

16.10.26

PRGC Members Forum

Attendees:

A Wardrop, P. Sloan, M. Collins, C. Neal, T. Taylor, A. Taylor, P. Gerrard, S. Wagerfield, A. Bowyer, D. Orford, S. Williams, M. Richards, M. Stinchcombe, S. Lewis, L. France, V. Bate, S. Pomeroy, G. Young, A. Chaplin, V. Dexter, C. Dakin. S. Tietjen, J. Martin, M. Tubb and G. Tubb.

Introduction



Purpose

Added opportunity to widen the voice of the membership

Additional to, not replacement for committee and Customer Service Book



Code of Conduct

Positive, constructive, enjoyable

Forward looking

The forum opened by reaffirming its purpose and our shared commitment to creating a positive, constructive and enjoyable environment where members can openly exchange ideas.

It was encouraging to see such a strong turnout and particularly pleasing to welcome ladies to the forum for the first time. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the discussion.

As the forum develops, and whilst our Code of Conduct remains sacrosanct, we will introduce a simple "raise your hand to speak" approach. This will help ensure everyone can contribute, whilst maintaining a courteous, respectful and well-organised discussion.

Agenda

- Members' Competition Boards & Photos
- CBL / Matches / Summer Intra Club Matches
- Tees
- Winter Golf
- Ladies Participation – Club Vs Sections
- Competitions, Handicaps and Data
- Members Funds
- Greenkeeper and Player Harmony
- Future Forums

Competition Boards and Club History

- Members' Competition Boards no longer fit for purpose. Goal to create a respectful and sustainable long-term solution?
- Clubhouse photographs - how to preserve club history whilst creating a more practical and sustainable display for the future?

Competition Boards

The forum acknowledged that we are running out of board space and that a number of historic inconsistencies exist across the current boards, including typeface, font size, letter spacing, line spacing and text alignment. It was stated:

- Approximately **£5,250** remains in the Men's Fund & **£1,000** has already been earmarked for engraving / boards for this yr & last
- The Ladies confirmed that no funds have currently been earmarked towards boards.

Existing competition boards and updates have been purchased through competition subs.

Management proposed that a small subgroup may be interested in evaluating new boards

Action: Further board engraving to be paused pending a decision on replacement. The suggestion was a co funded approach with management redecorating and hanging the new boards and the competition funds continuing to fund the boards..

Members were shown examples of a modern competition board system currently being used successfully at other golf clubs. Under this approach, historic and current winners are printed annually onto 440gsm PVC panels, which are mounted between two acrylic sheets. The acrylic boards themselves are relatively inexpensive to purchase and straightforward to update.

The proposed approach offers a more flexible, consistent and cost-effective solution while also addressing the current issues of space, presentation and ongoing maintenance. There are many solutions including electronic solutions that the task and finish group should consider.

Tilsworth A2 Board example

Tilsworth Golf Club - A2 boards to update each year (20 boards = total £87.15). Plus, low-cost initial purchase.



• CBL, Challenge Cup, Competitiveness, Leagues and Inter (and intra) Matches

What are the current issues or concerns around CBL and Challenge Cup participation that we need to be aware of, and what are the implications?

Several clubs within the CBL are withdrawing due to a combination of travel times, overall time commitment, costs, difficulty fielding teams, competitiveness and concerns regarding slope ratings. The likely implication is that competitions become more localised, potentially reducing both the social and inter-club aspects that many members enjoy.

The member responsible for administering Competition-generated funds – Al Bowyer - also highlighted that a proportion of money raised through men's competitions has historically been used to help subsidise men's matches.

- How do we return to being experts on our own White Course?

The GK team have agreed to sit down with CBL leaders to establish how greater use of the White Tees might be made possible for CBL players. It is apparent that medal and Stableford scores on the Whites rarely achieve handicap. Barcilon gross and net winners did not play to handicap and most medal and Stableford leaderboards rarely see players beating handicap. When we play other clubs at home, we are not making the most of home advantage.

- Might Intra Club matches be part of the solution?

With increasing pressure on inter-club matches and many clubs struggling to field teams, the forum discussed the potential for introducing an internal summer league or intra-club match structure. The concept was viewed positively by some members as a way of providing additional competitive golf within the club, although others highlighted that members often play on specific days for a reason, which could present a participation challenge. Further consideration would be required to determine whether there is sufficient interest and a format that works for all. Generally positive views and a small task and finish group will discuss the matter further.

Eg Thursday Eve Summer Intra Club matches

The example below showed how an intra-club league could operate over a small number of designated summer evenings. With six teams, five match nights would be required; with four teams, only three evenings would be needed. A popular suggestion from one of the SODS was to make each evening a different fun format, whilst keeping matches to nine holes to maximise participation. After the forum there was a discussion around a potential "Joker" option, allowing teams to nominate one fixture during the season for bonus points.

Importantly, if there is sufficient 'match golf' over the summer this idea may not be required.

Thursday	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3
1	SODS 1 v Tuesday	SODS 2 v Friday	Grumpies v Ladies
2	SODS 1 v Friday	Tuesday v Ladies	SODS 2 v Grumpies
3	SODS 1 v Ladies	Friday v Grumpies	Tuesday v SODS 2
4	SODS 1 v Grumpies	Ladies v SODS 2	Friday v Tuesday
5	SODS 1 v SODS 2	Grumpies v Tuesday	Ladies v Friday

Tees

- Tee improvement strategy generally, including consistent tee alignment.
- White tees specifically: what is our long-term usage /development strategy?
 - See Winter Tee idea

The forum acknowledged that the course was comparatively in very good condition with an acknowledgement that the greens, surrounds, fairways and bunkers in particular were notable successes. The chair and floor complimented the GK team.

The GK team acknowledged that Tees had not received sufficient priority due to manpower issues across the summer.. The GK team highlighted that the summer heat wave had created considerable stress on the course and the tees in particular.

Without losing focus on other areas – the GK team have a recovery plan for the tees so that when the growing season starts, they will be in good shape.

Part of the reason for this confidence is the potential introduction of robot mowers. Robots can work 24/7 releasing the GK team to focus on the other course maintenance priorities.

The forum requested a written note on the tee recovery plan and this was agreed to.

The GK team also agreed to some short term changes to tee positions requested by the ladies. The GK team requested that issues like this may be whatsapp'd or put in the customer service book for action rather than waiting for a forum.

There was strong support for a gold tee winter mat solution – Whiteleaf have successfully executed a similar plan

Winter Golf Competition

- Is there an appetite for an inclusive winter competition and/or league, perhaps a WAGS-style format with weekly and seasonal prizes open to all members? Discuss

The answer was Yes. The old competition secretary could not remember why the winter eclectic comp ceased to be active many years ago. Suggestions will be considered and a winter comp kicked off (mats to mains)

In short – whatever day you play, no change is required – if you enter the comp, your “mats to mains” scores will count to the average of your best 5,8 or 10 scores across the winter. This is being explored as an option.

- Mats-to-mains inevitably shortens the course. Opportunity for members to practise and enjoy the longer game during winter? Whiteleaf artificial turf example. Discuss

See prior slide - The GK team liked this idea and will evaluate a possible implementation for a future year. Issues will be tee size and cutting challenges. A proposal will be included in the Tee strategy.

- Balancing protecting the course with delivering the best possible winter golfing experience... temp tees / greens

Members acknowledged the importance of protecting the course in times of frost / adverse winter conditions. The GK team requested patience and understanding.

- **Balancing Local Groups with a Strong Club-Wide Culture – Ladies in particular**
- How do we balance the benefits of groups such as Seniors and Ladies whilst continuing to build a strong whole-club identity? Eg More mixed participation
 - Could more 'Open' Board competitions be genuinely open to all members rather than having separate male / female or occasional mixed formats?
 - How might competitive ladies be encouraged to participate even further within the club - in intra club matches, leagues or other competitive opportunities?

The gents have opened up all of their comps and roll ups to the ladies. Some ladies play on a Friday as well and they are most welcome to do so.
The idea of a full 'Open' Board comp with women as individuals playing against men was tabled and agreed as a good idea. An action plan to be drawn up.

Competitions, Handicaps and Data

- How do we ensure we remain good custodians of England Golf data whilst maintaining effective volunteer support?
The management highlighted that we were data controllers for England Golf data. They suggested that we sit down with the volunteers and run through what data they require and how it might best be provided.
- What should the ongoing management process be for competition funds and prizes?
The management of weekend competition money needs to be reviewed with members to become responsible for cash dispersal – per Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday groups. Lots of brown envelopes and
- How can we encourage more consistent score entry, particularly from formats such as WAGS and regular weekend social golf, to improve handicap accuracy?
Tuesday and Friday groups were not unhappy with less regular card submissions from Saturday players so long as they met club agreed card submission targets. The handicap committee will continue to monitor card submission.
- Are members comfortable with the proposed "local knowledge" model, or is there interest from others wishing to become involved in handicap administration?
Members were again offered the opportunity to become more engaged with handicap management but agreed that the top level reviews with local knowledge applied as appropriate was working sufficiently well.

Members' Funds and End of Season Presentation

- Beyond competition boards, clubhouse photographs, trophies .. how should existing members' funds be used / managed?
- Do we still require a general members' fund, or should funds be ringfenced for specific purposes such as trophies and member celebrations?

The member responsible for the administration of Competition generated funds highlighted that circa £5250 was in the pot contributed to by people entering competitions. The pot has sat at a positive surplus for some time and ideas for its deployment are welcomed. A report will be attached to the minutes.

- Is there sufficient appetite for an End of Season Celebration, for example 5th December, and who would like to be involved in organising/ promoting it?
 - Looking ahead, should we consider raising funds during the year to support these activities and events?

A small working party will be involved in organising and promoting the end of season event with at least three people at the forum positively keen to support. It was mentioned that covid had stopped much loved end of season event activity and this year would be a good time to kick start them again.

Action: Al Bowyer – Phil Sloan – Sue Pomeroy all agreed to promote within their groups.

- Greenkeeper and Player Mutual Understanding of work / play etiquette
- How do we max GK productivity and player experience? Co-existing happily. Examples to be discussed.

The important points were:

1. Issues where the GK team had created frustrating interruptions were rare – but regarded as avoidable.
2. Issues if reported to the GK team via whatsapp will be used to help coach the GK team on opportunities to improve
3. Specific care and attention from the GK team are required when there is a match or competition on
4. This is a two way street – it requires mutual understanding of each others priorities – players and the GK team

Future Forums

- How often should members' forums be held? Pre-season+ post season+ mid-season? And by exception.
- How do we ensure they remain constructive, well attended and focused on matters where member input can genuinely influence outcomes?

There was no objection raised to the process of pre-season, mid season and post season forums (with some forums called on an intervening basis if required). Unless otherwise advised the next one will be called early March – pre season.



Questions

The WAGS Wind Up was promoted and members encouraged to attend. The WAGS event is very much open to other members to attend – it is a great night and has a singer from the Voice entertaining. Speak to Sarah or Graham for details.

The chair thanked everyone for coming and for their considerable contribution – lots of good healthy debate on matters that matter to members.