

HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB

AGM MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY, 15th FEBRUARY 2016

Present

P. Martin – Past Captain 2015 J. Humphreys– Captain 2016

M. Baker, P. Bond, C. Boulton, K. Bruffell, J. Callan, I. Chantler, P. Chatterley, A. Cotter, D.M. Cowley, P. Davies Jnr., P. Davies Snr., P.G. Davies, C. Deboe, D. Denton, M.E. Down, H. Evans, D. Farley, B. Gardner, D. Grime, J. Hart, P. Hegarty, T.A. Hughes, T. Kerkofs, R.J. Lally, J. Lawrence, M. McCabe, T. A. McNamara, J. Nolan, P. O’Hanlon, F. Reid, W. Rogers, J. Ross, D. H. Ryan, D. Sefton, D. Smith, M. Sullivan, R. Winstanley and W. Wright.

1. Deceased Members

At the request of the Captain members stood to observe the memory of colleagues who had passed away during the year: Stan Davies and Peter Greenland.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted in writing from T. Brown, A. B’Simon, J. Chesters, T. Coleman (President), C. Davies, N. Down G.R. Edwards, N. Ellis, F.R. Gilmore, G.W. Greene, H. Grimshaw, G. Handley, J. Hay, G. Hicks, G.C. Hogg, M. Jones, C. Lloyd, D. Lloyd, M. Lloyd, C. Ruse, D. Salisbury, A. Shepherd, I. Thompson and P. Watson.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015

Members noted that the minutes for the Annual General Meeting held on 16th February 2015 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 Derek Cowley 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 Club had again triumphed at the Association of Merseyside Municipal Golf Clubs by retaining the team gross prize. Paul Hegarty had enjoyed individual success also and was joined in the team by Mike Reid, Dave Sefton and Bill Tripp. In the Captains Association

knockout event the Club ran out winners thanks to the efforts of Steve Bagley, Tom Coleman, Peter Davies Snr, Dave Denton and Graham Handley.

There were to be some significant changes introduced at the start of the season. Tee-times would now be eight minutes apart instead of six and, whilst this was to be welcomed, it had to be said that it was only possible because of the Club's need for fewer times and the downturn in public usage of the course. Our average summer usage supported only 16 of the 28 tee times reserved by the Club and some would be surrendered in the coming season. The new season would see a new scorecard introduced, copies of which were made available at the meeting. Of particular interest for the meeting was the revised stroke indices, based on the degree of difficulty of holes according to computer generated analysis of member performance in competition since the introduction of the new technology. It was noted that the current stroke indices would be retained for matchplay events.

The Tuesday competitions would be managed by the Professional on behalf of the "98 Club" and he would pay cash prizes for first, second and third in each event. Whilst the majority would be off the yellow tees, six would be from the competition tee and scores from these events would count for handicap purposes. The Club would look on the coming season as an experimental year for the mid-week competitions and, accordingly, was suspending Rule 28 so that in these six events competitors' cards could be marked by any "98 Club" member.

The Club Secretary closed by congratulating the Captain, Pat Martin, on his very successful year, and by wishing Jimmy Humphreys and Peter Davies Jnr every success as they embarked on their roles as Captain and Vice-Captain for 2016. The Club Secretary was applauded for his invaluable event management throughout the year.

5. Club Treasurer's Report (John Lawrence)

The Club Treasurer introduced his Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2015 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 £193.47 on the year and that the Club's overall reserves had returned to a level above £4,000. This was the first surplus recorded in recent years.

The Club Treasurer explained the circumstances behind each heading of income and expenditure and was keen to make some particular points. Some £960 of the income from subscriptions related to new members and he was concerned that the membership should do all it could to ensure new members did not leave during or at the end of their first year. Despite the reduction in the Club's resources over recent years the percentage ratio of spending on competition prizes to competition entrance fees was higher now than in 2005. The income from charitable contributions and, as a consequence, the donations to charity had increased to over £1,000 thanks largely to the efforts of the Captain during his year of office.

It was moved by Ian Chantler, seconded by Mike Down, and resolved unanimously that the statement be approved and the Club Treasurer was applauded for his diligent safeguarding of the Club's resources.

6. Captain's Report (Pat Martin)

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 contribution of more than £1,000 to his nominated charity, Cancer Research. The Captain observed that a good proportion of this had come from members driving into the fairway bunker on the first hole.

The Captain had enjoyed a memorable Drive-In and had won the Club Day Out at Padeswood and Buckley with a handicap-challenging score of 46 points. The Captain thanked members for supporting his innovative Easter Bonnet and Halloween fun events when there had been prizes for the best bonnet and best costume respectively. The Captain had enjoyed greatly the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation and explained that he had broken with recent tradition, when choosing Prenton Golf Club as the venue, because of the quality of the course and its catering operation.

The Captain was sure that his successor, Jimmy Humphreys, would receive the same magnificent support from members and wished him an enjoyable and successful year. The members applauded the Captain for his unstinting efforts during his year of office.

7. Election of President

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

8. 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, Geoff Hicks, Tonny Kerkofs, Phil Mobbs and Ron Winstanley (Ordinary Members). The Council Secretary confirmed that the Council had co-opted Peter Bond and Peter Davies Snr to serve as additional members for the next two years.

9. Welcome to the Captain for 2016 (Jimmy Humphreys)

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 Pat Martin for his excellent leadership during the past year. The Captain was honoured to be nominated by Steve Bagley 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 26th March, before the early and late morning sessions, to observe the traditional start to the season. The Captain nominated the Woodlands Trust as the Captain's Charity this year, and explained that he was hoping to raise a significant amount during the year, especially since he was to ask members playing into the ditches or pond at the 7th hole to make a voluntary contribution of 50p to his charity.

The Club Day Out would be on Friday, 17th June at Childwall Golf Club and the Captain's Day Charity Medal would be held on 9th July. The Captain informed the meeting that the prize presentation for this major event in his calendar would take place at 4.30pm on the day; and he understood that the President would manage his Charity Medal Day similarly on 6th August. The Captain hoped that as many members as possible would support this return to a once popular Club tradition and attend the presentations. Maintaining that theme, the Captain was pleased to announce that the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation would this year return to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club on 4th November where members could enjoy a round on the historic links for only £40. The Captain looked forward to working with his Vice-Captain, Peter Davies Jnr, and he wished all members a very enjoyable and successful season.

10. Election of Auditors

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

11. 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 roles within the Club.

12. Competition Entry Fee

The meeting discussed and indicated support for an increase in the standard competition entrance fee, possibly linked to an inclusive prize draw.

13. The Pace of Play

The meeting discussed a number of factors associated with slow play and offered suggestions for the Council to consider for implementation during the new season. It was recognised that the membership age profile would not routinely enable speedy play but it was believed that greater efforts could be made to mitigate that situation. The most annoying practice was the refusal of members to call through when significant ground had been lost on the group ahead. This led automatically to a concertina effect. There were other criticisms of members such as not making up fourballs; standing on ceremony in terms of playing from the tee instead of letting shorter players hit first; not being ready to play their shot; and leaving bags in front of greens rather than at the side nearest the next tee. There was a suggestion that mixing groups from week to week would lead members to challenge these poor practices and bring about improvement. A majority of those present expressed some willingness to be more flexible in the organisation of fourballs but it was noted that what was possible with the last groups of the day might be impractical for the early starters. The Club Secretary agreed that the Council would act on reasonable complaints about those members who breached golf etiquette and showed no regard for other members; and also that consideration would be given to trialling some change in the organisation of competition play.