



Mid Kent Golf Club – Veterans Section

Minutes of the “Forum 2008” held in the Clubhouse
At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday 30th September 2008

Those Present:

Barry Porter	Don Pascoe	Martin Turner	Martin Smith
John Warner	Steve Pascoe	David Milledge	John Bryan
Claude Buttle	Derick Jackson	Peter Stevens	Fred Gaskin
Ken Thompson	Ray Watts	George Jewiss	David Newnham
Len Clarke			

The Veterans Captain Peter Stevens opened the Forum by welcoming all attendees.

Item 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from David Wallis, Pat Johnson, Harry Caulfield and Brian Doughty.

Item 2. The minutes of “Forum 2007”

These were circulated before the start of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

Proposal: That the minutes of the 2007 Forum be passed as read.

Proposed by: John Bryan

Seconded by: Ray Watts

Carried.

Item 3. Captain’s Report.

Peter Stevens thanked the Secretary and the Treasurer for their help in the administration of the section; this had been vital and without which the system would not have worked. He wished to place on record his thanks to David Wallis for his negotiating skills in ensuring that we kept our catering costs down and to Claude Buttle for maintaining and improving the usability of the Veterans’ Web Site. Both had been instrumental in ensuring the success of the annual Vets’ Open.

He also wished to record his thanks to all members who took part in the friendly matches, to John Warner for standing in during his absence, to David Watkins for the provision of drinks at the Vets’ Open and to our caterers and ground staff.

The one downside to his year as captain was the difficulty he had experienced in finding enough players to make up friendlies team. He had been led to believe that the problem would be in which volunteers to leave out; this was certainly not the case and even though there are in excess of 120 members it has been a struggle to field 12 players for either home or away matches. It has not been practical to enforce the requirement that a vet who plays in an away game should play in a home game.

The results of the ‘friendlies’ are almost irrelevant but at home we won more than we lost and away we lost more than we won. All our visitors had been impressed with the course and catering and all matches had been truly friendly.

There was some discussion as to why it was so difficult to raise the friendly teams. David Newnham said that he experienced similar problems with the club’s friendlies even though he had a far greater pool of players to choose from. In his case the greater cost may be a factor but less likely to be the case for us because our meals are less expensive. The timing and format of the tick sheets could also be a factor although the system employed in the past by which we asked vets to tick for up to six months ahead also did not work. Derick Jackson suggested that the tick sheets be made more eye catching; Claude would address this.

Martin Smith then briefed the meeting on the League team results. We had enjoyed the most successful year that we have had for a long time in coming second in the league to Rochester and Cobham. He said our heavy defeat at Bearsted had been disappointing as had our loss against our neighbours Rochester and Cobham at home. We had been unlucky to have an away draw at Sene Valley in the knockout competition; this is a particular difficult course for away teams and we were eliminated. Martin went on to express his thanks for the help he had received from team members and past captains. He said that, although he had originally intended to step down after one year, an unexpected reduction in his involvement with the Centenary Committee meant he could offer to carry on as the league captain for next year. Steve Pascoe called for a vote of thanks to Martin for his work and this was agreed by all present. His offer to carry on was much appreciated.

Item 4. Treasurer's report.

In the absence of David Wallis his treasurer's report for the year ending March 31st 2008 was presented by Claude Buttle.

The Turkey Trot Competition and Dinner made just a small surplus of £17. On the expenditure side, we increased our donations to the Kent Air Ambulance and to the Lions Hospice by £50 each but this was balanced by the £100 for the Junior Championships not being paid until this financial year. Other expenditure was similar to previous years and we finished with an excess income of £73.

We have a balance in the Bank of £1,160 which we will need to operate for the year. With next year being a Centenary year we may need to overspend a little and use some of these funds. In the absence of unforeseen Centenary expenses David proposes that the subscriptions and donations remain the same as last year.

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

Proposed by: Derick Jackson
Seconded by: John Bryan
Carried.

At the end of 2009 David will have completed 5 years as Treasurer which is what he said he would do. He would now like to give notice that he will be resigning at the Vets Forum of next year so a new Treasurer will be required.

Item 5. Election of Officers for 2008-2009.

Election of the Vets Captain.

Proposal: That John Warner is elected Vets Captain.

Proposed by: Peter Stevens
Seconded by: David Milledge
Carried.

Election of the Vets Vice-Captain.

Proposal: That Ken Benyon is elected Vets Vice-Captain.

Proposed by: John Warner
Seconded by: Peter Stevens
Carried.

Election of the Vets Treasurer.

David Wallis had expressed his willingness to continue for one more year 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 is elected to continue as Vet Section Secretary.

Proposed by: Barry Porter
Seconded by: Ray Watts
Carried.

Item 6. The Vets Open

The event was widely praised and the committee was congratulated by the meeting on hosting such a well-organised event. David Milledge asked if teams were admitted on a first come first served basis. Claude Buttle said that, following last years resolution that no club be allowed to enter more than three teams, within that constraint it was indeed first come first served. This did occasionally mean that a club entering a single team could be rejected if their application was late.

Derick Jackson asked if an application form could be sent to Romford Golf Club because of a long standing relationship them was between them and MKGC. Claude Buttle would ensure they are get one.

Item 7. The League and Friendly Matches.

Covered by Captain's Report above

Item 8. The Monthly Stableford Competitions.

The perennial problem of not being able to guarantee the availability of the first Monday of each month for the medal competition was again raised. An analysis by Claude Buttle showed that as far as clashes with bank holidays and other events were concerned there was little difference between the days. After various options had been were discussed, including moving to Wednesdays the following proposal was made.

Proposal: That where possible the veterans' monthly medal competitions be held on the first Monday of the month; when this is not possible that the competition be moved to the second Monday; if neither day is available then a suitable Wednesday is used.

Proposed by: David Milledge
Seconded by: Peter Stevens
Carried.

The entrance fee for the monthly medal competitions has remained at £1 for many years. The situation is now that the competitions either barely break even or make a slight loss. To recover from this situation we need to increase the fee and for ease of administration it is proposed that the entrance fee be raised to £2.00 where it should prevail for several years. This will provide us with a cushion against days when the number of entrants is low and cater for prizes of crystal glasses in 2009. All money collected will be used for prizes.

Proposed by: David Wallis
Seconded by: Claude Buttle
Carried.

Item 9. Any Other Business.

The issue of payment of the annual hosting fee for the Veterans' Web Site was raised by John Bryan. It was agreed that the site was an asset to the section and that it should be funded by it.

Proposal: That the annual hosting fee for the Vets Web site be paid from section funds.

Proposed by: Derick Jackson
Seconded by: John Bryan
Carried.

Written proposal submitted by Brian Doughty.

That in order to be eligible for entry in the Annual Turkey Trot a veteran must have competed in a set number of monthly medal competitions.

This proposal was discussed at length and failed to attract a 'seconder' so was not voted upon. It was questioned why being a regular participant in either friendly matches or league matches should be treated differently to being a monthly medal participant. It was the view of the meeting that there should be no qualifying requirements for a member of the veterans' section to participate in the Turkey Trot.

Written proposed by David Wallis.

That a special golf day be held by the veterans' Section to celebrate the Centenary Year and that it be followed by a Summer Ball at which representatives of the Air Ambulance, the Lions Hospice and the Junior Section be invited to attend and be presented with their cheques. There was some discussion about the need to seek agreement from the Centenary committee. Steve Pascoe dissented, holding the view that we should not have a separate event but join in the club events. The meeting was in general agreement with the proposal and tasked the committee to discuss it with the club and to produce some outline plans and costs for further discussion.

Proposed by: David Wallis
Seconded by: Peter Stevens
Carried.

T.C.Buttle
1 October September 2008