

HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB

AGM MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY, 16th FEBRUARY 2015

Present

T. Coleman – President

D. Lloyd – Past Captain 2014 P. Martin – Captain 2015

M. Baker, C. Boulton, A. B'Simon, J. Callan, I. Chantler, A. Cotter, D.M. Cowley, C. Davies, P. Davies Jnr., P.G. Davies, D. Denton, M.E. Down, N. Down, G.R. Edwards, B. Gardner, F.R. Gilmore, G.W. Greene, D. Grime, H. Grimshaw, K. Hayhurst, G. Hicks, G.C. Hogg, T.A. Hughes, J. Humphreys, M. L. Jones, S. Jones, A.G. Kearney, R.J. Lally, J. Lawrence, M. McCabe, M. McMahon, T. A. McNamara, L. Melia, T. Melia, P. Mobbs, J. Nolan, P. O'Hanlon, M. Robertson, W. Rogers, J. Ross, D. H. Ryan, D. Sefton, T. Wallace and R. Winstanley.

1. Deceased Members

At the request of the President members stood to observe the memory of colleagues who had passed away during the year: Eddie Devon, Tom Norton and Frank Sorahan.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted in writing to the Council Secretary from S. Bagley (Captain), P. Chatterley, J. Chesters, H. Evans, S. Evans, G. Handley, J. Hay, J. Horobin, M. Horobin, M. Jones, C. Lloyd, M. Lloyd, M. McCabe, C. Ruse, A. Shepherd and M. Sullivan.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2014

Members noted that the minutes for the Annual General Meeting held on 10th February 2014 had been posted on the notice board immediately after their approval at the next following Council meeting. It was moved by Paul Davies, seconded by George Edwards and resolved unanimously that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings without discussion.

4. Club Secretary's Report (Dave Denton)

The Club Secretary reported on the organisation of the Club during the past year and on the activities planned for the season ahead. In this latter context he asked all members to pay careful attention to the Club notice board throughout the season.

The course would be closed on Saturday, 6th June to facilitate the Ladies Municipal Championship and the following day would see West Hoyle Golf Club host the Municipal

Championship. The Club had managed to retain sufficient summer tee times for 128 competitors and members were urged to make full use of them. Members were reminded that at the last annual general meeting members were advised that the stroke indices were to be revised following a computer analysis of the performance of members in competitions, and that this would be done when the stock of scorecards was exhausted. In the meantime it had been confirmed that the old 14th green would be reintroduced whilst retaining the new tee; and the Club ran the risk, therefore, that the data-based review would no longer have evidence based on this new hole. Since the supply of cards would be sufficient for the summer season, the review of stroke indices had been postponed until the following year.

The Club Secretary closed by congratulating the Captain, Steve Bagley, on his very successful year, and by wishing Pat Martin and Jimmy Humphreys every success as they embarked on their roles as Captain and Vice-Captain for 2015.

5. Club Treasurer's Report (John Lawrence)

The Club Treasurer introduced his Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2014 and thanked Mike Baker and George Edwards, the Club's auditors, for their diligent work in certifying the accounts and for the support they had given to him during his first year in office. The statement of account showed a deficit of £700.21 on the year and that the Club's overall reserves had reduced below £4,000. The Club Treasurer explained the circumstances behind each heading of income and expenditure and it was clearly noticeable that income from competition entries over the full year had dropped by some £800. The Club Treasurer was applauded for his work during the year.

6. Annual Subscription Rates for 2015

The Club Secretary reminded members that at the last annual general meeting he had announced that the Club Council would review income and expenditure very closely during the course of the year and probably would need to recommend a subscription increase to this meeting. The Club Council had done that and in view of the Club's operational needs it now recommended an increase of £10 on all categories of membership for 2015. It was moved by Geoff Hicks, seconded by Ian Chantler and resolved unanimously that the recommendation be accepted.

7. Captain's Report (Steve Bagley)

The Captain had prepared his report and, in his absence, it was delivered by the immediate Past Captain, Dave Lloyd. 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; and he wanted to acknowledge particularly the generosity of their contribution of more than £400 to his nominated charity, the Clatterbridge Cancer Unit.

The Captain had achieved a rare quadruple success in that he had led Hoylake teams to victories against the Ladies Section in the match for The Clock; the Veterans; Brackenwood Golf Club in the annual challenge match and West Hoyle Golf Club in the Ryder Cup.

The Captain was sure that his successor, Pat Martin, would receive the same magnificent support from members and wished him an enjoyable and successful year.

8. Election of President

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

9. Election of Officers

The following members were unanimously elected to serve the Club in the positions indicated – Dave Denton (Club Secretary); John Lawrence (Club Treasurer); Billy Rogers (Competitions Secretary); Dave Sefton (Handicap Secretary); Tom McNamara (Council Secretary) and Tom Brown, Charlie Coleman, Frank Gilmore, Geoff Hicks and Ron Winstanley (Ordinary Members). The Council Secretary confirmed that the Council would again seek to co-opt additional members at the start of the season and would invite Peter Davies Jnr to serve in this capacity.

10. Welcome to the Captain for 2015 (Pat Martin)

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 Dave Lloyd for nominating him and Steve Bagley for his excellent leadership during the past year. The Captain was committed to working with his Vice-Captain, Jimmy Humphreys, and members of the Council to ensure the new season was a memorable one and he was looking forward especially to the main events.

The Captain hoped as many members as possible would attend the Captain's Drive-In on 21st March to observe the traditional start to the season at 6.40am and again at 9.40am. The Captain explained that he was hoping that members driving into the first bunker would pay a voluntary contribution of 50p to his charity, Cancer Research and that his Easter Bonnet Competition on 4th April would feature a prize for the best hat. Similarly, his Halloween Competition on 31st October would offer a prize for the best costume. The Club Day Out would be on Friday, 12th June at Padeswood and Buckley and Captain's Day would be held on 20th June. The Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation would this year be held at the Prenton Golf Club on 6th November. The Captain ended by wishing all members a very enjoyable and successful season.

11. Election of Auditors

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

12. Honoraria for Officers and Concessions for Members

Members accepted the Council's proposal that there should be no change to the existing level of honoraria for Officers and noted those circumstances when the Council had granted concessions to members for their "significant and on-going contribution to the management of the Club".

13. Vacancies on the “98 Club” Committee

The meeting noted that the Chairman and Secretary of the “98 Club” Committee had resigned from their positions and that the opportunity existed for members of Hoylake Golf Club to put their names forward.

14. Wirral League

The President made an impassioned plea to members to put themselves forward for the Club team in the Wirral League. During the course of last season there had often been a late difficulty in fielding a full side and without further support the future of Hoylake’s participation in the Wirral League was far from certain.

15. Venue for Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation

The Council Secretary confirmed the selection of the venue for the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was made each year by the Captain; and the Captain explained his reasons for choosing the Prenton Golf Club for 2015. The Captain had attended a golf club dinner there and had experienced at first hand the first class offer and value for money it represented.

16. Wirral Borough Council Fees

The meeting discussed the potential effect on membership and participation levels of the changes in the structure of Wirral Borough Council fees. The Club Treasurer suggested that those members between the age of 60 and 64 would notice an increase although those aged 65 and above might benefit from an overall reduction if they used an Elderly Person’s pass. It was too soon, however, for a prediction on how the changes would affect the Club’s membership. It was suggested that the Club might benefit from advertising locally as West Hoyle had done.

17. Winter League Rules for Individual and Team Events

The meeting discussed the inclusion of points from team events in the table for the individual prizes and whether team competitions were sustainable during the winter, given the reduced numbers. Concern was also expressed about the effect on the speed of play of medal play when the course conditions were poor. The Council was asked to consider these points when setting out the arrangements for next year’s competition.

18. Use of Buggies

The meeting was made aware of the ban on the use of buggies by members until 1st March although this was apparently not consistent with arrangements at the other Wirral municipal courses. Although little time remained before the use of buggies would resume, the meeting hoped that clarification could be obtained from Wirral Borough Council for the future.