



Mid Kent Golf Club – Veterans Section

Minutes of the “Forum 2009” held in the Clubhouse
At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday 29th September 2009

Those Present:

Barry Porter	Roger Kiddie	Martin Turner
Ken Benyon	David Wallis	Sid Cleverly
Claude Buttle	Dave Lee	John Bryan
Maurice Green	Pat Johnson	George Jewiss

The Veterans Captain Elect Ken Benyon opened the Forum by welcoming all attendees.

Item 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Ken Thompson, Len Clarke and John Warner.

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 2008 Forum be passed as read.

Proposed by: John Bryan
Seconded by: George Jewiss
Carried.

Item 3. Captain’s Report.

John Warner was not present to present a formal report but it had been a successful year. After two years as the Captain of the League Team Martin Smith was retiring. No replacement has been nominated neither has anyone volunteered. There being no members of the league team at the forum the matter will be addressed by the incoming Captain and Vice captain. Until fairly recently the Vets had just one Captain and he, with the help of his Vice Captain ran both the Friendlies and the League teams. That will be reconsidered. Below is Martin’s Report for 2009:-

“Well another season has drawn to a close, and for me it has been a frustrating one. We started our matches later than other teams because of our centenary commitments, so we were always playing catch up. And our first 2 matches were away to both Sittingbourne and Sheerness, which are two very hard matches to start with, and I am afraid we lost both. We had some good home results but failed to get anything away from home, getting beat 3-2 on two occasions. The league again was won by Rochester & Cobham, whom we drew with at home and only got beat 3-2 away.

This season for many valid reasons we have been unable to get any continuity in the make-up of the team, which does weaken your chances. Some players have not had the same partner for more than 2 matches, which does not help. I know this has been as frustrating for the rest of the team as it has been for me.

But I would like to thank all those players that represented the club this year, especially those who came in at short notice replacements. And I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me throughout the year.

I am unable to continue in the role of the Vets League captain for next year, so can I wish the next captain better success for next year.”

There was some discussion as to why it was sometimes difficult to raise a team for friendly matches. The old system, whereby a tick sheet covering the whole year, or the next six months’ fixtures was posted, was reconsidered but rejected because there had been a tendency to just place ticks across the board which subsequently were removed as the fixture date approached. It was suggested that tick sheets have a large banner heading – Claude would implement this for next year.

Pat Johnson suggested that different charges be levied for home and away matches. He said that a home match would cost a player more than an away match because the home players provide drinks for guests but away players get theirs bought by the hosts. This would be unfair to someone playing only the home match. His suggestion that we charge say £15 for an away match and £10 for a home match thus more fairly spreading the cost of guest’s drinks was voted upon but not accepted.

Recently one of the vets shot a hole in one in a match against the ladies which proved to be a costly. It was suggested and passed that in the event of a “Hole in One” a donation of £25 be given to player to help defray the costs.

Item 4. Treasurer’s report.

A copy of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009 is attached. The accounts report shows that Income has increased over the previous year by about £250 due mostly to the Open Day and Turkey Trot Competition and Dinner.

On the expenditure, this also increased by a similar amount mainly due to our Web Site expenditure and a payment of VAT to the Club and we finished with excess Income of £49.50.

This put our balance in the Bank at £1,210 which is roughly what we need to be able to operate for the year. This year, having been our Centenary Year, we have increased our expenditure with the Commemorative Glasses etc but income has also increased and I do not expect our bank balance will have reduced that much by the end of the year. I therefore propose that the Subscriptions and three of the donations remain at the same level as last year, that is Subscriptions of £2 and donations of – Kent Air Ambulance – £200 plus the income from the Owen Jones competition, Lions Hospice - £150 and to the Captain’s Charity - £100. The donation of £100 to the Juniors’ Championship to be withheld because they have so much money in their kitty that it wasn’t spent last year. This will be reviewed next summer at the time of the competition.

At the end of this year I will be giving up the position of Treasurer. I would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way over the last five years and hope that my successor has as enjoyable time as I have.

Claude Buttle said the Web Site played a very important part in organising the Vets Open and was used throughout the season by the Vets. Captain. However, he asked if the membership considered it a waste of money. The view of the Forum was that it was money well spent and would wish to continue it.

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

Proposed by: Barry Porter

Seconded by: John Bryan
Carried.

Item 5. Election of Officers for 2008-2009.

Election of the Vets Captain.

Proposal: That Ken Benyon is elected Vets Captain.

Proposed by: David Wallis
Seconded by: Roger Kiddie
Carried.

Election of the Vets Vice-Captain.

A Vice Captain has yet to be nominated.

Election of the Vets Treasurer.

Proposal: That John Bryan is elected as Vets Section Treasurer.

Proposed by: David Wallis
Seconded by: Barry Porter
Carried.

Election of the Vets Secretary.

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

Proposed by: Barry Porter
Seconded by: David Wallis
Carried.

Item 6. The Vets Open

This had been a great success and generated a large proportion of our funds. We allowed a total of 32 teams and the application of the rule that no more than three teams be accepted from any one club meant that we had to turn away seventeen teams some of whom were our “regulars” including four teams from West Malling resulting in some complaints from them.

Item 7. The League and Friendly Matches.

Covered in Item 3. An analysis of who played in each friendly match is available on our Web Site at http://www.midkentgolfclub.co.uk/matches_report.php. A hard copy is attached.

Item 8. The Monthly Stableford Competitions.

These monthly competitions are proving very popular and the number of competitors has steadily increased. After some discussion regarding white or yellow tees it was agreed to leave things as they are. If it's not broken don't fix it. I was agreed that all competition, including the Lewis and Cobb, be played off the yellow tees.

Item 9. Any Other Business.

Super Seniors League.

In line with Group 3 of the Society of Golf Veterans, our own Group 4 is instituting a Super Seniors League for veterans over 70. At the moment there are only four teams entered; two of the original six candidates, Nizels and Sene Valley, withdrew because of the travelling involved. Each team will consist of just three pairs with optionally two reserves if the host club can accommodate them. The Board has kindly agreed to us being represented and Roy Davies has agreed to Captain the team. It provides an opportunity for our more senior members to play competitive golf. The maximum handicap will be either 21 or 24 but has yet

to be determined.

Our matches will be scheduled to avoid any busy times and will be held on either Wednesday mornings or Thursday afternoons. Clearly there will be only three home matches altogether.

Scheduled matches will all be between 1st April and 15th August.

Would any vets who are interested in playing in this Super Seniors League please contact Roy Davies?

There followed a vote of thanks to David Wallis for all his hard work over the past five years.

T.C.Buttle
Secretary of the Veterans' section