

Royal Blackheath Golf Club

Minutes of a general committee meeting (GC1207) held on Thursday 13 December 2007 at 7.30pm

Present: Dingle Clark (captain); Mrs Lisa Moore (lady captain); John Bunney (vice captain); Richard Ireland; John Burgess; Rod Baker, Roy Taylor; Anthony Campling, Nick Mavrokefalos , Hugh Douglas, David Tuffley, Neil Oddy

In Attendance

The Secretary.

Action

1

Apologies

Apologies were received from Christine Morgan and Tim Pearson.

4

Professional

4.1

Matt Johns, the Assistant Professional, had been invited to attend and address the Committee on his ideas, if he were to be appointed Club Professional.

4.2

He was 28 years (the same age as Richard Harrison when he was appointed) and had qualified with Merit with the PGA in 2003. He had been in charge of the financial side of RH's business for the last two years, was comfortable managing the other staff and felt that he had developed a good relationship with the members. He was used to managing Corporate golf days and had already ensured that the teaching with Colfe's School would continue after RH left. Previously he had been at Chislehurst and was comfortable in a traditional private members club.

4.3

He had assessed the start up cost at £40.000 to cover stocking and refitting the shop. He was confident that he had sufficient financial support from the Bank and private funds and had held preliminary meetings with suppliers to ensure that the Xclub would not suffer disruption in the handover. He had received support from Chris Brown, the other Assistant and would engage another former Assistant plus a junior (who might be a low handicap amateur wishing to take the PGA exams).

4.4

Various questions from the Committee were fully answered and he then left the meeting.

4.5

The Committee reached the conclusion that the presentation had been well considered and delivered with more confidence and maturity than might have been expected. Whilst he had not had a wide range of club experience it was the overwhelming view that the benefits of continuity far outweighed the possible results from advertising externally. The Secretary and RI were to finalise the contract details, including the licence to use our Trademarks, and the Captain would inform MJ of his appointment with effect from 5 February 2008.

Sec,RI

2

Minutes of previous meetings

2.1

The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting (GC1107).

2.2

The Secretary apologised for any apparent vagueness in the minutes relating to the Corum agreement due to the stage of discussions and the need to ensure commercial confidentiality. It

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was agreed that it may be necessary from time to time to restrict publication of some parts of the discussions.

3 Matters arising

3.1 The 2008 Book discussions had not reached a conclusion. Further meetings were to take place.

5 Corum

5.1 JBy reported that performance continues to improve and feedback is encouraging. The issues are more of an organisational nature than catering ability.

5.2 The Committee approved the remaining terms of the proposed Franchise Agreement and the outstanding cost issues. Richard Williams would tidy up the finer details.

5.3 The Corum advert for Fine Dining published in Meridian was wrong and Corum have apologised for the wording and lack of prior consultation. It is accepted by Corum that the Clubhouse is neither 'decadent' nor 'open to the public'.

5.4 Mrs Lisa Moore has agreed to takeover as Chair of the Focus Group from JBy.

5.5 The production of a wine list has been excessively delayed due to a need to dispose of their initial introduction of wines which could not be returned to their supplier. Now that many wines are being purchased through Shepherd Neame (Todds) it has been agreed that members purchasing with their swipe cards will receive discount on all wines. The list is to be finalised with the Secretary.

6 CASC

6.1 The draft set of amendments were considered acceptable but some minor modifications to be incorporated prior to submission to HM Revenue for comment. NM

7 Any other business

7.1 J Burgess had accepted responsibility for the website and its content. It was noted that Mrs Burgess had offered to audit our IT systems and this was appreciated.

7.2 A clash of dates in 2008 would involve two matches being rescheduled. Sec,LM

7.3 Waterhole – the list of potential donors was awaited.

7.4 Course – frost delays were authorised by the Course Manager to protect the playing surface. Sometimes members might find this inconvenient but it was in the overall club interest.

7.5 JSA are now actively wishing to co-operate in the planning of the Match on the Heath and sponsorship but there appeared to be a lack of communication, which needed to be addressed. RB

7.6 The claim for a greenhouse has been passed to our insurance brokers.

7.7 The occupation of the cottage is to be discussed with a potential short-term tenant. Sec

7.8 Committee minutes are now published in the Members Area of the web site.

The date for the next meeting was **Thursday, 24 January at 7.30pm**

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm

M J Miller
Secretary
18 December 2007