THE GOLF CLUB

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The Golf Club

This play is a comedy drama about a Golf Club that is losing members and money and what it does about it. The main characters are

Chairman Director of House Director of Match Director of Greens Director of Finance Captain Lady Captain Lady Captain's husband Lady Captain's daughter Head Greenkeeper Barman Richard Waring Tony Jones John Phillips Ross Daventry Albert Snodgrass Andy Stubbs Stephanie Willcox - Brown Peter Samantha Tom George

1 EXT. GOLF COURSE ENTRANCE. NIGHT

An entrance between two high walls. A plaque on one wall reads

The Fallouss Golf Club Members Only

Through the entrance and up a long tarmac drive with the course either side lit by moonlight. Ahead is an imposing, large, old Georgian house, windows lit. Outside the front door there is parking. Signs show who parks where. They are signed The President, Lady President, Captain, Past Captain, Lady Captain, Director Greens, Directors Match, Director Finance, Director House.

2 INT. LARGE ROOM. NIGHT. SAME

To one side of the room is a long bar. A barman, a lady and a young girl are finishing off for the night. The Chairman, Richard, sits on his own in a corner with an empty brandy glass, looking at papers. He is an imposing man in his sixties, six feet one, straight back, handsome, well spoken. The last two men get up from their table, put their empty glasses on the bar.

> MAN1 Thank you (to bar staff) Good night Mr Chairman

2

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Good night Frank, night Richard

MAN2

See you tomorrow at the AGM

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

Indeed

They leave

BARMAN - GEORGE If it's ok with you Mister Chairman we'll go now. Can you just shut the front door as usual and make sure it's locked.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Of course, thank you George. If you don't mind, I'll help myself to another brandy and put the money in the usual place.

BARMAN - GEORGE Of course. I think you could have one on the house sir, the amount you do

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD That's very kind of you George but I'll pay. Goodnight

BARMAN - GEORGE Good night sir

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

(to camera)

Welcome to my world. I am the Chairman of a Golf Club. It's not a particularly good one, but neither is it bad. However we do, as all authoritarian regimes do, regularly tell our members how good it is. We find you can fool some of the people some of the time and most of the people most of the time.

(he sips his brandy) The ones that refuse to believe us usually leave; mumbling about the inadequacy of the bunkers, greens, ground staff and various committees. They're right of course, but deluded. It will be the same wherever they go. (MORE)

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) As Chairman I see my role as a shepherd, making sure the sheep, our members, are going in the right direction. To that end I have my sheep dogs, which are called Committees. They are trained from the start to do as they are told and not to question. When fully trained they are particularly sensitive to members criticism, no matter how accurate it is, and take an immediate opposing stance. The dogged ones, pun intended, usually go on to be Vice Captain and then Captain.

All the lights go out except one by him, leaving it in semi darkness. He looks at another paper then stops, and for a moment, listens. His posture resumes and then he stretches and walks out of the room.

He is found just round the corner, behind the bar, which is in semi darkness. He has a new brandy. He sips at the brandy, and then steadies himself with one hand on the bar. He stares ahead and after a little while his face shows a subtle orgasmic pleasure and he takes a drink.

> CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) (softly) Ahhhh. So good, so good, so good

> > FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. LARGE ROOM. NIGHT. SAME

3

The barman, a lady and an attractive young girl are serving, with members standing drinking. Other members are sitting, chatting, at a series of chairs that are lined up facing a table at its head. A hundred people or so are in the room. All are conservatively dressed and it is 80/20 men/women ratio. Standing by the main table are several men, in their sixties, whose disposition would lead you to believe they have some kind of status in the Club.

Two men at the bar are talking to each other

MAN1 It's going to be fun tonight

MAN2

Certainly is. There's so many people dissatisfied with the greens and the bunkers, the useless greenkeeper. And that bloody stupid path they spent thousands on that's already full of mud.

MAN1

I sent in an email saying I was going to tell all my friends to come and play here as we now had a new path

MAN2 What did they say?

MAN1

No reply

MAN2 Nothing changes

MAN1 Did you hear the Belmond, up the road, is struggling?

MAN2

I did. Rumour has it a land fill is asking for planning permission close by

The barman rings a bell.

BARMAN - GEORGE Could you take your seats please. No more drinks until after the AGM

They all sit down.

Richard sits at the front of the room. In front of the table, facing him, are rows of chairs that are full of men (80%) and women (20%). One hundred or so in all. Most of them have a pint or a wine glass. He has a large glass of brandy in front of him. He stands and hits a knife on the table.

> CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Can I bring the AGM to order please. Good evening Mr President, Lady President, Men's Captain, Ladies Captain, Directors of Admin, Finance, Greens, House and Match, Members and Life Members

There is a murmur in the room. Life Members are not popular. CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) Right, to get this started could I have a proposer and seconder to pass the minutes of the last meeting please. MAN1 (Puts up hand) Proposed MAN2 (Puts up hand) Seconded CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Thank you to Steven and John. Now... A man at the back raises his hand MAN3 Mr Chairman, I have some points I would like to raise about the last Minutes CHAIRMAN - RICHARD I'm sorry....er MAN3 Dave Smith CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Ah yes...David. You're fairly new here aren't you. MAN3 I've been a member five years CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Mmm...anyhow, I'm afraid once the Minutes have been proposed and seconded that is the end of the discussion about them MAN3 There hasn't been any discussion CHAIRMAN - RICHARD I'm sorry...erm (still can't remember his name) (MORE)

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D)but perhaps next year you could let us know you want to ask something. Thank you. Now moving on.... I will ask our Director of Finance to sum up this years results. (to camera) As you see, there is a knack to

this. They may be quite important out there,

(he beckons outside) they may have good jobs out there, but in here they become insignificant. It's my job to help them, and everyone else, understand that.

D OF F - ALBERT (introverted, quiet, humble) Thank you Mr Chairman. Good evening Mister President, Lady President...

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (sighing) We've done that Albert, no need to do it again

D OF F - ALBERT

Sorry

The Chairman beckons to him to get on with it

D OF F - ALBERT (CONT'D) You will see from the accounts we have sent you that we have made a slightly bigger loss in the past year than we did in the previous one. Nothing to worry about as we still have some reserves. In essence, we have had fewer members joining than have left and bar takings and slot machines are down. On top of that visiting Golf Societies have also reduced. (he nods humbly) Thank you

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Thank you Albert. (addressing members) (MORE) CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) As you can see, other than a slight dip in membership our Club is still one of the best in the county and highly regarded in golf circles.

A hand goes up in the Audience

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D)

Yes

MAN

Rich

The Chairman's face doesn't change but his eyes show contempt for the low life that dare call him Rich

MAN (CONT'D)

If we are, as you say, one of the best golf clubs in the county and highly regarded in golf circles, why are we losing members and golf society visits down?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD You appear, from your address, to

have answered your own question. I think there are several reasons, one of which would be that golf clubs used to be the home for people that understood rules, regulations, conventions and politeness. They knew what to say and when to say it. Unfortunately newer members have scant regard for those conventions

(he pauses, still looking at the man)

and so we lose a certain cache that helped this Club attract members.

MAN

What are you saying? That I'm....common?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

Is that how you feel here? That's sad. I think if that's the case I would certainly put forward a proposition to the Finance Committee to allow you to resign with no financial penalty. (to the D of F)

Could you arrange that please Ken. Thank you.

(MORE)

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) (to the man) You will cease to be a member from Monday and we will debit your account with any of your fee not used. (to the room) Are there any other members that feel, in some way, that they don't belong here? That the Club is perhaps a little too erm socially elite for them?

(no one says a word)

MAN

(gets up) Stick it up your arse you pompous prick

(storms out

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

(to camera)

I think I should explain here, that show was for the members. I have no authority to actually do anything. I am the Chairman, ergo I chair. But they don't know that. Over time I have assumed a sort of omnipresence. I am all things to everyone. Once I became omnipresent I also be came omnipotent.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) (to members)

My apologies to the ladies in the room for that. I think it would be a good idea if we regarded the years summing up as done and we move on to happier things. Do I have a proposer and seconder? Unless of course anyone else has something to say?

(he pauses and glares at the audience)

A problem perhaps they would like to share with us? Something that these fine men here,

(he gestures to them with a flourish)

our unpaid Directors who use their own limited spare time, to make sure the Club is what our Members want.

(MORE)

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) (he waits, daring anyone to speak) No, lets carry on then.

The same two people volunteer to second and propose.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) Perhaps there is one more point I should stress before I do go on. This Club, our Club, is not really a club. It's a place where like minded people gather to be with their own; to chat, relax, play golf, enjoy the food and wine. It is, while we are here, home. We are a family, with family values. Please remember that...

SEVERAL MEMBERS (O.C.) Hear, hear. Well said Mister Chairman. Quite, quite.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD I am now going to ask each Director to give an update for the year. After the update you can, of course, ask questions. Before you ask the Director of Greens about the greens, as usual, can I just mention that this subject will be looked at in some depth in our next months newsletter. So perhaps easier just to leave that topic for now.....

The Director of Greens looks at the man sitting next to him and raises his eyebrows questioningly. The other man pulls a quizzical 'I don't know' face.

> CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) Right, first, Director of Match...

> CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) (to camera) The next bit is not very interesting. The members will ask questions that are pretty much standard and they will get standard answers. Nothing changes. Remember, its a golf club.

> > FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTSIDE FRONT DOOR. LATER.

Cars are leaving down the drive. The Chairman walks out of the front door and keeps it open for whoever is behind him. He looks to see who it is

> CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Ah Lady Captain, Stephanie

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE (Mid fifties, attractive, elegant, slim, Stephanie has modern, swept back hair which she puts her fingers through. She looks into his eyes) You held the room; as always

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Thank you Stephanie

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE (She looks around and kisses him quickly) He's salmon fishing next weekend

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

(he runs a finger down her cleavage)

She gets in her car. Winds down window.

Good

Aahhh

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE I'll text you. By the way Peter's out with his poker playing friends and the night is still young

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE Meet me at the barn. I want to feel danger and depravity tonight. Don't take long, I'm (she dabs her forehead daintily) somewhat moist.

She leaves. As he gets to his car he sees a long scratch on the door.

4

Bastard!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. FIRST TEE. NEXT DAY

5

Three men, the Directors of Match, Greens and House are waiting on the first tee for a fourth man.

D OF M - JOHN (to D of G) So you're going to write to us all next month about the greens then.

D OF G - ROSS So I'm told

D OF M - JOHN Richard said you were.

D OF G - ROSS It was the first I'd heard of it. I told him before the meeting that we would be scorched over the state of the greens and he just said 'leave it to me'

D OF M - JOHN It seems to me you have to. Its a contract between the Chairman and the members.

D OF G - ROSS Can't you, just for one minute, remember you're a bloody retired solicitor

D OF H - TONY How does he do it? Year after year we have all these members baying for blood, pissed off about this and that, threatening to mutiny at the AGM and then every year....nothing.

A man arrives

D OF G - ROSS Good morning our newly elected Captain D OF G - ROSS My lord (they all emphasise bowing)

They all laugh

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. GOLF COURSE. LATER

6

The fourball are walking down a fairway.

D OF M - JOHN You know the philosopher said at the meeting that we were losing money but we had reserves to cover it. Do you know what our reserves are?

D OF G - ROSS Who knows? There may not be any. It could be a Richard's smoke and mirrors thing

D OF M - JOHN But if we haven't, or not much, aren't we in the shit?

D OF G - ROSS More than likely. But what can we do? Golf is slowly dying everywhere. The fees are more than likely too high now because the cost of the course upkeep is horrendous, new mowers costs a bomb, fertilisers are more expensive as less and less are allowed to be used and last but not least, money that should be spent on the course goes on ridiculous things we don't need.

D OF M - JOHN You realise it's us that run the place. You are maligning us D OF G - ROSS Not us. All these things were done before us. There is pre us, which is bad and post us, which is good.

D OF H - TONY Is he still, you know, giving the lady captain one?

D OF G - ROSS How did you get from my 'state of golf' address to sex?

D OF H - TONY I wasn't listening

D OF G - ROSS (slumps) But, referring to your question, I think he gives her more than one. How do you think he keeps so slim and young looking?

D OF H - TONY

I would

CAPTAIN You'd fuck the greenkeeper's dog

D OF H - TONY

Nah. It's never still long enough. Anyhow, apropos our problem, why would the philosopher stick his neck out like that and say we had money if we don't?

CAPTAIN - ANDY Philosopher? Why Philosopher?

D OF M - JOHN He reminds us of a philosopher

CAPTAIN - ANDY

Really?

D OF M - JOHN

Үер

CAPTAIN - ANDY Who? Confucious, Aristotle...?

D OF M - JOHN

Kant

CAPTAIN - ANDY I don't think I know him. Kafka? No, didn't he write something? A symphony or something....?

The others smile

D OF H - TONY Anyhow, rumour has it that Richard found him one day with his hands in the till. Now he owns him.

CAPTAIN - ANDY So what's he got on you three?

D OF H - TONY Good one. The point is, if we don't watch it we will be bust. Then what?

CAPTAIN - ANDY We need to get more members, more income, spend a few quid on the course..

D OF H - TONY (sarcastically) Great idea. Did you think of that all by yourself?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

7 INT. CLUB HOUSE. DAY

A sign on a door says

Meeting in Progress

8 INT. ROOM. SAME

In the large room, people are around a large oval table. The Chairman, Directors, Captain, Lady Captain, Green Keeper (dressed in green overalls with H G on it, and chews on a pencil. Throughout the meeting he keeps going to write something down but never does) On the wall a large white board hangs. On it the words 'To do' are written but nothing else. Another board with lots of lines on it to give boxes has nothing on it. From the jackets on backs of chairs and the general atmosphere the meeting has been going a while. The Chairman has a large brandy and the men have pints. The Lady Captain has red wine. The Chairman is lounging back with his feet crossed in front of him.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Well I think that's about it. A new year beckons. Here's to us

He raises his glass

ALL

To us

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD If that's it we'll call it a day

Richard starts to get up but the others are reluctant to do so. He senses a problem.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D)

Yes?

D OF H - TONY (reluctantly) Peter has something to suggest before we finish

The H G poises his pencil

CAPTAIN - ANDY

Richard

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

Yesss

CAPTAIN - ANDY I, we er were thinking that perhaps to help us financially and get a few more members, we could er do a bit of marketing sort of thing

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Really. Anything else in your bag of tricks?

CAPTAIN - ANDY Well I, we, I, we er thought that perhaps we could er (he starts sweating, wipes his brow with his hand) you know, sort of be more er modern (he waits for the rocket from Richard) CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (as though to an errant child) More modern? And what do you suggest we do? CAPTAIN - ANDY Well, we ... CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Please, go on, I'm fascinated CAPTAIN - ANDY (looks round for help) Well we,

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD We? You don't seem to be getting much support for 'we'.

CAPTAIN - ANDY Look, Richard

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD I've heard enough of your illiterate ramblings thank you. When you have something intelligent to say, let me know

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) (to camera)

I bet you're confused. I'm giving them a hard time when they are trying to help. It's guite simple really. Committee members are usually quite intelligent. They come on the different committees with good, progressive ideas, but quite quickly they learn that is exactly what we don't want. Golf Clubs demand change but don't want it. In fact they resist it with all their might. Members, especially new members, demand radical change but struggle to cope if there is a bit too much, or too little, sand in the bunkers. So Committee members get the equivalent of a lobotomy. From that point on all new ideas become anathema to them. They lose their old golfing friends who they now see as enemies. The people in this room have not quite been institutionalised. They will.

He stands up, puts two hands on the table and looks at each of them, then leaves.

CAPTAIN - ANDY Bloody hell

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE How could you? After all he's done. (she runs her fingers through her hair) You should be ashamed of yourselves. If you were half the man he is

CAPTAIN - ANDY Come on Steph, he was being unreasonable

EXT. CAR PARK. SAME

Richard is about to get in his car

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (to camera) Not that I'm good at this but I would think that about now, Stephanie is ruffling feathers

INT. ROOM. SAME

In the committee room the door is slammed shut by Stephanie as she leaves

D OF M - JOHN (impersonating her) If you were half the man he is (runs fingers through hair)

He gets up, flounces to the door like a female, swaying at the hips, raises his leg backwards in an affected way. Turns to them.

D OF M - JOHN (CONT'D) Faggots.

He runs his fingers through his hair, waves imperiously, bows and sits down.

D OF G - ROSS I could worry about you. How did they ever let you into the legal profession?

D OF M - JOHN They needed a misogynistic, sexist, racist solicitor to empathise and fight for misogynistic, sexist, racist clients

D OF G - ROSS I can see that

CAPTAIN - ANDY What are we going to do?

D OF G - ROSS

We?

CAPTAIN - ANDY Come on help me out here. He'll kill me for upsetting our beloved Lady Captain

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

9 INT. RICHARD'S LOUNGE. NEXT DAY

Richard is reading The Times in the lounge. The phone goes by his side. He looks at it but ignores it. The answer phone kicks in.

ANSWER PHONE Richard, its Tony, I'm sorry to ring again but it really is quite important that I talk to you if you can spare me one minute

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (to camera) You see? Sheep. They need their collie.

He debates for a moment, takes a breath and picks it up

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) You've got one minute...

10 INT. CLUB HOUSE. DAY

A sign on a door says

Meeting in Progress

11 INT. ROOM. SAME

All the men but not the Lady Captain are waiting. They are tense. The door opens and in walks The Chairman, glass of brandy in hand. They stand up and Tony beckons him to his chair.

> D OF H - TONY Please Richard

He sits down and they follow.

CAPTAIN - ANDY Richard, I think I should apologise for yesterday

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Think? Don't you know?

CAPTAIN - ANDY Of course, of course

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD And perhaps an apology to our esteemed Lady Captain

CAPTAIN - ANDY That goes without saying

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Good, please go on

CAPTAIN - ANDY I am sorry for yesterday. What I was saying, in my ineloquent way, suggested that we didn't appreciate what you had done and what you are doing now. That was obviously wrong. What I should have said was that, with your leadership, we can overcome our current difficulty. We have some ideas that you would no doubt be in favour of but we know that without you pushing them forward, enthusing people, urging them on to achieve what they thought was impossible, we cannot do it. Everyone looks up to you. (MORE)

CAPTAIN - ANDY (CONT'D) This club, this family, needs you now, more than ever...

D OF G - ROSS Here, here

D OF M - JOHN Help us Richard, we need you

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Mmm, I see. I mean it's possible you didn't express yourself too well

CAPTAIN - ANDY I didn't. Not at all, no

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD And that I may have, due to your poor choice of words, misunderstood your...intentions

CAPTAIN - ANDY Poor choice, quite so, quite so

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD And perhaps, perhaps...over reacted

CAPTAIN - ANDY No, no, an understandable reaction under the circumstances

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD That being the case I am prepared to continue being your leader. (to camera) Did you see that? I am no longer their Chairman, I am their Leader. I am the Putin of this golf club. When my term nears an end they will beg me to continue and, should they not, it will appear they have. (continues) It is obvious that we have much to do, as I have been saying for quite

a while. But we can fight them, the other Clubs, and we can win this great battle before us. Yes, victory at all costs, however long and hard the road may be.

He stands up

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) I am off to the villa for a couple of weeks from the middle of next week. I suggest you make an effort while I am away to put together some form of intelligent plan and get things under way.

He gets up and walks majestically out of the room still holding brandy glass. The others are left speechless.

D OF G - ROSS Gosh. That was almost Churchillian

D OF M - JOHN (Churchillian) We will fight them in the fairways, in the bunkers, on the greens and, if all else fails, we will drink them to death at the nineteenth

D OF G - ROSS To victory

CAPTAIN - ANDY I get it!

D OF M - JOHN Get What?

CAPTAIN - ANDY Philosopher. Kant. Oy Kant...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

12 INT. LARGE ROOM. SAME

The rows of chairs have been replaced with small tables and chairs. A few members are sitting, chatting, drinking. The Chairman goes to the bar where the woman behind the bar goes to him. He downs the last of the brandy and gives it to her.

> CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Thank you Brenda

BRENDA Always a pleasure Richard. Will you be in again soon?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

I hope so

BRENDA Perhaps Thursday evening?

CHAIRMAN I look forward to it

BRENDA

So do I

She goes to serve another member and he watches her full figure and large bosom in a tight sweater. He takes a small notebook out of his jacket pocket. It says

To buy. Carrots, peas, spuds, colly, underpants, socks

He adds 'milk' to the list

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

(to camera) What can I say? When someone has power, legal or given, it make one more...sexy would be the wrong word for someone of my age. More...the alpha male. The one that women are instinctively drawn to.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

A series of shots showing the Directors and Captain taking and making phone calls at home and on their mobiles. At home they write something down. On the mobiles their gesticulations suggest they are agreeing, arguing, negotiating, accepting.

13 EXT. GOLF COURSE. DAY

The Directors and Captain playing golf. They are gesticulating to each other in the middle of the fairway. A cry of 'Fore' off camera. And cry of 'fore'. The Captain, irritated, turns round to shout something back

> D OF M - JOHN Better you don't, you're the Captain now. Fuck you, isn't appropriate

CAPTAIN - ANDY (turns to look behind, puts up thumb and smiles, then, though unmoving lips Fuck you Andy walks to his ball thirty yards to the side of a pond. CAPTAIN - ANDY (CONT'D) What's the yardage Ross? Ross takes his laser scope from his bag and looks through it D OF G - ROSS One eighty three Andy takes his shot CAPTAIN - ANDY Bloody hell, long again. I'm all over the place today. Long, short (he looks at his club) A good four iron should give me one eighty three (perplexed - notices something) Hang on (pointing) That's the one fifty marker so the green can't be more than one seventy-ish. You told me one eighty three? D OF G - ROSS (looks through scope again) One seventy one CAPTAIN - ANDY What? (he grabs the scope and looks through it) It's not working. (he holds up his hands for an explanation) D OF G - ROSS Batteries gone CAPTAIN - ANDY When?

D OF G - ROSS About a month ago

CAPTAIN - ANDY Why have you been making up the yardages?

D OF G - ROSS You like me giving you the yardages. You're like a child who needs his dummy

D OF H - TONY Spot on. You two are like a child with his dummy

A cry of 'Duck' is heard behind them.

CAPTAIN - ANDY (without looking round) Arseholes. Richard has a point about the lowering of standards

Off camera more shouts of 'Duck'. He turns round to see a mother duck with several chicks behind. In the distance he sees the other golfers flapping their arms and shouting 'Quack, quack, quack'

D OF M - JOHN This Club gets more like a bloody lunatic asylum by the day

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

The four are waiting on the tee. A six foot wall hides them from the road

CAPTAIN - ANDY Have you ever seen that car that parks in the lay by (he beckons over the wall) over the road? Usually three or four old women in it. Sometimes they even sit at the back of their car and have tea. What's that all about?

John wanders off into the bushes, from the back, urinates

D OF M - JOHN (points ahead, up the fairway) You're honour lets go

14 INT. CLUB HOUSE. DAY

A sign on a door says

Meeting in Progress

15 INT. ROOM. SAME

The Directors, the Head Greenkeeper (who still says nothing, and still goes to write but never does) and the Captain are there. Empty coffee cups are on the table. The D of G is at the white board. On it is written (in descending order)

Marketing. Youth. Opening times. Health and Safety. Sexism. Ageism. Racism. Godism. Wheelchairs. BBQs. Night golf. Young girls. Life Members. Every time a topic is brought up the Head Greenkeeper moves to write something but never does.

D OF G - ROSS Right. This is a summary of all the things that we think can make a difference $\label{eq:general}$

D OF M - JOHN Wheelchairs? Aren't there rules governing those?

D OF G - ROSS (sighs, exasperated) Look, I've just written the bloody things down. Don't shoot the messenger. We said we could all contribute so let everybody have a say to support their own suggestion. Ok?

D OF M - JOHN

Ok

D OF G - ROSS (another big breath) Right, moving on, let me precis this first. Marketing. I assume we all support marketing? Good. Youth? We could do with more, younger members. D OF M - JOHN Young girls D OF G - ROSS You're obsessed with sex D OF M - JOHN No, just young girls D OF G - ROSS Anyhow, the only problem with young members is they don't pay much. D OF M - JOHN I used to have a young member D OF G - ROSS Shut up. Now Opening times. Our self employed barman, who gets a

self employed barman, who gets a percentage of the bar and food is a lazy bastard. Thinks he owns the place and has no problems closing if it suits him. Health and Safety. I'm told we have a lot of problems with Heath and Safety and we're lucky we haven't been sued yet.

CAPTAIN We could sell Third Party Insurance

D OF G - ROSS Good idea. Make a note somebody.

The H G moves to write but doesn't

D OF G - ROSS (CONT'D) Now a few 'isms'. I have no idea what to do about the isms so I suggest we give it to the ladies committee to show that we care, and want to include them, when actually we don't give a monkeys chuff. Wheelchairs. That can come under Health and Safety. BBQs. Unfortunately that will be given to the barman so forget it. Night golf. Most of our members can't play in daylight so night golf is unlikely; but we can look at it. It may attract new members. Young girls. What can I say. (MORE)

D OF G - ROSS (CONT'D) Sex trafficking is illegal but if we can get them here we've got plenty of spare rooms. And we could make a lot of money D OF M - JOHN I'll have one. No, make that two. Twins... D OF G - ROSS It was a joke D OF M - JOHN It doesn't have to be D OF G - ROSS It was D OF M - JOHN The best suggestion do far D OF G - ROSS And last but not least, Life Members. D OF H - TONY You couldn't resist it could you? D OF G - ROSS How do you know that's my suggestion? D OF H - TONY Oh come on. Just because I pay fuck all to play here and you pay a grand. D OF G - ROSS It's a disgrace and you know it. D OF H - TONY Look, we have this conversation all the time. In the dim, distant past, for reasons best known to themselves, the Club decided to offer members who had reached sixty and been here twenty years, a deal. Pay five years up front and never pay again. I did that and hey presto I will never pay again. (MORE)

27.

D OF H - TONY (CONT'D) Unfortunately for you, you are a bit younger than me and they shelved the deal one year before you would have taken advantage of it. So hey presto you pay a grand a year.

D OF G - ROSS I more than likely would not have taken it up out of loyalty to the Club

D OF H - TONY (presents D of G - Ross) Direct from the comedy store ladies and gentlemen

D OF G - ROSS Anyway...all Life Members should now be made to pay full whack.

D OF H - TONY And you can stroke my hairy arse

CAPTAIN - ANDY Why don't you two just kiss and make up and get a room later

D OF G - ROSS Anyhow, lets get back to some solutions to this lot. We need people to fill these roles. Tony can do one as he plays for free.

CAPTAIN - ANDY Get on with it

D OF G - ROSS (big sigh) Marketing. Who do we know that can do this?

CAPTAIN - ANDY How about that Ted person. You know, walks with a limp er you know. Off about seventeen I think?

D OF G - ROSS I know. I think he's a rep or something for a car dealer. He'll know all about marketing. Next, Youth. I think we'll come back to that. Opening times. (MORE) D OF G - ROSS (CONT'D) Waste of time addressing that, fucking barman. Health and Safety.

CAPTAIN - ANDY There's one candidate. He already does it for a living. Ewan Himm. Is there anyone else?

D OF G - ROSS Not that I know of. Who has a name like Ewan Himm for christs sake

D OF M - JOHN You say that every time. All right he's a bit..

CAPTAIN - ANDY Of a whining arschole. He will be to creating new members and extra money, what the Titanic was to cruises.

D OF H TONY That was good. Surely not yours?

CAPTAIN - ANDY Alas. There is a story behind it

D OF H - TONY Aww, not a friggin story

CAPTAIN - ANDY After my wife and I split up

D OF H - TONY She left you

CAPTAIN - ANDY That was the official story but I think she just felt inferior to me

D OF H - TONY She went off with a fella with a holiday place in Nassau

CAPTAIN - ANDY Be that as it may, I waited two or three years, and then decided to find another woman.

D OF H - TONY Right arm getting a bit big was it? (he presents himself) should be withheld from the female species. So I went on to a dating site and met this woman. Saw her a couple of times and then in the car one night as I was dropping her off we started snogging

D OF G - ROSS Snogging? What are you, thirteen?

CAPTAIN - ANDY Anyhow I managed to get inside her blouse but her bra was too tight to go any farther and so I tried to undo it.

D OF H - TONY

And?

CAPTAIN - ANDY That's when she said 'You are to foreplay, what the Titanic was to cruises'.

D OF G - ROSS So she was impressed. Then what?

CAPTAIN - ANDY

She fastened her blouse, got out and never saw her again. I mean, why would I know about undoing bras. I was married for Christs sake. Why would I undo a bra? I was married...

D OF G - ROSS Fascinating though that was, who's going to talk to Ewan? Andy, you can.

CAPTAIN - ANDY

No chance

D OF G - ROSS

Good, thanks. The ism's, as I said, are all touchy, feely, creepy sort of things so hand them over to the women. Dear Stephanie can get her teeth into that as well as... Now night golf. Can't see it myself. CAPTAIN - ANDY Good one

D OF G - ROSS Young girls. Another for Stephanie. Anything else?

D OF M - JOHN Aww. I would have done it.

D OF H - TONY Also, we are not businessmen. I'm ex Inland Revenue, you were Council, you a solicitor and you a civil engineer. And you are still Head Greenkeeper. So how about us talking to one?

D OF G - ROSS As long as it's not Billy 'I've got a Ferrari at my villa in Barbados' Beazer? Please not Billy

D OF H - TONY Billy has more money in his wallet than I have invested in my home

D OF G - ROSS Ok, as long as you do it

D OF H - TONY Ok, how bad can it be?

16 EXT. GOLF COURSE. DAY

A top of the range Range Rover goes up the drive to the members car park. It parks and the boot silently rises. A shortish man gets out. He is dressed perfectly for golf but somehow it just doesn't work. A small ramp comes down at the back of the car. Billy has a small remote control in his hand and his remote golf trolley with bag already on it rolls slowly down.

D OF H - TONY (O.C.)

Billy

Billy looks round and sees Tony and the Head Greenkeeper coming towards him. The H G's dog is with them. The boot fastens and Billy moves towards them, his trolley faithfully following. BILLY (coarse black country accent)

No

D OF H - TONY

No what?

The men are standing, looking away from the car park. The dog starts nudging the hand that Billy has the car remote in. Billy strokes the dogs nose affectionately as they talk. The trolley moves away from them back towards the cars. Every time the dog nudges Billy, the trolley changes direction and hits a car.

> BILLY Whatever you want, no

D OF H - TONY Come on Billy, at least listen

BILLY

No

D OF H - TONY Look, all we want is your advice as a businessman to help the Club be more profitable

BILLY Sell it to me

D OF H - TONY Come on Billy, help us

BILLY

I work for money. I didn't get my villa in Barbados with a Ferrari on the drive by working for nothing. Anyway best of luck, I'm late

He looks to trolley to see it bumping continually into one car

BILLY (CONT'D) I hope you're insured

D OF H - TONY It's your trolley

BILLY Sue me. I'll enjoy seeing the dog take the oath with his paw on a box of Winalot He walks away

D OF H - TONY

I'm doomed

The H G looks at him

D OF H - TONY (CONT'D) It's the wife's car

17 INT. CLUB HOUSE. DAY

A sign on a door says

Meeting in Progress

18 INT. ROOM. SAME

Ten, middle and upper middle class ladies are sitting round the same large table. On the white board are still the same headings. The men have ticked the ones they want to address, leaving Sexism. Ageism. Racism. Godism. Young girls.

The young lady from behind the bar comes in wheeling a trolley of tea, coffee and cakes. The ladies take what they want

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE Thank you darling

EVELYN She gets lovelier. How old are you now Sammy?

SAMANTHA

Eighteen

EVELYN Off to University this year?

SAMANTHA I am. Politics, economics and World Order

EVELYN (to Stephanie) You must be very proud of her

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE Samantha is a treasure (she kisses her on the cheek) (MORE) Samantha leaves

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE (CONT'D) Ladies, thank you for joining me here today and let the Ladies Committee come to order. (Jane titters) Jane, that always makes you smile. Every time I say 'come to order', you smile. Every time

JANE (demure, sophisticated lady in her 50s) Because every time it appeals to my sense of....discipline

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE Mmm, anyhow as you know The Chairman has tasked the Directors and any appropriate committees to find ways to get new members and more income. The men's committee, who drew up that list on the board, have decided what they want to do. We, the poor relations, i.e. women, get what's left.

LUCY I don't even know what they all mean?

DIANNE

They all mean the same thing. The same as it always means. Got your mops out and do the floor and know your place.

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE It's a bit late for me but are we all menstruating at the same time?

DIANNE That's what a man would say

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE It was a joke. But what's going on? What are we saying? We're not going to do it?

LIZ It will look bad if we don't

DIANNE To who? LIZ To everybody DIANNE Oh for Christs sake. How pathetic is that. LIZThat's not fair. I'm just saying LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE Ladies, ladies. I think this has been building for a while so lets sort it out. What's the problem? BARBARA If we're going to sort out this problem I think you may have to leave us to it Steph LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE Why? No one says anything. LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE (CONT'D) Why? BARBARA You sort of represent the er LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE What? BARBARA The Establishment LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE What the hell does that mean? DIANNE What she's trying to say is that you represent Richard LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE No I don't

DIANNE

Come on. This is a slight exaggeration, but the only person in this club that doesn't know about you and Richard is your husband. And that's because he isn't a member here.

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE How dare you accuse me of adultery

DIANNE Steph, I haven't mentioned adultery

Stephanie, runs her fingers through her hair, grabs her coat and handbag and storms out.

> SUE What are you grinning at?

DIANNE

I was being hypocritical. I was thinking that if I wasn't married he could have me. In fact...maybe not

SUE I know he isn't married but isn't he just a womaniser?

DIANNE

It was before your time but no, he isn't, or at least wasn't. He was happily married and adored his wife. Then she had dementia in her early fifties. He looked after her, still doted on her. Never flirted with the other women, nothing. In fact

(she lowers her voice) at the Christmas parties we had a sweep as to who could get his zip down first. It was never won.

SUE What happened to her?

DIANNE

She died about seven years ago

LIZ

Should I go and comfort her?

DIANNE

She's dead

LIZ

No, Steph

DIANNE

(sighing) Liz, how did you ever get to be on this Committee?

LIZ

I used to make the tea and coffee and somehow they thought I was on it.

DIANNE

Well, what do we do now? We can tell them to stick this lot up their backsides but unfortunately some of them may see it as a bonus; or we can use it in a different way.

BARBARA

In what way?

DIANNE

I don't know really but it seems to me that we, as usual, are being ignored. We are here, but not here. This seems to me an opportunity to, somehow, be....

LUCY

Recognised?....erm appreciated? Given equality perhaps?

DIANNE Oh Lucy, how wonderful. How can we do that?

LIZ

(timid) I'm sorry to interrupt. Could I? No? Ok. Sorry

LUCY

Liz, say whatever you want. It's ok. We would like to hear you. Your thoughts are important to us,

LIZ

Really? Mine? Why?

LUCY Yes, of course LIZ Ok, well, and this is more than likely nonsense, and I'm sorry, but they need new members. LUCY Yes LIZ Because they don't have enough members LUCY No LIZ Because members are leaving LUCY Yes LIZ We're members LUCY And your point is...? DIANNE (look of amazement on her face) O M G. Are you saying what I think you are saying? LIZ I don't know. They have lost about forty members this year which is about forty thousand pounds. There are about seven hundred men and about a hundred and fifty women. DIANNE Say it Liz, please say it

LIZ We contribute about a hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

DIANNE Go on Liz, go for it LIZ

Without us women, they are dead

They look at her, astounded

LIZ (CONT'D) I'm sorry. It's in the accounts they sent us. I used to be a book keeper. I'm sorry..

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

The Captain and D o H are on the golf course playing a relaxed game. If a ball goes in the rough it is kicked out. They are drinking from a hip flask.

CAPTAIN - ANDY Bloody hell, this is a bit strong. What's this one?

D OF H - TONY It's rusty nails. A mixture of whisky and drambuie. The drambuie softens the whisky

CAPTAIN - ANDY Phew. It's gone straight to my head

D OF H - TONY I've had a text back from Richard saying it's ok to go ahead with what we are doing

CAPTAIN - ANDY Really? I'm amazed. I thought he would have said no to everything until he got back. Have you actually told him what we're doing?

D OF H - TONY

Vaguely

CAPTAIN - ANDY So what does he know?

D OF H - TONY Health and Safety, that sort of thing...you know

CAPTAIN - ANDY

I know

D OF H - TONY I had a word with Ewan friggin Himm; god, he's a prat. You know the only job in the world for him would be health and safety. If he can find a way to fuck up someone's life and happiness, he'll find it. Anyhow, he's on to it.

CAPTAIN - ANDY I dread to think...

D OF H - TONY Have a drink (they drink from the hip flask)

They come to a pond.

D OF H - TONY (CONT'D)

Oh no

CAPTAIN - ANDY

Already?

In the middle of the pool is a large sign

Deep water. Please alert blind people and Dyslexics to this water hazard. No swimming. No skating in winter. Be safe - leave your balls where they are. Retrieving someone else's balls is a criminal offence.

D OF H - TONY What's that? (pointing)

A sign on the bank with unintelligible writing on it. They walk to it. At the top is written ON WINSMIMG and below lots of dots

CAPTAIN - ANDY What is it?

D OF H - TONY I don't know. It's an anagram I think

CAPTAIN - ANDY I have this dreadful feeling (he feels the sign)

D OF H - TONY

Noooo

CAPTAIN - ANDY Yes D OF H - TONY It can't be CAPTAIN - ANDY It is D OF H - TONY Not Braille? CAPTAIN - ANDY Yes D OF H - TONY That means the first bit is CAPTAIN - ANDY 'No swimming' for dyslexics D OF H - TONY Oh fuck. We've opened Pandora's box. We need this I think (takes out hip flask and hands it to Andy who takes large drink) D OF H - TONY (CONT'D) (his phone goes - he listens for a few moments) Ok thanks. I'll get back to you. (hangs up That was whatsisname, Phil thingy. You know, plays off about twelve, got a Merc (Andy looks blank) Anyhow he's heard we may need help and he used to be a consultant for one of the big consulting groups, went all over the world, wants to know if he can help? CAPTAIN - ANDY What do you think? D OF H - TONY

Hardly. We don't need a fucking know all business consultant sticking his oar in. Its a bloody golf club! You ok Andy? CAPTAIN - ANDY Not really (drunk)

He starts to sway and then falls in pond

19 EXT. MIDDLE CLASS HOUSING ESTATE. DAY. LATER

20 EXT. MIDDLE CLASS HOUSE.

The house has an attached double garage, tarmac drive, surrounding hedge

21 INT. KITCHEN. SAME

The captain's wife is washing up. She sees, through the window, Andy arrive in his car. He gets out in golf waterproofs and his hair is bedraggled.

22 EXT. DRIVE. SAME

Andy is getting his trolley and bag out of the boot. His wet clothes are in there. He sees his wife standing behind him.

ANDY Hello love, I thought you'd be shopping

WIFE

Did you?

ANDY I'm glad you're here because I got this amazing story to tell you

WIFE Have you?

ANDY

Yes

WIFE Please go on

ANDY

Well it was like this. I was playing golf with Tony, under my handicap, when this swarm of bees started to attack us.

WIFE

Bees

ANDY

Yes. So we both jumped in the pond and stayed under as long as we could..

WIFE

Incredible

ANDY

Isn't it. Anyhow, when I couldn't hold out any longer I surfaced and the bees had gone but Tony was nowhere to be seen

WIFE

Gosh

ANDY

So I took a deep breath and went back under the water. I couldn't find him the first time, but after several attempts I found him stuck in some weeds

WIFE

Stuck. In weeds

ANDY

Yes. I managed to free him and got him to the surface but he was almost gone.

WIFE

Poor Tony

ANDY

But I did CPR and mouth to mouth and that Heimlich thingy and he started breathing again.

WIFE

That was close. Thank god you knew the Heimlich thingy

ANDY

Then I ran to the Club House and they came and stretchered him back and he's ok now.

WIFE

Lucky Tony

ANDY Yes. The Club are going to put up a plaque where I saved his life

WIFE You know, I could have believed that except for one small error

ANDY

Error? No, I don't think so. Exact and to the point; bordering on modesty really.

WIFE You said you were under your handicap

ANDY (shoulders slump like a child) Aww. I'll get a shower

She walks away

WIFE (OC) And tell Tony I'll kill him if he doesn't stop trying out his lethal brews on you....

23 INT. LOUNGE. DAY

The Director of House (Tony) is reading a paper. His wife is filling in a cross word. The phone goes. Wife picks it up.

WIFE It's for you love, it's Neil (Tony looks as though he doesn't know who that is she covers the mouthpiece) Neil, the pro at the Club

TONY

Sorry, miles away
 (she throws it to him)
Neil, how can I help you?
....Yes...Yes you are the
pro...yes you are responsible for
the pro shop
 (his face starts to
 grimace in agony)
 (MORE)

TONY (CONT'D) I'm sorry Neil...I ...I Don't think you can take it down....I know....I know....ok, Ok (he hangs up)

TONY (CONT'D) I've got to pop up to the Club, wont be long.

WIFE What's wrong?

TONY

At the moment, what's right

24 EXT. OUTSIDE PRO SHOP. LATER

The usual scene. A few bags on trolleys. Putting green adjacent. Tony goes in

TONY (to Neil) Go on

NEIL

Come with me

They go through a door into the corridor where several members are looking at a notice on a wall

NEIL (CONT'D) Excuse me gentlemen

Tony moves to read it but is stopped by Neil

NEIL (CONT'D) (sarcastic) No, no, please let me read it to you. 'We are committed to adopting and improving practices that ensure there is no slavery and human trafficking in our Golf Club. This not only applies to our Staff but also the products we sell. They are manufactured in many different countries and we aim to ensure that slave labour is not used to manufacture them'

TONY I suppose I shouldn't ask who put it up? NEIL (pulls out a card) Our new Director for Health and Safety, or as he's generally known, Ewan the insufferable prick

TONY (shoulders slump, deep breath) Take it down

NEIL You take it down

Tony takes it down, screws it into ball and throws it on floor

NEIL (CONT'D) That's not good for health and safety now is it?

TONY Don't you start

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

25 INT. LOUNGE. DAY. LATER

Tony walks back into his lounge and sees his wife with the phone in her hand

WIFE It's for you. It's Ewan from the Golf Club. He sounds upset

TONY (shoulders slump) Oh no...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

26 EXT. VILLA. DAY

A lovely villa with large pool overlooking the shore of a blue sea. Golf clubs are outside. Richard and another man are on sun beds by the pool in shorts, a glass in their hand. Richard's mobile rings

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (playful) Well hello, how are you doing?good.....I'm listening.... really.... (snort of derision) Fancy that. Ah well. Thank you for that. Now, do you think sometime today you could send me a photo.....that would be nice....oh yes a video would be even better. I like the sounds you make Thank you...take care, see you soon.... (laughs) Yes, I'll see you, parts of you, later today

The man looks quizzically at Richard

Hangs up

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) A friend

MAN

Sounds like a close friend

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Quite close

MAN So we have a deal?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

We do

MAN The wife and I will never have to pay?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

No

70 20 2

Never?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD No

MAN

MAN You're sure?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD I guarantee it Christopher 27 INT. CLUB HOUSE. DAY

A sign on a door says Meeting in Progress

28 INT. ROOM. SAME

The Ladies Committee are sitting around the table.

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE What do you mean I'm no longer Chair of this Committee?

DIANNE We had a vote. You were voted off

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE I wasn't made aware of that

DIANNE You would have been aware, had you not flounced out of the last meeting

LADY CAPTAIN - STEPHANIE Flounced?

LIZ (very timid) Pleeeeaaasseee. There's no need to argue.

DIANNE Liz is right. You have a choice Steph. Stay with us and help us, or leave.

Stephanie thinks for a few moments, picks up her handbag and leaves

DIANNE (CONT'D) I've no doubt she's flouncing straight to Richard. God knows what will happen if her hubby ever finds out. Ah well, that's sorted that. Theoretically we need a Chair but why don't we just be us. A sort of collective, co-operative, commune, err mutual society? If pandemonium reigns we'll nominate someone. Ok?

LUCY

0k

DIANNE

Jane, over to you

JANE

Well, using Liz's thoughts as a springboard, we have decided on two strategies to get us what we want

LUCY

Sorry to interrupt, but what exactly do we want?

JANE

First and foremost, we need our changing rooms done up. They need to be more feminine and with the obvious things feminine ladies should have. Things like

LUCY

Hot tub

DIANNE Proper sit down hair dryers

JANE

A beautician so many times a week and definitely, most definitely a manicurist. Golf plays havoc with your nails.

DIANNE Perhaps even a hair stylist

LIZ A corner for knitting

The ladies look at her

DIANNE

Why not? Right, we know what we want, now how to get it. We give them our list of demands and explain that if we don't get them, we will not rejoin and all go elsewhere. When they realise that they can't afford to lose us we allow them to negotiate us down to our main needs ie the changing rooms. Over there (MORE)

DIANNE (CONT'D) (she points to the board) Our demands for new committees

On the board the following are written

New Committees

Gender Equality. Human Rights. All Faiths Integration. Trans gender Implementation and Support. Gay and Lesbian Rights. Pro Shop makeover. Shorter Course Review. Earlier Bar Closing Review. No Swearing Review. No Urinating on the Course Review.

Also

Mandatory six one hour session Courses for Members on;

Gender Equality. Human Rights. All Faiths Integration. Trans gender Implementation and Support. Muslims - their faith and customs. Gay and Lesbian Rights. Menstruation and the modern Golf Club. Breast feeding and the modern Golf Club.

> JANE Cross the last one off. They'd be queuing up to take it so they can watch. Perverts.

DIANNE And last but not least, suggested to me on the way in by Dorothywait for it....a nude calendar

LIZ What's that mean?

DIANNE We'll all pose nude

LIZ (flustered) Ooh I, er, even my husband ...er...really....everything...oh my, oh my

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

29 EXT. EXPENSIVE LARGE HOUSE. DAY

A postman cycles up the long drive to the house. A man opens the door to go to his parked Bentley.

PETER WILCOX-BROWN Morning Derek, how are you today?

POSTMAN How would you be, with something hard trying to get up your arse all day?

They giggle. He hands him a letter

POSTMAN (CONT'D) To you, from a woman

PETER WILCOX-BROWN How do you know?

POSTMAN Does the archbishop of Canterbury wear pretty frocks and a nice hat?

PETER WILCOX-BROWN

Usually

POSTMAN There you go then

He hands him the letter and leaves. Peter opens it and reads; 'Your wife is having an affair with Richard Waring'

PETER WILCOX-BROWN

Oh dear

He takes out his mobile and rings

PETER WILCOX-BROWN (CONT'D) (irritated) Richard, good morning. Is this a good time? I've had a letter saying you're having an affair with my wife.....I think we should meet...

30 INT. CLUB HOUSE. DAY

A sign on a door says Meeting in Progress

31 INT. ROOM. SAME.

At the head of the table sits Richard. Around the table are the men and women from the two committees.

They are seated on opposite sides of the table. There are empty cups on the table suggesting the meeting has been going on a while.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

(holds up his hands) Enough, enough. We are getting nowhere. The idea was that you were going to put forward plans to get us more members and alleviate our financial haemorrhaging. It's been a month now and what do we have? A dozen half baked schemes with health and safety being one for christs sake. Health and Safety? The antithesis I would have thought, for making us more profitable. And then the marketing is given to a man who works in the stores of a motor dealer.

D OF H - TONY We didn't know he worked in the stores

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD What the hell do you think he did? He comes here in an old Escort for Christs sake. However, we mustn't judge him by that, what does he come up with? A quick reminder, if I may

(he picks up a piece of paper)

Pretty photos, I admit, of the course and then...Call in to Fallous Club where new people, especially women, can feel the warmth of the members. Huge discounts and multi-person deals on new memberships, bogof deals for golf equipment.... I'm told that means buy one, get one free..... free coffee available, free car wash.

A knock on the door and Samantha comes in with a trolley of drinks

CAPTAIN - ANDY (looking relieved) Thank you Sammy.

They take their drinks and settle down again

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD And, I don't believe this, it would appear we distributed flyers, giving the same message, to beef burger vans in lay-byes.

CAPTAIN - ANDY

They weren't...

The people round the table look down, playing with pens or fidgeting as Richard continues lambasting them.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (glares at him) I haven't finished. Now I'm sure there are many long distance lorry drivers that are interested in joining our club butbutwould anybody like to finish this sentence for me? Andy, perhaps now is a good time for you to speak

CAPTAIN - ANDY (reluctant) The flyers weren't quite right

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (sarcastic) They weren't quite right. What, pray, was this minor thing that wasn't quite right about them?

> CAPTAIN - ANDY (begging for mercy) Come on Richard

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD No, please. Help us understand what wasn't quite right about the advertising for this club?

CAPTAIN - ANDY There was no address or telephone number

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD So, just a minor detail that the long distance lorry drivers, or reps, would have needed. And then, if that wasn't bad enough, the ladies decide to hold us to ransom by proposing a load of nonsense so that we agree to their more hedonistic and expensive demands. (MORE)

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D)

And if they can't have that they will all resign and force the club to close. What seems to have eluded them is that their husbands would have nowhere to play either. How impressive of you all. Would any one of you like to say anything at this point?

LIZ

I er...er..er...wonder...

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Yes Liz?

LIZ If you'd like another coffee?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD No thank you Liz, but that may be the most intelligent thing offered so far. So.....

CAPTAIN

Richard, I'm sorry. But we're in a mess and we were just trying to sort it out.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Well now we're in a bigger mess as the RAF who, as you know, have always block booked twenty members slots, are not renewing. (he shakes his head in despair) Right, before I go to the next stage I want to know if anyone has any more suggestion...? No? Well, based on what we know about our situation it's time to call an

Extraordinary General Meeting.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

33 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY

Richard is waiting by a farm gate. His Jaguar is nearby. Peter's Bentley pulls up and he gets out

RICHARD

Peter

Richard

RICHARD We have a problem

PETER WILCOX-BROWN

We do. I've had a letter from, so the postman says, a woman, saying you're fucking my wife

RICHARD

Aaahh

PETER WILCOX-BROWN Aahh? What good is aahh?

RICHARD

I'm sorry

PETER WILCOX-BROWN

You're sorry. What good is that? For fucks sake Richard, all you had to do was screw my money grabbing leech of a wife while I went (he shows inverted commas with his fingers) 'salmon fishing' etc etc. It worked for both of us. But now what do we do?

RICHARD

Does she know you've had the letter?

PETER WILCOX-BROWN

No

RICHARD Then let's do nothing

PETER WILCOX-BROWN

Nothing?

RICHARD

What's changed, except someone thinks they know. And who cares? I don't and you don't. It even helps your cause as the wronged husband. Why spoil a good thing by panicking? PETER WILCOX-BROWN (rubs his chin, thinks for a moment) You, Richard, are a wise man. If anyone should be fucking my wife, it should be you

RICHARD

And you Peter, are a gentleman. If I should be fucking anyone's wife it should be yours. You enjoy your salmon fishing

They shake hands

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

34 INT. LARGE ROOM. NIGHT

The room is packed. People are drinking at the bar. The barman rings the bell

BARMAN Take your seat ladies and gentlemen please

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (at the front) Ladies and gentlemen. I will forgo the formalities and go straight into the meeting. This is an Extraordinary AGM as these are extraordinary times. As you are well aware, golf clubs across the country are struggling. Memberships are down and so are revenues. You will also know we were forty members down at the AGM less than two months ago and since then we have lost another twenty. That means we are losing about forty thousand pounds per annum. Some of you will also be aware that two committees were set up to try and alleviate the situation but, unfortunately, they have not succeeded

VOICE OC You should all resign CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Someone has asked that we all resign. Could you stand up sir please

The man stands up.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) Aahhh Steven. Our knight in shining armour. You want us all to resign so let's assume we have. Now tell us what plan you, you, (he points) have to save the Club? The floor is yours sir.

STEVEN It's simple. You have to raise membership fees

VOICES OC Sit down. Man's an idiot

STEVEN You have to sell more clubs, maybe charge for parking and you have to make the bunkers better.

VOICES OC

Sit down

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (raises his arms to clam situation)

Now, now. Steven has very kindly offered us his solution. I have to resign and he will implement his plan to reinvigorate the Club. In all fairness we need an informal vote on this. Would everyone who backs Steven please raise their hand.

(no one does)

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) Moving on. As I was saying we are now making substantial losses and golf clubs in this situation have little option but to close.

VOICE OC Borrow money against the course CHAIRMAN - RICHARD I'm afraid that option is a nonstarter. The club and the course, for tax reasons, are quite separate and therefore a loan is not possible.

VOICE OC So when are we going to close?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD I didn't say we were. I said that clubs in this situation usually do. I didn't say us.

VOICE OC But we can't carry on. We will have to sack the greens staff and everything..

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD One of the clubs quite badly hit is the Belmond, which is only five miles away. I have reached an agreement with Christopher Coleman, the Chairman of Belmond, that two hundred and fifty of their members join us. To help them do that we are reducing their joining fees from nine hundred and fifty pounds down to eight hundred.

VOICE OC That's not fair. What about us?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD And we are going to reduce your fees to eight hundred as well

Clapping breaks out. He hold up his hands

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) That also means, at eight hundred per member, we will immediately go into a sixty five thousand profit situation, excluding the extra bar takings etc etc

Lots of applause

VOICE OC Lets hear it for the Chairman. Hip hip hooray. Hip hip hooray. Hip hip hooray

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

35 INT. LARGE ROOM. LATER

Everyone has gone but Richard, Tony and Andy who are drinking at a small table. The bar staff, the two ladies and the barman, are just finishing tidying up.

> BARMAN Could we wind up now gents?

> > CHAIRMAN

Of course

The men drink up and get up to go

ANDY Coming Richard

CHAIRMAN Not yet. I'm going to wind down for a bit in the peace and quiet

TONY Ok. Well done Richard

They leave.

BARMAN Goodnight sir. Usual arrangement?

CHAIRMAN

Thank you George

All the lights go out except one by him, leaving it in semi darkness. He walks out of the room.

He is found behind the bar, with a new brandy, just round the corner, which is in semi darkness. He sips at the brandy, and then steadies himself with one hand on the bar. He stares ahead and after a little while his face shows a subtle orgasmic pleasure and he takes a drink.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Ahhhh. So good, so good, so good

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) (hears sound and turns) Well hello

Samantha goes to him, hugs him, kisses him.

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (CONT'D) That's nice

SAMANTHA

It is

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (to camera) Surely you didn't think...? (he looks down) Did you think I was doing that at the start with the lovely Samantha? Heavens no. That was Brenda.

He kisses her again

SAMANTHA They haven't got a clue have they?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD About what?

SAMANTHA About the fact that you manipulate the arses off them

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD I'm not sure I'd put it that way, but no.

SAMANTHA What did you make off Billy? (he looks at her quizzically) You told me in bed

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD You Mata Hari you. I've made a couple of pounds for helping him buy Belmond, although his landfill planning application did help somewhat.

SAMANTHA He wouldn't get that would he? CHAIRMAN - RICHARD God no. He wants to build houses there and I will get a few more pounds when he gets planning permission.

SAMANTHA Will he get that?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD More than likely, in due course. There are too many golf courses, not enough houses. Which way do you think a council would go to appease a government baying for affordable housing and withholding funds if you don't provide it?

SAMANTHA True. Do you manipulate me?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Surprisingly no. For someone so young, you have a very clear idea of life and what's going on. And you understand me.

SAMANTHA I will miss you when I go to Uni

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD I can come down occasionally, and there's still the villa in the holidays. You like it there

SAMANTHA Would you marry me?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (thinks)

No

SAMANTHA

Good

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD Why good?

SAMANTHA

If you'd said yes I would have been disappointed in you as a liar. And you would have to stop screwing my mother Ah yes

SAMANTHA My dad would have to find someone else to keep her happy

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (looks at her quizzically) You really are a clever girl

SAMANTHA Does he pay you to screw her?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD

No

SAMANTHA

So what do you get out of it?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD (Contemplates)

I get sex, obviously. I also get freedom. Stephanie belongs to Richard and so I have no worries that it will go anywhere else.

SAMANTHA

But what if she ended up loving you and wanted to be with you?

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD She loves something more than me or Richard

SAMANTHA Money. Which daddy provides in abundance

CHAIRMAN - RICHARD It's a convoluted, yet very successful arrangement for all

SAMANTHA

Well I will provide you with a safe harbour until my own luxury yacht sails in

CHAIRMAN You never cease to impress

SAMANTHA

And you can continue to reign here in all your pomp

CHAIRMAN

I can

SAMANTHA So nothings changed

CHAIRMAN It never does

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. ROAD NEXT TO GOLF COURSE. DAY

The Captain is driving his car to the course. He passes the old ladies, in the lay-by next to the course, who are sitting on four camping chairs and sipping tea behind their car. He waves hello and one waves back. Three of them are looking at a tablet.

37 EXT. LAY-BY. SAME. DAY

> LADY1 Ohh, we haven't seen him in a while. Do you think he's been ill?

LADY2 He's certainly recovered now. Vera, come and look. It's our silverback...

They giggle.

The camera leaves them, goes over the wall

38 EXT. 13TH TEE. SAME

> Three golfers are waiting and one is urinating in the bushes. The camera moves closer, looks over his head and beyond him where, in front of him, but not obvious, a small camera is fastened to a tree...

39 THE END

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