



HONITON GOLF CLUB

Notice is hereby given that the 98th Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held
on Thursday 25th February 2021.

AGENDA

The meeting will be conducted by a post a ballot form has already been sent.

1. Minutes.

(a) To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13th February 2020.

2. To receive the report of the Management Board. Written by the Chairman (Alan Pollock)

3. To receive and adopt by postal ballot the financial statements for the year ending 30th June 2020.

Presented by John Tierney

4. To re-elect, en bloc, by postal ballot under the provision of Article 33.3

(a) President	MR Pipe	re-election
Vice Presidents	AP Hill	re-election
	A Jackson	re-election
	Mrs P Blackburn	re-election

5. To Welcome the Ladies, Mens, Seniors' and Juniors Captains

(a) Ladies Captain 2021 - Vera Richardson

(b) Ladies Vice Captain – Sarah Loader

(c) Mens Captain- Neil Pulman

(d) Mens Vice Captain Wayne Broom

(e) Seniors Captain 2021 - David Scott

(f) Seniors Vice Captain – Rob Sexton

(g) Junior Captain 2021 - Marcus Watson-Jones

6. Election of the Management Board

Four vacancies are available on the Management Board for 2021.

In accordance with Article 7 four members have been nominated. Therefore no ballot was necessary. The following four members will serve on the Management board for up to 3 years.

Ron GRAHAM

Ian GUY

Alex NEIL

Neil PULMAN

7. To re-elect by postal ballot Easterbrook Eaton as Accountants.

8. AOB

If you have a question for the board please email secretary@honitongolfclub.co.uk or by post

Please include your name. The board will then circulate the question and response to all members.

By order of the Management Board

Alan Pollock

Chairman



HONITON GOLF CLUB LTD
MINUTES OF THE 97th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2020 IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT 7.30pm

PRESENT

THE CLUB CHAIRMAN	MR A POLLOCK
PRESIDENT	M R PIPE
VICE PRESIDENT	A P HILL
VICE PRESIDENT	MRS P BLACKBURN
CLUB MANAGER	A CAVE (minutes)

AND 68 voting MEMBERS and 26 proxy votes

APOLOGIES had been received from 13 members

The meeting was called to order, and the Chairman began by calling for all present to remember those members who had passed away in the last twelve months and to spare a thought for those struggling through ill health. Adrian Cave read a list of 9 people.

1a) MINUTES The Minutes of the 96th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 7th February 2019 were accepted as being a true record. Proposed by Bob Underwood seconded by Neil Pulman and duly signed.

1b) MATTERS ARISING: Paul Ritchie wished it to be stated on record that he had asked a question and this had not been included accurately in the minutes, and wished the statement to read "Paul Ritchie asked about the deadline for proposing amendments prior to the General Meeting on 25th April. The Chairman's answer was 'Today'. He was surprised at the answer as had only had 2 days in order to read the details of the document HGC2 proposed articles.

Note A written request to the Chairman was made by Mr Ritchie on 3rd February 2020 asking the Chairman to amend the minutes. The email forms the basis of the changes detailed above and were accepted by the AGM and incorporated into the minutes.

1c) GM MINUTES: The Minutes of the GM held on the 25th April 2019 were accepted as being a true record. Proposed by Olwen Eaton seconder Ron Graham and duly signed.

2. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Chairman began by saying his report was a joint effort with Jackie Seager as he had only taken over from Jackie as Chairman a few months earlier. He stated that the board were continuing to look at job descriptions etcetera so we could get the best efficiency possible throughout the club. He continued that membership numbers had remained relatively steady with 605 being the total including all membership categories, Jason Gosling asked how many full playing members there were and was answered approximately 360.

The club had run a members survey and the results indicated that course improvement was high priority, and this has been implemented with tree canopy raising and drainage on 6th & 9th greens with very positive feedback. We are seeking advice from professional course designers, with the aim of producing a fully costed 10 year programme to develop the course and practice facilities.

The Chairman stated that he hoped all would agree that Emma and the new catering team had improved the food enormously. She had turned away some larger functions and this had prompted a discussion over extending the clubhouse, further investigation would be required, Ideas would be brought to the membership for approval.

The Chairman highlighted that next year was our 125 year anniversary and plans had been discussed, he had put together a document with some ideas. The plan would be to put together a sub committee which he hoped some members would put themselves forward for, especially those that had been involved in our centenary year celebrations. He hoped to have the sub-committee formed by Founders Days, in April. We had already received a request to form a reciprocal arrangement from Ashley Wood GC.

The Chairman thanked all the board, volunteers, club members and club staff for their hard work and dedication

3. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2019

John Tierney highlighted a couple of items from the report stating that we had made a small profit for the second year running.

The cash reserve had increased by £10,000 at the same point from the previous year. This was encouraging considering we had a large bill to repair the water tank, at which point John thanked Bill Eaton for finding a much more cost effective solution for a project that could have cost 3 times as much.

John explained that it was tough setting budgets when the bulk of membership falls due in July and we could lose 20 members but would then need to recruit members to fill the gap. He explained further that Adrian was doing a good job at looking at ways to reduce our expenditure.

John asked for any questions from the floor

Barry Rogers asked where in the accounts was the water tank repairs listed, John explained because it had a 20 year plus lifespan it was in capital expenditure, also where the land sale had been put in the accounts John explained that this was shown as reduction in the assets.

Heather Clarke referenced to a question recorded from the last AGM, where J Liell had asked if there were going to be any nasty surprises or had we gone over the £3,000 capped figure for the new Articles. Heather had noted this year there had been a significant increase in legal fees from the previous year. John replied he did not have the final figure. Heather asked if we had any nasty surprises, John explained he didn't have all the answers but hoped there would be no further expense but we would put the final figure of cost in the next newsletter.

Paul Ritchie asked why the creditors had shown an increase on last year. John explained that it was dependent on subscription payments coming in early. Janet Hughes asked if we had problems with late payers, John explained not as a major problem but was sometimes caused through fairway credit issues.

Trevor Bradley said that he thought John and the board should be congratulated on doing an excellent job on such a tight budget and asked for a Vote of Thanks be recorded.

The accounts were then unanimously adopted after being proposed by Max Pipe, seconded by Paul Borkowski

4. TO ELECT EN BLOC UNDER PROVISION OF ARTICLE 33.3: -

4a) Re Election of President – M R Pipe

Re Election Vice Presidents – A P Hill, A Jackson, Mrs P Blackburn

Proposed by Bill Eaton seconded by Mike Watts and was passed unanimously.

Max Pipe responded on behalf of himself and the Vice Presidents stating that it was an honour and privilege for them to be elected as President & Vice Presidents again.

5. TO ELECT UNDER PROVISION ARTICLE 34.1

Mens Captain – Mr Neil Pulman

Paul Borkowski thanked all the staff & volunteers in particular the Board and green staff. Paul felt the course had never looked better. He also thanked the other section captains, Cherry Liell, Steve Butcher, and his Vice Captain Neil Pulman

Neil Pulman was then proposed by Paul Borkowski, seconded by Di Wall and was elected unanimously. Paul presented Neil with his Jacket.

Neil Pulman made a small speech thanking all for giving him the opportunity and would enjoy his year

Vice Captain – Mr Wayne Broom

Proposed by Neil Pulman, seconded by Jackie Seager and was elected unanimously.

Wayne introduced himself as he felt not all may know who he was as he had only been a member for 4 years but was honoured and looking forward to the next couple of years.

6. TO INTRODUCE AND WELCOME THE LADIES AND SENIORS CAPTAINS 2020

6a) Ladies Captain Vera Richardson introduced herself and then introduced her Vice Captain Di Wall.

6b) Seniors Captain David Scott was introduced by the Chairman

6c) Junior Captain Austin Watson-Jones was introduced by the Chairman. Austin was going into his second year.

7. ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7.2

The Chairman announced that there were three vacancies on the Board and four nominations had been received, the two candidates receiving the most votes would serve for up to 3 years, the third for up to 1 year.

Voting slips have been counted by our 2 returning officers Mike Sennitt and Mike Watts. Mike Sennitt was asked to read the results of the ballot.

Name			TOTAL VOTES
Alex NEIL	Proposer	Phil Wall	141
	Secunder	Alan Pollock	
Alan POLLOCK	Proposer	Steve Butcher	152
	Secunder	Diane Wall	
Barry ROGERS	Proposer	Cyril Dann	60
	Secunder	Paul Ritchie	
Jackie SEAGER	Proposer	David Scott	148
	Secunder	Vera Richardson	

Total Votes Cast	501
Total Ballot Papers Received	210
Total Invalid Papers	9

Therefore the following members have been elected to serve on the Management Board:

- 1 Alan POLLOCK Will serve up to 3 years
- 2 Jackie SEAGER Will serve up to 3 years
- 3 Alex NEIL Will serve up to 1 years

The Chairman thanked everyone who stood for election, and welcomed the successful candidates to the Board.

8. TO RE-ELECT EASTERBROOK EATON AS ACCOUNTANTS

Proposed by Vera Richardson, seconded by Wayne Broom, Easterbrook Eaton were unanimously elected Accountants to serve until 30th June 2020.

9. OTHER BUSINESS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR ON WHICH NO RESOLUTION MAY BE PASSED.

The Chairman advised that before he opened to the floor, Club President Max Pipe would like to make a statement. The President congratulated all the staff, members and volunteers on the great improvements made around the club and course and how things were looking very positive for the club and the future. He explained how he attended most management meetings and that he had a great admiration for the directors who, along with their various skills, gave their time freely to the club.

He went on to say he was concerned about a small negative group of members who were intent on criticising, nit picking and interfere with board decisions, which was sometimes to the extent of intimidation and harassment. He asked that the board be allowed to carry on with their work as their main aim was for the benefit of all members and appealed for all to pull together and support the board in all they do.

The President concluded by saying he hoped everyone enjoyed their golf and all that Honiton Golf Club had to offer so that we may enhance our reputation and move forward

Following the Club President, Trevor Bradley stood and stated he agreed entirely with the Presidents statement and would like to ask a question for the Chairman, but it was necessary for him to first list exerts taken from published board minutes over the last 12 months. He proceeded to list 6 items from the minutes and then asked if the ever-growing legal bills referred to were all linked to two members of the club and did the Chairman think the actions of those members was detrimental to the club and if not, why not.

The Chairman explained he could not answer that particular question at the meeting but would elaborate on events from the last 18 months where there had been an increasing campaign of disruptive criticism of the board. He listed occasions when there had been so much mistrust that those members had taken it on themselves to go to governing bodies such as England Golf, and had even attempted to gain confidential correspondence directly from the club lawyers, who quite understandably refused to cooperate. The Chairman explained further he had been in consultation with the ICO, who, following another complaint about club processes, had provided some very helpful advice in particular with regard to recording, electronically or otherwise. Following his explanation Charles Doherty stood and stated categorically that he strongly objected to anybody else recording the meeting.

The Chairman asked Trevor if that had satisfied his questions, which he confirmed mostly. Trevor asked if the previous Chairman had been cleared of the complaint made against them. The current Chairman stated that they had been.

Jason Gosling asked what marketing was being done to attract younger golfers? The Chairman replied that some of the Board recently had a meeting with England Golf and some ideas had already been discussed. Jason questioned the cost of Junior Membership, it was explained the under 11age membership was £26. Jason asked if the club would consider a junior membership being the affiliation fee only. The Chairman confirmed the matter noted and advised it would be discussed at a board meeting. Bill Eaton reiterated the club was doing well with Junior membership and it had been steadily increasing over the last couple of years, the cost represented very good value and had led to attracting parents to also join.

Elizabeth Ward raised the subject of the wet weather course and asked if there was any update on it. The Chairman explained that it was proving difficult to implement because when the 18 hole course is closed there is a narrow weather window before the wet weather course is also not playable, the 11th hole being used as an example. The paths that had been constructed had cost less than £500 and were proving very useful for green staff. He explained the new matting that had been put down this winter was proving successful, more would be purchased and extended to other areas, it is hoped this would enable the course to be open more often. Elizabeth stated that she felt she was unable to get the most out of her membership being a buggy user.

Janet Hughes asked if the members card could be extended to be used in the pro shop. She thought it would lighten competition administration and would facilitate members seeing their transactions all in one place. She stated she did not require an immediate answer at the meeting but asked for it to be considered at a meeting.

There being no further questions the chair was passed to the Club President, Max Pipe, who congratulated the new Board members, thanked the outgoing Captains and welcomed the new Captains. He continued to thank all the Staff at the Club, Pro Shop, Green Staff, Office, Bar and Kitchen; he also thanked all the volunteers who had helped throughout the year.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman's Report – Alan Pollock

Firstly please could we all take a moment to think of those members past and present that we have lost in the past year.

Mabs Baker, Bob Barnes, Norman Black, Eddie Bonetta, Heather Clarke, Ivan Coode, Des Hendry, Catherine Hunt, Ray Neil, Pat Walker, Steve Waller. Betty Weeden.

In a normal year the Chairman's Annual report to our members consists of a summary of the club's main achievements during the year and an opportunity to thank all the members, volunteers and staff for their hard work and dedication to ensuring the success of our club.

In 2020 we held the Annual General Meeting on 13th February. The Captains' drive-in on 16th February marked the last time that the year 2020 could be considered to be normal.

By early March it was clear that the situation with COVID-19 in the country was deteriorating rapidly and to comply with government guidance the bar and restaurant closed. For a few days Emma provided a take-away service out of her trailer until on the 24th March, we went into lockdown.

With the closure of our course and clubhouse most of our staff were sent home. We were dealing with a situation that was changing rapidly. The government guidance on its support package was changing daily and to keep up with these changes the board had meet to evaluate the guidance as soon as it was published. Not being able to meet in person did initially cause us problems but we soon became familiar with the online meeting package Zoom, which enabled us to meet remotely. Between the 24th March and the 28th July the management board held 21 online meetings.

With no income from hospitality, visitors or Opens the board's highest priority was to secure the finances of the club. We took steps to minimise our outgoings. The government provided an extensive package of financial support including business rates holiday, the furlough scheme paying up to 80% of salaries and a business support grant. Navigating the inevitable bureaucracy was very time consuming. It was some weeks before the schemes were open to applications and we could submit our claims. There was a further period of uncertainty while these claims were processed.

We were determined to ensure that the course did not suffer from a lack of maintenance during lockdown and that it would be ready to play as soon as restrictions were lifted. Initially we had a single greenkeeper, our Head Greenkeeper Stuart Broom working on his own. As the days lengthened temperature increased and the grass started to grow, the workload increased and we brought back greenkeepers from furlough. We completed spring 'work week' tasks well before reopening and were able to open the course to members as soon as the restriction on playing golf was lifted on 13th May.

While reopening the course was a positive step it brought with it a number of restrictions which meant that, hospitality and non-essential retail were still not permitted. The clubhouse facilities other than the toilets had to remain closed. We introduced online tee time booking and restricting the course to members only. This meant that we lost the revenue from our planned functions opens and societies.

As restrictions were eased between late June and into July, we were able to progress to 3 ball social golf, reopen the Pro shop, introduce supplementary rounds, reintroduce competitions and to allow 4 ball play. Club V1 had extended the facility to enable competition entry fees to be paid online and also an app to allow scores to be entered.

Early during lock-down it became clear that the golf programme would have to be reorganised and that our opens planned for May and June would need to be either rescheduled or cancelled. As a result some opens had to be cancelled and the entry fees refunded.

In addition to rescheduling the opens run by the club, we consulted with each section to give them the opportunity to hold some of their opens. Between July and the end of October we held a number of open events, cup competitions and the club championship. A big thank you to all the members that helped run those events. But

unfortunately, our winners will have to wait until November to receive their trophy. Presentation evening was a casualty along with almost the whole of our programme of social events.

Reopening the clubhouse from lockdown #1 required careful planning. A sub-committee was formed in May to manage the reopening. The measures we introduced to ensure the safety of our members and visitors included enhanced cleaning, limits on numbers entering the clubhouse, table service in the bar and restaurant, a one-way circulation system, hand sanitisers and wearing of masks. Showers and locker rooms were to remain closed.

The bar reopened on the 4th July and restaurant reopened on the 6th July. The Gov track and trace requirements meant that we had to be able to provide the names of all members who played the course or entered the clubhouse to use the bar and restaurant. The online tee booking service enabled us to produce a daily start sheet which complied with the government regulations. Once visitors were allowed, the track and trace logging system were expanded to record the contact details of visitors to the course and clubhouse.

There was a major change to the way handicaps are calculated with the introduction of the World Handicap System WHS. In September we were visited by the WHS assessment team, we were assessed and subsequently received the slope index. A series of planned member information evenings had to be cancelled but fortunately help was provided in the form of online video training.

In November there was lockdown #2 which was for a period of four weeks, we once again had to close the course and clubhouse for the duration. We took the opportunity to bring forward course improvement projects, such as the drainage improvements close to the 1st and on the 2nd and 7th greens.

We were allowed to reopen in December but only for a few weeks, until in early January closed again for lockdown #3. Once again, the course and clubhouse are closed most staff are furloughed

Membership numbers in total have remained relatively steady despite the uncertainty. As an outdoor sport where it is possible to maintain social distancing, golf was one of the first sports to reopen during lockdown #1, however due to the track and trace requirements clubs were initially restricted to allowing members to play.

On reopening the course after lockdown#1 our club experienced a mini boom of enquiries from potential new members, who unable to play casual golf chose to join us. We did experience an increase of the number of members that chose not to renew. However since the end of lockdown #1 we experienced a similar number of new members. Overall our member numbers have remained broadly stable when compared with January 2019.

I will finish my report by thanking the board members past and present for their hard work, our members for their loyal support of the club, their understanding of the difficult situation and to our staff who responded to the crisis, working with incredible flexibility as well as enduring the uncertainty of being on furlough.

Finally, we hope that despite the unsettling events of the past year you enjoyed being a member of Honiton Golf Club, look forward to better times in 2021, we wish you a safe, successful and enjoyable golf in 2021 our 125th year.

Lady Captain Report- Vera Richardson

Who knew 12 month's ago that the ladies would have the privilege (or not) of having me as their Lady Captain for a second year. However, they have handled the past 12 months brilliantly. They have met in the car park, kept in touch with each other and helped when needed.

My thanks go to all my team. Especially to Di Wall, who did a lot of work before stepping down from the Vice Captain position, due to family commitments and to Sarah Loader for becoming Vice Captain.

During the year we gained 6 new full playing members but sadly 2 of our ladies passed away. They will not be forgotten. Competitions were few on the ground but we did manage to award 4 Club Trophies, complete the winter eclectic, Breast Cancer brooch and, of course, ladies played in the Club Championship and Alex Gosling Trophy.

We played our 2 Opens in glorious weather, with thanks to the Club. from the ladies who came.

Our finances have not changed a lot and the Captains charity next year will again be Devon Freewheelers

Ladies are getting to grips with the World Handicap System but opportunities to use it have been few on the ground.

We all hope for a more normal 2021, with all our competitions going ahead.

Men's Captains Report – Neil Pulman

When I took over the Men's Captaincy in February of last year I was filled with a sense of anticipation and expectation for the twelve months ahead. I, like everyone else, was blissfully unaware of what 2020 would bring! The Captain's drive in was well supported and the Captain's charity night raised over £700 for Devon Free Wheelers which remains the Captain's Charity for 2021.

From March 2020 the COVID 19 pandemic has been a wrecking ball, cutting a swathe through our golfing program, causing the cancellation of numerous tournaments, Club matches and having to shut the course completely. This was not what I envisaged as I accepted the best wishes of members upon taking on the role. Despite all of this, there are several positives that have arisen from adversity. The increase in membership numbers and size of playing fields immediately after the initial lockdown demonstrated that golf is a highly valued activity in our lives. It has been great to see many new faces around the club, enjoying golf. Despite (at times) not having access to the clubhouse for post-game drinks, it was great to see members enjoying each other's company. Even if needing reminders about social distancing!

There are many people I would like to give recognition and thanks to. Firstly, I would like to give recognition to our 2020 Men's Club Champion Ben Phillips. I am sure I will be writing next year's report congratulating him again but we will see. A big thanks to Stuart Broom and all the green staff for their excellent work and I am sure you will all agree that the course is the best I have seen it even in these unprecedented times. Recognition and thanks also to Emma and her catering staff, Adrian and Tadd (Pro's shop), Lynn in the office and Andras and the bar staff. Without their efforts we could be in a far worse position than we are now.

Additionally, thank you to my Vice Wayne Broom for his continued support and also to Dave Carnall (East Deon League Captain), Julian Netherway (Dartmoor League Captain), Stewart Slater (Palairt Captain) and Ross Latcham (Parker Trophy Captain) for their support.

I look forward to again working with David (Seniors Captain) and Vera (Ladies Captain) who have both agreed (and me) to stay on as section Captains for another year. Hopefully this year will be better.

I will sign off now by wishing all members (old and new) the very best of luck and stay safe, we will get through this.

Seniors Report – David Scott

Looking back on my year as seniors' captain, I can say without fear of contradiction, that it has been a huge disappointment to me not to be able to report on a season full of successes (and probably some failures) in our golfing calendar. You all know the reasons for this so I will not bore you with the details but if you are having difficulty in sleeping, you may like to re-read my monthly newsletters.

This I have done and they make for depressing reading; no inter-club competitions, no Friday mixed competitions, no away day, no Ladies evening, only two of our Opens played - and these under limited conditions, plus many more disappointments along the way.

There were times when we were allowed to play golf, albeit in our "buddy bubbles", which everybody was determined to enjoy given the circumstances. The last government lockdown in December was the final straw and we ended the year on a low note.

I have heard all the arguments for and against keeping golf courses open but feel if we are seen as a "special case" others would follow suit which would make a mockery of what is, after all, a well meant intention to keep us all safe.

Good riddance 2020!

Trying to sound positive, I will be staying in the post for the 2021 season and I think we might just start playing golf again in the near future but don't quote me on this!

At least we will be spoiled by the playing conditions when we eventually venture out, so on that optimistic note, stay safe and well in preparation for the new season – which will happen!

Finance Report for year ended 30th June 2020 - John Tierney

What a year we have had since my last report. Know one would have predicted what has happened in the last 12 months in the world let alone the impact on the golf club. Despite the lockdowns and daily news of devastating loss for so many families I think I can make an argument from the clubs finances view point, that we have been relatively lucky!

As you will see from the accounts we made a Profit for the year, up by approximately £48,000 on the previous year of £63,258. This seems a staggering result given the disruption to the last 4 months of the financial year but several things conspired to help us through to the year end that we didn't plan on.

Firstly, our long standing claim for a Business Rates reduction was accepted and this together with the Governments decision to not charge business rates for the current tax year meant a reduction in costs off £45,000 approximately across the last two years.

Secondly, the Local Authority Grant of £25,000 was a second lump sum that provided some piece of mind whilst we awaited the end of the first lockdown.

Our luck continued in a way as golf was one of the few sports that resumed and this meant good visitor income and an influx of new members whilst they couldn't play their usual summer sports.

As a would expect from your Board, we reacted to the lockdown by cutting our costs and making use of the furlough scheme. The end result was reaching the end of the financial year with a rise in profit and an increase in cash from £159,599 to £290,743.

I would point out though that our longer-term debt also increased by £50,000 over the period as we had committed to replacing some of the machinery.

The Current Year

Our luck did start to turn against us as longer-term members chose not to risk playing golf and our membership numbers dropped back at the July renewal. Since, we have maintained numbers at roughly the previous years levels.

Further periods of lockdown and poor weather have not been kind to anyone. All the board have been able to do is keep a close eye on our costs, which don't all stop because we are closed and make use of the furlough scheme to recover a proportion of our wage costs. The furlough scheme isn't as generous now, but it has enabled us to keep the majority of our staff over the last year. We are lucky to have such good staff and their flexibility over the last year as well as their willingness to do what they can to help has been a highlight.

We had to repay one of the members long term loans that we had outstanding. So the remaining amount stands at £30,000. Once we can see that Covid is behind us I hope to be able to repay the remaining loyal supporters.

Currently, we remain well placed with cash in the bank of around £250,000. However, we are concerned that the support from the Government will soon be turned off and we can not tell when we will return to more normal trading.

It is incumbent on us as your Board to have the long term interests of the club at heart. I think for the time being, whilst so much uncertainty remains, all we can do is remain Prudent, reduce costs and claim whatever support is available.

I would remind members that they will continue to benefit from a discount when they renew, compared to the price a new member pays. This discount is a thank you for your support in this most difficult of years and whilst not a great substitute for being able to play we hope it at least softens the blow.

I would normally be able to take questions at the AGM but obviously this is not going to be possible. However, this doesn't mean to say that you can't have your say. I would be delighted to answer any questions that you may have. If you email Adrian in the first instance, we will collate your questions and publish both the questions and answers.

Director of Golf Report- Neil Pulman

Having only taken up this position after being co-opted on the board on the 31st October 2020 my priority was with the help of the section Captains, Adrian and others was to plan the diary for 2021.

Well, the diary is complete and most of you will have received one, if not when we get back to playing again then they are available from the Pro's shop or behind the bar. A big thank you to members and businesses that placed an advert in the diary in what has been difficult times to say the least.

In our 125-year anniversary nothing has changed for competitions, Opens etc from the plans that Jackie, board members and others put in place for 2020. I would like to thank Jackie who constantly juggled the Club's diary in 2020 due to COVID-19 lockdown. Without her efforts and planning we wouldn't have had any competitions and hosted the successful Opens that we had in line with COVID-19 restrictions. A lot of Clubs just cancelled all events for the year.

Who knows how this year is going to pan out but I am hopeful that competitions, matches, opens etc will resume again? When we finally get out of this pandemic rest assured, I will put all my effort into organising enjoyable golf/social events in order that we can celebrate our anniversary accordingly.

Let's all hope that this year finally sees the end of COVID-19 and we can back to playing golf and socialising, fingers crossed.

Recruitment Report. – Bob Underwood

Despite the many disruptions this year Honiton Golf Club continues to attract new members. We had a surge of new members when we reopened after lockdown # 1 and in particular the addition of members among the younger generation. However a larger than usual number of members did not renew in July. The nett result is that over all we have maintained our membership numbers compared with January 2020.

The new catering has also helped to attract people to the club both to enjoy the coarse and also the food available. Sunday lunches have been well supported.

House and Bar - Bob Underwood

The ladies shower refurbishment was completed just before the start of lockdown #1. During lockdown the clubhouse was closed and only tasks classified as essential maintenance were permitted. Our volunteers completed a number of maintenance jobs around the clubhouse including painting the rear fire escape and the entrance doors to the men's locker rooms.

The position our LPG storage tank has been judged as being unsafe due to its being too close to the trees. The tank which is a pressure vessel is also reaching the end of its safe service life and will need to be replaced. We are consulting with two suppliers on the options we have to either relocate the position or bury a replacement tank.

To further improve the facilities at the club, the board have this year been evaluating the options extending the club house so that it can provide disabled access upstairs, accommodate larger functions including toilet facilities upstairs.

We have had a local architect to prepare drawings of the existing club house and to also prepare some additional drawings of various proposals.

The idea is to extend the first floor to accommodate more diners and to extend the kitchen. but also take back a small section of the original kitchen and install a male and female toilet upstairs.

Once we have agreed on the best option for the club, information including plans will be displayed on the notice boards, for the members to give us feedback.

Greens Director Report – Ron Graham

This last year has been one of our the most difficult of years that the Club has experienced.

Our Staff have had to deal with a variety of conditions and staff levels. Nevertheless they have achieved a great deal of work and projects completed during a stop start year.

In the First lock down, we initially furloughed all the green staff except for the Head Green Keeper, who kept an eye on the course and when he needed help as the grass started coming out of its winter sleep, a second Greenkeeper was brought back and so we started bringing staff back as the work built up. One member of staff remained on furlough and he has now taken voluntary redundancy.

Staff training this year has included Digger training and tree surgery, with Phil Everett and Ben Phillips gaining their respective qualifications. Ben Phillips has also completed his level 2 Apprenticeship, with Haydon McCance making good progress at the start of his apprenticeship.

March saw the delivery of a new banks mower (ventrac), and this has allowed a lower height of cut around green and tee banks, as well as semi rough. This is aesthetically better as the contours have been highlighted and also has made the areas around the greens more playable. This machine is especially designed to cut banks up to a slope of 30 degrees and so some banks that were previously strimmed and unsightly are now cut regularly and safely, it also has a very light footprint so it has enabled the greenstaff to cut grass and also slit greens when conditions would otherwise be too wet for other vehicles.

The left of the 1st green has always been a problem and the Greenkeepers were able to carry out the 1st stage of improvements by carrying out extensive drainage work there, I liken it to a herringbone stitching pattern. The ground had been too soft to complete the final trench, so with the heavy frosts they have managed to fill it in, we now need growth to aid recovery and if we can also rid this area of wormcasts then this area will again become playable during winter.

The 8th and 9th had to be closed as one of the Leylandii trees on the left side of the fairway had lost the upper half and it was considered a danger and had to be removed. The tree surgeons came in with their equipment and quickly dealt with the problem and left a very tidy area.

They were also called in to deal with a similar problem to the right of the 13th green, the tree was declared unsafe and it was removed the next day. Work has also continued on raising the canopies of trees around the course, opening up views and making maintenance easier.

The 2nd and 7th Greens drainage was also completed and the turf re-laid.

The 8th tee extension has now been prepared and we expect it to be turfed for early spring.

Last spring we suffered an infestation of leatherjackets. This has come about because of the withdrawal of insecticides to the market. We managed the problem through the season by using plastic sheeting to draw the larvae to the surface and mowing them up, however because this is such a problem in the UK the governing bodies allowed an emergency authorisation for an insecticide to the UK sportsturf market. After a successful application to buy some of this product we applied it in October. As it is a controlled product, the treatment has to be applied during a specific window so that it targets a specific part of the insects life cycle.

We were able to close the 15th and Mole plough the fairway, it was back in play the next day and has remained dry in the heavy rains experienced lately.

Some areas of fairway have become heavily contaminated with worm casts, again this has come about due to the withdrawal of chemicals from the market, and in turn worm numbers have multiplied and moles have thrived. An area on the 9th fairway has been roped off to keep traffic to a minimum.

The work weeks planned for Spring and September were completed on time and with the minimum of disruption, apart from the odd rain shower.

Decisions will have to be made on machinery maintenance later this year, which will involve a decision to replace a Fairway Mower or face a heavy maintenance invoice. All decisions of this nature are discussed with the Finance Director and approved at Board meetings.

Our greens have again developed their winter Fusarium patches, we operate a no fungicide policy and so this is not unusual. We could stunt it with an iron treatment but this would have harmed our young seedlings that were sown in September, our soil tests also show high iron levels and so we need to avoid making this worse. We will be overseeding when prepping for the new season.

Finally, my thanks to our volunteers whose work is largely not appreciated as its carried out without much publicity or fanfare, so that frees up the Greenkeepers to get on with the greens and fairways. This work done includes Flower beds, divoting, Tee boards, fencing and work around the Clubhouse and a host of other tasks, thank you again.

Social report Alex Neil

Well what a year it has been and unfortunately there were not that many Social events for us to enjoy.

Back in February/ March I met with Terry Dimond with the intention of planning towards our quincennial year (this year), and we formed a sub-committee to assist us with our tasks ahead. Oh those were the days. Dinner Dances were discussed, fund raising golf matches and much more were discussed, but alas everything was put on hold, but we are determined to enjoy 2021 as best we can and are allowed.

Our HGC Lottery still continues and I would like to congratulate all of the lucky winners and may it continue.

A huge thank you to Emma and her team for the magnificent meals they provided for us on the earlier Social events that did occur.

Finally let's all hope for a better and more successful Social Year.

Stay safe and healthy and I look forward to seeing you all at these events.