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**Happy New Year
&
Good Golfing**

PERSONNEL ISSUES – Many Members will have heard that our House Chair – Andy Graham had an unfortunate accident at home recently resulting in him breaking his hip in 4 places. After undergoing an operation to repair the damage requiring metal pins and plates he faces several weeks of rehabilitation. During this time Andy will continue to maintain regular contact with the club – although no golf! - and oversee ongoing house activities with the support of our Vice – Captain - Tony Davis. We want to express our best wishes to Andy and hope for a speedy recovery.

PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2018 - Following an EMT on 11th January 2018 the following actions were approved:

- i) **Membership Issues:** Work started last year on reviewing our Membership and specifically how to retain existing members and recruit new ones. This resulted in 2 proposals being submitted to our AGM focussing on juniors and women. These were both supported. This year we want to focus on our seniors. We will be exploring in more detail issues relating to age boundaries, subscriptions and loyalty versus honorary status. To take this work forward we will be holding a number of “open” meetings to listen to Members views and seek help in finding solutions that work for our club. These meeting will be led by J Thornberry (EMT representative) and A Hickman (Seniors Captain). We expect meetings to start in mid-late February so please look out for details of dates and times on the notice board and future newsletters. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.
- ii) **Electronic voting** – This was a hotly debated proposal at our last AGM and was defeated by the closest of margins. Some Members being concerned about how such a system would work in practice and if it would negate the value of “hearing” active debate before voting. However given the considerable support for more and better use of electronic communication with members we feel it would be wrong to drop the matter entirely. Consequently we intend to “test” an electronic voting system to ensure that it

works by undertaking a couple of surveys. The topics are likely to be around better use of the club house in order to generate more income and the concept of electronic voting itself.

iii) **On line booking** - There are many benefits to the club and the system is well liked by many Members. However we want to see how we can address the concerns raised at the AGM by Stuart Dowd and John Brassell and others about the potential adverse impact of the system on our Members. We support the idea of holding more “Open” meetings to better identify the problems and seek solutions. The specific issues include:

- Monitoring usage,
- Time slot allocations (especially during the winter months with shorter daylight hours)
- Action for persistent offenders for booking and not turning up or cancelling.
- How best to meet “ non-techies” access to the system to ensure fairness.

Dates and times for these meeting will be clearly published and displayed in the usual places.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2018

DIRECT DEBIT PAYERS

Direct debits for 2018 subscriptions were set up in December and emailed or posted to members. The first payments were taken on 5 January, 9 were re-presented because of non-payment and 7 were reset, 365 payments went through successfully.

£25 will go on to loyalty cards soon after the second direct debit on 5 February.

NON DIRECT DEBIT PAYERS

Bills were set up and emailed or posted to members at the beginning of January. Apologies for my error in not setting the due date to 1 March. Fees are due then and payable by 31 March. Many people have already paid and we thank you for that. £25 goes on to loyalty cards as soon as fees are paid.

2018 MEMBERSHIP PACKS

We are waiting for fixture booklets to be printed – hopefully before the end of January. Envelopes containing a letter from the Captain, details check, 2018 sticker, fixture book and a complimentary golf voucher (for full members) will be placed in the Foyer as soon as possible for direct debit payers and as non-direct payers pay their subscription.

RESIGNATIONS

Please note that if you intend to resign your membership for 2018 then you are no longer a member from 28 February and should not use the club facilities as member after that date.

59 CLUB

The 59 Club is won each week by the person whose number matches the Lotto bonus ball. Congratulations to our first winner of the year, Pauline Gibson.

The current 59 Club will continue for a total of 20 weeks, the proceeds going to the Ladies Section (not the Captains’ Charity, as was stated in the December newsletter). It is intended to commence a second 59 Club at the beginning of June to run for a further 20 weeks - the proceeds from which will go to the Captains’ Charity.



WOMEN ON PAR

Durham County has been selected by England Golf to deliver the Women on Par project in 2018 and Bishop Auckland Golf Club has registered an Expression of Interest. If successful we would be one of five successful clubs to host an event aimed at offering women a fun and social way to grow their confidence out on the golf course in a pressure free environment with other women who are all doing the same thing! It supports the pathway from beginner golfer to regular player, through the provision of 9-hole events played over short courses. Events run in conjunction with the Women's Get Into Golf beginners courses which will be run by Michael Pilgrim in May 2018.



JUNIOR WINTER LEAGUE

Players in the Junior Winter League have shown their commitment braving both the cold and difficult course conditions which bodes well for the coming season.

Following their first Sunday of 2018, players, families and supporters gathered in the clubhouse to draw winners from the Winter Fundraiser which was extremely generously supported throughout the Club to raise funds for plans to develop the section over the coming months.

Captains, Allan and Angela helped to draw the winners and presented Wayne Mundy with the first prize which was generously donated back to the section and other prizes were also re-donated for future fundraising events.

Left to right Stephen Goodwin (JLO), Wayne Mundy, Sue Wright, Alan Bailey (Captain), Angela Simpson (Ladies' Captain)



LADIES SECTION DONATION

At a recent meeting of the Ladies Committee, the decision was taken to donate £500 to the Club to be put towards the purchase of round tables to be used at social events and functions. The Executive Management Team meeting gratefully accepted.



VISIT FROM THE HMRC

Bishop Auckland Golf Club will be welcoming the HM Revenue & Customs on Thursday 25 January. Sadly it is not as a visiting party to play golf but to carry out a check of VAT records over the past 4 years.

Please note the committee room will be unavailable all day.

TROLLEY SHED REMOVAL

Following the replacement and re-siting of buggy containers, we plan three further actions to help improve the look of the golf club.

The pre-fabricated garage, previously used for miscellaneous greens equipment only, will be taken down and removed. This, therefore, has no impact to members.

Similarly, the white container, also used for greens equipment, will be taken down.

The third proposed action is to take and down and remove the trolley shed. The shed is in a very poor condition but houses several trolleys.



The club is unclear how many trolleys are being stored in the shed and are in active use. If you have a trolley stored in the shed could you please inform the Secretary?

Once we have established how many members use the shed we will decide whether we need to offer members an alternative storage facility or not.