

POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF WINCANTON GOLF CLUB

Many of you will have heard that the Jockey Club (JC) plan to close Wincanton Golf Course at the end of March next year. This is very sad as the course has the advantage of being a simple play and pay course, conveniently located for many and a good start for many beginners. There is nothing quite like it now in South Somerset nor North Dorset.

The JC have kept costs down by using existing course maintenance staff and equipment but haven't invested much time into income generation. Thus it has been running at a small loss over the last few years.

The present committee with the help of Andrew Wilkinson are putting together a proposal to the JC to keep the course open, under different arrangements. It should also ensure improvement to course conditions and maintaining greater consistency. The bottom line is that any plan must produce a profit. The committee has trawled members about future commitment for membership with increased membership fees not least to cover the significant increased costs. However as a large proportion of income is generated from green fees we would like to get a feel from the occasional players about future interest and particularly green fees.

If interested could you kindly return the attached simple questionnaire to help inform the plan to be submitted to the JC. Many thanks.

Name..... Village/town.....

1. Present annual membership is £400 for 5 days or £450 for full. The club proposal is for £600
 - a. Would you be prepared to pay £600 for full membership?
 - b. What is the maximum you would be prepared to pay for full membership?.....
 - c. What is the maximum you would be prepared to pay for 5 day membership?.....
 - d. Do you have any other ideas for type of membership?.....
2. Present green fees are £12 (£9 with a member) for 9 holes and for £20 (£13 with a member) for 18 holes. How much would you be prepared to pay for:
 - a. 9 holes as a non member?.....
 - b. 18 holes as a non member?.....
3. How often a year are you likely to play
 - a. 9 holes.....
 - b. 18 holes.....
4. Are you interested in having golf lessons?.....
5. Are you interested in buying golf equipment if so what?.....

You will understand that we really need this information as soon as possible to make a case and preferably no later than 27 Nov. Please pass to others that you know who may be interested in keeping Wincanton Golf Club going and could you kindly return this form to me by email; jafhoward@hotmail.com