

OAK PARK GOLF CLUB

NOTES TAKEN AT MEETING BETWEEN CROWN GOLF & OPGCMA ON WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 3.30 P.M.

Present:	OPGCMA	Jon Pope	Club Captain
		Ian Brown	Vice-captain
		Jean Preston	Committee Secretary
	Crown Golf	Robert Brewer	General Manager

An apology had been received from Sheila Waite.

1. THE CURENT SITUATION

- 1.1. The letter from Crown golf has been reasonably well received. Robert has spoken to the members who had written to him.
- 1.2. Robert confirmed that the policy of compensation is exactly as was stated in the letter.
- 1.3. New members (3 have joined this month) are paying exactly the same as everyone else. Those who sign up for 3 years pay no joining fee. As with existing members, they will receive compensation of 50% of the green fees for the length of time the greens are out-of-play at renewal. There are no special deals for people.
- 1.4. Members who have played the course recently are shocked at the state of the course. The condition of the rest of the course has deteriorated significantly since the greens accident. Experienced players are saying it is dreadful and “never again” will they play the course as it is.
- 1.5. Lack of staff is one major reason and it is very difficult to get new skilled staff. This is a problem that Crown Golf must address with urgency.
- 1.6. The perception of members is not good. Members are still very sceptical – words are spoken but little action seems to have taken place and there is no time-scale of when work will be done.
- 1.7. A machine is coming from another course plus staff from Sherfield Oaks to do drainage works on the 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th greens.
- 1.8. The irrigation system is the other major trouble spot and this will take time and money to fix. Jon asked Robert for a schedule of work for this.
- 1.9. Robert and Vince are adamant that they want to get the courses up to a decent standard.
- 1.10. Jon is very disappointed at the lack of information on the work time-scale and the apparent lack of work on the course. If work is not being done, then people will start thinking about moving away and they will do so.
- 1.11. Robert re-iterated that it is the lack of staff which is the main problem. The green-keeping staff at present is Vince Ley (Head green-keeper), Nick (the mechanic), Darren (a qualified green-keeper), a trainee who is leaving shortly, Clint (who is on a cricket scholarship - not permanent) and one casual labourer.
- 1.12. Staff who have been to green-keeping colleges had all found jobs at the start of the new golf season.
- 1.13. The CEO has sanctioned Robert to spend more than budgeted for a deputy head green-keeper to ensure we get an experienced and good member of staff.
- 1.14. Most of Vince’s time is spent looking after the greens and the others do the cutting etc. However, their lack of skill is apparent.
- 1.15. Most of the other problems with the course, eg. tees, bunkers and drainage ditches have been around before and we have always been promised that the work would be done but that work is still outstanding.
- 1.16. Nothing is being done to persuade members that this other work will happen.
- 1.18. Robert hopes to communicate an update on the work on Friday, together with a list of the playing rights at the other courses for the next few weeks.

- 1.19 Some white tees are still back on the medal tees. So few people are playing that the tees will not be damaged.
- 1.20 The recent heavy rain has damaged many of the paths.
- 1.21 Germination of the new seed on the greens is going well. However some disease has appeared on many of the greens, the 12th being the worst. A program of spraying with fungicide should get rid of this.

OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY OPGCMA

- 2. **SHERFIELD OAKS** have been looking after us very well.

- 3. **HEAD-MIKE**

If we bought a new one, it would not be compatible to the existing speakers. Crown are unable to buy new speakers at present. However, a microphone and speakers will be hired in by Crown Golf when necessary – probably not required for the Race-night but definitely for the Burns Night. All spending focus at present is on the course.

- 4. **RACE-NIGHT**

This has been brought forward to Friday, 28th October. Robert has already agreed that the food choices will be Fish & Chips and Sausages & Chips. We will give a minimum number a week before. Tickets are being sold beforehand.

- 5. **TEAM COLOURS**

Two members independently approached a supplier in Guildford who could provide us with shirts etc. in orders of one or more and at a much cheaper cost – though probably not such good quality. The logo art-work will cost £25. The Pro-shop cannot compete with this. Robert has agreed that members can buy from this supplier but we cannot/will not sell them in the clubhouse. Jon intimated that OPGCMA were not interested in doing this anyway. OPGCMA will fund the Members' logo art-work and then individuals will arrange the purchase of their required clothing. TOPS players may also have an extra line put on the shirts (as can anyone else, e.g. name/position)

Paul has a stock of 6 shirts and 2 jumpers which have been ordered by members.

- 6. **CROWN POLICY ON CORE BOOKINGS**

Jon has heard from Cams Hall which has a new policy of having only 24 inter-club matches (from all groups) throughout the year and clamping down on block bookings from members. This must be an individual policy and is not Crown corporate policy. It may be that they have very few members who play in competitions. Robert is keen to have matches at Oak Park. Each club has to submit the 2006 proposed diary to be sanctioned by the CEO.

- 7. **CROWN GOLF ISSUES**

- 7.1 The vast majority of members to whom Robert has spoken are happy about the letter.
- 7.2 There was a positive reaction from the members at the last Club-night.
- 7.3 The regular golf game/course walk should be played at Oak Park. The next one will be at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5th October with Jon, Robert and ANO . Ian may arrange a match at some other time.
- 7.4 The date for the 2006 Charity Golf Day may be changed to 17 September and Ian will confirm this to Robert.
- 7.5 A form of Artisan Membership would not work.
- 7.6 It is more difficult for our members to play at South Winchester as they have a large membership.
- 7.7 Robert accepts our comments about the state of the course.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m. and was followed by a “site visit” of the courses.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2006 AT 3.30 p.m.

