

Golf Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Danny Thornton presiding

In attendance: Danny Thornton, Steve Washburn, Bobby McCurley, Doug Bellaire, Gordon Cudd, Bert Allen, Glenn Gentry, Chris Boswell, Keith Austin, Robin Burge, David Leffke, Brad Barden, John Comninaki, and David Phillips.

Danny moved the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as submitted and minutes were approved.

Danny thanked the Committee for their inputs on things and ideas to grow the club and or game. Anyone who has not submitted their ideas are still welcome to do so. Keith Austin has accepted the job of putting all the ideas together and creating a summary for the Committee.

A new event called "The Boonsboro Cup" was introduced to the committee as a precursor to the Thursday Night Men's League. The Cup will take sign ups during the month of April and then divide into two teams for a 5 match period that consists of fourball, foursomes, and singles starting in May. Players from each team will sign up weekly and matches will take place Thursday at 5:30pm. Prizes will then be awarded at the end of the Thursday matches. The idea of the Boonsboro Cup is so that players do not have to look for a partner each week and can just sign up as they are available over the course of the competition. A few committee members brought up the idea of continuing the Boonsboro Cup for longer than 5 weeks and either having it replace the Men's League or push back the league further into the year. This will be reviewed once the golf shop sees what type or participation the Cup has.

Keith Austin brought up the idea of having a shop run group that starts at 3:30pm-4:00pm Tuesday's during the golf season for those who cannot get off work in time to play at noon. This would allow them to finish around 8 and stay for drinks/dinner. It will be called the afternoon group and will start in May. The committee members who work full time thought it would a great idea and something they could see themselves playing in.

Steve Washburn introduced the idea of playing more competitions on Saturdays. He came up with this idea from friends of his in the UK as Saturday competitions are the lifeblood of the club and the only way to establish a handicap in the UK. He believes if we offer more competitions or tournament events on Saturdays it will help the guy who doesn't have a group to play with and will help add a competitive atmosphere to weekend golf. The events would be flighted by handicaps, men and women, and senior vs regular.

Doug Bellaire brought up that some higher handicaps do not enjoy playing with lower handicaps. For example some seniors with a handicap of 15+ do not want to play in the McCurley group on the weekends because they are not comfortable playing with a 3 or 4 handicap that they may be paired with. The idea was to start a group around 10am on the weekend for high handicaps only in order to allow them to feel more comfortable and have a group to play with. More discussion will be had with Doug about the exact time, day, and start of the group.

Another new group that was brought to the committee was a Wednesday night group for Couples/Women/Men originally called 8 and a Date. The idea behind it would be playing holes 1-8,

avoiding hole 9 with everyone dining out front, and then enjoy dinner together. This is a branch off couple's golf but will be open to all. The main idea is getting women who work and cannot play in the mornings as well as husbands and wives who are looking for a fun group to play with. Sign up as a twosome and play a different type game every night. An idea brought up by Brad Barden was to give the daily winners free dinner that night which would then entice everyone to plan to stay for dinner. The group will start Wednesday, May 24 and tee off at 5:45pm.

Another new idea brought to the committee was a gross match play event starting on Labor Day. It would be open to all but the low 14 handicaps would be automatically entered and any additional sign ups would play a qualifying match for the final two spots. It would be quick match play event as you only need 4 matches to declare the winner. This was brought up because the lower handicaps do not enjoy playing in the Match Play as it is now because they have to give up so many shots at times.

Along with a new match play event there will be a change to the original one. Bobby McCurley, Match Play Chairman, said he would like to use 80% the differential in handicaps instead of the full 100%. This again goes along with the idea of the lower handicap not feeling he has a chance of winning. With giving up less shots hopefully more lower handicaps will want to play feeling they have a better chance in the match.

Robin Burge suggested playing a format similar to the Turkey Tournament in the Spring and the Committee endorsed finding a date on the calendar. More information will follow.

William Greene, a member and golf coach at VES, recently asked the Pro Staff what could be done to allow his team to practice out at Boonsboro and even host a match against other private schools in the area. Brad Barden brought up the idea that golf is dwindling and allowing a high school to practice or play out at Boonsboro would give them a Boonsboro experience so when they are 25-35 years old they would want to come back and join the club. Another positive idea behind allowing the private school tournament would be that most these families would have the means to join the club and by introducing them to Boonsboro we may have some families gain interest in joining the club. Chris Boswell motioned to allow a Spring Tournament and Steve Washburn seconded the motion. All were in favor. Discussion continued on whether to allow them to practice. It was said there must be a fee structure in place, a contract on behavior, and no more than 4 schools at a time. No motion or vote will be made until after the fee structure, contract, and more discussion is made on the topic.

The next Golf Committee meeting will be determined but will occur before the One Day Member Guest that is on the calendar for Saturday, May 13th.