

**GNL
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24th, 2015**

In Attendance

Steve Wedgwood – President
Adam Stanley - Secretary
Ken Casey - Treasurer
Jim Sloan - Rules Director
Jan Peters - Competitions Director
Sandra Sparrow - Course Rating/Handicap Director
Jamie Moran- Junior Director
Paul Kelly - Marketing Director
Greg Hillier - Executive Director

Absent

Marcheta Gallant – Past-President
Ray Tuck – Membership Director

Observers

Christine Dengel – Regional Director, Golf Canada
Kay Thompson – Golf Canada Governor

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by President Steve Wedgwood.

Agenda

It was moved by Sandra Sparrow and seconded by Paul Kelly to adopt the agenda as presented.

Carried

Minutes

It was moved by Sandra Sparrow and seconded by Jamie Moran to adopt the minutes of the June 24th, 2015 GNL Board Meeting as presented.

Carried

Business Arising from Minutes

a) Strategic Plan Process

The Board was informed that the next meeting of the committee will be held in mid-October with the goals of having a draft presented to the membership at the AGM, obtaining comments and feedback, and anticipating that the Board will adopt the document at the January 2016 Board planning session.

b) Vice-President Position

The Executive Director informed the Board that he had hoped to travel to Labrador this summer and during the visit to Amaruk arrange a meeting with Jeff Hillier to discuss the Vice-President's position. Unfortunately, due to scheduling, this was not possible. However, the Executive Director will reach out to Mr. Hillier in the next few weeks to determine if he is still interested in the position and inform the Secretary of his status.

c) Travel Subsidy Policy

The Board was informed that a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday October 20th at Bally Haly to begin the review, discussion and development of a revised travel policy that will be presented to the Board for review and recommendation. It was noted that it is the intend of the Executive Committee including members of the Competitions Committee to develop the new policy and have it available in the spring of 2016 at the latest.

d) 2017 National Championships Venue

The Executive Director referred to correspondence from Golf Canada to Humber Valley Resort informing the club that they have been selected to host the 2017 National Mid/Masters/Senior Women's Championship. The Board discussed the process that was used by GNL to assist in identifying clubs to host national competitions and that while Blomidon was the only club to submit an application to GNL any club can apply direct to Golf Canada for consideration.

It was noted that GNL became involved in the process due to the fact that one year the two clubs being considered to host a national competition were not members of GNL. Additionally, because GNL had secured a number of national competitions, Golf Canada wanted to ensure there was support to identify clubs.

The Board noted that in future, if there is more than one club expressing an interest in hosting a national competition, Golf Canada will complete the final rating and selection process.

Correspondence

There were a number of pieces of correspondence including the following:

1. Letter from the President of Golf Canada providing an update on activities of the NSO.
2. Letters (three 3) from the Sport Division approving funding for travel subsidies for junior players to attend the Atlantic and National Junior Championships, as well as, approval of the 2015 operating grant.

Committee Reports

a) Financial Report

Treasurer Ken Casey reported that GNL is in the process of replacing its current financial software to *Simply Accounting*. It was also noted that because the organization is in the process of preparing documents for the audit, there was no financial report at this time. The Board requested the Executive Director to provide at least a balance sheet in the next few weeks.

It was noted that a modest revenue surplus will be realized again this year but the exact surplus will not be known until the audit has been completed. As part of the year-end activities, members are being contacted in order to process any outstanding accounts and invoicing has been issued related to other outstanding accounts receivable.

b) Rules Director

Rules Director Jim Sloan reported that there were no major issues at the Provincial or Atlantic Championships and that overall these competitions were very positively received. The Director is in the process of scheduling officials for the High School Championships and it was noted that twenty-three (23) players from six schools have registered for the competition. There was a general discussion on the event and the Executive Director noted that the low attendance issue will be addressed in the coming months.

In terms of rules development, the winter online rules seminars will begin on January 4th and offered every Monday evening for a thirteen (13) week period. Presently three participants have been identified to complete the seminars and challenge the Level III exam while a number of officials will participate as observers in the seminars. It was noted that a number of out-of-province officials have requested to participate in the weekly rules seminars and will be accommodated as there is no cost associated with having these individuals involved.

A traditional rules clinic will be scheduled in mid-April and advertised to the membership. This weekend clinic will include a full review of the rules and exam for Level III.

c) Course Rating/Handicap Director

Course Rating/Handicap Director Sandra Sparrow reported that the initial site visits to the courses at Brookside and Terra Nova have been completed and the team is in the process of completing the required calculations and paperwork to provide certification. It is hoped that the team will have the opportunity to rate The Willows prior to the close, while Gander will have to wait until early next year to be completed.

The Director noted that during the past week it was discovered that the revised course rating information uploaded on the USGA site is not automatically transferred to the GN21 site operated by Golf Canada. The Executive Director has made a request to Golf Canada's Handicap Director to review the USGA site, GN21 site and other related information to determine what needs to be updated and provide the resources to update the information.

The Director noted that there appears to be an issue with the ladies tees at Humber Valley Resort and this might require another visit and review of the rating. Hopefully, through the review of the course rating by Golf Canada this issue might be addressed.

d) Junior Director

Junior Director Jamie Moran referred to the minutes of the last committee meeting and reported that overall it was a good season with an increase in participants in the Golf in Schools, Future Links and Mobile Clinics programs.

A number of junior players had great performances at the CN Future Links Atlantic and National Championships, while a number of players qualified for the National Amateur Championships. The committee is in the process of reviewing the Provincial Development Team Program and meetings are planned with the parents of the players in the coming weeks to obtain feedback prior to developing the program for the 2015-2016 season.

The committee had two recommendations for consideration by the Board:

1. The committee recommends to the Board to begin the process of transitioning the operation and management of the Tely Tour to GNL and that the process be completed by the fall of 2016.

The Board discussed the recommendation and inherit risks of such a transfer and agreed to table a motion at the Annual General Meeting.

2. The committee recommended to adopt a late registration deadline for the provincial championships with an additional fee. After a detailed discussion on the subject the following motion was tabled:

It was moved by Ken Casey and seconded by Jim Sloan that GNL introduce a late registration fee and deadline to be extended for one (1) week and that an additional late registration fee of \$50.00 (CDN) be added to the initial adult and junior registration fees.

Carried

e) Membership Director

Due to the absence of the Membership Director, the report was deferred until the next meeting.

f) Competitions Committee

Competitions Director Jan Peters tabled the minutes of the last committee meeting and noted a number of issues.

The committee has recommended that for 2016 the Provincial Junior Championships be held from July 3rd to 6th at Gander Golf Club and the Adult Championships be held from July 10th to 13th at Twin Rivers in Terra Nova. The board concurred with this recommendation.

The Director reviewed a number of recommended operational changes to the championships including providing the players a meal immediately after they finish their round on the second day of competition, use local operator to assist with pin placements, adjust the split tee process to ensure a balanced schedule, eliminate the notice of two separate nine hole rounds unless projected weather conditions make it a necessity, gross and net prizes will be awarded after the three days of competition and elimination of the Mid-Masters Divisions.

The Board discussed the potential to provide a round of golf for players that withdraw or are DQ. It was agreed that these individuals would not be compensated in any form and that they be removed from the competition.

The Board discussed the recommendation to hold the adult championships in the latter part of the summer (August/September) and deferred the matter back to the committee for further review and evaluation with a presentation of the pros and cons for such a move.

The Director noted that one of the objectives of the committee is to increase participation by females in the championships and a survey was developed and circulated to a core group of competitive females at the Clovelly/Bally Haly Club Challenge. The results showed that females do not participate in the competition due mainly to time, cost, and other activities.

The Board discussed the opportunity to engage females and it was noted that a number of approaches will be implemented in the spring. The committee will also look at a number of options including a full recreational division, reducing the non-competitive field to two days and looking at a club team competition combined with the individual stroke play.

The Director noted that a number of committee members have tendered their notice to resign from the committee and in fact the Director will not be standing for re-election. However, the committee is in the process of identifying individuals to fill the vacancies and Mr. Howie Hansford has agreed to let his name stand for election to the position of Competitions director.

g) Marketing Director

Marketing Director Paul Kelly noted that there was nothing new to report and that a meeting of the committee is planned for late October.

h) President's Report

The President reported that due to a scheduling issue he was unable to attend the last meeting of the Provincial Council but will provide an update when the minutes of the meeting are circulated.

i) Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame Chairperson Steve Wedgwood reported that the committee will be holding a meeting in the coming week to discuss the nomination process to date and discuss plans for the Hall of Fame & Awards Dinner.

j) Archives

Archives Chairperson Adam Stanley stated that there is no activity to report at the present time.

k) Executive Director

The Executive Director reported that he will be attending the Provincial Executive Directors meetings in Oakville from October 5th to 7th, hosting Development Team Parents Meetings during the month and planning for the Annual General Meeting. It is anticipated that a number of committees will hold their final meetings prior to the AGM.

New Business

a) High School Golf Championships

As discussed previously in the meeting, the Provincial High School Championships will be held on Admiral's Green in Pippy Park from September 25th to 26th. This year twenty-three (23) players representing six schools and four regions will be competing in the event with only one female.

It was noted that while the numbers have declined from last year there is still support for the competition and the committee will determine over the next month what can be done to continue the competition and encourage increased participation. It was noted that Holy Heart is the school sponsor and is ultimately responsible for the competition, but GNL has played a major role in the promotion, organization and operation of the event.

A meeting with the school representative will take place later in October and a full assessment of the event including contact with schools will be implemented to assist in determining the best approach for 2016.

b) Annual Meeting – Nominations, Itinerary, Reports, Constitution-By-law Revisions

The Board reviewed the draft revisions to the two (2) by-laws. The Secretary questioned whether they were sufficient. The by-laws will be reviewed to ensure it meets the objective to include Public Player members.

The Board was informed that the AGM will be held on Friday November 13 with a number of information sessions on Saturday November 14th followed by the Annual Hall of Fame & Awards Dinner that evening. Members of the Board were requested to submit their annual reports by the end of October and if members know of individuals interested in filling one of the positions on the Board to contact the Secretary or Executive Director.

c) Golf Canada Score Center Launch

The Board was informed that Golf Canada has launched a new format for the Score Center on September 21st and encouraged members to view the area and provide feedback. A notice has been circulated to the membership informing them of the change.

d) Golf Canada Membership Model Update

The Board discussed the present status of the new Membership Model that is being implemented across the country with the exception of GNL and the PEI Golf Association. It was noted by Christine Dengel that the Provincial Executive Directors will be meeting with Golf Canada in early October to review the present findings. It is anticipated that the program implementation will continue status quo for 2016 and that additional information and findings will be required before the full plan can be implemented. It was reported that Golf Canada's, Membership Committee will be meeting in the coming week to review the progress of the model.

The Board agreed to wait for additional information prior to making any determination on whether, or when the model might be implemented in this province.

Review Action Items

The list of action items was reviewed and noted that items were being addressed in a timely manner.

In-Camera Session

The Board held a brief in-camera session.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held at Bally Haly Country Club on Friday November 13th, 2015 beginning at 3:30 P.M. The purpose of that meeting is to review plans for the AGM/Hall of Fame weekend.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M. on a motion by Jan Peters.

Action Items

Minutes/Priorities from Board Meeting
Plan Strategic Committee Meeting for October 21st
Contact Jeff Hillier RE: Vice-President Position
Develop Travel Policy – October 13th
Contact Golf Canada RE: 2017 National Championship Announcement
Financial Report to Board
Plan Rules Online Seminars and Clinic in April
Confirm Course Rating Information Updating Process with Golf Canada
Contact Tely Tour RE: Transition Process
Competitions Committee to Review Fall Championships Pros/Cons
Annual Meeting Planning – Reports
Golf Canada Membership Model Update
Finalize Executive Director Contract
Draft LTAD Plan