

Golf Committee Minutes

June 27, 2017

Danny Thornton presiding

In attendance: Danny Thornton, John Comninaki, Steve Washburn, George Vaughan, Keith Austin, Gordon Cudd, Bert Allen, Chris Boswell, Glenn Gentry, Becky Hawkins, Doug Bellaire, Bobby McCurley, Rob Pearson, and David Phillips.

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

Chris Boswell began with a recap of the 2017 Duel in the Sun Member Guest. Chris said it was the best tournament he has been a part of receive numerous texts and other communications saying the same. Dueling Pianos would become the default entertainment for each Member Guest moving forward. Areas for improvement would be lunch between nines on Saturday and instead continue with food on the course or lunches available to be brought on the course. Steve Washburn along with his guest provided a list of suggestions which are included at the end of these minutes.

George Vaughan provided an update on the upcoming 2017 Member Member. We are not doing a seated dinner during Friday night's activities and instead are doing heavy H/O stations. We will try to do the auction above the cart barn or section off part of the ballroom to give the auction a more intimate feeling and not be lost in the large ballroom. Friday night's golf event will be an alternate shot format for pace of play purposes.

David Phillips provided an update on the upcoming 2017 Club Championship. The committee has eliminated the on course beverages Friday-Sunday during play in order to trim from the budget and keep the entry fee at a reasonable price. The entry fee will be \$95 and includes a Saturday night party with band, dinner, and member ticket bar, as well as a Sunday night buffet with open bar. Carts are not included in the entry fee. The entire club would be invited to Saturday night's party at a fee to be determined. As of now no band has been booked. Winners of each division (Mens, Seniors, Super Seniors, and Womens) will each win a mounted flag signed by all competitors. Flight winners and others will win gift certificates to the golf shop. Amounts to be determined. The committee believes it is very important to get ladies signed up and excited about the club championship.

Steve Washburn reported on his continued planning and recruiting of the Ladies Invitational Tournament. He has recruited Becky Hawkins to co-chair the event and many BWGA ladies have volunteered their time. The three main areas to note will be housing, schedule, and entry fee. John Comninaki included his input by explaining that the Pro Shop becomes a subcommittee of every committee because any questions during the tournament is brought to them. This will be a big event that has a large workload and volunteers cannot be one and done. It will take a long term commitment. Sunday-Tuesday in June or July seem to be the dates that make the most sense on the women's VSGA calendar. Complaints that were brought forward by Doug Bellaire and Bobby McCurley were that you are taking play days away from the people who support the club the most, the Senior Men. They do not appreciate the Fox Puss taking time away from them and they certainly wouldn't appreciate a second event. For the next meeting Danny Thornton asked that Steve Washburn have his committee set with chairman and volunteers and their duties. This would be the next step in the planning process.

A point of note was brought up that the online Calendar needed to be updated to include all events and groups that play throughout the year. David Phillips is to complete this task this coming Saturday, July 1st after completing inventory in the golf shop.

The USGA has proposed rule changes for the 2019 season and the months of July and August will be a probationary period where they have asked for feedback of these rules. The Golf Committee will adopt the new proposed rule changes beginning July 1 through August 31 in order to provide feedback on the matter. These proposed rules will be used in all club sponsored events and tournaments and we ask that members abide by these rules in their daily groups.

Doug Bellaire spoke on the One Day Senior Member Member and said it was the best attended Senior day of the year. They have schedule another similar event for August 23. For the 2018 season they will schedule these events ahead of time and include it in the Senior calendar.

2017 Member Guest Feedback

1. In the putting contest, there should be some longer holes that are very difficult to make an ace. Yes, we want to encourage mulligans to jack up the pot, but also, we should not be able to “buy” our way into contention by putting a 9 on the board right out of the gate. I’m sure that caused some people to not try. Need to publish how many places and the payout percentages ahead of time. If teams know that we’re paying 1st and 2nd, it will increase participation.

2. If the budget would accommodate it, I think having someone out on the cart barn deck with a grill, actually grilling steaks and chicken would be a nice improvement for the stag night on Thursday. Great deck, and I think that would be a nice uptick from BBQ and chicken sandwiches. Have pre-done baked potatoes with all the fixings. Also, portions on the food stations need to be bigger. Quality and variety was excellent, but having to take 100 trips to the food stations was a bit underwhelming.

3. For the flights, remember that you can have 5 teams per flight and play the first match against par to give more options on the number of teams that sign up. It can be divisible by 5 or 6 teams per flight.

4. Didn’t love the “Death Flight” concept as it pertains to the shootout. It seems to cheapen winning a flight. If we want more teams “in it”, then add a wildcard of the top one or two point totals that did not win their flight. If we want to keep the bottom teams in each flight engaged, then create a death flight that is playing not for the shoot-out, but for their money back. That gives them an incentive, but does not cheapen the importance of winning your flight. They get their money back if they contributed to the pot. Also, having only 10 teams (flight winners and wild-cards) in the playoff will help speed things up.

5. Have a beverage cart (or carts) out on the course for the playoff. Encourages more people to stick around for the playoff.

6. No break between the two rounds on the last day. That saves an hour for the longer playoff. Also, start at 9:00 on Saturday. That is still plenty reasonable enough, but the 30 minutes earlier and the extra hour gives plenty of time for the playoff and still time to change and get back for the evening. The sandwiches that were served for lunch the last day could have easily been put out on the course.

7. Do the flop wall championship on Friday night, since there are no other club activities that evening. Could also do the putting championship that evening, if we want to incorporate that.

8. The dueling pianos should be the standard entertainment going forward. My absolute favorite entertainment for a member guest. However, room setup could have been much more conducive to the party.

For example: We could have had at least one more 8-top table on each end of the dining room and 3 to 5 tables on the terrace over-looking the ball room. Make sure every table has a multiple of 2 seats, with no table smaller than a 6-top. Move all of the food stations out of the terrace and ball room. Put them in the lounge, large and small dining rooms, with no seating in those "removed" areas. Main focus should be to keep the party in the room with the pianos. Don't provide tables that are not in view of a piano, except perhaps on the patio where you can still see and hear the "party".

9. The awards should be earlier in the evening so it does not stop the party's momentum. Tell the entertainers not to use the word f*k. There were some older members that probably did not take kindly to that.

10. Loved the tee gifts (shirt, hat and belt)! Do the same or similar next year. The more Boonsboro Logos in the world, the more people see the club, ask what it is like, want to be a part of it... Always do a shirt with a logo like you did this year.

11. Need to work on handicapping the playoff. It was clear that it favored the low handicaps. We were the only high handicap team that made it to the final four. There is no way that a couple of 15s could compete without strokes with the low guys. It is a net tournament, and that means that the higher flights should have the same chance to win as the low flights. The fact that the same guys have won it two years in a row and they are both scratch players speaks volumes.

12: If Brad will not close the clubhouse for the event, then we need to mark the front lawn as a private event. Members that do not play in the event should not get to drink for free or take the front lawn seats (not that it was a big problem, but still... if you close the clubhouse and the course to only those playing in the event, it will encourage more people to play).

13: Don't run out of glass. Extras can always be used the following year. I know it was a crazy year, but still, it is much, much better hearing that sound of shattering glass.

14: Don't split up the playoff. You want everyone watching the whole thing. It loses A LOT if there are only half of the people watching the playoff. Better to not let so many people in the playoff than trying to split it up. I also think if we start earlier, we can go to a six hole playoff, and use #1, #8, #9, #10, #17 and #18 as the playoff holes. Definitely need to consider pin options for the first playoff hole. Where it was on 8 pretty much guaranteed everyone would end up in the same spot trying to putt. Another advantage of using #1 as the first playoff hole... The green is huge with multiple pin locations to potentially avoid so much traffic in the same spot.

15. Absolutely MUST make winning a flight more meaningful money wise. I was very DISAPPOINTED when we only got our money back as a flight winner.

16. PAINT THE HOLES WHITE!!