

HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB

AGM MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY, 5th MARCH 2018

Present

Tom Coleman - President 2017
Mike Down – President 2018
Peter Davies Jnr - Captain 2017
Rick Lally - Captain 2018

D. Armitage, M.A. Baker, P. Bond, C. Boulton, J.N. Callan, P. Davies Snr, P.G. Davies, C. Deboe, D. Denton, A. Fowler, R. Goodall, P. Hegarty, G. Hicks, T.A. Hughes, J. Humphreys, T. Kerkhofs, R. Koreman, J. Lally, J. Lawrence, R. Lowe, P. Martin, M. McCabe, T.A. McNamara, P. Mobbs, J. Nolan, P. O'Hanlon, P. Qualtrough, W. Rogers, D. Sefton, A. Shepherd, R. Winstanley and D. Smith.

1. Deceased Member

At the request of the President members stood to observe the memory of Ken Wylde, who had passed away very recently and whose funeral service would be held at Landican on 8th March.

2. Status of Meeting

Members noted that the meeting was inquorate and agreed, nevertheless, to continue on the basis that Council would act in accordance with any decisions taken by a majority of those present.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted in writing from C. Branch, G. Branch, P. Branch, A. B'Simon, I. Chantler, P. Chatterley, D. M. Cowley, N. Down, G.R. Edwards, F.R. Gilmore, D. Grime, G.M. Handley, J.S. Hay, M. Higgins, M. Jones, D. Lloyd, J. Ross and I. Thompson.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

Members noted that the minutes for the Annual General Meeting held on 20th February 2017 had been posted on the notice board immediately after their approval at the next following Council meeting. It was moved by Mike Down, seconded by Paul Davies and resolved unanimously that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings without discussion.

5. 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 throughout the season to the Club notice board, website and Facebook page, each of which was regularly updated.

Members were aware that the Club Secretary had signalled that he was to retire from the position and he took the opportunity to thank them for the support they had given to him as Captain, then Club Treasurer and in recent years as Club Secretary. He had interviewed 92 applicants for membership whilst Club Secretary and some 72 continued to play for the Club. He was, however, disappointed that in 2017 the summer season competitions averaged only 55 entries and the winter season only 30, although there were atrocious course conditions in recent months.

The Captain's Drive-in on 24th March would take place at 6.40am and at 9.40am and the Club Secretary hoped as many members as possible would attend to support the new Captain, who was to be congratulated for negotiating successfully with Upton by Chester Golf Club to stage the Club Day Out on a Saturday, 2nd June, so that members still had a weekend game whilst their home course was closed on the occasion of the Ladies Municipal Championships.

As his last official duty the Club Secretary was pleased to unveil the new Club Flag, which he presented to The Captain and Captain Elect to generous applause from the meeting.

The Club Secretary closed by congratulating the Captain, Peter Davies Jnr, on his very successful year, and by wishing Rick Lally and John Lawrence every success as they embarked on their roles as Captain and Vice-Captain for 2018. The Captain made a presentation to Dave on behalf of the Club and members warmly applauded him for his loyal and exceptional service over many years.

6. Club Treasurer's Report (Peter Davies Snr)

The Club Treasurer introduced his Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2017 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 the year. The statement of account showed a surplus of £2,145.86 on the year and that the Club's overall reserves had risen above £7,000. Whilst this was the third year in succession that there had been a surplus, the Club Treasurer pointed out that there were some significant matters that contributed to the scale of surplus. The Club Council had declined to pay booking fees to the Wirral Borough Council in 2017; there had been a sizeable reduction in stationery costs since the scorecard supply had been ordered and paid for the previous year; and the lottery introduced at the start of the summer season had been successful in increasing income.

The Club Treasurer answered questions from members in relation to specific lines of income and expenditure referred to in his Annual Financial Statement. It was proposed by Tony Kerkhofs, seconded by Alan Fowler and resolved unanimously that the Club Treasurer's report be accepted and he was congratulated on his management of the Club's accounts.

7. Structure of Annual Subscriptions

The Club Treasurer explained the recommendation of the Club Council that the structure of annual subscriptions be simplified by reducing the choice to either limited membership at £40, under which competition entry would be limited to a maximum of six per year, or full membership at £55. The proposal would reduce income by some £700. It was proposed by Pat Martin, seconded by Dave Sefton and resolved unanimously that the recommendation be approved.

8. Annual Block Booking for Tee Times for 2018

The Club Treasurer explained the intention of Wirral Borough Council to restrict booking reservations to a new electronic process and the options open to members to secure regular bookings for the summer season only or the full year. Members choosing to accept the offer of the Club Council to undertake the booking on their behalf would need to pay the appropriate fee of £13.00 or £19.50 to the Club Treasurer before the start of the season.

9. Captain's Report (Peter Davies Jnr)

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 specifically the generosity of their contributions of more than £1250 thus far to his nominated charity, Prostate Cancer UK. The introduction of a swear box in the clubroom had played its part in reaching this record level.

The Captain was pleased to look back at initiatives he had tried, some of which were successful, some of which might benefit from adjustment if tried again. The introduction of the West Wirral Invitational Medal for members of the "98 Club"; and the novelty of the three major 36-hole meetings actually taking place in the seasons that bore their names, would be continued. The Captain remained convinced that, once the dust had settled on the new tee time arrangements, his innovative ideas on mixing up groups to increase camaraderie and to encourage new members would, if given more time, prove to be popular with members. The Captain also spoke of his pride in addressing members who attended the Annual Dinner in the historic setting of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, and he was very sorry that his year had come to its end.

The Captain had also been greatly assisted by the Council and its members and he was sure that his successor, Rick Lally, would receive the same magnificent support from the Council and the Club members as he had; and wished him an enjoyable and successful year. The members applauded the Captain for his unstinting efforts during his year of office.

10. Award of Life Membership

The Captain was pleased to announce the Council's decision to award Honorary Life Membership to Alan Shepherd in recognition of his distinguished and loyal service to the Club; and it was clear from their generous applause that the members were equally pleased by the decision.

11. Retiring President

Tom Coleman had announced at the last Annual General Meeting his intention to retire as President this year after serving both the Men's and Ladies' Sections in that capacity for the past eight years. The Captain made a presentation to Tom on behalf of the Club and members warmly applauded him for his sterling service and commitment for such a period.

12. Election of President

Mike Down was unanimously elected to serve as President and was warmly applauded by members as he took over the Chain of Office. The new President praised the contribution of his predecessor in cementing the relationship with the Ladies Section and he thanked its Council for agreeing to adjust the tee times so that President's Day, on 11th August, would involve a single block booking for all entrants with the prize presentation immediately after the event. The President hoped that further supportive collaborations with the Ladies Section might follow.

13. Election of Officers

It was proposed by Mike Baker, seconded by Alan Shepherd and resolved unanimously that the following members be elected to serve the Club in the positions indicated – Peter Davies Jnr (Club Secretary); Peter Davies Snr (Club Treasurer); Billy Rogers (Competitions Secretary); Dave Sefton (Handicap Secretary); Tom McNamara (Council Secretary) and Peter Bond, Geoff Hicks, Tonny Kerkhofs, Pat Martin and Phil Mobbs (Ordinary Members).

14. Welcome to the Captain for 2018 (Rick Lally)

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 congratulated Peter Davies Jnr for his excellent leadership during an outstanding year. The Captain was grateful to be nominated by Jimmy Humphreys and the Past Captains and would do all he could to ensure the new season was a memorable one.

The Captain was looking forward to the season's main events. He hoped as many members as possible would attend the Captain's Drive-In on 24th March, before the early and late morning sessions, to observe the traditional start to the season. The Drive-In would mark the launch of his nominated charity for the year - Scope, a national disability charity that campaigns to challenge and change negative attitudes about disability and to provide direct services. The Captain was particularly keen to support the work Scope did on cerebral palsy. The Captain was hoping to raise a significant amount during the year by asking members to voluntarily contribute to his charity every time their balls found sand on 16th hole, any shot, any bunker.

The Club Day Out on Saturday, 2nd June to Upton by Chester Golf Club would cost £35 and transport would be available if there was sufficient demand. The Captain's Day Charity Medal would be held on 7th July and the prize presentation for this major event would take place at 4.30pm on the day. The Captain trusted that members would support his presentation and that on President's Day on 11th August.

The Captain was pleased to announce that the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation would be at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club on 2nd November and he hoped that the event would be as popular and entertaining as it had been in 2017.

The Captain predicted that Wirral municipal golf courses faced difficult times in the years ahead as falling numbers and reduced funding threatened the retention of all the current ones. He hoped that all members would reflect on encouraging friends and relatives to join the Club in order that it might look to the future with confidence. For his part he was looking forward to working with his Vice-Captain, John Lawrence, and he wished all members a very enjoyable and successful season.

15. Election of Auditors

It was proposed by Billy Rogers, seconded by Paul Davies and resolved unanimously that Mike Baker and George Edwards be appointed to serve as the Club's auditors for the ensuing year.

16. Honoraria for Office Holders

Members accepted the Council's proposal that the honoraria for the President and Captain should be increased from £100 to £200 better to support their purchase of prizes for their major competition days.

17. 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 roles within the Club.

18. Constitution

Members accepted the Council's proposal that the quorum for annual and extraordinary general meetings should be reduced from 40 to 30 in recognition of the reduced membership of the Club.

19. Wirral League 2018

The Council was seeking a volunteer from the membership to manage the representative team playing in the Wirral League for the coming season and was also urging members to commit to be available for selection by whomsoever took on this role. The Wirral League offered an excellent chance to enjoy matchplay golf at home and at local clubs but the Club's future participation was far from certain. In the absence of a designated manager and a commitment from a reliable squad of players, it was likely that the Club would be withdrawn from the League before the season's scheduled summer start.