



HELSEBY GOLF CLUB
3rd MEMBER'S ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2020

1. Notice convening the meeting

The notice of the meeting was posted on the notice board and on the Club's website on the 19th January 2020. The President asked that the notice be taken as read.

2. Apologies for absence

The Secretary informed the meeting there were 14 apologies which were duly recorded.

3. Obituaries

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

Dennis Hunt
Dennis Smiddy
David Shepherd
Liam Campbell
Tom Fitzpatrick
John Cookson
Jean Jennings
Ron Whiteley
Jim Kenefick
Ella Shore
Bill Loucks
Mark Smyth

Peter Hodgson
Don Bodie
Phil Hough
Irene Stubbs
Angela Savage
Rob Andrew

4. Minutes of 2nd Members' Annual Meeting held on 7th February 201

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 third 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 were not all talking at the same time. Thank you.

As I have previously stated in my view this meeting should be a celebration of what has been achieved, a chance to thank the Directors, the officers of the Club and the committee members 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 to be spent and for you to have your say and your vote. Finally to vote in the officials for next year.

Unfortunately the weather has been poor this year and lead to several closures and restrictions on buggies and trolleys. I was particularly disappointed for the Captain when his weekend was reduced to a one day competition. He was desperate to have it played over the two days but the weather had the final word and torrential rain left the course unplayable on the Sunday. But - there is always a silver lining and as Kel Hoose modestly stated had there been a second day he probably wouldn't have been in the winner's enclosure.

Although we complain about the inconvenience the weather has caused us – we have to bear in mind the flooding the weather

caused in other parts of the country – not so far away - people evacuated from their homes – so we do seem to get away with it quite a bit.

The weather conditions made more work for the green staff, the artisans and the volunteers. They all pulled together and once again presented the course – in the main – in a really good condition. In my opinion the greens are looking good and I hope to see the course back to its best when the rain does finally stop and normal work routines resume.

However, the bad weather has given us a chance to test the work done on the bunkers on the twelve and despite the amount of rain they have stood up to the conditions brilliantly which bodes well for the future.

Work on the clubhouse has continued and the hall stairs and landing have now been completed refurbished.

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 and fortunately for me the weather was a bit kinder.

The Presidents Day for Gentlemen is held in June and there was a full field of competitors. I was ably assisted in the halfway house by Ann Johnson and Gloria Potter. I enjoyed the company of the competitors as they passed through and they seemed to enjoy the food and drink. The winner was Jeff Hughes, Lee Horton was second and Jonathon Nagle was third. Jeff Hughes also had the lowest gross.

On the 14th July I hosted the Presidents Day for Ladies. Again the weather was set fair 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. June Ryder was the worthy winner of the event, Hazel Jones was second and Gill Smith came third.

Some really good golf played this year and none more so than Jeff Hughes – taking the Order of Merit – the Challenge plate with Brian McNamara and the Reg Bell Salver with June Ryder.

The Club Championship was won by Steve Roberts and the Challenge Cup was won by Dave Shaw.

The Directors continue to plan for the future and communications are improving but I think that's a work in progress. I am particularly impressed with the vision for the Pro shop and hope

they can take that forward. This will be a fitting place for Chris and Anthony to work and a great front of house for the club.

I would like to thank Steve Collins, Gill and Karen for their help and support throughout the year.

We have Dave Brinkley taking over the catering full time from April and I really hope that the club gets behind him and gives him plenty of support. Julie is an ever present and always has a smile.

The Greens staff, committee, artisans and volunteers have all worked hard to present the course in its best possible condition.

Next year I hope for a little bit better weather and the course back to its brilliant best.

House continue to come up with new events – the film nights seem to be particularly well received. I hope they continue with these initiatives and the club gives the support they deserve.

Rob and his staff are always ready to serve and do so with good humour.

A special thanks to this year's Captain and Lady Captain - Roddy and Liz - who have been a pleasure to work with and good luck to Chris Stubbs and Chris Marsden for next year.

Unfortunately my time as your President has come to an end. It has been an honour and a pleasure to perform the role and my biggest thanks has got to go to you the membership. Your help, support and good humour has made the role an immense pleasure.

At the Presidents Day for Gents I was also joined in the halfway house by Kath Wilkinson, your President for next year. Kath had come to help but also see the duties that will be required of her, already taking her role this year very seriously. I wish her well and have absolutely no doubt she will make a success of the role if you give her the help and support you have given me. Thank you.

6. Election of Officers

(a) Captain – Mr Chris Stubbs

Proposed by Mr Roddy Snedden

Seconded by Mr Brian Prince

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

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

The Captain thanked the Past Captains, Board and Members for his nomination and said he looked forward to sharing his year with the Lady Captain and President.

In response Mr R Snedden said:

Mr President, Mr Captain, Lady Captain, Past Captain's and Fellow Members

Well that was a year in a flash.

I would like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Helsby Golf Club Captain and it has certainly been one of life's enjoyable experiences.

It certainly keep your diary full, from representing the club at the Widnes Captains Dinner in the first couple of weeks, followed the following evening by the Runcorn Captains Dinner, but great traditional events and long may they continue.

There have been many events throughout the year and you will be pleased to hear I won't go through all of them.

A couple of memorable one's though, would be the Captains Weekend, unfortunately as a lot of event over the past year, It was effected by the weather forcing the second day to be cancelled, due to heavy rain, however all the members who braved the conditions on the first day in the terrible rain, I thank you, and well done to Kel Hoose for taking the spoils.

I also hosted a Captains Charity Golf Day on August 3rd, this was well attended and we managed to raise in excess of 4,000 pounds, which went towards the Powered Wheelchair, and their goal of presenting the 400th chair.

And I am delighted and honoured to have presented the 400th chair as Captain at the Glitz and Glamour Ball, held at Chester

Racecourse on the 23rd November last year and attended by over 200 people.

A fantastic effort by all concerned and congratulations on your efforts.

I would like to thank Danny and his green staff team, for again presenting the course in excellent condition on a weekly basis and continuing the ongoing improvements that are apparent throughout the year. The course just keeps getting better and is consistently complimented by visitors and guests alike.

To the many volunteers who give up their time to work around the course and club house areas. Again valuable work that enhances the club.

I would like to thank Rob and his team for their supports throughout my year. It has been very much appreciated as is the great service that Julie provides and I hope for a long time to come.

Chris Cousins and Anthony, they have been an immense support to me this year and without them and their great organisational skills. This job would be so much harder; I thank them both very much.

I would like to thank the Past Captains for their supports, in attending the main functions throughout the year. But a big thank you must go to you the members for supporting the club and the many competitions that take place and to all the various winners.

Congratulations on your achievements.

To all the members that I had the pleasure to play with throughout the year, I thank you for your company and camara'derie, it made each game very enjoyable.

I thank the Seniors for their kind invitation to join them on a few senior matches and thank them for their warm welcome and hospitality, an enjoyable experience.

Steve Collins, Secretary, your support and guidance has been invaluable and I thank you very much.

Most importantly I would like to thank my wife Christine, who has the patience of a saint. But her support throughout the year has been immeasurable and been of great help, as that of my kids for attending events and being dad's taxi.

It just leaves me to thank the outgoing President, Peter Duffy for his supports and wish him all the very best going forward.

And to wish the incoming President, Lady Captain and Captain for this year Chris Stubbs every luck and every success for your year in office.

(b) Lady Captain – Chris Marsden

Proposed by Liz Fudge

Seconded by Rachel Steven

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

Liz Fudge and Chris Marsden then exchanged badges.

The outgoing Lady Captain Liz Fudge said she was proud to propose Chris, 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, Members,

I'd like to start by thanking the Past Captains for nominating me as Lady Captain of Helsby Golf Club for 2020. Thanks also to Liz for proposing me, Rachel for seconding me and to you all for supporting me. Additionally, I'd particularly like to thank many of you for your good wishes, words of encouragement and offers of assistance for the coming year.

Congratulations to Chris, our new Captain and Kath, our new President. I look forward to working with both of you and with many other members who continue to make Helsby Golf Club such a warm, friendly club. I hope we will all have a great year of golf – ideally like summer 2018.

My charity for the year will be the Neuro Therapy Centre (NTC) based in Saltney near Chester. This centre supports people who are affected by neurological conditions and those who care for them. They celebrate their 35th anniversary this year delivering many therapies within a positive, relaxed and caring environment.

The Captain and I have agreed that the front bunker on the 6th hole will be our charity bunker and we have agreed to split the proceeds between our 2 charities.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Liz on completion of a successful year as Lady Captain during which she raised a large amount of money for Halton Haven. Her initiative to have Bake sales at our Opens was a brilliant idea, contributing substantially to her charity and thoroughly enjoyed by both helpers and visitors alike. Please join me in thanking Liz for her contribution to Helsby Golf Club.

(c) President – Mrs Kathleen Wilkinson

Proposed by **Mr Peter Duffy**

Seconded by **Mrs Barbara Leigh**

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

The President then said:

Mr Captain, Lady Captain, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen
I would like to thank the Past Captains for nominating me to be President, and you my fellow members for electing me.

I am very proud and honoured to hold this office.

My family has a long association with Helsby, three generations .
I have seen many changes .

We have a new decade , a new golf season ,and two new Captains
Chris Stubbs Chris Marsden. I would like to wish you both a
successful and enjoyable year anything I can do to help I will.
Let's all have a great season together.

(d) Captain Elect – Mr Martin Edmunds

Proposed by **Mr Chris Stubbs**

Seconded by **Mr Steve Cunniffe**

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

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

(e) Lady Captain Elect – Mrs Pauline Ford

Proposed by **Mrs Barbara Leigh**

Seconded by **Mrs Barbara Prince**

Mrs B E Leigh said the following prior to acceptance from the meeting:

Pauline joined the Club in 2000, having previously played at Frodsham. Before she took up golf she was a mean tennis player but decided to join Helsby where her husband and two daughters played. I have it on good authority that Pauline is the keenest golfer in the family. She is competitive, plays for our Friendly Matches and takes part in ladies competitions, mixed competitions and also supports our social events.

Pauline was born in Kingsley into a farming family and married a farmer, Colin. She has lived in the area all her life. Apart from golf there are other strings to her bow, walking, gardening and painting. A talented lady. She has also served on the local Committee of North West Cancer Research for many years.

We know you have had family problems over the last few years Pauline but we hope this new chapter in your life will be both an enjoyable and memorable interlude.

I have no hesitation in proposing Pauline Ford as Lady Captain-Elect for 2020/21 and indeed Lady Captain 2021/22, I can assure you the Past Captains and ladies will give you their utmost support.

Congratulations from all of us.

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

Mrs Ford thanked the Lady Past Captains for her nomination and thanked the meeting for accepting the nomination.

8. Election of Directors

There were 3 nominations for 3 vacancies

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

Nominations: Messrs Eric Finnie, Jim Thomas and Liz Fudge.

The Voting slips were collected in preparation of the count.

Tellers: Mrs C Clothier, Mr B Prince, Mr N Clough, Mr J Buchanan.

Interval

8. Presentation of the Accounts Forecast for period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 by the Secretary

Without the services of an Honorary Treasurer I've agreed to present the forecast to the 31st March and the budget for 2020/21. This is based on the cash flow. I'll do my best to answer questions following this short presentation but please keep them simple. There's not much to say about the budget. As you know the main income streams are subscriptions, visitor income and bar sales. If you all decide to remain members subscriptions are now expected to be £340k. Pre booked society income is already at £27k so, provided we have good summer we can expect a visitor income in the region of £85k. Bar profit is expected to be higher than 2019/20.

Now, on to the forecast. I have to report however, that due to a poor winter, weather wise, the forecast of a £7.7k loss is now more likely to be in the region of £17k. Projected green fee figures of £82K will not be achieved, the figure is more likely to be £75k. There have been breakdowns on the older green machinery which has cost around £2k more than expected and because of the wet, warm weather we have had to treat the greens for disease more than other winters. The Club also took over the kitchen for the winter months and although it's almost breaking even, loss of rent for the kitchen must be taken into consideration.

Gross bar sales are up by £4k but other costs incurred include a breakdown in the sewage pumps and regulatory checks on our electrical circuits and cold water system to the tune of £2k. The bank balances today are £92k in the savings account plus £11k due from Orchard Funding and £6700 in the current account. This is £8k less than the same date last year. Although the forecast is not as good as hoped, the culture of prudence introduced by former Treasurers and continued by the Directors means that, unlike some other local clubs who have been laying off staff and seeking overdrafts to tide them over to the end of their tax years, Helsby remains relatively 'cash rich' and all at the helm should be congratulated for this. The Secretary asked for questions and there were none.

9 Board Proposals

9.1 Income and Expenditure Budget for 2019/20 (inclusive of a 2.00 % increase on subscriptions and fees and a 1.6% increase in staff salaries)

Proposed by J H Potter
Seconded by C Lindley

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

9.2 Proposed Green Capital Expenditure of up to £7000 including VAT

With the aim of:

- a) Purchasing a hydrostatic drive for older rough cutter enabling it to be brought back into service to support newer rough cutter. (£2000)**

Proposed by D Bourne
Seconded by P Collins

Mr J W Butler asked if there was a Green machinery equipment replacement programme in place. The Secretary confirmed there was.

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

b) Provide funds to upgrade more bunkers to the standard of the bunkers around the 12th green. (£5000)

Proposed by D Bourne
Seconded by P Collins

Mr G Poland asked if the upgrades will be done in house or will contractors will be used. Mr P Collins said contractors will be used.

Mr G Clothier asked which bunkers will be prioritised for upgrades. Mr P Collins said the Green Committee will decide. G Clothier felt the Green Committee should prioritise the bunkers prior to the vote. The president said this will be done by the Green Committee following acceptance from the meeting.

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

**9. 3 Proposed House Capital Spend of up to £5000 including VAT with the aim of:
Refurbishment of the Ladies' locker room toilet area to include new
sanitary ware, flooring and new wash basin.**

Proposed by J H Potter
Seconded by C Clothier

Mrs V Nagle asked if there were any plans to upgrade the showers in the Ladies' locker rooms.

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

9.4 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 E Finnie
Seconded by C Lindley

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

9.5 Proposed change to Rule 5.4 – Sub Committees
Revised Rule relating to Sub-Committees

5.4 Sub-Committees

5.4.1 The Management Committee shall be supported by Sub – Committees. The terms of reference for each sub-committee are defined in the 'Roles and Responsibilities of Sub Committees' as determined by the Management Committee.

5.4.2 The Sub-Committees shall cover: Golf (including Green and Match & Handicap), House, Membership & Marketing, Ladies, Juniors and Complaints & Misconduct.

5.4.3 If a particular Sub -Committee is not chaired by a Director, the Directors shall select a Chairman from amongst those members who have put in an application. For continuity, the Chairs of Committees will be appointed for 2 years. At the end of the 2-year period, or if the position becomes vacant during that time, the post will be advertised on the notice board and the advertisement sent to the members by email. Applications for the position will be assessed by the Board and the best 2 applicants will be interviewed before an appointment is made. Previous Chairs will be able to apply.

5.4.4 If not chaired by a Director, the Sub –Committee Chairman shall report regularly to the Director responsible, submitting that Sub- Committee’s recommendations for approval by the Management Committee.

5.4.5 Club members who wish to sit on sub-committees will be able to apply after the MAM each year. The Chairs shall select their committees from those applicants. Members of the committees will be appointed for one year and previous members of committees may apply.

5.4.6 From time to time it may be necessary to set up ad hoc Sub-Committees to deal with specific and strategic matters as they arise Revised Rule relating to Sub-Committees

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Proposed by P Ainsworth
Seconded by J H Potter

Mr N Johnson asked the President to read the rule to the meeting which he did.

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

9. 6 Change of Agenda for future Annual General Meetings

The Board of Directors propose a change in the agenda of the Annual General Meeting to include the financial content which is dealt with at the Members' Annual Meeting. This would include the Board proposals, forecast and budget.

Proposed by J H Potter
Seconded by P Ainsworth

Mr J W Butler said that, given recent erratic financial forecasts, forecasting six months in advance may be difficult. He suggested producing a half year review.

Mr N Henry asked if the proposer would comment on Mr Butler's proposal. Mr J H Potter said he felt it was a waste of time holding a very short meeting each October.

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

9.7 Captains' Drive in / Future Members' Annual Meeting date

The Board of Directors propose moving the date of the M A M to the last week in March. The agenda would deal only with the election of officers and directors.

Proposed by J H Potter
Seconded by E Finnie

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

9.8 Proposal to agree to proceed to the next stage of building a new Professional Shop up to and including planning application. (£1950)

Proposed by C Lindley
Seconded by E Finnie

Mr J B Prince said there were no costs in the proposal on how much the final building cost would be.

Mr J H Potter explained the process in reaching the final cost.

Mr R Snedden asked who would manage the project.

Mr C Lindley explained how this would be managed.

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

10. Member's Proposals

There were no members' proposals

11. Result of Election of Directors

The Secretary announced that Mr E Finnie, E Fudge and Mr J Thomas had been elected to the Board of Directors.

12. Members' Comments

- Mrs C Clothier asked how much the development of the 4th tee had cost. (£4500).
- Mrs C Clothier asked what the Green committee would be doing for the Ladies.
- Mr N Johnson asked why a second microphone hasn't been purchased yet.
- Mr N Johnson asked for a bar levy to be imposed and for a 5% reduction in the Members' discount.
- C Lindley said he was disappointed in the number of names put forward for the role of Director.

14. Vote of thanks to the Chairman

Given by **Mr Norman Littler**