

HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB

AGM MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HOYLAKE GOLF CLUB HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY, 25th FEBRUARY 2019

Present

Mike Down – President
Rick Lally - Captain 2018
John Lawrence – Captain 2019

M.A. Baker, T. Brown, A. B'Simon, J.N. Callan, I. Chantler, T. Coleman, D.M. Cowley, P. Davies, P. Davies Jnr, P.G. Davies, D. Denton, N. Down, D. Farley, A. Fowler, B. Gardner, F.R. Gilmore, R. Goodall, K. Hayhurst, G. Hicks, J. Humphreys, M. Jones, A.G. Kearney, L. Kelley, R. Koreman, D. Mackenzie, P. Martin, M. McCabe, T.A. McNamara, P. Mobbs, R. Murray, M. Neilan, J. Nolan, P. Qualtrough, W. Rogers, R. Thomson and A. Wyn-Jones.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted in writing from P. Bond, G.R. Edwards, D. Francis, D. Grime, G.M. Handley, J.S. Hay, A. Hughes, T. Kerkhofs, D. Lloyd, J. Ross, D. Sefton, A. Shepherd, I. Thompson, P. Watson and R. Winstanley.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018

Members noted that the minutes for the Annual General Meeting held on 5th March 2018 had been posted on the notice board immediately after their approval at the next following Council meeting. It was moved by Dave Denton, seconded by Tom Brown and resolved unanimously that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings without discussion.

3. Club Secretary's Report (Peter Davies Jnr)

The Club Secretary reported on the organisation of the Club during the past year and on the activities planned for the season ahead. The new tee time arrangements introduced by Wirral Borough Council had been managed without difficulty, despite initial concerns, and overall the season had been successful in terms of the weather and competitions. The Club Secretary was to stand down after this meeting and after thanking members for their support during his period in office he asked them to continue to support the Council, in its efforts to provide a full programme of events, by paying careful attention throughout the season to the Club notice board, website and Facebook page, each of which was regularly updated. The Captain thanked the Club Secretary for his excellent leadership of and all-round contribution to the Club and the members showed their appreciation with warm applause.

4. Club Treasurer's Report (Peter Davies)

The Club Treasurer introduced his Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2018 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 £233.12 on the year and that the Club's overall reserves remained healthily above £7,000. Although the accounts appeared comfortable, the Club Treasurer pointed out that there had been significant reductions this year particularly in respect of income from annual subscriptions and summer competition entries. Accordingly, the Council now made a point of seeking to ensure that for the most part each area of competition and key events were self-financing.

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 Tom Coleman, seconded by Alan Fowler and resolved unanimously that the Club Treasurer's report be accepted and members congratulated him on his astute management of the Club's funds.

5. Structure of Annual Subscriptions

The Club Treasurer explained the recommendation of the Club Council that the structure of annual subscriptions be simplified by removing the choice and instead having a single membership subscription which for the coming season would to be set at £50. The proposal would reduce income by some £300. It was proposed by Rob Murray, seconded by Roland Koreman and resolved unanimously that the recommendation be approved.

6. Rule Change

The Annual General Meeting accepted that as a consequence of the decision to set a single subscription rate Rule 13 had to be varied by the removal of "Annual subscriptions of all categories of members" and its replacement by "The annual subscription".

7. Captain's Report (Rick Lally)

The Captain was very happy to report that he had enjoyed a very successful 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 £1000 thus far to his nominated charity, SCOPE, which greatly assisted sufferers of cerebral palsy. His successful year was also due, in no small part, to the fact that he had won two "honours board" events: the Fred Roberts Trophy and the Queen Elizabeth II, a feat not matched by any previous captain.

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

8. Welcome to the Captain for 2019 (John Lawrence)

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 Peter Davies Jnr and 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, Rick Lally, who had set high standards.

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 23rd 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, the RNLI, which had particular relevance to Hoylake as a town and as a Club. The Club's regular RNLI Charity Stableford would this year be staged on 27th April whilst the Captain's Day Charity Medal would be on 6th July. The prize presentation for Captain's Day would take place at 4.30pm on the day and the Captain trusted that members would support his presentation and that on President's Day on 10th August.

The Captain had chosen Aldersey Green Golf Club for the Club Day Out on Friday, 14th June and noted that as well as a great challenge at a reasonable price, the venue had an ample number of buggies for hire. The Captain was pleased to announce that the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation would be at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club on Friday, 11th October and he hoped that the event would be as popular and entertaining as it had been in previous years. The Captain announced that the format for the Doubles Knock Out event would be 4BBB.

The Captain accepted that the future for Hoylake Municipal Golf Course was as yet unclear. At the same time as the Wirral Borough Council courted the Hoylake Golf Resort it had outsourced the management of some other municipal courses. It seemed fair to assume that Hoylake would have been included had it not been for the Golf Resort proposals. The Captain felt that in these uncertain times it would be prudent to maintain good relationships with other local municipal clubs: and he, for his part, would establish links with his fellow captains. The Captain concluded by saying that he was looking forward to working with his Vice-Captain, Tony Kerkhofs, and he wished all members a very enjoyable and successful season.

9. Election of President

It was proposed by Geoff Hicks, seconded by Derek Cowley and resolved unanimously that Mike Down be re-elected to serve as President.

10. Election of Officers

It was proposed by Mike Baker, seconded by Dave Denton and resolved unanimously that the following members be elected to serve the Club in the positions indicated – Alan Fowler (Club Secretary); Peter Davies Snr (Club Treasurer); Billy Rogers (Competitions Secretary); Dave Sefton (Handicap Secretary); Tom McNamara (Council Secretary) and Peter Bond, Jimmy Humphreys, Mike Jones, Pat Martin and Phil Mobbs (Ordinary Members). The newly elected Club Secretary, Alan Fowler, addressed the meeting and thanked members for their confidence in him. He was keenly looking forward to the challenges the role offered.

11. 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. Members passed a vote of thanks to them for their continuing commitment to the Club.

12. Trees on the Course

Members noted that further trees had been felled during the season and the Club Secretary agreed to approach Wirral Borough Council to ascertain if there was an intention to plant any new trees.

13. New Rules of Golf

The Club Secretary informed Members that whilst the notice board displayed information about the significant changes to the Rules of Golf, he would encourage them to collect a hard copy of the rules or download the R&A electronic version in order that they could become fully conversant with the changes. Members noted that the Club would not be exercising the option of a local rule with an alternative response to out of bounds or lost ball because CONGU would not accept it in competitions affecting handicaps.

19. Course Measurement

Members noted that as part of the process towards the introduction of a World Handicap System clubs in this country would need to employ the SLOPE system used in the United States and Europe and that this in turn meant that all courses would need to be remeasured. The Wirral Borough Council had contracted agents to measure its municipal courses and they would be assisted by the local knowledge of volunteers from each club.

20. Hoylake Golf Resort

Members noted that the Annual General Meeting clashed with a special meeting of Wirral Borough Council, which had been summoned primarily to hear opposition party motions calling for the Hoylake Golf Resort proposals to be abandoned. The ruling administration, however, planned to refer the latest detail from the developers to a Scrutiny Committee charged with making recommendations to the Cabinet. Peter Bond was attending the Wirral Borough Council Meeting as the Club's representative.