



HELSBY GOLF CLUB

116th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 9th February 2017

PRESENT

The President, Mr J H Potter, who stated that he wished to thank the 118 members attending the meeting, opened the meeting.

1. NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

The notice had been duly displayed in the clubhouse in accordance with Rule 6.1.1, it has also been posted on the website in the members' section.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from 23 members and duly recorded.

3. OBITUARIES

A silence was observed in respect of the memory of the following members and past members:

Messrs Dave Ashall, Ken Bett, Roy Hitchen, Derek Leigh,
Eddie Meade, Richard McWilliam, David Nagle,
Ray Parker
Mrs Evelyn Carr (Past Member), Mrs Judy Stewart (Past
Member), Mr Don Ringstead (Past Member)

4. MINUTES OF THE 2016 AGM held on 11th February 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the President.

5. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT - Mr J H Potter

Captain, Lady Captain, Members.

Thank you all for attending our 116th AGM this evening.

We have, thanks to all of you, had a very successful year.

Our membership is in a very positive position with 81 new members throughout all the categories. Because of that, our financial situation is even better.

We have received a VAT refund, which amounts to £57000 net.

In 2015 we had £60,000 in our deposit account. Today that figure stands at £110,000.

The profit for the year ending 2016 was £21,000

But the thing I want to mention is the Golf, that's why we all joined.

As the President, I am responsible for holding two Tournaments a year. The first for the Gentlemen and is held in June, and what a great day. It was a pleasure looking after all the players at the Halfway House, with some fantastic golf being played by many. But the player with a net score of 63 and taking the prize was Peter Simpson, well done.

The second Tournament is for the Ladies, which is a very pleasant experience, the Halfway House being utilized the same. Pimms and Cream Scones were the order of the day.

Not to take anything away from the Golf, it was as competitive as the mens' and duly won by a worthy winner Pam Thompson.

Another notable achievement for the Ladies this year, was Rachel Steven's "Hole in One. "Well done Rachel".

But let's not leave the Golf there. Let me just mention some of this year's, in my opinion, great achievements.

The Captain's weekend was won by Simon Begley and a worthy winner with two great rounds. We had Jeff Hughes, who won two Regional events. The Skoda at "The Grove" and The BMW at 'Woburn' and with John Cheesbrough won the 'The Arden Masters' at where else but at The Forest of Arden.

We have Tom Rowlands our lowest handicap golfer at 0.9 and shortly to join the Pro ranks. Simon Pay, winning the Order of Merit.

But the star this year, must be Alan Rigby. He was The Winner of the "Tain Open In Northern Scotland. The Captain's Day gross winner. He won the Club Championship. (5th time). He was the Winner of 'The Helsby Oaks'. He was second in the Scratch Cup. He was voted most Improved Player in the 2016 season. There are more, but that's enough of Alan.

But really, we are all winners, because the taking part and enjoying it, is the most important thing.

I would just like to mention some people who deserve mine and our thanks for managing a successful year on our behalf.

The Directors, who keep everything on an even keel.

Our Secretary who manages all the staff, from Green to House and the administration, together with the Catering for us.

Our Captain, our Lady Captain, our Professional and our new Treasurer , Karen. Thank you all. Finally, I would like on your behalf to thank the Volunteers. The people whom without their commitment, drive and energy none of this happens.

They are led by their chairperson's, Brian Stott, Match and Handicap , Janet Richards, House, Peter Simpson, Green, Roddy Snedden, Membership and Marketing and Peter Duffy, Finance and General Purpose.

They, together with their teams, give up their time freely, working tirelessly on your behalf, to the best of their ability to help deliver a Great Golf Club. Although repeating myself, mine and your appreciation and a big thank you goes to the Management Committee.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6(a) Captain - Mr N M B Johnson

Proposed By **The Captain (Mr S G Cunniffe)**
Seconded By **Mr P G Duffy**

The President put the proposal to the meeting and it was passed.

Mr N M B Johnson moved to the Captain's chair and was presented with his tie and blazer by Mr S G Cunniffe.

The Captain then said the following:

Mr President, Lady Captain, Past Captains, fellow Members.

I wish to thank the Past Captains' for offering me the opportunity of standing here as the new Captain of Helsby Golf Club and to you the members for supporting their nomination by electing me to this position.

Having been a member since 1981 I feel I have served my apprenticeship and am now looking forward to fulfilling the role of Captain of Helsby Golf Club to the best of my ability. I give you all an undertaking that I will do my best to uphold the values and traditions of this club and to work with the members of management to the benefit of all members.

I am very proud of Helsby Golf Club and the reputation that it has in the Cheshire and surrounding areas. This reputation has steadily increased over the time that I have been a member and this is down to the tireless work and commitment of the previous Management Committees, Officers of the Club, Directors and the Head Green Keeper and their staff.

The course now has the reputation of being one of the best in the area which is shown by the number of visiting societies and individuals, which increases the income stream for the club. Additionally the Manchester and District Golf Alliance have approached the club with a request to hold one of their Pro Am Competitions at the club in October this year, which has been approved by Management.

The Club House has a tremendous view across the course which is an asset that has also been beneficial in attracting functions from outside the club such as Weddings, Christenings and Business Meetings. Again this has been of great value in bringing more money into the club as well as enhancing our image.

During the course of last year a number of members have given up their free time to assist in the maintenance and presentation of our course and I hope to see this developed further during the forthcoming year. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking those members, they know who they are.

Last year the membership voted in favour of suspending the Joining Fee for an experimental year in the hope that this would encourage an influx of new members. As you are all aware this has been a great success and we have attracted many new members in all categories. This has resulted in an improvement in the club's finances and the management proposed that this is extended for a further year. In addition it is proposed that there will not be an increase in subscriptions this year and a reduction in the balance of the outstanding joining fee for those members who joined before it was suspended.

It is refreshing for an incoming Captain of Helsby Golf Club to have a positive financial year to look forward to with increasing membership and visitor revenue, refund of VAT payments together with associated interest and the very kind legacy of Liz Sharp a former Lady member, surely nothing can go wrong!

During my year I will be supporting two Charities. The main one will be Claire House who are a Children's Hospice on the Wirral, who provide a much needed service to this area. They provide specialist nursing care to seriously and terminally ill children as well as providing support to their families. In addition, they support families in their own homes where this is their preference. They are a Registered Charity costing about 3 Million pounds a year to run and are very heavily dependent on donations.

Subject to approval by the new management committee I propose to run a Captain's Charity Day on Thursday 29th June which is kindly being planned and organised by our own Christian Lindley and Angela Rawsthorne from Claire House. It is proposed to be a four man team event with a shotgun start at about 2pm followed by a meal, a speaker and an auction. It will be open to members, visitors and importantly Corporate teams. I would ask you all to support the event by playing in it, contributing to the cause or by allowing the exclusive use of our course for one afternoon in the year.

My other charity will be the Powered Wheel Chair Appeal which I will be continuing to support throughout the year and to assist there will be a Captain's charity bunker on the front right of the 18th and I ask that you make an appropriate donation. I am sure fellow members will keep a wary eye from the club house to assist player's memory should they forget to contribute when they get into the clubhouse.

My main wish for the year is for everyone to use the course playing good social and competition golf and hopefully reduce their handicaps. The Club House is a great asset which I hope is used and enjoyed by as many as possible. The Management Committee that you elect will do their level best to ensure the smooth and efficient running of Helsby Golf Club and deserve your support.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate our incoming Lady Captain, Gill Smith and our Junior Captain, Imogen Lightfoot and to wish them a happy and successful year.

Finally, it is my first and most pleasant duty to propose a vote of thanks to our outgoing Captain, Steve Cuncliffe.

Steve you have been a first class Captain of this golf club. It was summed up to me earlier in the year when a member said in my company that he pitied the poor Captain that followed you.

When I told him it was me he looked embarrassed and said Oh Good Luck. And Yes I will need it.

Your speeches have been great and in particular your fund raising for charity has been exceptional, unsurpassed previously and I expect for some years to come. Your lovely and supportive wife Hazel can now resume her holiday planning.

I know you have many happy memories from your year, which will remain with you.

On behalf of all the members I would like to thank you for the hard work and dedication that you have given to Helsby Golf Club. We all wish you and Hazel all the very best for the future.

In response, the outgoing Captain Mr S G Cuncliffe said:

Mr Captain, Thank you for your generous comments. I have had a wonderful year and will take many happy memories away with me. I settled my bar tab today and I am amazed I can remember the year so well!!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, the members of Helsby Golf Club for the support that you have given to me during the past year. Your support has been fantastic. It has been a privilege and honour to serve this amazing golf club as your Captain.

We have a vast number of volunteers in Helsby Golf Club who serve this golf club selflessly and in so many ways. Obviously there is the management committee and I would like to thank them for their support and hard work throughout my year. The seconded members to the various committees have put in sterling work and it is good to see younger members helping out. But there are so many members working hard to organize Open weeks / inter club matches at different levels / roll ups on various days at various times. There are volunteers helping on the course and in the clubhouse to make things happen smoothly. You all know who you are and I would like to say a massive thank you on behalf of all the members

A special word of thanks to all the staff, those who have worked inside this clubhouse and those responsible for the golf course for their hard work and support through the past year.

I would like to make a special mention of Jim Potter - Mr President who stepped up at short notice and has been a rock of support throughout my year in office.

It has been a real pleasure working with Steve Collins who plays a very important role as Secretary and acting Treasurer of the golf club. Thank you Steve for all that you do and for your support. I must also mention Chris Cousins. Chris does a huge amount of work for us all and the Captain Pro matches have special memories for me.

I would like to thank you all for your kind donations to my various charity fundraisers – the pinnacle of which was my 6 Counties Challenge – I will never forget the fantastic welcome that I got when returning to Helsby – and the pint on a tray as I got out of the car was the sort of service I could get very used to. In all I raised just shy of £11000 with £1000 going to the Stroke Association and £9650 challenge money to the Wheelchair Appeal.

I know everyone here will join me in wishing our new Captains' a successful year. Neil, as Captain you are entitled to expect the support of all the Officers and the Past Captains of this golf club. Now, in my role of Immediate Past Captain I am looking forward to supporting you and assisting you in any way that I can.

We have a bright future and I know that you will have a brilliant year.

6(b) Ladies' Captain - Mrs G A Smith

Proposed By **Lady Captain (Mrs P Ainsworth)**

Seconded By **Ms J E Baker**

The President put the proposal to the meeting and it was passed.

Mrs P Ainsworth and Mrs G A Smith then exchanged badges.

The Lady Captain responded by saying:

Mr President, Captain, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am very honoured to have been nominated as Lady Captain for 2017 by the Past Captains.

Thank you, ladies. I regret the fact that Barbara Prince should have been here making this

speech. My sympathies go to her and her sister Viv at the recent loss of Dave. Thank you to Penny and Jude for their kind words. Congratulations to Penny on being such an excellent Lady Captain this last year. I will do my best to follow her example. I would like to thank all those members who have offered me advice, support and help for the coming year. I'm going to need it!

I look forward to working with Neil, our Captain and the many others who work tirelessly on our behalf to make this such a successful and friendly club. We are fortunate that the club is continuing to move forward and has attracted a large number of new members last year.

I have chosen Dogs for Good as my charity, which supports people of all ages who are either disabled, autistic or have dementia. It provides Assistance dogs which help people to overcome specific challenges and help to enrich and improve their lives. My selected bunker is the front bunker on the 6th hole.

The captain and I have agreed that the proceeds from our charity bunkers will be split between our chosen charities.

I will be giving my full support to the Captain on his Charity day on June 29th.

It just leaves me to wish Mr President, Jim Potter and the Captain, Neil Johnson, all the very best for 2017. Last but not least, to wish the rest of you a happy, successful golfing season and if you are going to find a bunker, make sure it is the front one on the 6th hole! Have fun this year and hopefully the weather will cooperate for once!

- 6(c) Captain Elect - Mr G J Poland**
Proposed By - **Mr J B Prince**
Seconded by - **Mr G Makin**

The President put the proposal to the meeting and it was passed.

- 6(d) Lady Captain Elect – Mrs Barbara Prince**
Due to the special circumstances this year Mrs Prince has already been accepted by the 2016 AGM and will not require acceptance by this meeting.

- 6(e) Honorary Secretary – Mr S Collins**
Proposed By **Mr P G Duffy**
Seconded By **Mr J W Moss**

The President put the proposal to the meeting and it was passed.

- 6 (f) Honorary Treasurer – Ms K Applegate**
Proposed by **Honorary Secretary (Mr S Collins)**
Seconded by **P G Duffy**

The President put the proposal to the meeting and it was passed.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

There are **10** nominations for **5** vacancies.

The Hon. Secretary explained the voting system.

Nominations: **Graham Arnold, David P Fletcher, Colin Ford, Ian Hobson, Jamie Hodgkinson, Barbara Leigh, Chris Lindley, Janet Richards, Alan Rigby, Brian Stott**

The voting slips were then collected and taken for counting.

Tellers: Mrs J. Connolly, Mrs K Wilkinson, Mr J Buchanan, Mr N. Clough.

Registration Desk: Mr B Kennerley

8. Presentation of the Accounts forecast for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 by the Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer, Ms K Applegate outlined the spending forecast to the 31st March 2017 and the budget for 2017/18.

Mr J W Butler and Mr J Hughes asked the Hon Treasurer to explain why the subscription didn't appear to align with the number of new members who joined the club in 2016/17. The Hon Secretary explained that the new members had joined at varying times during the year and the full extent of the subscription income could not be compared until 2017/18 should the number of members remain the same.

Mr J W Butler asked why the amount for the entrance fees were not included in the Budget for 2017/18. The Hon Treasurer explained that they were in Sundry Items. This was because there was a proposal at the meeting to continue the suspension of the entrance fee for the coming year so this money could not be allocated.

9 Management Committee Proposals

9.1) Income & Expenditure Budget for 2017/18 (inclusive of a 1.3 % increase in staff salaries). The Management Committee proposed to leave subscriptions at the same level as 2016/17.

Proposed by P Duffy

Seconded by R Snedden

Mr J W Butler asked that the subscriptions should be increased to allow more money to be spent on the course in the coming year. He asked for an amendment to be considered to this effect. The President explained that, due to the amount of funds in the savings account due to the VAT rebate the management committee felt it was unnecessary to increase the subscriptions this year.

The President asked for a vote on the management's proposal and it was carried.

9.2) Proposed Green Capital Expenditure of up to £38184inc VAT to purchase a Greens Mower.

Proposed by P J Simpson

Seconded by D P Fletcher

Mr P J Simpson outlined the case for purchasing the greens mower and the leaf blower. He referred to the literature on both machines which has been available to the members.

Mr A K Rigby asked when the machinery would be purchased. Mr P J Simpson explained that the greens mower would be purchased in time for the new season.

Mr R Snedden asked how many years the leaf blower would last. Mr P J Simpson said he has seen a similar machine at another course which seemed a few years old.

The President asked for a vote on the management's proposal and it was carried.

9.3) Proposed Green Capital Expenditure of up to £8100 inc VAT to purchase a leaf blower

Proposed by P J Simpson

Seconded by D P Fletcher

The President asked for a vote on the management's proposal and it was carried.

9.4) Proposed House Capital Expenditure of up to £25000 inc VAT for replacement ceiling and lighting in the lounge area with the addition of a sound system and IT facilities for presentations, to include a drop down screen. Replacement bar top and chairs and redecoration to lounge area.

Proposed by J L Richards

Seconded by B Prince

Mrs J L Richards explained the proposal and thanked Mr J B Prince for his efforts with regard to clubhouse projects.

Mr A K Rigby asked if the spike bar had been included in the project. Mrs Richards said it hadn't but it would be considered later in the year if funds were available.

Mr M Aird asked about the cost of the drop down screen. Mrs Richards said she was not aware of the individual elements of the project at this time.

Mrs J Lee asked that new curtains be included in the project.

Mr J Hughes suggested blinds may be better than curtains.

Mr J W Butler asked that a point of order be considered to differentiate between revenue and capital.

The President asked for a vote on the management's proposal and it was carried.

9.5) Continuation of Changes to the Club Rule 3.4.2 and Bye-law 2.2 to maintain the suspension of the Entrance Fee for new Members on a trial basis for the coming year.

Proposed by R Snedden

Seconded by J Cheesbrough

The President asked for a vote on the management's proposal and it was carried.

9.6) Proposed reduction of all outstanding Entrance Fees to fifty per cent of the outstanding amount due.

Proposed by R Snedden

Seconded by J Cheesbrough

Mr T G Briscoe said he felt that anyone joining the club should honour the commitment they agreed to.

Mr P Trow asked how much this proposal would cost the club in revenue. The Hon Sec said it would cost £27000.

Mr J Hughes asked that the members accept this proposal.

The President asked for a vote on the management's proposal and it was carried.

**9.7) Proposed change to Club Bye-Law 4.2.3.iv):
Members and visitors may wear smart tailored golf shorts, not cargo , together with deck shoes or similar with or without socks in the area known as The Spike Bar and the Patio area at all times. It is expected that any Member receiving a prize at a formal presentation taking place in the lounge, should be appropriately dressed for the**

occasion. This does not include the wearing of shorts or training shoes.

Proposed by The President
Seconded by B M Stott

The President asked for a vote on the management's proposal and it was carried.

**9.8) Proposed change to Club Bye-Law 4.3.3):
Ride-on buggies are not normally permitted. A member, visitor or guest who is unable to play golf without the aid of a ride-on buggy may apply to the Company Secretary for a dispensation utilising the Helsby Golf Club "Buggy Policy".
Remove this Bye-Law.**

Proposed by N M B Johnson
Seconded by P G Duffy

The President asked for a vote on the management's proposal and it was carried.

**9.9) Proposed change to Club Bye-Law 3.2.4
The qualifying candidate gaining the highest number of votes, including postal votes, shall fill the vacancies. In the event of a tie, the vacancies shall be filled by the candidates who have been Full Members for the longest time. Postal voting slips must be returned to the Company Secretary's office no later than 48 hours prior to the Annual General Meeting.**

Proposed by S Collins
Seconded by R Snedden

The President asked for a vote on the management's proposal and it was carried.

10. Member's Proposals.

There are no Members' Proposals this year.

11. Result of Election of Committee

The Hon Secretary read aloud the result of the election which was as follows:

The following members have been elected for two years:

Messrs David P Fletcher, Jamie Hodgkinson, Chris Lindley, Janet Richards and Mr Brian Stott.

12. Members' Comments

Mr J W Butler asked that the monies bequeathed to the club should be ring fenced And only be used following agreement at a general meeting.

Mr N Littler expressed his view that the oak tree in front of the 17th green should not be removed.

13. Meeting of new Management Committee

The chair announced that there would be a meeting of the New Management Committee on Monday 13th February at 6.30 pm.

14. Vote of Thanks to the Chairman

Mr N Littler gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the meeting to Mr J H Potter for chairing the meeting.