

HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB

AGM MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY, 21st FEBRUARY 2022

Present

Mike Down – President
Tony Kerkhofs – Captain 2020 and 2021
Dave Smith - Captain 2022

D. Armitage, M.A. Baker, K. Bruffell, J.N. Callan, T. Coleman, D.M. Cowley, P. Davies, P. Davies Jnr, P.G. Davies, D. Denton G.R. Edwards, F.R. Gilmore, R. Hancock, J.S. Hay, G. Hicks, J. Humphreys, D. Jerome, M. Jones, P. Kelly, R. Koreman, J. Lally, R. Lally, J. Lawrence, P. Martin, S. Mason, T.A. McNamara, P. Mobbs, J. Nolan, K.A. O'Neill, C. Pugh, P. Qualtrough, F. Reid and D. Sefton.

1. Deceased Members

At the request of the President members stood to applaud the memories of Norman Ellis, George Hogg and Bob Watson who had passed away since the last Annual General Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted in writing from P. Bond, C. Boulton, A. B'Simon, I. Chantler, P. Chatterley, S. Clark, K. Culligan, T. Davies, N. Down, R.L. Evans, R. Goodall, G. Gordon, A. Greenland, G.M. Handley, K. Hanrahan, T. Hawkins, M. Higgins, T.A. Hughes, Mtn. Jones, A.G. Kearney, L. Kelley, H. Large, J. Lau, C. Lloyd, D. Lloyd, R. Miller, R. O'Neill, D. Owens, W. Rogers, C. Ruse, A. Schorah, S. Smith, D. Thomas, D. Watson,

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020

Members noted that the minutes for the Annual General Meeting held on 24th February 2020 had been posted on the notice board immediately after their approval at the next following Council meeting. It was resolved unanimously that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings without discussion.

4. Award of Life Membership

The Club Secretary announced that the Council had awarded Life Memberships to Mike Down, Frank Gilmore and Alan Hughes and Members warmly congratulated them on their achievement.

5. Club Secretary's Report (Dave Denton)

The Club Secretary reported on the organisation of the Club during the past two years and on the activities planned for the season ahead. He was grateful for the help he had received from colleagues who shared his workload when he needed to care for his wife. It had been a difficult couple of years because of the pandemic and the Club Secretary hoped we could now move on and find a solution after the Council's budget measures to keep the Club membership together. Work would commence as soon as the ballot result was announced to secure sufficient tee times at either Arrowe Park or Eastham Lodge and Wirral Council's Golf Co-ordinator had called a meeting of all municipal clubs on 1st March, the day after the final budget decision, to start that process. The Club Secretary and Communications Secretary had been invited to attend this meeting and would do so if the ballot found for Arrowe Park. The Club Secretary thanked the Captain and Council for their support and the Members showed their appreciation of his excellent contribution to the Club.

6. Club Treasurer's Report (Peter Davies)

The Club Treasurer introduced his Annual Financial Statement for the years ending 31st December 2020 and 2021 and thanked Mike Baker and Dave Francis, the Club's current auditors, for their diligent work in certifying the accounts and for the support they had given to him during the two years. The Club Treasurer was pleased to report a surplus across the two years and the Club's overall reserves remained healthily above £9,500; and accordingly, he was able to recommend that the annual subscription remains at £50. That said, the Club Treasurer had to stress that the subscription level alone, which was 20% lower because of a reduction in membership; would not cover the Club's outgoings by itself. The next twelve months would be a worrying time for the Club as it attempted find ways to secure a return to Hoylake. The Members showed their appreciation of the Club Treasurer's care of the Club's funds.

7. Club Rules

Members noted that Council had reviewed the Club's Constitution and Rules to ensure they remained relevant to changes and challenges the Club and Members had encountered since the last Annual General Meeting; and had received in advance a note of changes proposed and the rationale behind them. Predominantly, the proposals reflected and sought to make permanent the operational arrangements made necessary by the pandemic regarding Master Scoreboard and on-line banking; the introduction of the World Handicapping System (WHS); the England Golf's modernisation agenda; the need for a privacy policy to adhere to data protection laws; and the integration of new social media into the standards framework. It was resolved unanimously that the changes be accepted. Members understood that there might be a need to modify these slightly or indeed significantly, depending upon where we temporarily relocated and, later on, what sort of relationship we enjoyed with whatever legal entity was responsible for golf at the Hoylake course.

8. Captain's Report (Tonny Kerkhofs)

The Captain was very happy to report that he had enjoyed a memorable two years in office because of the pandemic and his Charity, Wirral Autism, had benefitted to the tune of £2,000 thanks to the generosity of the contributions from Members.

The Captain had been greatly assisted by Council members and he was sure that his successor, Dave Smith, would receive the same magnificent support from the Council and the Club Members as he had; and wished him and his Vice-Captain, Phil Qualtrough, an enjoyable and successful year. The Members applauded the Captain for his sterling efforts during his extended and difficult period of office.

9. Welcome to the Captain for 2022 (Dave Smith)

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 was grateful to be nominated by the Past Captains and would do all he could to ensure the new season was a memorable one; and he hoped he could follow the example set by his predecessor, Tonny Kerkhofs.

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 26th March, before the early and late morning sessions, to observe the traditional start to the season. This was scheduled to be the last event played at the course before its closure. The Captain's nominated charity for the year would also be Autism Together. The Annual Dinner and Prizegiving would be held at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club on Friday, 21st October; and golf would be available at half-price which, because of the earlier month caused by preparation for The Open, would be £100. The Captain finished his first address by saying that he was looking forward to working with his Vice-Captain, Phil Qualtrough, and the members of the Council; and he wished all Members a very enjoyable and successful season.

10. Election of President

It was resolved unanimously that Mike Down be re-elected to serve as President.

11. Election of Officers

It was resolved unanimously that the following members be elected to serve the Club in the positions indicated – Dave Denton (Club Secretary); Peter Davies (Club Treasurer); Dave Sefton (Handicap Secretary); Phil Mobbs (Communications Secretary); Tom McNamara (Council Secretary) and Peter Bond, Tom Coleman, Jimmy Humphreys, Mike Jones, and Billy Rogers (Ordinary Members).

12. Annual Subscriptions

Members were pleased to note that the annual subscription rate would remain at £50 for the coming year.

13. Concessions for Members

Members noted that concessions had been granted in 2020 and 2021, as in previous years, to the Club's Webmaster and Photographer in recognition of their significant and on-going contribution to the management of the Club.

14. Election of Auditors

It was resolved unanimously that Mike Baker and Dave Francis be appointed to serve as the Club's auditors for the ensuing year.

15. The Future of Hoylake Golf Club

Members discussed the challenges facing the Club during the next twelve months. Wherever the Club set up as a temporary measure, the on-going aim would be to return in the future to find a course in better condition than it was on our departure and managed by a concern that knew what it was doing. Whilst the future was uncertain, it was hoped that Members would await developments patiently: there would be the new community asset transfer policy in April that might well encourage an expression of interest by a new or existing community project before the closing date of 30th September; and, during this period there might be an opportunity for Members to engage with or even drive such developments. There were many organisations in the Liverpool City Region, including the Wirral Community Association and Breaking Ground set in Liverpool and Sefton, that were established to give business advice and development support to communities wishing to run former Council ventures. The first priority, however, would still be securing satisfactory tee times on 1st March immediately after the result of the Members' ballot was known. After that and throughout the time away from Hoylake, the Club Council would continue to keep the Membership informed and, if appropriate, involved in any decisions that have to be taken.