



HELSEBY GOLF CLUB  
**2nd MEMBER'S ANNUAL MEETING**

THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2019

**1. Notice convening the meeting**

The notice of the meeting was posted on the notice board and on the Club's website on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The President asked that the notice be taken as read.

**2. Apologies for absence**

The Secretary informed the meeting there were 7 apologies which were duly recorded.

**3. Obituaries**

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

Mr Ben Hirst  
Mr Len Danks  
Mr Tom Marcroft  
Mr Keith Pilling  
Mrs Di Weston  
Mr Philip Collins  
Mr Jim Mitchell  
Mr David Challinor  
Mrs Marjorie Scott  
Mr Alf Hignett  
Mrs Hazel Faulkner

#### **4. Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> Members' Annual Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

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

#### **5. President's Statement**

Captain, Lady Captain, Past Captains, Members. Thank you all for attending our Second Members Annual Meeting this evening. I would ask that as the meeting progresses if you have got a question or comment you come through the chair – to ensure we were not all talking at the same time. Thank you.

In my view this meeting should be a celebration of what has been achieved, a chance to thank the officers of the Club and the officials for the hours of work they put in to ensure the club runs as efficiently and effectively as possible. A chance to thank all the volunteers – both on and off the various committees – who do a massive amount of untold but essential work about the club. An opportunity to see how the club funds are being spent and to have your vote. Finally to vote in the officials for next year.

We had a really good year this year with the weather. This has been reflected in the course, which, in my opinion, has never looked better. I am also delighted to see the amount of fresh work that is taking place, which is a credit to the green staff, green committee, the artisans and all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to present a course and in particular the greens which in my opinion are the envy of our neighbours.

A lot of work has gone into the clubhouse – the lounge and the spike bar look pristine – but there has also been a lot of work behind the scenes ensuring that the clubhouse will remain fit for purpose for many years to come.

But the thing I want to mention, is the Golf. That's what we all joined for.

As the President, I am responsible for holding two Tournaments a year.

The First for the Gentlemen and is held in June. The weather was brilliant. The event was only marred by one of the travellers crashing into Ann Johnson's car as she made her way here to help me with the halfway house. I enjoyed the company of the competitors at the halfway house, who seemed to enjoy the food

and drink. The winner was Jon Nagle, David Bunting was second and Jonathan Sharpe had the lowest gross.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> July I hosted the Ladies Day. Again the weather was exceptional and with a two tee start the halfway house was even busier than when I hosted the men's event. However, like the men the ladies were great company and I really enjoyed the day and the presentation, which was attended by almost all the ladies that played. Rebecca Ablett was the worthy winner of the event, Rachel Steven was second and Pauline Branigan came third.

Now - Let me just mention some of this year's, in my opinion, great achievements.

Simon Pay won the Club Championship

Neil Johnson won the Challenge Cup.

Charlie Fletcher and Steve Roberts won the Challenge Plate

Mike and Pauline Branigan won the Reg Bell Salver

The Captain's weekend was won by Derek Flannery.

Charlie Fletcher won the Order of Merit.

Chris Molineux had four twos in one round.

The standard of golf for a village Golf Club is exceptional but there are two players of particular note;

### **Charlie Fletcher**

Around 15000 club golfers in the UK compete, through their club competitions each season in the Howdidido Order of Merit.

Charlie won the England Order of Merit and came third overall in the UK, he represented Helsby in October in the Grand Final which was held at Carnoustie, the venue for the 2018 Open

Championship

### **Simon Pay**

Set a new course record of 65 scored in the Scratch Cup in July (supersedes recent course record of 66 by Charlie Fletcher scored earlier in 2018)

Simon is one of the few Helsby golfers to become a + handicapper and got down to a handicap of +1 in the summer (since got back up to scratch)

This to me shows that if you have got ability the course is very playable and the greens are true and a fair test. But has the course become too easy – I suggest you ask the fifty PGA assistant pros who played in the Sue Wright trophy – the best they could do was a 68. They don't burn up this course.

The Directors are now off and running doing their best to manage the club on a business footing. They have already made some

important decisions and have a full year of issues ahead of them reviewing the rules, reviewing membership and I will shortly hand over to Liz Fudge to explain the Board of Directors – 'Planning for the future' initiative. The Directors are trying to improve communications with the members and regularly sent out e-mails to update everyone. Still a work in progress but I think they are off to a really good start.

I would like again to thank all the volunteers on all the various committees that feed into the Directors for their hard work and dedication.

Thanks to Steve, our Secretary who manages all the Club employees, from Greens to House and the administration and to Gill in the office. Thanks to our treasurer – Karen.

Thanks to our Golf Professionals - Chris and Ant. In my opinion two real assets to the club. It was only at the Captains farewell Dinner that I learnt that Ant is the swing coach to Marcus Moore, a young lad who will hopefully will end up on the European Tour, in the near future. That's the standard of instruction you get at Helsby Golf Club.

A big thanks to Danny and his staff for the work they do throughout the year and for the condition of the course.

Thanks to Rob and all his staff for looking after us throughout the year.

Thanks to go to Kieran, Natalie and Julie for looking after the Catering needs of the membership and our visitors'.

A special thanks to this year's Captain and Lady Captain, who have been a pleasure to work with and have provided loads of help and support. I now look forward to working with next year's officers Roddy and Liz.

But the biggest thanks has to go to you the membership. It's a given that being voted in as President of this club is a great honour but your help, support and good humour has made it an immense pleasure. I look forward to your support next year.

Thank you all.

## **6. Future Planning Document**

The President introduced the Lady Captain, who had composed the document, to give a brief outline. The Lady Captain said:

This has been a transitional year for the Board. Once we'd gone through the classic team development stages of forming, storming, and morning, the main obstacle to the next stage, performing, was that we found ourselves meeting to react to sets of minutes produced by various Committees without, for us, any context or direction. They were driving our agenda rather than the other way round. We needed a process so that we could lead the club into the future instead of following and reacting.

To this end we've agreed a framework for managing in a more strategic way. I know 'strategic' sounds a bit corporate but it just means 'long-term thinking and planning'. What can happen in the absence of a plan is that the Board ends up micro-managing the business instead of taking an overview. Tonight I'd like to share with you how the Board wants to plan and support the way ahead.

There are 4 key parts to the process. Our Mission, our Vision, our Values and our Goals. Strategic plans usually begin with a description of what the organisation exists for. These are often referred to as Mission statements. I'll just read you ours:

"Helsby Golf Club Ltd. exists to provide a good quality golf experience for its members and visitors in a welcoming atmosphere and at an affordable price. We will accomplish this by ensuring that our golf course is in the best possible condition our resources permit and offering comfortable clubhouse facilities which are suitable for a range of activities including social events, functions, training events and meetings."

A statement of the obvious, but it's important as a reference point to make sure that whatever we do or plan for, we can refer back to it to make sure that we're still sticking to our reason for being.

### **Vision**

The next key stage is a Vision of the future. What do we want the club to look like in five years time? Well, we've agreed on 9 aims which are

- Income exceeding running costs

- Year-round acceptable playing conditions
- An active Junior sections of boys and girls
- Playing membership in excess of 500 with increased representation of female golfers
- Social membership in excess of 50
- An annual programme of social events generating increased participation and surpluses
- Increased use of the clubhouse for private functions and meetings
- A reputation for good quality catering
- Society income increased by growing demand and repeat business

## Values

Next we needed to decide on what our Values are. Values are important because they underpin the way we deal with each other and our staff and suppliers. They tell the world what sort of club we are, so that people can decide if they want to join us, work for us or deal with us.

Our Values include

- Treating everyone fairly and equally regardless of age, gender, sexuality, race, disability and creed
- Intolerance of bullying, harassment, aggressive and intimidating behaviour
- Tackling poor performance and formal complaints promptly
- Respecting the safety of people on the golf course
- Welcoming feedback and using it to drive improvement

## Goals

The final part in the process was to decide on our goals. Goals are derived from our Vision, and we had to decide not only what the goals will be but who will be responsible for achieving them. The goals should be measurable and achievable so that we can see whether or not things are getting better.

The first aim in our Vision is for income to exceed running costs. And our first goal is Financial Stability so that we reach a position where income from all the club's activities exceeds expenditure.

This will enable investment in the course and clubhouse in a planned way to improve standards. The Board will have responsibility for this goal, supported by the Treasurer and the Board's Committees.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> aim is to achieve year-round playing conditions, so our 2<sup>nd</sup> goal is that in both summer and winter months the golf experience is as good as can reasonably be expected taking into account the weather, and reducing the number of days we need to close the course as compared with our local competitors. The Golf Committee will have responsibility for this goal, supported by the Board and the Head Greenkeeper.

The next aim is to grow the number of members playing golf regularly and participating in competitions and social golf. Our goal is to attract under-represented groups e.g. women and girls, as well as local schools, employers and sports clubs, providing opportunities to learn and improve, and offering social membership to their families and friends. The Membership and Marketing Committee will have responsibility for leading on this, supported by the Board, the Golf Committee and the Professional.

I'm not going to go through all the goals, but I hope you get the picture. The next step in the process is for the goals to be discussed and agreed with the relevant Committees so that they can develop their ideas about how they'll achieve them.

We're going to publish the planning framework on the website so you can all read it in detail there. The way it should work is that the Committees will just be looking 1-2 years ahead, in other words they'll be identifying projects they think they'll be able to complete in that sort of timeframe, and then starting to build up cost estimates for projects for the following year which will need to be approved by the Board at budget time. (As Chris Stubbs has explained) Some of this work is already underway.

The process is iterative –it should just keep going round year after year – and there will be regular reviews by the Board at their monthly meetings so that corrective action can be taken if things aren't happening nor producing the expected results. There will also need to be a major review at budget time so that funds can be allocated in support of projects for the following year. At that

time the Board may also need to adjust their Vision as one year will have elapsed and another will need to be tacked on at the end, and the external environment may have changed.

Finally – communication. There'll be an annual report to the Members at the Members Annual Meeting. And the Board will also be issuing regular reports to members throughout the year but we're hoping that you will notice improvements as the year progresses.

The President thanked the Lady Captain.

## **7. Election of Officers**

### **(a) Captain – Mr Roddy Snedden**

Proposed by      Mr Graham Poland

Seconded by      Mr Steve Cunniffe

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

Mr R Snedden was presented with the Captain's blazer and tie by Mr G A Poland and moved to the Captain's chair.

The Captain then said the following:

Mr President, Past Presidents, Past Captains, Lady Captain, Fellow Members

Firstly thank you to the Association of Past Captains for the nomination of Captain, of what I regard as an excellent golf club, I would also like to thank you, the members for supporting the nomination, it is much appreciated and I hope I can do the position justice over the forthcoming year.

I am sure you will all join me in thanking the outgoing Captain Graham Poland for doing a fantastic job over the past 12 months, and I am sure he has enjoyed his time immensely, all be it a very hectic schedule but an enjoyable one, Graham thanks for giving me a hard act to follow, and I hope you have a well deserved rest. Thank you also to the outgoing Lady Captain Barbara Prince, who again has represented the Ladies in excellent fashion, and will also be another hard act to follow.



As you are aware I have rescheduled the Captains drive in and dinner to the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, I feel that a little more warmth in the air will make the course more enjoyable for the event, and encourage more of the membership to take part in this great tradition, which is the Captains drive in, (and hopefully in short sleeves). I can confirm though that the warmer weather will not spoil the taste of the whiskey on the way round.

Regarding the Captains charity, as you know I have been involved in the wheelchair charity for a number of years now, and we are trying to deliver our 400<sup>th</sup> powered wheelchair from Helsby Golf Club this year, I will be hosting a Captains Charity golf day on August 3<sup>rd</sup> this year, with the proceeds going towards wheelchair purchases. I would however like to donate the proceeds from other events and collections again to Claire House, who do a fantastic job helping seriously and terminally ill Children, and I would welcome all your support in trying to make a difference to their lives.

On the golfing front I look forward to the many events that I will play in throughout the year, including the Captain/Professional challenge, it will be a great opportunity to play with some old friends, and also to make many new ones.

If I was going to sum up how I would like the year to progress, it would be Enjoyment, Golf is our hobby and we will hopefully have fun throughout the year, playing golf and enjoying all the events that come along.

The green staff has had the course in excellent condition recently, all I have heard from many visitors is what a great club and course we have, but more importantly what friendly and welcoming members we have, this is something that we should all be proud of and continue to promote.

Just quickly to finish off, I would like to thank the many volunteers who give up their time to support the club, from working on the course to work around the club and gardens. The subcommittee members who attend meeting after meeting to try and make the operation run as smoothly as it can. There have been many changes over the last 12 months with regard to how the club is being run, and I wish the Directors every success moving forward with the many challenges they face, change is always difficult to implement in any organisation, but I think with your support the

club will go from strength to strength under their stewardship over the coming years.

Again many thanks to Graham and Barbara for raising the bar, and emptying it a few times. I hope you all have a fantastic golfing year, Thank You

The outgoing Captain Mr Graham Poland responded by saying: Mr President, Captain, Lady Captain, Past Captains fellow Members, Well what a year it's been. I was told it would be the quickest year of my life and that has turned out to be true, it all started last February on a cold and wet Saturday for the Captains drive in Mr President, Neil Johnson Jim Potter and myself had an enjoyable day helped by Gin and Tonics at the halfway house which made it very enjoyable day indeed.

This was followed by the Drive in Dinner and a Ceilidh band with most people up dancing even the youngsters, I think a good night was had by all.

I have been here to see lots of visiting groups tee off, these including the Cheshire Juniors, and also the Assistant Professionals who played for the Sue Wright Trophy, I spent the day in the company of the P. G. A. Organiser Dan and really enjoyed representing Helsby Golf Club. The two 67's scored on that day meant a play off on our eighteenth it took 5 extra holes to decide a winner his name was Tim Ford from Childwall driving range.

Helsby again proving it's not easy.

I Hosted the Captains day for Ladies at the end of June with the help of my Wife and Daughter it was hot on that Saturday and the cold Pimms went down well the eventual winner was Linda Barton well done to her.

I hosted the Captains weekend at the end of July and running up to the weekend the weather was hot and sunny all going well, but alas it did not last and the conditions on Sunday were not good, we even had to go and buy tea and coffee. The eventual winner was Derek Flannery well done to him.

Throughout the year I have played with as many people as possible by making up a three ball here and there. I have played with Chris our Professional in the Cap Pro matches and we remained unbeaten we also finished runners up at the Cap Pro Sky Caddie event at Dunham Forest Golf Club, I now know the

meaning of Professional he is without doubt a true Pro a Gentleman and a big asset to our Club, he doesn't get upset or annoyed and remains calm even when playing with amateurs like myself, so a huge thank you to him, what we would do without him I do not know.

The Golf Course and weather have been fantastic the greens have been the best I have played on all year and I have played some golf I can tell you. From down in Hampshire at Old Thorns to Lundin Links and Royal Montrose in Scotland nowhere have been better so thank you to the Greens Committee and to the Green Staff a great effort. But it doesn't stop there we need to push on trying to make our golf course the best it can be.

I played in the Wheelchair Classic also the Mega day in which my team including the Captain of the Mega Society was lucky enough to win it's been a good year for the wheelchair Charity with many chairs donated to needy children and this year could see the 400<sup>th</sup> chair donated so well done to all concerned.

We held a charity day in September for the Captains charity Claire House and raised over £4000 Thank you to all involved on the day and a personal thank you to Christian Lindley for organising the whole event I am sure the money will be used to benefit the children and their families when they most need the support.

Thank you to Barbara Prince it has been a pleasure to serve as Captain alongside you and I will remember this year with a great deal of fondness. I would like to thank the past Captains for the opportunity they have given to me to represent Helsby as Captain I would like to wish this year's Captain's Roddy and Liz all the very best for their year of office and hope their year goes as smoothly as ours. But with word of caution nobody told me having so much fun could be so tiring.

It has been an honour and a privilege representing Helsby Golf Club as Captain's 2018 thank you all again for the support you have given us, we could not have done it without you all.

Thank you all very much.

**(b) Lady Captain – Miss Liz Fudge**

Proposed by      Mrs Barbara Prince

Seconded by     Mrs Barbara Leigh

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

Mrs B Prince and Miss Liz Fudge then exchanged badges. The outgoing Lady Captain Mrs B Prince said she was proud to propose Liz, said she will be a great Captain and wished her all the best for the coming year.

The Lady Captain responded by saying:

Captain, President, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I have had mixed feelings throughout my year as Lady Captain Elect but it is a good system for watching and learning from the incumbent, so thank you Barbara. You've been a model Lady Captain and it's been fun – most of the time! I'm certainly hoping I'll be as jammy with the weather as you've been. I'd also like to pay tribute to Viv and Brian – whose support to Barbara has been enviable. I'm on my own but I have good friends at the club and many good wishes and offers of support, so I should be OK. I also want to thank the Board for their good wishes, and to wish them well for next year.

As tonight approached I have become excited about taking up the role of Lady Captain, and especially so having visited my charity which is Halton Haven Hospice in Runcorn, because I came away from that meeting feeling energised and inspired and wanting to do the very best I can for them by raising funds. I worked in the Runcorn new town estates when I was in social housing, and what Halton Haven is achieving in an area of economic and social deprivation is extraordinary, supporting 800 people every year, not only the dying but their families, patients living with terminal illnesses and attending their Day Hospice, bereaved men attending their new Shed project and supporting one another to find their way through their grief, and all on a shoe-string with funds from the NHS diminishing year on year. And at the same time managing to receive the highest ratings the Care Quality Commission awards. So this year I've decided that we're going to have a Lady Captain's Charity Golf Day in support of Halton Haven,

and I hope that many of you will feel able to come along and play in it. I haven't settled on a date yet, but it will be September or early October. I'll be sure to advertise it when it's fixed. Thank you.

**(d) Captain Elect – Mr Chris Stubbs**

Proposed by Mr R Snedden

Seconded by Mr J H Potter

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

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

**(e) Lady Captain Elect – Ms Christine Marsden**

Proposed by Mrs R Steven

Seconded by Mrs J Mulholland

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

Ms Marsden thanked the Lady Past Captains for their nomination and thanked Rachel and Jo for proposing and seconding her.

**8. Election of Directors**

There is 1 nomination for 1 vacancy

(The candidate must receive 50% of the voting members  
To be elected).

**Nominations: Mr David Bourne**

Mr Bourne introduced himself briefly and outlined his background and experience.

The Voting slips were collected in preparation of the count.

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

**Interval**

**9. Presentation of the Accounts Forecast for period  
1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 by the Honorary  
Treasurer.**

The Honorary Treasurer informed the meeting that the forecast included more details as requested at the AGM and outlined some of the main points.

**10. Board Proposals**

**10.1 Income and Expenditure Budget for 2019/20  
(inclusive of a 3.00 % increase on subscriptions and  
fees and staff salaries)**

Proposed by J H Potter  
Seconded by R Snedden

Mr C Stott asked if the 3% increase in subscriptions included the refurbishment of the hall, stairs and landing. The Honorary Treasurer explained it was capital expenditure.

Mr J Hughes asked why certain members received discounts on their subscriptions and in some cases free membership when the rest of the members were asked to endure an increase.

Mr N Henry asked if the proposer would speak on the proposal. The President explained why the increase was needed.

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

**10.2 Proposed Green Capital Expenditure of up to  
£15000 including VAT with the aim of:  
Purchasing a second hand Toro workman vehicle.**

Proposed by C Stubbs  
Seconded by C Lindley

C Stubbs explained why the additional Toro Workman was required. He explained one machine could be used for spraying and one for top dressing. This would mean the greens will be top dressed more often with smaller amounts more often resulting in less disruption for the members and better quality greens.

Mr E Finnie asked if there was a leasing option. C Stubbs said there was and outlined the leasing costs.

Mr G Randles asked the Board to ensure the club owned the workman following the lease. He was given that assurance by the Secretary.

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

**10.4 Proposed alteration to the 9<sup>th</sup> hole as follows:  
Construct an open ditch across the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway  
between the existing open ditches.**

Proposed by C Stubbs  
Seconded by J Potter

C Stubbs explained the reason for the need to drain this area of the course.

C Stott asked what constituted a change to the course. C Stubbs responded by saying a significant change to the playing area.

C Stott said he felt that competent people were elected to the committees and the members should trust them to make changes they see fit and gave the changes to the clubhouse exterior as an example.

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

**10.3 Proposed extension of the pond on the corner of  
the 10<sup>th</sup> hole (as marked by blue paint) to improve  
the drainage of the hole during the winter months.**

Proposed by C Stubbs  
Seconded by J Potter

C Stubbs outlined the proposal.

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

**10.4 Proposed House Capital Spend up to £8000  
plus VAT With the aim of:  
Refurbishing and redecorating the hall, stairs and  
landing in the clubhouse.**

J H Potter outlined the proposal.

Mrs S Butler asked for more details of the proposal. Mrs B Leigh briefly explained and the Secretary gave a detailed account of the work being undertaken.

Proposed by J H Potter

Seconded by E Fudge

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

**10.5 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

The Captain explained why this rule should continue and why it should be voted on each year.

Mrs F Feldwick asked how many members had joined during the suspension and subsequently left the club.

The Secretary said there had been seven.

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



**10.7 Proposed change to Rule 5.7.1 to read:**

**'The nominations for the positions of Captain and Lady Captain shall be recommended by the Past Captains' Association and the Past Lady Captains' Association, respectively.**

**The nomination for President shall be recommended jointly by the Past Captains' Associations in consultation. The President shall hold office for one year.'**

Proposed by P Ainsworth

Seconded by R Snedden

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

**11. Member's Proposals**

There were no members' proposals

**12. Result of Election of Directors**

The Secretary announced the result of the ballot that Mr D Bourne had been duly elected to serve as a Director for three years. Mr Bourne thanked the meeting for their support.

**13. Members' Comments**

Mr N Johnson asked if a second microphone could be purchased for use at General Meetings.

Mr J Hughes said he felt some of the answers given by the Directors were patronising to the members who asked the questions. A group of Members objected at once to this comment.

**14. Vote of thanks to the Chairman**

Given by **Mr J Buchanan**