

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB HELD AT THE CLUB AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY, 20th FEBRUARY 2012

Present

T. Coleman – President

W. Rogers – Captain 2011

G. Hicks – Captain 2012

P. Davies – Club Secretary

M.A. Baker, H.W. Bevan, P. Boyle, T. Brown, K. Bryan, A. B'Simon, J. Callan, I. Chantler, C. Coleman, D.M. Cowley, T. Davey, P.G. Davies, D. Denton, M.E. Down, N. Down, G.R. Edwards, H. Evans, D. Finlay, E. Fowles, D. R. Fullwood, M. Godwin, J.S. Hay, K. Hayhurst, P. Hegarty, G.C. Hogg, T.A. Hughes, M. Jones, S.G. Jones, L.W. Kelley, T. Kerkhofs, J. Lawrence, C. Lloyd, D. Lloyd, G.D. Maher, M. McMahon, T. A. McNamara, R. Mercer, L. Miller, P. Mobbs, D. Murray, P. Murray, S. Nardo, J. Nolan, G. Popper, P. Qualtrough, F. Reid, J. Ross, C. Ruse, A.J. Shepherd, S. Smith, S. Walton, G.B. Watson, H. Wharton, D. White, J. Williams, W. Wright, K. Wylde and D. Young.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted in writing to the Council Secretary from: -

A. Bagley, I. Batchelor, P. Bond, T. Burns, C. Campbell, P. Chatterley, J. M. Chesters, S. Clark, R.E. Coney, A. Cotter, K. Culligan, P. Cullinan, C. Davies, J. Davies, P. Davies Jnr., C. Deboe, M. De Matas, I. Dixon, C. Elliott, N. Ellis, B. Gardner, F.R. Gilmore, G.W. Greene, A. Greenland, H. Grimshaw, G.M. Handley, J. Humphreys, G. Hughes, A. Hindmarsh, M.L. Jones, J.F. Kennedy, H. Large, J. Marshall, G. Mears, D. Morris, A. Murray, P. O'Hanlon, D. Owens, M. Robertson, D.H. Ryan, F. Sorahan and R. Winstanley.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2011

Members noted that the minutes for the Annual General Meeting held on 21st February 2010 had been posted on the notice board immediately after their approval

at the next following Council meeting; and resolved unanimously that they be accepted as a true record of proceedings without discussion.

3. Club Secretary's Report (Peter Davies)

The Club Secretary welcomed members to the meeting, particularly those who had joined this year; and he congratulated those who had been successful in the Club's many and varied competitions. He reported that 2011 had in some ways been a difficult year. The work to improve the drainage had meant a necessary reduction in the quality of the course and this had been a major factor behind the cancellation of the prestigious West Wirral Open Championship. However, the course would this year reap the benefit of the new drainage as well as the bunker maintenance programme and the new sprinklers should help restore the greens to their former excellent condition.

The Club Secretary was disappointed by the team performances in the Ryder Cup matches against West Hoyle and in the gross and net competitions at the Merseyside Municipal Championships. He hoped that the Club could do better this year and he encouraged members to seek to qualify for the latter. He expected the Royal Liverpool Golf Club to have the course in great condition because of the Women's Open in September and hoped that could lead to the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation, with a round of golf, being very well supported in November.

The Club Secretary explained to members why he had decided not to stand for re-election this year and wished his successor, Mike Down, every success in meeting the challenges ahead. The members applauded the Club Secretary for his sterling efforts on their behalf throughout his seven years in office.

4. Treasurer's Report (Dave Denton)

A copy of the Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2011, prepared by the Treasurer and duly certified by the Club's appointed auditors, was made available to members at the meeting. The Club Treasurer reported that the statement of account showed a deficit of £1,499.07 on the year although the Club's overall reserves remained very healthy with a balance of £5,458.26. This year's deficit was largely attributable to the cancellation of the West Wirral Open Championship and the income that event produced, the increase in VAT to 20% and the significant price increases affecting the basic purchasing activity of the Club. There was, however, a continuing trend in deficit reports and this, together with the further reduction in membership to around the 210 mark, were contributory factors in the Council's proposals to vary the structure and level of subscriptions. The Club Treasurer thanked Mike Baker and George Edwards for auditing the accounts. It was moved by Dave White, seconded by Geoff Hicks and duly resolved that the statement be approved. Members applauded the Club Treasurer for his valuable work.

5. Captain's Report (Billy Rogers)

The Captain was very happy to report that he had enjoyed a fantastic year and in great part that was due to the tremendous support he had received from members. As an example of this he referred to the letter from K.I.N.D. (Kids In Need and Distress) acknowledging the generosity of members' contributions at the Drive-In and on Captain's Day. The Captain was sure that his successor, Geoff Hicks, would receive the same magnificent support and wished him an enjoyable and successful year.

The Captain drew the meeting's attention to the fact that a number of Council members were standing down this year and that included three with outstanding service records. Peter Davies had been largely responsible for bringing a disciplined approach to the management and organisation of the Club in his seven years in office. Frank Gilmore had served on the Council for over twenty years in a number of capacities and Paul Davies had been a Council member for fourteen years, including a spell as Competitions Secretary. The Captain presented Peter and Paul with hip flasks engraved with the Club logo and the inscription "Thanks for all your Hardwork and Commitment to Hoylake Golf Club - From all the Members"; and would arrange to present Frank with his.

The Captain was keen to pay tribute to the success of the Seniors Section in winning the Wirral League for the first time and the Sections Chairman, Harry Bevan, collected a memento from the Council for Norman Ellis, the Team's Captain and Manager.

The Captain wished to end his year by thanking all members for the part they had played in making his year as Captain such a memorable one. It had been an honour and a privilege for him to serve as Captain and he was grateful for the support he had received and the respect that had been shown to him.

6. Election of President

Tom Coleman was unanimously elected to serve as President for a third year.

7. Election of Officers

The following members were unanimously elected to serve the Club in the positions indicated – Mike Down (Club Secretary); Dave Denton (Club Treasurer); Billy Rogers (Competitions Secretary); Phil Mobbs (Handicap Secretary); Tom McNamara (Council Secretary) and Charlie Coleman, Jimmy Humphreys, Mick Jones and Simon Nardo (Ordinary Members).

8. Welcome to the Captain for 2012 (Geoff Hicks)

The new Captain was welcomed in the traditional manner and took the Chair. He thanked members for their reception and said he was both honoured and delighted by his appointment. The Captain thanked Billy Rogers for his excellent leadership

during the past year and said that he was looking forward to working with his Vice-Captain, Dave Lloyd. The Captain was looking forward to the new season and drew attention to some of the main events. He hoped as many members as possible would attend the Captain's Drive-In on 24th March to observe the traditional start to the season at 6.40am and again at 9.40am. The Club Day Out would be on 15th June at Childwall Golf Club and Captain's Day would be held on 7th July, followed on 28th July by President's Day. The Captain ended by wishing all members a very enjoyable and successful season.

9. The Structure of Club Membership Subscriptions

The meeting received an oral report from the Club Treasurer to supplement the one attached to the agenda and, after an opportunity to raise questions, it was moved by Alan Shepherd, seconded by Phil Qualtrough and resolved unanimously that the structure and level of membership subscriptions be varied to introduce the following with immediate effect: -

Ordinary Membership £60
Concessionary Membership £45
Limited Membership £30

The meeting noted that members eligible for concessionary membership were those who were retired, were unwaged, were not self-employed or who worked in paid employment for less than 16 hours per week.

10. Authority for Council to Award Concessions

The Council Secretary explained that the Club's Rules did not permit the Council to recognise the exceptional commitment of certain members, such as Graham Handley and Ian Chantler in maintaining the website and ensuring that all major events are captured by the camera, by waiving the subscription. The Council would wish to have the authority to consider this option on an annual basis and, accordingly, it was moved by Stan Walton, seconded by George Hogg and resolved unanimously that Rule 6 be amended to read -

"The Council may determine that other members should receive payments or concessions in recognition of their significant and on-going contribution to the management of the Club; and shall report any such determinations to the next Annual General Meeting."

11. Requirement to Enter Competition Score in Computer

The Council Secretary explained that when the Club introduced the computerised score recording system the Rules of Golf were silent on whether or not members could be required to use the computer when recording their score and how failure to do so might be addressed. The R & A had recently issued guidance a club might

“introduce a requirement that competitors enter their scores into a computer; any penalty imposed for a failure to meet this requirement would have to be of a disciplinary nature, not involving a penalty under the Rules of Golf.”

Members noted that Rule 31 dealt with the requirement on competitors to return a scorecard and it was moved by Paul Davies, seconded by Derek Cowley and resolved unanimously that it be amended by the insertion of the following after the first sentence—

“For 18 hole competitions competitors are required to enter their scores into the Club computer.”

Members understood that the effect of this change was that while a member could not be disqualified for failing to enter his score in the computer he could receive a ban from one or more future competitions, as was the case for failing to return a scorecard.

9. Election of Auditors

Mike Baker and George Edwards were unanimously appointed to serve as the Club’s auditors for the ensuing year.

10. Honoraria for Officers

Members accepted the Council’s proposal that there should be no change to the existing level of honoraria for Officers.

11. Honorary Life Membership

Members agreed unanimously to a Council recommendation that Frank Sorahan be awarded an Honorary Life Membership.

12. Support for Captain’s Day and President’s Day

The President thanked members for their attendance and expressed the hope that they would also support the evening prize presentations on two of the Club’s most prestigious events.