

**BOARD MEETING TUESDAY 30th OF April 2024**  
**SWANSTON GOLF CLUB at 6pm**

**Attendees**

<b>Mike Robson</b>	<b>Manager/Secretary (MR)</b>
<b>Bob Steele</b>	<b>Senior Captain T/T (BS)</b>
<b>Andrea Johnstone</b>	<b>Ladies Captain (AJ)</b>
<b>Stuart Steel</b>	<b>Gents Captain (SS)</b>
<b>Neil Williamson</b>	<b>Junior Convenor (NW)</b>
<b>Forsyth Henderson</b>	<b>Greens Convenor (FH)</b>
<b>Mike McNally</b>	<b>Club Professional (MM)</b>
<b>Martin Cunningham</b>	<b>Course Manager (MC)</b>

**Apologies**

**Graeme Millar**                      **Club Captain (GM)**

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**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

In the Captains absence the Club Manager chaired the meeting and thanked the attendees for attending the Board Meeting preceding the Club AGM, a special welcome was made to the Gents Captain, Stuart Steel, the Junior Convenor, Neil Williamson, the Club Professional, Mike McNally and the Course Manager, Martin Cunningham who were all attending their first Board Meeting

**APPROVAL OF LAST BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2023**

Approved by Martin Cunningham and Seconded by Mike McNally, this was done after the Meeting as MR forgot to present the Minutes to be approved at the actual meeting.

**GREENS**

**MC** the Course Manager kindly prepared a report that **FH** went through the main points with the attendees

**Work carried out winter 2023/2024**

- \*Winter renovations to the greens carried out (coring and top dressing)
- \*New winter mats placed on holes 1/3/5/7/8/9/10/12/13
- \*Slabbing around 14<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> winter mats and turfed
- \*Slabbing 1<sup>st</sup> on Templar Course
- \*1<sup>st</sup> bunker filled in and turfed plus some patch work on green
- \*3<sup>rd</sup> rodded green drains made sure working
- \*12<sup>th</sup> tee chair/Monoblock taken away replaced with turf
- \*13<sup>th</sup> path dug up and new hardcore down
- \*15<sup>th</sup> pond got dug out (wildflower seed getting put down)
- \*18<sup>th</sup> path astro lifted and new hardcore put down
- \*Fertilized fairway and rough on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> as members not happy
- \*Cored 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> greens again due to wetness of greens /not doing enough thatch removal over the last few years

**Staffing**

- \*Finding it hard to get a greenkeeper now as wages over Scotland have gone up a lot
- \*Finding it hard to get greenkeeper of a good standard
- \*Ewen McClung is meant to be giving us a hand in summer for 2 /3 days

\*Going forward I think we should have a staff of 6 full time as we have one of the biggest areas in Edinburgh to look after with possibly the smallest full-time staff and least experienced staff

### **Machinery**

\*We are looking at getting a new greens/fairway mower (end of April /May I believe)

**MR confirmed all the paperwork has been done with John Deere for the two new vehicles (tees & greens machines) which should be delivered in the next couple of weeks.**

\*We need other machines/units instead of hiring in all the time and waiting on them.

### **Winter work 2024**

This year I would like to do more aggressive work to the greens as for a good few years we have not been doing enough to them.

I would like to grade greens which is like scarifying but a lot deeper. The grader we have just rips out thatch but for better results we would have to get in on hire the sand injection machine

I would also like to go back to the wider hollow coring tines as for the past 3 years we have downsized due to member's not being happy about size of the holes, this way we take more thatch out green, and they drain better and a firmer surface and hopefully all year-round play.

\*15<sup>th</sup> fairway - I would like to put drains over half the fairway to get in play all year as we have problems every year with it.

Majority of this work would be done with digger but due to Scottish Gas pipe under fairway we will have to hand dig some parts /be watched by a representative of Scottish Gas we would need to get digger in for few weeks.

\*Path work

\*New 1<sup>st</sup> tee steps – wooden areas, rotten

\*Finish putting irrigation on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>

\*Level / build new tees

\*Build new greens on 3 and 11

\*I would like to take some trees out at the back of the 3<sup>rd</sup> to let more sun and light on to green

### **Summer**

Going forward this summer my aim /the teams aim is to get the course in good condition and have golfers from all over talking about us in a good way. Doing general summer work i.e., cutting, raking bunkers, holes, aerating/decompaction greens, topdressing scarifying and rolling.

### **FINANCE**

**MR** advised the meeting there was £201k in the Clubs bank account (£50k loan)

Direct Debit payments are now over £22K a month.

“2023 Club Accounts showed a small loss in 2023 – will be further discussed at the AGM later in the year

**MR** total fee income in 2024 in the region of £395K of which 95K from Juniors and Academy

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**MR** advised the meeting that from 1/1/24 to today we have had 91 new members of all categories and 101 members of all categories have resigned – a difference financially of - £10,382.

## **COMPETITIONS & MATCHES**

MR stated that the Winter Stablefords had been a great success and would continue in 2024/5  
The Captain V Gents Captain match fell victim to the wet weather and was cancelled – this will not be re-scheduled.

The Netta Tuner 4 Ball was won by Kerr Rourke and Scott Thomson with a 56

## **REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES**

The Gents Scratch Summer League was scheduled to start with an Away game against Newbattle on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April but due to the wet weather will be rescheduled for later in the year

The Seniors drew their first match 3-3 in the SEDSGL with Craigmillar Park at Swanston

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**FH** asked if the Club had considered investing some of the money in the Clubs bank account in a High Interest Bond – **FH** to get back to **MR** with possible options

**AJ** asked for the 11<sup>th</sup> tee to be left where it has been all winter for the Ladies

**SS** raised the question again about coloured flags on the greens indicating, front, back and middle

**MR** suggested the greens were too small to justify this.

**SS** asked if a bell could be situated on the 15<sup>th</sup> to let golfers on the tee it was clear to play – **MR** to look into this.

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm