lies to be taken on closely mown areas, equivalent to the height of the grass on the 1<sup>st</sup> fairway. I was always in favour of this as I believe, it rewarded straight hitters. I now think, because of increasingly wet winters, we should change this to the general area for next year. (All areas excluding penalty areas and bunkers.) This enables golfers to clean – remove mud from their golf balls.

### Daffodils.

I have reinstated in the temporary local rule giving relief from growing daffodils until preferred lies end. Several notices have been posted.

### Open Events.

As better ball competitions are now being used for handicapping, these events must be run through Club V1 or a similar programme. I have printed a user guide to help. Whilst not being willing to do any more full day shifts, I am more than willing to help in the lead up to these events. From experience, you need two computers available throughout the day to sign in / register teams and record scores. Having someone on standby in case of player cancellations helps take some of the stress away from what are high pressure days for those running them. First tee starters are also a help.

I have liaised with Ross regarding the first Seniors Open in May and will be available to help if required in the lead up.

Diane and the Ladies managed well running last year's Ladies Open and again I will be available to help if required.

#### Men's Competitions.

To avoid any more early morning phone calls, I have produced an idiot card for each competition. (Not sure if this is the correct term but it seems appropriate!)

Each card details the competition format, handicap allowance, tees for the day and any other relevant information. These will be posted, in advance, on the men's competition board in the clubhouse. The clubhouse should always be open before the first players tee-off.

I have started disqualifying players for not returning their scores in a timely manner. (Within 5 hours of starting their round.)

As discussed last year, following E.G.U. guidance, players are no longer required to submit scorecards.

Scores must be entered through the How-did-I-do Application or on the Clubhouse P.S.I. terminal by a designated marker. (As a last resort, they can also be entered through the Pro. shop or Office.) Players cannot mark their own scores.

#### Minimum number of competitors in Men's events.

I believe in the past there had to be a minimum number of competitors before competition could stand. I have searched through the archives but cannot find what that number was. I would suggest a minimum of 20 players in any 18 hole competition or the event is either abandoned or rescheduled.

#### Winter greens

Just my personal thoughts, but it seems to me, to keep the course open, we are going to be using winter greens more and more. I would suggest locating these well away from the summer greens as we have done on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Playing a hole 50yards shorter than normal is better than not playing golf at all. This should help protect both the summer greens and surrounds from excess wear and tear.

**Craig Hamilton**

## **March /April Report and Plan.**

### **March.**

- Weather report – 136 mm ( 5.5 inches) rainfall which ranged from 16mm to 39mm per week with 6 days CLOSED and 6 days reduced course.
- Managed to mow weekly on majority of greens, tees, fairways and aprons – rough areas to wet to mow with many waterlogged areas throughout.
- Fairways Slit tined with new slitter once when weather permitted
- Last of machinery serviced and all cylinders back from grinding
- Many areas in rough have standing water or waterlogged
- 17<sup>th</sup> Fairway still waterlogged with several puddles not shifting throughout month
- 10<sup>th</sup> fairway still waterlogged with large puddled area centre and right throughout month. Quote provided for drainage works to resolve as existing drainage too deep and not working – possible blockage in copse but more likely water not reaching existing drains. Fairway verti-drained and slit with no benefit.
- All irrigation heads on tees and greens raised to level.
- All greens had lawnsand applied to help combat moss and harden up as and when weather allowed.
- All bunkers and tee banks flymowed once
- New course furniture i.e. flags, cups and pins arrived ready for putting out April

### **April.**

- Weather report 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April – 102mm ( 4 inch ) so far with 8 days CLOSED and 3 days reduced course
- Mowing weekly of all areas – once it was dry enough to mow rough our 4500 rough mower broke down with major issue (still currently under repair at large cost) now we have a loan one it has become too wet in many areas again but mowing as and when we can but will take several weeks to reach standard and lose grass clippings. Un fortunately we cannot mow semi until this is completed and dry enough for semi mower. Several greens still way to wet to walk on never mind mow. Quote provided for Drill n Fill machine to help with drainage and drying out for future.
- All greens pencil tined to close up previous verti-drain holes
- All bunkers edged and weeded by end of this week.
- Resignation of Andrew Burrell (last day 26<sup>th</sup> April) and advert out looking for suitable qualified replacement.

### **Rest of April /Start of May**

- Season tee markers to put out back on main tees.
- New flag pins / flags / hole cups to put out
- 150 yard markers to add and these will be to the MIDDLE OF THE GREENS.
- Ropes and pins to bring in from course once conditions permit
- Fertiliser applications to greens, tees, approaches ASAP / chemical applications the same.
- Spray liquid iron and minimum fertiliser to fairways and semi-roughs.
- Main aeration week scheduled for Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> but may have to be put back if greens have not dried out enough

- Benches to put back out once conditions permit.
- Irrigation boxes and heads to trim around.
- Irrigation system to reinstate / open and repairs carried out.
- Drainage to repair / add to spring on 12th approach when ground conditions permit
- Divot tees and rake bunkers daily to improve appearance.
- Plus anything else required throughout the month – and if we can fit it in

Thank you

David and Team!

## **CAPTAINS REPORT**

**April 2024**

Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April to discuss behaviour and comments made at SGM - outcome and recommendations to be presented at MC meeting

Captains Day - The Clique have notified that they have arranged their main fundraising event for 13th July - alternative date for Captains day to be investigated and confirmed to ensure the Clique attendance

Appleby friendly 4th May - email sent to members to register their interest in representing BCGC and name sheet placed on notice board

Graham West  
Captain 2024

## **LADIES CAPTAIN REPORT**

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The ladies still haven't played any competitions yet due to the weather/course/temporary greens etc.

Ladies' lockers are all now converted and I'm just awaiting the last 2 ladies to confirm their option of uptake, once that has been done then all the converted lockers will be taken.

Ladies & Seniors on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, full teams from both sections.

Next ladies committee meeting is 29th April.

Pauline Connelly  
Ladies Captain 2024

## **SENIORS CAPTAINS REPORT**

### **MC Meeting April 16, 2024**

A Couple of socials get together and one Match which was a loss 41/2 - 31/2 at Appleby. Five halved matches out of the 8 unusually. A loss but the fish and chips were great and some younger low handicap players were welcomed and enjoyed it.

We should have played at Penrith by the time of the meeting if the floods have abated.

Preparations for the upcoming Open with new computer entry and scoring have been made. Laptops and more helpers organised.

Ken Walters  
Seniors Captain 2024