



Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of Donnington Grove Golf Club

Held at Donnington Grove Country Club on Wednesday 20th March 2018

Committee members present; Tony Coleman (TC), Gill Lane (GL), Dave Adams (DA), Kim Richardson (KR), Rob Carvill (RC), Anne-Marie Gane (A-MG), Chris Armitage (CA), Andy Storer (AS), Nick Bowley (NB) Dave Knight (DK) Nigel Roberts-Green (NRG), Tom Fleming (TF)

Total Members present 25 (9 Committee; 3 Management; 13 Members)

Apologies: Tom Lane, Fay Unsworth and Mike Unsworth.

The Club President Tony Coleman welcomed all to the 2019 AGM **opened the meeting at 7.30pm** and introduced **The Chairman, Club Captain Dave Adams (DA)** **DA** Welcomed all present and asked if they would read through the minutes from last years AGM that had already been distributed, when the time allowed had lapsed, TC asked if there were any questions or matters arising from said minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes:

TC asked for the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the **2018 AGM**, and were **proposed by Andy Storer, and seconded by Geoff Kells**, all members present accepted them unanimously. TC stated a copy would now be placed on the website for all members to see.

TC handed the meeting back to the chairman (DA)

DA then invited Nigel Roberts-Green General Manager DGCC to present his report

Management Report:

Firstly, welcome to you all, I would like to start with a few thank you's for the support and dedication and time the committee members have given the golf club over the last year, **thank you to the Club President TC and the club captains Dave, Kim and Chris, and of course, to the Treasurer Gill.**

After tonight's meeting there will be some late refreshments, with my compliments, served in the bar downstairs.

The Driving range facilities are much improved and a special thank you to **Paul Bailes** for his support with the electrical hardware and installation.

Champagne Roll up As in prior years Sandtrend will continue to support the weekly members Champagne Roll up with £25 per week for the member's draw – we start this year on April 19th Congratulations to Mike Unsworth winning last year "pot".

Good luck to everyone for 2019 – remember you have to be in the bar when the random number is selected to claim the prize!

My Thanks to the Club Committee Please remember that the Committee, thankfully, consists of a dedicated team of members all with excellent knowledge and commitment to our club and to you the members; their behind the scenes activities enable you to simply turn up and play golf.

Members Reps, please use the committee members reps (Gary Rinaldi), as a communication channel to raise any concerns and suggestions you feel need to be raised at the committee meetings, this is the best route for things to be discussed. Not forgetting the comments book in the pro shop which will also indicate when items have been actioned.

Greenstaff, Thank you to Dave Knight and his team, for their continued efforts, there has been an enormous improvement in the course condition and we all aspire that this continues.

Finally, I would like to personally thank Tom Fleming for his positivity and continued persistence to improve. **2019 sees a small increase in membership** after we have held our fees for three consecutive years, going forward we will continue to review our pricing and membership categories. We have begun to tighten up on the number of existing categories and over the following years this will streamline membership, and visitors green fee pricing.

Some of our IT and internal procedures may have been a bit of a learning curve, but Tom's expertise, knowledge and focus has shown positive results demonstrated in the new members joining and positive feedback.

2019 will be another exciting year full of new ideas and initiatives and I look forward to working with the new captains, Rob, Anne-Marie and Ian, and not forgetting our new Club president Andy Storer.

DA invited Tom Fleming (TF) Director of Golf to present the Golf and Course report

Golf and Course report

Firstly, I'd like to start by thanking all the members for bearing with me in my first year as Director of Golf. Hopefully this year coming will be slightly more productive. I would also like to thank Nigel, Dave, Joanne, Janet and all the hotel staff for all their help and hard work this year. To Nick, Lorraine and Chris thank you for all your hard work over the year and lets all look forward to a prosperous and fruitful new season.

Membership, currently as of today we have **439** members. Our strongest category is 7 day with **158** members, followed by the seniors with **53** and then the ladies with **47**.

All the rest are across the board.

The membership at Donnington Grove is strong but we are constantly looking at ways to introduce new members and especially in the categories that fall short of our target numbers.

Golf Tournaments, this year as you know I have tried to get a few big tournaments to the club to try and raise the profile of the venue. I thank all the members for giving up their golf course on these days and I hope you understand the benefit of having these events. I thank all the volunteers at these events in advance and I hope to see lots of you there spectating.

On this note I feel that we have a maximum number of days that we can close the course to member's, and I assure you that you are always in mind when we are booking them.

About the course.

Dave currently has a team of 8 full Staff, 1 part time Mechanic,

Course maintenance, 2018 was a particularly strange year with one of the hottest periods for 30 years and I think Dave and his team did a fantastic job keeping the course playing well. They were often out at midnight watering the greens and surrounds to keep them green throughout the hot weather. Unfortunately, we lost a couple of tees at this time in particular the 12th and the ladies 3rd. The irrigation system is now 25 years old and some areas are not working as well as they should be. We will try and keep on top of this area of maintenance in 2019.

Over the past year the focus from Dave and his team has been on restoring the greens to the high quality that they have been in previous years and this will not change throughout 2019. Micro-tining and dressing has been the main reason for the improvement and **in 2019 dressing the greens will be a regular procedure every two weeks**. More fertiliser will be put down to encourage growth and produce an even surface. At the start of the growing season however we may see a few bobbles as the dominant species of grass (Bent) will grow slightly quicker than the POA and will become noticeable as the day goes on. This will only be a few weeks and then as the summer starts the greens should be running true and fast. The running speed of the greens through 2018 was at an average of 8.5 -9 and in 2019 we aim to keep this at 9 -9.5. The introduction of three hand mowers should mean the surfaces stay at the level we have all come to expect.

Spraying, Over the year we have been very proactive, regularly spraying preventatives to stop the greens getting disease whereas last year the weather caused some areas of Fusarium this year we have managed to keep the disease at bay. This will again be part of the operation throughout the year. On a personal note I think the winter greens here have been some of the best I have played on.

We will continue to invest in the necessary maintenance of the course. This includes all the chemicals, machinery, irrigation system and old for new replacements.

Last year Santrend agreed to build us a driving range and I hope you all agree that it has been a success. No small thanks go to **Paul Bailes** who provided the mirrors and electrics to make this a great facility for the members.

Pitch marks have been a massive problem this year. I urge all members to repair their pitch marks and maybe the odd one they may see elsewhere. I talk to a lot of people about pitch marks and we have had a lot of complaints from members. Whenever I do the same line comes up, “ **well, I repair two or three on every green**” if this was true there would never be any so I must ask people to look after their course.

Bunker sand, We have just begun putting some new sand in the bunkers. The sand is called China clay and is recycled material including sand. I have played at a number of courses over the year with this sand and it is easier to maintain and produces a more consistent surface for play.

The process of changing the sand is not an easy one and will almost be 2 years before completion.

I hope you have all felt that the course has been good this year and we will try and keep things improving throughout 2019.

On a final note I would like to thank the committee for putting up with my stupid ideas and causing conversations to be far longer than necessary. In particular I would like to thank **Andy Storer, Kim Richardson and TC.** Andy has worked tirelessly to create all the competitions that the members get to play in and helps me whenever I have pressed the wrong button.

Kim has been amazing this year from baking fantastic cakes for raffles and prizes to delving into the Tardis that is her truck and producing all manner of things to help when needed.

And to TC, he has been fantastic for me this year and always has the best interest of Donnington Grove in mind.

Thank you to you all and I hope for a great year ahead.

DA thanked TF for his report then asked the Lady Captain, Kim Richardson (KM) to present her report;

Lady Captain's report:

Good evening Mr President, Mr Captain, Committee members, Members, Green Staff and Pro Shop staff.

I am very proud to be presenting the achievements of our **Ladies section** during my thoroughly enjoyable reign as the Ladies Captain during 2018.

Throughout the year as well as some achieving some fantastic golf results we have enjoyed a variety of fun social activities, including a Craft evening painting pottery, a bulb planting morning, planting up golf bags, a cocktail master class, a potluck supper

evening, movie night and 2 golf breaks, one to Tewkesbury and St Marys in South Wales. **We also enjoyed a fabulous Christmas ball and ladies Christmas lunch. One of our main fund raisers of the year was Catherine and Maureen's Garden Party**, hosted in John and Maureen's beautiful garden. They prepare and provide all the delicious cakes and sandwiches themselves, charging a nominal amount for this popular event. This year they raised a fantastic £610, all going to the **Newbury Cancer Care Charity**.

I would like to thank all the members who have bought raffle tickets on Friday nights for cakes. Thank you for digging deep and giving so generously, and for The Snowman Vase filled with golf balls (191) also raised £163, with the winning hamper won by Gill Lane.

Sue Foote kindly organised the eclectic this year, which raised £55, well done to Lorraine for the best Nett score and to Fay for the lowest Gross score.

Our busy calendar of 8 **Ladies friendly matches** and 8 mixed matches resulted in 3 wins, 2 losses, one halved match and 1 not played due to bad weather for the ladies friendlies.

In The mixed matches we scored slightly better by winning 4, halved 2 and 2 were not played due to the weather. I would like to thank all the members who took part in these matches.

Our ladies section, whilst only being 47 strong is most definitely strong on character, skill and competitiveness. This is evident in the results at Open Events, Board Competitions and County Events, I will highlight a few but a more condensed list can be found on your seat, as there are so many to mention, I thought reading it for yourselves would make more of an impact. Many more external competitions were entered but without a top 5 finish. Please join us at the club presentation evening to see your friends, husbands and wives presented with their trophies.

One of our most favourite competitions of the year is the **friendly match against the seniors**, I would like to specifically thank the green staff who I think joined the ladies section that day as the result was a resounding win to the ladies, bad luck seniors we will be looking forward to the return match later this year.

The Annodata and Duncan Trophy comps sadly didn't see us past the first rounds, we will be hoping for a better result this year.

Pro Am – whilst being male dominated with only 9 ladies taking part, Jules Julie and Sarah J managed second place with Samantha, Fay, Jan and Alison B finishing in 6th place

The Newbury Challenge Cup this year was won and hosted by Deanwood, hopefully again a better result will be achieved as we will be hosting this event later this year. **HSL** last year saw us pipped on the last putt into second place due to a quirky way of scoring this event, we are determined to win it again this year.

Bronze league, organised by Sue Kingham, I thank Sue for her commitment to this event.

4th hole challenge for ladies in competition - this hole has not been birdied by a lady in any competition, so the first one to do so this year will receive a prize.

Handicap cuts – Julie, Jules, A-M, Katherine, Ann L, Maria, Sue Foote and myself.

Coffee and golf morning was a great success, thank you to Julie and Jules for organising it.

Both The Ladies Open and the **Mixed Open** saw an increased number of players, great to build on that for this year so please encourage all your golfing friends to enter.

Finally, there have been a few ladies this year having to deal with or support loved ones with health issues. As you rest and heal, know that you are thought of warmly and wished a quick recovery. Do not forget that you can rely on your good friends for help or for anything that you might need, so do not hesitate in asking for help.

Thank you again to all the ladies, to TC, David Adams, the committee and staff at Donnington Grove, I wish Anne-Marie, that you enjoy the year as much as I have, and before you know it, you will be standing here this time next year.

TC thanked the Lady Captain and invited DA to read the Club Captains report

Captain's report

I will try and keep it as brief as possible....!!

I am very proud and honoured to have been your Club Captain over the last 12 months in what was our 25th Anniversary year. On the whole, I have thoroughly enjoyed my year but feel, that at times, I have not been able to give it my all due to very busy work commitments - I would not have been able to make what I hope has been a successful year without the support of so many members and staff.

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Captain's Kim & Chris for all their hard work and effort over the past year in keeping the very busy and well supported Ladies & Seniors sections organised and healthily active. It is a credit to you both and your vice-captains (**Anne-Marie & Ian**) that things have run so smoothly and successfully.

Thanks to Nigel Roberts Green and all the bar, restaurant, kitchen & hotel staff for all your support and assistance throughout the year and in particular for helping to organise and run a very successful **Members Christmas Ball**. Your continued efforts in acting as a conduit between the members and the owners, Sandtrend Ltd, are much appreciated.

Thanks to Dave Knight and all his green keeping staff and volunteers for once again presenting the course in such a good condition. I had real concerns at the Captain's Drive-In last year that, following a prolonged period of very wet weather, we would

start the year with a trolley ban. Thankfully, I was wrong, but we then had an incredible dry spell and yet more challenging conditions.

I am sure that you will all agree, particularly since the DG Pro-Am in late October, that the course and greens have been in fantastic condition with ongoing improvements being made all the time. The difference over the past year has been remarkable and it is a privilege to be able to play on such a well-maintained course.

Thanks to Tom Fleming and his team (Chris Devonshire, Nick Mitchell & Lorraine Storey) in the Pro-shop for all your hard work and support over the year – the Pro-shop seems to go from strength to strength and we now have a varied mixture of fun competitions, quiz evenings and other entertainments. I'd particularly like to thank Tom for his continued help, advice and support to Dave and the green staff.

Thanks also to the various Team Captains (Kim, Maggie, Sue, Fay, Gill, Graham, TC, Jason, Craig & Steve – my apologies if I have missed anyone) in what has been another busy & successful year for the club. Good luck to all our Team Captains for the coming year – please continue to support and participate in these varied team events.

Thanks to Mel, Craig (and I think Graham?) for running the ever-popular Champagne Roll-ups on Friday night; I believe that there has also been an informal Roll-up between the end of September and the re-start of the Champagne Roll-up in April?

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to the whole of the Committee (TC, Gill, Andy, Kim, Chris, Rob, Anne-Marie, Tom, Nigel, Joanne, Dave, Gary and Nick) for your unstinting support, time & commitment during the past year – it has been a privilege & pleasure working with you all. I would particularly like to high-light the huge amount of work done by the Club Officers and thank them for all their hard work and efforts above and beyond the call of duty: -

Gill Lane – Club Treasurer, Andy Storer – Competitions & Handicap Secretary (ably supported by Steve Gridley)

TC – Club President; who will this June step down after 8 years in the position when Andy Storer will become the next Club President

Kim & I chose to support **the Rainbow Rooms** (part of the Newbury & District Cancer Care Trust based at West Berkshire Community Hospital) as this year's Club Charity. I am delighted to confirm that we have managed to raise a fantastic total in excess of £10,000 **and this figure will be doubled by match funding by the Greenham Trust (thank you TC for facilitating this) so we will be able to present a cheque for over £20,000 at the forthcoming Presentation Evening (Saturday 11th May)** - Gill will hopefully confirm the final figure in her Report.

I would like to single out Kim and her ever willing band of lady volunteers for all their hard work, baking, raffles and supporting events that have made this such a success.

Kim has been an outstanding Ladies Captain and ambassador for the Club & Charity. I would also like to the Seniors for all their fund-raising efforts.

As my predecessor, Graham, said last year, the reason that this club runs so well is largely down to the passionate and committed people who work behind the scenes and assist in many ways. A huge thank you to all those members & staff that have helped or assisted us in any way during the year. It does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated by the Captains & Committee.

Finally, I would ask that you give your full support and assistance to the incoming Club Captain (Rob Carvill), Ladies Captain (Anne-Marie Gane) and Seniors Captain (Ian Gaskell) and their Respective Vice-Captains. I wish them every success in the coming year and believe that we leave you in good hands

DA introduced The Treasurer GL and asked her to present the financial report for the past year.

Treasurer's report

Income and Expenditure

The Club made an operating loss of £820 in 2018.

Total Income Competitions Income showed an increase from £9,463, to £9,564 and the amount paid out in vouchers also increased from £5,685 to £5,769.

Fines charged to Members for late pulling out of competitions dropped from £47 to £20.

There was no sponsorship for the Club Championships this year again, with no profit being taken at the Captains' Drive in, and an decrease in the takings from the bar at the Club Champs from £256 to £181, we were still again able to give a small gift to all participants, costing £288.

Club ties have continued to be on sale during the year, However with a stock check we have had to write off a further 3 (given away for various reasons), and a small amount of **interest** has been received on the Committee funds, resulting in total profit for the year of £166.

Total Expenditure This has increased during the year from £882 to £987.

There are some significant differences between the 2 years:

The entry fees paid towards team entries club competitions increased from a total of £538 last year to £637 this year.

Balance Sheet The Club's total funds stand at £8,756,

Current assets are £14,678, being cash in the bank of £14,450, plus debtors of £228 relating to Club ties which were unsold at 31 December 2018,

Total liabilities stand at £5,922; this sum relates to vouchers still unclaimed, prizes to be given at the forthcoming prize giving, and the Memorial Fund which has £679 remaining

Charity Account

GL highlighted the fantastic effort made by both the Ladies and the Senior's sections in fundraising, but commented that a significant sum had once again come from the auctions on the Captains Charity day raising £4567

The total raised for David, Chris and Kim's charity currently stands at £10,381

GL asked if there were any questions about the accounts

As there were no further questions from the floor, TC asked for a proposer and seconder, they were proposed by Cliff Waller and seconded by Steve Lillywhite.

The meeting accepted the accounts as a true record for the previous financial year.

DA thanked GL for her report and asked TC to read the motions to be considered by the 2019 AGM

TC announced that notices and agendas had been posted around the clubhouse and on the website for the periods quoted in the club constitution and as the committee had received no correspondence from the members in the said time, there were no motions to be considered for the AGM.

TC then handed the meeting to **Rob Carvill, the Vice-Captain to officially close the meeting** and asked him to present an overview of the year ahead.

RC announced that the official AGM was now closed.

Overview of the year ahead by the Vice Captain Rob Carvill

Firstly, I would like to say what a great honour it is for me to become Club Captain at Donnington Grove. I have been playing golf at various clubs since I was in my early teens and compared with each of these in the present-day Donnington Grove has such a lot going for it; not only with the rapidly improving course but also the vibrant and inclusive membership. I am proud to become Captain and look forward to working closely with Anne-Marie and Ian during the coming year.

There are many people I need to thank for making this possible; Dave and the committee for allowing me to become his vice; Steve Lillywhite for agreeing to become mine, and for the amazing start he has made to this role already with his work on the club teams and keeping the website updated with information on them; the way he is carrying on you would think he was after my job!

My sincere thanks to Tom, for the tremendous improvement to the condition of the course since he became director of golf due to working closely with Dave Knight and also, for the support he has already offered for my role in the coming year. **Nigel and the hotel staff** have been very supportive in suggesting ways in which subsidised catering may help to bolster forth-coming events.

Kim, Chris and Dave have done a fantastic job of raising money for their charity this year. For our charity for 2019-20 I suggested Taylor Made but the other Captains'

wouldn't hear of it, **so we too are supporting the cancer ward, the Rainbow Rooms at West Berkshire Hospital.**

Turkey Trot, I hope to make changes to some events this year and to introduce some new ones. Although the winter warmer in November has proved quite popular the committee has agreed to moving this to December and rebranding it a Turkey Trot.

As the name suggests prizes will consist mostly of vouchers for turkeys and hampers.

Night Golf, We also plan to arrange a 9-hole night golf event next winter with supper to round off the evening. I am sure many of us have played in Internationals at other courses; they tend to add an element to our natural competitiveness – I am hoping to try one here at Donnington.

At this point, I would like to put in an early word about the Summer Ball we are planning on organising this year. They have been very successful in the past when the weather has allowed us to really appreciate what a special venue this is - the champagne reception is held in the grounds. Your support for this event would be much appreciated.

Finally, I wish every member an enjoyable golfing year ahead

I will now hand you back to TC for questions on any other business thank you.

TC thanked RC and wished him good luck in his year of office along with all the other captains and vice-Captains he also, on behalf of the members, thanked the Club Captain (DA) and the lady Captain (KR) and all the other outgoing Captains for a job well done.

TC then offered to all the members present at the AGM, an opportunity to ask general questions to the members of the committee and management in the form of a question and answer forum, for information only, and not to be put to the meeting for a vote, this section would be deemed as any other business;

Any Other Business

Ian Gaskell asked TF, what's happening to the greenside bunkers are we just putting new sand on top of the old and what is the schedule. **TF responded;** No, sand will be removed and replaced we will focus on greenside bunkers first over the next three months and then the existing bunker plan will continue next year

Geoff Kells asked TF; have you any further tour events planned. **TF responded;** No further tour events but quite a busy corporate calendar, however it will be kept down to a minimum to cause as little disruption as possible to the members.

Steve Lillywhite asked TF; is the big tree on the 10th coming down. **TF responded;** No, but it will be cut back to make it more manageable

TC asked if there was any other questions, **and as there were no further questions**, he concluded by thanking **DA, KR, GL, NR-G, TF and RC**, for their reports and proceeded to, on behalf of all the members, to personally thank Dave Knight and his team for all their hard work in providing us with a very high standard of golf course whenever possible, considering the terrible weather conditions of the past year. (this was met with a round of applause from all attendees in the AGM.

TC then reminded all attendees that refreshments would be provided in the members bar downstairs the compliments of Nigel Roberts-Green, General Manager DGCC (Sandtrend)

and handed the meeting back to the Vice-Captain Rob Carvill to close the meeting.

The Vice-Captain (RC) declared the AGM closed at 8.20pm

AGM minutes prepared by Tony Coleman: Club President.