



HELSEBY GOLF CLUB
1st MEMBER'S ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2018

1. Notice convening the meeting

The notice of the meeting was posted on the notice board and on the Club's website on the 11th January 2018. The President to ask that the notice be taken as read.

2. Apologies for absence

The Secretary to inform the meeting there were 14 apologies which will be duly recorded.

3. Obituaries

A silence was observed in respect of the memory of the following Members and Past Members:

Nora Astbury
Fred Brown (Past Member)
Brian Capper (Past Member)
Ken Daley (Past Member)
Alan Dunwell,
Dave Hartley,
George Penman,
Irene Ringstead (Past Member)
Mavis Sleight,
Betty Summerfield (Past Member)

4. Minutes of 116th AGM held on 9 February 2017

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

5. President's Statement

Captain, Lady Captain, Members.

Thank you all for attending our First Members Annual Meeting this evening.

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

Our membership started the year of quite poorly with 41 members leaving throughout all the categories.

Then there was the Weather where the Green Fees took a big hit. More of the effects of that from our Treasurer.

But the thing I want to mention, is the Golf.

That's what we all joined here for.

As the President, I am responsible for holding two Tournaments a year. The First for the Gentlemen and is held in June, and what great day. It was a pleasure looking after all the players at the halfway House.

With some fantastic golf being played by many. The winner was Sam Long with Ralf Ramsey coming second and Steve Cunniffe, taking the third place.

The second Tournament is for the Ladies, which is a very pleasant experience, the Halfway House being utilized the same. Pimm's, G&Ts and Cream Scones being the order of the day.

But not to take anything away from the Golf, it was as competitive as the men's and duly won by a worthy winner Penny Ainsworth. Second was Carolyn Clothier with Heather Falkner in third place.

This year there was no "Hole in One" as last year, it was Rachel Stevens who had one.

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

The Captain's weekend was won by " John Cheesbrough" and a worthy winner with two great rounds. $69 + 69 = 138$ net

Jamie Hodgkinson won the Challenge Cup (Gents Singles)

Mal Aird and Andy Sayers won the Challenge Plate.

Steve Roberts won the Order of Merit.

But this year's greatest achievement must go to Simon Pay getting down to a scratch handicap of 0.3.

Now let me take you through how he got there,

He won the "The Scratch Cup" with a (70 + 69 = 139) gross.

He also won the "The Club Championship"

Then to finish it off he won the gents eclectic.

Well Done "Simon"

You may remember last year's Star was Alan Rigby, the reason I mention him, is because he has been unwell and was unable to defend his title. But watch out, he is now on the way back.

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 the Golf Club this year on our behalf.

The Directors who keep everything on an even keel.

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

Our Captain, Our Lady Captain, Our Professional and Our 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 "Greens," Roddy Snedden "Membership and Marketing" and Peter Duffy "Finance and GP".

They together with their teams, give 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 Management Committee.

At This point, I would like to wish our incoming Captain Graham Poland and Barbara Prince and our new President Peter Duffy a very successful year.

Finally, I cannot finish without mentioning the challenges ahead. We are changing the way we manage the Club.

The New "Articles of Association" together with the "Rules & Bye Laws, will come in to effect.

Nothing should really change in the delivery.

But, I would personally ask, for all your help and support whilst implementing the change.

Thank You

6. Election of Officers

(a) Captain – Mr Graham Poland

Proposed by Mr Neil Johnson

Seconded by Mr Brian Prince

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

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

The Captain then said the following:

Mr President, Past Presidents, Past Captains, Lady Captain fellow Members Ladies and Gentlemen

Well I don't quite know what I have done to deserve the honour and privilege of being elected Captain, but I would like to thank all the members for their support.

I would like to thank the association of Past Captains for their nomination for Captain and their continuing faith in me, I don't

honestly know what they have seen in me, but must have done something right along the way.

I would like to thank my family, Elaine, Mark and Laura for their support. I have not been easy to live with this year and have had some sleepless nights along the way.

I have decided that we will stick to continuity with regards to the Captains charity this year, and have decided that Claire House is such a worthy cause. It will be my charity this year, as it was last year's Captain's charity. If the members allow, Mr Chris Lindley has agreed to organise a Charity day the same as last year so thank you Chris. At some time during this year I may also ask the members to support and help a project that will aid the children at Claire House.

I feel we all have an opportunity this year with the change to our constitution to improve our Golf Club. It is down to the members tonight to elect the right people with the right skill set into the right positions. Going forward we will end up with a professional management team, but above all let's not forget the game we play is suppose to be fun and enjoyable. So please enjoy your golf and hopefully we will all have a good golfing year.

Finally, I would like to thank Neil and Anne for all their help throughout my year as Captain Elect, their help and support has been invaluable and the kind words and support have been most welcome. Neil has done a great job this year and he will be a hard act to follow, so again thank you Neil for a great year.

The outgoing Captain Mr Neil Johnson responded by saying:

Captain, President, Lady Captain, Past Captains and fellow members.

It only seems like yesterday is an old adage but it is certainly a true one and no more so than when describing the speed at which my year as Captain has flown by.

There have been many highlights throughout the year which I would like to ponder over for a short while.

It started off on a good note at the Captain's Drive In when I partnered the Immediate Past Captain Steve Cuniffe. Despite the nerves I hit my drive down the fairway and Steve put his second

to about 6 feet before I rolled the put in; a birdie to start my year off! Even better we went on to win the competition. I should have realised that it could only go downhill from there!

Not long afterwards the Golf Club Ball was held at Forrest Hills Hotel and was attended by many members, relatives, personal friends and the Captains of Runcorn and Widnes as well as the President of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs. It was a superb evening and a great tradition of Helsby Golf Club. A special thank you to Barbara Leigh who organised the event on the club's behalf.

Our Professional Chris Cousins and I played 15 Captain Pro matches over the year against a number of members both long standing and the newer members. I really enjoyed all the games and I am proud to say that we finished 6 up on the series of matches.

Playing with Chris both in the Captain Pro games and at other courses has been one of the highlights of my year. Chris is without doubt one if not the main assets of Helsby Golf Club and a personal thank you to him not only for his company on the golf course but also for the tremendous support he has given to me this year. We had our final game together earlier this week when we were joined at Wallasey by our Secretary Steve Collins. This was a great course to finish off with.

I have attended Powered Wheelchair events during the year and presented wheelchairs on your behalf to the wonderful young children and their parents including one at the Open at Royal Birkdale. This is a cause that the club should rightly be proud of

and well done to all the members of the committee who make it all possible.

We were fortunate to have some nice weather for the Captain's Weekend when the course was at its best with some really true fast greens, if only they could be like that throughout the year! Congratulations to this year's winner John Cheesbrough. The Captain's day for ladies was won by the Ladies Captain and it was a pleasure to host all the ladies at the halfway house.

I would like to personally thank Steve for all the work he does for this golf club. In particular from my point of view he has given me 100% support throughout the year and has always been able to point me in the right direction. He has been ably assisted by Viv in the office who has continued in the role she has been doing for so many years now.

Our Treasurer Karen Applegate has also given me and the club total support and has watched the purse strings well ensuring that we managed to stay in the black and still carry out the improvements to the club house and make new equipment available to the Green staff. Thank you Karen.

Our Head Greenkeeper Danny Bennett and his team have continued to develop the course and keep it in good condition. As members who see the course all the time there are occasions when some of us think something should have been done differently or in a different order but Danny is the expert who knows the course conditions better than anyone. The comments that the club have received from visiting societies and visitors in general have all been complimentary and this is shown in the

number of repeat visits we have for next year. Danny has been well supported by Peter Simpson, the Greens Chairman and his fellow committee members. Peter has done a lot of work in the back ground not only for this year but in developing a plan for the course and green's equipment for the future.

A thank you is also due to Janet Richards and her colleagues on house for all they have done to enrich the membership experience by proving social events for the benefit of all members.

Again a thank you to Brian Stott, assisted by Chris Cousins and the other member of Match and Handicap for all they have done to organise the golfing events of the year.

Roddy Snedden and his fellow committee members on marketing have continued to promote our club and to increase membership which is still increasing even at this time of year.

I also had the pleasure of attending Abergele Golf Club, where my mother had been a Lady Captain, to present a Trophy that our family had given to the club in her memory.

It was my mum who introduced me to golf and one of my early golfing memories was playing with my parents at Old Colwyn Golf Club as a young boy. It was then a 9 hole course without a club house just an honesty box to put your sixpence of whatever in. I thought it would be a good to have a trip down memory lane and play it in my year as Captain so I dragged the Secretary, Professional and Peter Duffy off to play it with me. It is on the side of a mountain and I was one of the windiest and coldest days of the summer. It is still only 9 holes and after negotiating the grazing sheep we couldn't wait to get off declining to play the

back/same 9. AND although there is now a small clubhouse it was closed and there was still an honesty box for the green fees.

My Charity this year was Claire House Children's Hospice who provides much needed care into improving the lives of terminally ill children and their families throughout this area. I decided that I could not take on a big physical challenge to support the charity so decided on a Charity Day at the club in September, which was a first for this club. It costs £6,500 to run the hospice for one day and I set this as my target for the Captain's Charity for the year. Thanks in so short measure to the work and commitment of Christian Lindley the day was a complete success. The total amount raised for the year and presented to Claire House was £13,788 enough to cover two days running costs. I wish to thank everyone who was involved in raising this amount whether by organising, donating prizes or taking part in the event. Thank you to everyone.

I also played in more mixed golf than I have ever done and really enjoyed it, especially the Fish & Chips events which are fun social events. Thank you to everyone who partnered me during these competitions.

The senior matches were also enjoyable but unfortunately I have been playing in them for a number of years now but it was good to be playing as the captain and I enjoyed them all. It is great that we have a group of active seniors in the club who play regularly.

A real disappointment for me was that I was unable to present the Captain's Prize for Junior's this year. The event was arranged and then rearranged, however not one single Junior turned up to play. The same thing happened with the Norman Littler Trophy which bears the names of some of our present prominent golfers on it. Steps are being taken to try and encourage Juniors to take up the game and join the club but this is a problem that many golf clubs are currently facing.

This year saw the introduction of a Course Support Group for the first time and their effectiveness is currently being reviewed. The future management committee will decide on the best way forward with this initiative. Thank you to those who took part in this trial.

The other major stride forward that Helsby Golf Club has taken is the introduction of new Articles of Association and management structure. Time will tell how effective this will be but I am sure that the reduction in the number of people sitting around the Board Room table will greatly improve the decision making process. The management of this golf club has been trying to restructure and reduce the size of the Management Committee for a considerable number of years without being able to convince the membership that it was the right way forward. I am really pleased that this has now been achieved. Future Captains and Presidents should be able to enjoy their years of office without being involved in the day to day running of the club or any disciplinary issues that may arise.

Finally a big thank you to all the members of Helsby Golf Club who have supported me during my year and made it such an enjoyable experience and one that I will not forget.

Thank you everyone.

(b) Lady Captain – Mrs Barbara Prince

Proposed by **Mrs Gill Smith**

Seconded by **Mrs V Nagle**

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

Mrs G Smith and Mrs B Prince then exchanged badges.

The Lady Captain responded by saying:

Mr President, Mr Captain, Past Captains, Members

Firstly I would like to thank the Past Captains for nominating me as Lady Captain of Helsby Golf Club for 2018 / 19. Thank you ladies. Thank you also to Gill for proposing me and Viv for seconding me.

My thanks especially go to Gill for taking on the role of Lady Captain a year early last year and at such short notice, due to my family circumstances. You did a sterling job Gill, well done.

Congratulations to Graham our new Captain and Pete our new President. I look forward to working with you both during my year of office, and I'm sure we'll have a fantastic year with great golf and social events. Let's hope we have good weather too!!

My charity for the year will be St Luke's Hospice in Winsford. I was not aware until last year that St Luke's only has 10 beds and so I would like to raise as much money as possible this year to help towards providing much needed extra beds. I hope to have some charity fundraising events during my year and would be very grateful for any support you can give.

The 6th hole will again be my charity bunker and Captain and I have agreed to split the proceeds from the charity bunkers between our chosen charities.

All it leaves me to say is let's have a fabulous golfing year, and keep up the friendship and goodwill that Helsby Golf Club is renowned for. Thank You.

(c) President – Mr Peter Duffy

Proposed by Mr J H Potter

Seconded by Mr NMB Johnson

President to put to the meeting and declare.

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

(d) Captain Elect – Mr Roddy Snedden

Proposed by Mr S Cunniffe

Seconded by Mr C Lindley

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

Mr Snedden thanked the Past Captains for his nomination and thanked the meeting for accepting the nomination.

(e) Lady Captain Elect – Miss Liz Fudge

Proposed by Mrs B E Leigh

Seconded by Mrs M A Trow

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

Miss Fudge thanked the meeting by saying:
Captain, President, Lady Captain, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel honoured to be declared Lady Captain Elect of Helsby Golf Club. I look forward to supporting Barbara in her year as Lady Captain, and preparing to follow her in 2019. Thank you.

(f) Honorary Treasurer – Ms Karen Applegate

Proposed by Mr J W Moss

Seconded by Mr N Littler

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

7. Election of Directors

There are 11 **nominations** for **8 vacancies**

(Each candidate must receive 35% of the voting members
To be elected).

**Nominations: P Ainsworth, P Branigan, D Faulkner,
E Fudge, N Johnson, C Lindley, J Potter, G Randles,
R Snedden, C Stubbs, P Trow**

The Voting slips were collected in preparation of the count

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

Interval

**8. Presentation of the Accounts Forecast for period
1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 by the Honorary
Treasurer.**

The Honorary Treasurer asked the Secretary to answer questions on the accounts. One Member asked if the budget could be more detailed next year and the Secretary said it would be.

9. Management Committee Proposals

9.1 Income and Expenditure Budget for 2018/19 (inclusive of a 3.00 % increase on subscriptions and fees and staff salaries)

Proposed by P G Duffy
Seconded by J H Potter

Mr J W Butler suggested there should be no increase in
subscriptions for 2018/19 due to the savings account
balance being so high.

**The President put the proposal to the meeting and it was
Passed.**

9.2 Proposed Green Capital Expenditure of £5,150

With the aim of:

- Providing the necessary equipment needed for work on
the course
- Improvements to the course, as part of the course
development plan

The Green Committee present the following for approval by
the Members

1. Equipment

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost up to (£) –incl. vat</u>
General purpose trailer – with 'flotation' tyres & loading ramp	3,900
Long reach telescopic pruner	700
Back-pack blower	550
Total	5,150

Proposed by P J Simpson
Seconded by D P Fletcher

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

9.3. Proposed Green Capital Expenditure of £26,200

2. Course

Re-build practice putting green and surrounds in the same Location by our own green keeping staff.

Drainage to so-called USGA spec, raised slightly above the surrounding area, re-use existing turf, two artificial turf chipping mats. retaining the flagpole, remove/prune to shrubs/trees

additional footpath for trolleys and buggies alongside

Towers Lane.

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Cost up to (£) –incl. vat</u>
Rebuild practice putting area (green & surround)	
Total	26,200

Proposed by P J Simpson
Seconded by D P Fletcher

Mr N W Henry asked if someone from the Green committee could explain why this work was required. Mr D P Fletcher explained that the practice green became very wet in the winter and this would alleviate the problem. Mr N W Henry responded by saying he felt the course should be the priority Mrs J Mulholland asked why a path was necessary. Mr P A Trow said the practice green should be in good condition but he felt there should be a review of the costs. Mrs H Faulkner said she felt the cost was too high.

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

9.4 Proposed House Capital Spend £20,000

- Chairs and tables for the Lounge
- Refurbishment of the bar stools
- Refurbishment of the small round tables.
- New Carpet for the Spike bar
- Decoration of the Spike bar
- New seating in the Spike bar

Proposed by J L Richards
Seconded by N B Johnson

Following a discussion where various views were exchanged,
an amendment to the proposal to read:

**Proposed House Capital Spend £20,000 in the current
Tax year**

**The President put the amended proposal to the meeting
and it was accepted.**

9.5 Continuation of changes to Club Rule 7.2 to maintain the suspension of the Entrance Fee for New Members on a continued trial basis for the coming year.

Proposed by R Snedden
Seconded by C Lindley

Mr N W Henry asked if the suspension had brought a benefit
to the Club. Mr R Snedden explained that the suspension had
ensured a improved numbers of ne Members.

10. Result of Election of Directors

The Following Directors were appointed to the Board:
Mrs P Ainsworth, Mrs P Branigan, Miss E Fudge, Mr C Lindley,
Mr J Potter, Mr R Snedden, Mr C Stubbs and Mr P Trow.

11. Members' Comments

Mrs S Butler asked why the Lady Captain wasn't sitting at the top table.

Mr N W Henry said the category of Member's Spouse will be a Spouse Member instead of a Social Member. He asked if these Members will be refunded.

Mrs K Wilkinson said the donation received from the estate of a past Member should be spent on something specific.

Mr D Perry said the Accounts Forecast lacked substance and asked the Directors to provide more information.

Mr N W Henry asked why the expenditure on Greens was the same as it was 10 years ago.

12. Meeting of the new Board.

The Chair announced the first meeting of the Board of Directors will meet on Monday the 12th February at 3.00 pm.

13. 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.