



Mid Kent Golf Club – Veterans Section

Minutes of the “Forum 2007” held in the Clubhouse
At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday 25th September 2007

Those Present:

Barry Porter	Len Sharpe	Maurice Green	Bill Couves
Eric Irvine	Tom Tweedie	Harry Caulfield	John Bryan
Claude Buttle	Ted Croft	Roy Davies	Reg Rider
Ken Thompson	Derick Jackson	Peter Stevens	

The Veterans Captain Barry Porter opened the Forum by welcoming all attendees and expressing disappointment at the poor turnout. He had hoped that from a membership of 123 we would have had a bigger turnout.

Item 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from David Wallis, Ray Watts and Pat Johnson.

Item 2. The minutes of “Forum 2006”

These were circulated before the start of the meeting.

Proposal: That the minutes of the 2006 Forum be passed as read.

Proposed by: Roy Davies

Seconded by: John Bryan

Carried.

Item 3. Captain’s Report.

There had been nineteen friendly matches of which we had won six, halved three and lost ten. Barry put his own personal interpretation on the results saying that, with one match left to play, a win would mean that we had lost no more than we had won or halved. Considering that out of a membership of 123 only about 16 veterans took part in matches this wasn’t a bad year. Barry said it remained very difficult to field teams and thanked those veterans who stepped in to play at the last moment.

Barry reported that the Open had again been very successful. This will be covered more fully at item 7.

The meeting was reminded that the Turkey Trot will be held on 5 December 2007 followed by the normal dinner and dance.

It had again been difficult for veterans to comply with the requirement to play both the home and away matches against the same opponents. There are unforeseen circumstances that have made that impossible. It was suggested that playing a home match gained you a “credit” for an away match without it having to be against the same opponents. Similarly playing an away match incurred a “debit” i.e. a commitment to play a home match but not necessarily against the same opponents. Barry pointed out that with the difficulties in getting a team together it is not practical to try to enforce any conditions.

Harry Caulfield gave a very brief report on the League team. We had neither won nor had we come last in the league. The highlight of the year had been reaching the final of the Kent knockout trophy.

It was agreed that terminating our fixtures with Shooters Hill and replacing them with fixtures with Sundridge Park had been a good decision. Shooters Hill is not really a “Veterans Course” and

Derick Jackson informed the meeting that other clubs were also having difficulties with Shooters Hill fixtures.

Item 4. Treasurer's report.

In the absence of David Wallis his treasurers report for the year ending March 31st 2007 was presented by Claude Buttle.

Comparisons with previous years were not possible because this was the first full year of the March to March accounting period.

Significant points are:

- The Group 4 Final had yielded a surplus of £201.
- The Open Competition had yielded a surplus of £535 – mainly from the raffle.

On the Expenditure side most figures differ very little from last year. It should be noted that subscriptions to the Kent County Golf Union are now paid by the club.

David proposed that the Annual Subscriptions remain at £2.00 and, depending on the Catering charges, he hoped to keep the meal costs for matches at the current £10.00.

We still need to keep sufficient balance to allow us to pay the catering costs of a home match before receiving the income from the away leg. We must also retain funds to meet any special Centenary events that occur.

David proposes that:-

1. The Captains Charity and the Junior Championships remain at £100 each.
2. The Kent Air Ambulance donation be increased by £50 to £250 plus the receipts from the Owen Jones competition.
3. The Lions Hospice donation be increased by £50 to £150.

In summary, it was a successful year financially and David saw no reason why the current year should not be as successful.

Proposal: That the Treasurer's report and his recommendations be accepted .

Proposed by: Derick Jackson
Seconded by: Barry Porter
Carried

Item 5. Election of Officers for 2007-2008.

There had been only one nomination for any of the post of Veterans' Captain and none for posts of Vice Captain, Treasurer or Secretary.

Election of the Vets Captain.

Proposal: That Peter Stevens is elected Vets Captain.

Proposed by: Barry Porter
Seconded by: John Bryan
Carried.

Election of the Vets Vice-Captain.

No volunteers or nominations had been received for this post.

Election of the Vets Treasurer.

David Wallis had expressed his willingness to continue and because there had been no volunteers or nominations it was agreed that he be asked to continue.

Election of the Vets Secretary.

Proposal: That Claude Buttle be elected to continue as Vet Section Secretary.

Proposed by: Roy Davies
Seconded by: Barry Porter
Carried.

Item 6. The Vets Open

The event was widely praised and the committee were congratulated by the meeting on hosting such a well-organised occasion. Derick Jackson echoed the praise but raised the issue of West Malling being allowed to enter six teams to the detriment of other clubs. Claude Buttle said that having made the mistake of saying in the advertisement that acceptances would be on a "first come first served" basis he left himself with no discretion. Next year the advertisement will give a closing date for entries. This will then allow us to limit the number of teams accepted from any one club to three unless we have less than 34 teams.

Derick pointed that we must start more teams off the 11th tee than off the 1st. Claude Buttle said that it had been the case for this year and he would make sure that it would be so for 2008.

Item 7. The League and Friendly Matches.

Peter Stevens raised the issue of staff gratuities. Some of our opponents pass round a collection box at lunch whereas our staff gratuities are included in the cost of the meal. It could be argued that this means that although we contribute at away lunches our visitors are not asked to contribute when they visit us. On the other hand if we collect for our home meals we would be donating twice, once as part of the cost of the meal and once at the collection. After some discussion the meeting decided that whether to collect or not be at the Captain's discretion.

Item 8. The Monthly Stableford Competitions.

The proposal that we move all medal competitions to the second Monday of the month would not solve the problem of clashes. It would avoid some of the Bank Holidays but there are three Mondays of each month when maintenance takes place. Derick Jackson saw no reason why some Vets. Medals should not be on a Wednesday. Claude proposed that he go through the Club Diary for 2008 and select days (Mondays or Wednesdays) when the medals could be played with a clash. He would then post a schedule on the Vets Notice Board so that everyone would know in advance when each month's medal was. The meeting agreed with this approach.

Peter Stevens put forward some interesting suggestions for increasing the number of entries to the medal. He was advised by some of the longer serving members of the club that there was considerable resistance to change and to adopt some of the approaches that worked successfully in other clubs would not be accepted here. The problem remains.

Item 9. Any Other Business.

Barry Porter raised the issue of payment of the annual hosting fee for the Veterans' Web Site. He had found the site invaluable in producing tick sheets, teams sheets, allocating players and recording results. Claude Buttle also said that it made life so much easier when producing the various mail shots, score cards etc for the vets open, for recording our Stableford results for the Costin Putter as well as keeping a track of membership, matches and opponents details. Up to now the annual fee (£82 last year) has been paid for by Claude. However, because its use is solely for the Vets Section, he asked whether the section would agree to finance some of it. The meeting agreed that all of it could be treated as a normal clerical expense.

The Meeting closed at 10:50 a.m. with thanks being expressed to the Captain, Secretary and Treasurer for all their work during the year

T.C. Buttle
26 September 2007