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May 2023 Committee meeting

The Vice-Captain's personal comments and opinions have been incorporated into the email in RED.

From: **svgc asscsec** <secretvalleygc.acompsec@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2023 at 06:41

Subject:

Dear All

I feel that this May committee meeting has left more questions than answers and I do not feel comfortable with the ending of it.

Mr. Richardson is "not comfortable" that the issue has been resolved amicably between Captain and Vice-Captain at the meeting with the Club's General Manager and the Director of Golf. Why? Because of his tense relations with me that started in 2022 when he wrote a letter to Peter Copping accusing me of all sorts of sins but cowardly not copying that letter to me. Hiding behind the backs of others is Mr. Richardson's motto as he thinks he is a Power behind the throne in this golf club. Exactly the same happened with this letter, which was given in total secrecy to the Captain to read out on the day of the Committee meeting.

Due to other circumstances I am unable to attend the resumption of the meeting on 1st June

Having read over the various correspondence in the last weeks regarding the incident with a member who requested a medical extension for a knockout and listening to various members views and comments I must make the following conclusions.

I very strongly disagree with the Vice Captains assertion that "in my view this was a private conversation". How can this be a private matter as this whole episode has been played out to most committee members via various emails and conversations and these emails have been sent from a committee member purporting to represent the SVGR committee.?

One thing Mr. Richardson is correct – unlike him, I have copied all my correspondence with this member to all Committee members from the outset and if anyone thought I was incorrect they could have called/wrote to me to provide their view/advice, but none of it has been happening.

The committee have been put in a position where we are having to fend off various questions from members about this incident and we are expected to say "I don't know what is happening, but it's OK, because the Captain and Vice Captain have shaken hands". How this fits in the Vice Captains speech at the AGM promising "Total Transparency" to members is totally beyond me I am afraid.

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As usual, Mr. Richardson is using privacy where it suits him and now he wants transparency, this is hypocrisy at its highest. All my emails were copied to all Committee members from the very first one, but he kept silent up until this letter to the Committee. Peace between Captain and Vice-Captain has never been Mr. Richardson's best outcome and therefore shaking hands with the Captain was not what he had wished for.

Another aspect I find just as troubling in the Vice Captain's remarks is the statement of "To apologise one needs to be guilty" in relation to the member that was denied a medical extension. I cannot believe that after all the discussions that have taken place that the Vice Captain still believes he has nothing to apologise for to this member. If he believes that the tone and language used in emails to the member and the Club Captain are acceptable then I am deeply troubled.

The whole matter with the member in question has been explained in detail in numerous emails, where Mr. Richardson was always copied. If he had an issue with my responses i.e. "deeply troubled" then he could have said that to my face during the emails exchange. But he never tells you directly, stabbing in the back is what he usually does.

I am also hugely disappointed in the fact that the Vice Captain was so desperate to absolve himself of the responsibility of being in charge of the knockouts less than two months after the start and being the first Vice Captain to do this. One of the reasons the Vice Captain has this responsibility is so they can get used to dealing with members who they will be representing the following year and to be a major visible presence in representing the Captain and committee in this major part of the golfing year.

My first question when I joined the Committee was why should I do this, why not CompSec? And the answer was – because it was like that in a previous year, that was the only reason (!). I asked what Assistant CompSec was doing and what his responsibilities were. The answer was that he substitutes CompSec several times a year. That is all, what a great responsibility for just three-four weeks a year. And I believe he has been holding that position (never properly elected by anyone) for the last three years. That is three years of doing almost nothing but creating a visibility. At the AGM I described my vision for what the Club should be, and I was doing my best in that respect. It looked absolutely natural to me that Assistant CompSec could be responsible for KO competitions and finally starts doing something real for the members.

The Vice Captain only has two major responsibilities during the year, and that is the Inter Club matches x 6 and the knockouts. Having served in these roles in 2019 I am aware of exactly what is required to fulfil these roles and they really are quite simple tasks that just take time and organisation.

Mr. Richardson is so much involved in the Club's life that he does not even know that this year we have eight, not six Inter Club matches and that for the first time ever I single handedly organized a match with Korineum Golf Club. I do take my duties very seriously and when I do something I do it well. All the Inter Club matches were a great

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success. For the first time ever, we had over sixty members signing up for these matches and a great majority of them had a chance to play, which has never happened before when a participation at Inter Club matches was only reserved for chosen few. I made a promise at the AGM to make Inter Club matches open to all and I kept my word.

I do not understand the Vice Captains reasons that include " finding sponsors for Club events, making improvements to the golf course and Clubhouse facilities". As far as I am aware, the Member Representative was responsible for securing the club championship sponsors and I am slightly confused as to how the Vice Captain is responsible for improvements to the golf course or clubhouse facilities and this can take all his time?

This is because Mr. Richardson does not know how to work for the best interest of all members, as he has always had his own interests as priority. Being Vice Captain is not sitting silently at the Committee meetings or asking fish or chicken for the Inter Club's menu. For me it is making constant improvements to the Club. I did work a lot with the sponsors, including finding new ones and retaining old ones that were absolutely neglected in 2022. Catrin has been doing a great job. She put together a very detailed manual and presented it to the Committee. I believe I was the only one who read it and expressed interest, no one else cared. I do talk a lot to Hilar and Toma and I make suggestions to them on how to make improvements to the Club's F&B and they are doing a good job in this regard. I do talk to Nicos and to the Bank about spending more money on the facilities and spending it wisely. I do make plenty of recommendations to Adam and I think I was the only member of the Committee who went on an inspection tour around the course with Adam and Mark and made several recommendations. So yes, if you truly care about your Golf Club Vice Captain's duties take plenty of time and effort.

I also find his selections during the Inter-Club match baffling with some members being told they have not been at SVGR long enough to be able to represent the club, Where has this policy suddenly come from? If a member has paid their subs for a year, surely they have the same rights to be considered for selection as anyone else. Did the Vice-Captain consult the committee on this policy or has he made it up on his own?

Once again Mr. Richardson's memory fails him. There was one member's letter to the Committee on March 7, 2023 (Mr. Richardson was copied) where he stated: "The future analysis of the team: (i) There are Seasonal and Weekend members in the team. Do weekend members aware that they must pay green fee for the home matches? (ii) There are members who are joined to the club less than 6 month ago. Please explain why they have such privilege?" I do not recall any Committee member questioning this statement, more so it seemed they were in agreement with the statement because the Committee including Mr. Richardson went as far as to vote on whether I should continue running Inter Club competitions. I made a promise at the AGM to include everyone who wanted to play in Inter Club competitions with the exemption of those who played all the time in previous years, and I did include three members whose participation was

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questioned in the letter. After the meeting I wrote to all three of them advising of the situation and apologising for not being able to select them again. I personally was for the first time selected for the Inter Club after being a member for five years (!) despite my numerous attempts to take part.

I, along with several others am also very disappointed in the Vice Captain's decisions over the biggest club competition in the year. Mainly, in electing not to participate in the second round of the two day competition as he had unfortunately been disqualified on day one due his lack of knowledge of the rules of golf, even though other members who had also been disqualified still managed to play. He elected instead to play with another group after the competition thus not being present to welcome the final leading groups on the 18th, with other members and the majority of the committee. This is disappointing as it shows that the Vice Captain puts his own agenda in front of the office he holds and this shows his lack of support to the membership on the biggest competition of the year as well as the work put into this weekend by the rest of the committee.

This is just another lie. I played the first day and my ball was stuck in the tree on hole 15. There were three of us in the flight and both my marker and the third player were reasonably certain where the ball was. So with the marker's permission I took one stroke penalty and played from behind the tree. We finished playing and I had some 99 shots. I had to go to a kids' concert and had to dash off after the game. My flight mates went for a pint of beer and sat at the table with the Captain. They told him about my ball in the tree as a joke but the Captain got agitated and asked my marker to report the issue to the CompSec as he saw a rule breach. In the evening CompSec called and told me that I would be disqualified. How do you think I should feel after that? I was stunned and informed CompSec that I would not be playing during the second day of the competition.

Indeed, I was not at the balcony to welcome the final group, but I brought a dozen + people with me to the presentation dinner and made a contribution to it by an active participation. Mr. Richardson wasn't at the dinner and did not support any of the winners, but by his high standards him being absent does not count as a disappointment.

The Vice Captain continually shows his lack of understanding of committee procedures, and has on several occasions emailed non-committee members with his rants and naming other members in his correspondence completely ignoring confidentiality and data protection rules.

Unlike Mr. Richardson I have not been with the Committee for four years and yes, some of the procedures I did not understand and questioned. The Committee is a forum where its members are to exchange views and ideas and that is what I have been doing.

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He has so far, to my knowledge only, demanded apologies from the Captain (several times), the Competition secretary, a member (the member's name has been redacted for GDPR compliance).

And had absolutely valid reasons for doing so as the Captain did apologise twice. As President Roosevelt once said "The only person who never makes a mistake is the person who never does anything". Which does resemble one "active" Committee member to me.

And continues to make outrageous slurs and accusations against those who he perceives has wronged him. In my opinion this behaviour is completely unbecoming of his office. To keep insinuating that the competition secretary is targeting him personally whenever he is disqualified from a competition is just libellous and an outrageous attack on the competition secretary's integrity. I have personally been disqualified at least twice by the competition secretary as have most people in this meeting today, but I accept that this was my own fault, not someone else's. Why the Vice Captain cannot have this attitude is beyond me I'm afraid.

Vice-Captain was disqualified two times in a row for the reasons that were cooked up for the occasion.

If he disagrees with any decision then it is always someone else's fault and a direct attack on him personally. Not once have I heard him admit that maybe, just maybe, he has been wrong.

This is another lie. Mr. Richardson has not been invited to any meetings with the management (why?) but both Captain and CompSec could confirm that I did apologise to them when I was wrong. I do not have a problem with this and when I am not right, I admit it.

The Vice Captain keeps making the observation that the committee and the members are divided (email 20/5 at 9.42am) where is his evidence for this? I have not seen one email, letter or had a conversation from a single member that this is the case. The Vice Captain keeps making these assertions without actually providing any evidence and the division is in his head. What does he hope to achieve by doing this? Why is the committee divided and how? Again, he has not provided one bit of evidence to support his accusation and this must stop.

Mr. Richardson seems to live on another planet or in a parallel reality. It is absolutely no secret to anybody in the Club that the members are divided, it was also clearly demonstrated at the first ever Vice Captain's election at the AGM where about 65% voted for me and 35% for another candidate. It is absolutely no secret that the Captain, CompSec, and Assistant CompSec have never wanted me at the Committee because they knew that I would be asking them uncomfortable questions and would not yield to the pressure.

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I am afraid that in my observations since January, I strongly believe that the Vice Captain is not a suitable member to represent the membership in his current or future roles. I do not believe that he has the interests of the whole membership at heart and would work on their behalf. Should anyone disagree with his viewpoint, he can only respond with conspiracy theories against him and with a tone and language that is completely unbecoming of his office. In the four years I have served on this committee I have never dealt with a fellow member who is as disruptive, as rude or as disrespectful as the Vice-Captain has demonstrated in the last few months.

Why has Mr. Richardson served four years at the Committee when in most clubs two years is a maximum? Why after being a Captain, he got such a job at the Club that no green keeper could understand what he was doing, as he was mostly seen collecting and selling golf balls? Why CompSec has also served four years at the Committee being rewarded with a free membership and a monthly salary? And why this information was withheld from the members? Why Captain has for years been a contractor of the Club and received a remuneration for it? Are they considered to be members or employees? Members do ask these questions but have never been obliged with an answer.

Why do these three long serving Committee members so desperately want me out? I think the answer is on the surface.

It is for the above reasons that I ask for a Vote of No Confidence in respect of the Vice Captain and ask for him to be removed from his current position.

Andy Richardson.