

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Evesham Golf Club Limited Held at 7.00 pm on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in the Clubhouse, Craycombe Links

#### Present

The Club Chairman, Mr Smart, formally opened the meeting for the business stated on the agenda. Mr Smart noted that it was good to be able to meet in person following last year's virtual meeting. He noted that members had been able to vote prior to the meeting using the online platform, Choice Voting, or by post/proxy. As voting using these methods had already closed, these votes had been counted prior to the meeting. Those members present who had not yet voted would be able to do during the meeting using voting slips they received on arrival. Members confirmed they had their voting slips.

The meeting then paused with a silent reflection to remember the members who had died during the year:

Dave Meredith, Patricia Saville and Bernard Hardy.

Members had been asked to pre-register their attendance and it was noted that 43 people were in attendance. The Club's golf professional, Rob Steele, was also present.

#### 1. To receive apologies for absence.

The Company Secretary, Mr Williamson, advised that notice of the Annual General Meeting had been given in accordance with the articles.

Mr Smart declared the meeting quorate and asked for apologies. Mr Williamson confirmed that he has received 37 apologies which are filed and recorded.

Mr Smart did note that the Club Captain, Brian Marshall, was not present due to Covid and was therefore self-isolating. Mr Smart hoped that Brian would be recovered very soon.

# 2. To approve and adopt the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of Evesham Golf Club Limited held on 25th February 2021.

Mr Smart explained that the minutes had been published on the Club website and formed part of the AGM pack issued to members in early February. As there were no corrections to the minutes he asked for a proposer (Brian Osborne) and a second (Pete Moore). He asked the members to approve the minutes by a show of hands. These were approved and the Chairman undertook to sign the formal minutes at the first available opportunity.

#### 3. To consider any matters arising from these minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.



## 4. To receive the Board's Report (presented by the Chairman) in accordance with Article 13.2.2.

Mr Smart then presented the Board's Report to the meeting. The written report had already been circulated to the members as part of the AGM booklet.

In brief Mr Smart's presentation covered the following:

- Recognition of the increased membership the Club has seen and the positive impact on income
- That the Board's stated objective of improving robustness of Clubs' finances and plans for investment in both course and Clubhouse continued positively. Although we have had success there is more to do.
- Review of investments in 2021 and plans for 2022
- The future (more members, stronger finances and future investment) with specific emphasis on Lady Members as this section was decreasing in size. The new role of Development & Marketing Director should be a positive in this respect.

There being no questions the Mr Williamson moved to the next agenda item.

## 5. To receive the Financial Directors Report and notify members of the loan rate of 2.0% for 2022/23.

Mr Jewkes, Financial Director, gave a presentation on the Financial Director's Report. The written report had already been circulated to the members as part of the AGM booklet.

In brief Mr Jewkes' presentation covered the following:

- Positive year for the Club, surplus in bank to support future plans and an increasing membership
- P & L for 2021
- Review of Income streams and Covid 19 impact
- Bar & Restaurant situation
- Overheads and Investments
- Overall operating surplus and reserves Year
- Member Loan Rate of 2.0% for 2022-23
- Budget 2022

There were no questions for the Finance Director.

## 6. Resolution 1 – to approve the financial accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 in accordance with Article 13.2.1.

Mr Williamson reminded the members that this resolution required a simple majority to be approved. He advised that members had been able to vote by post, proxy or by using an online voting system (Choice Voting). For members voting at the meeting Mr Williamson requested they record their votes on their voting slips. He then asked for a show of hands For, Against and any Abstentions on Resolution 1. The show of hands being used to give a "real time" result with this being crossed checked against the voting slips after the meeting.



#### **Voting Result**

Following audit of postal, proxy, online votes and votes from the meeting it is confirmed that Resolution 1 was approved by majority (128 votes in favour, 0 against and 5 abstentions). It is therefore resolved to approve the financial accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.

## 7. Resolution 2 - To re-appoint Attwood's Chartered Accountants, as Accountants in accordance with Article 13.2.3.

Mr Williamson reminded the members that this resolution required a simple majority to be approved. He advised that members had been able to vote by post, proxy or by using an online voting system (Choice Voting). For members voting at the meeting Mr Williamson requested they record their votes on their voting slips. He then asked for a show of hands For, Against and any Abstentions on Resolution 1. The show of hands being used to give a "real time" result with this being crossed checked against the voting slips after the meeting.

#### **Voting Result**

Following audit of postal, proxy, online votes and votes from the meeting it is confirmed that Resolution 2 was approved by majority (125 votes in favour, 0 against and 4 abstentions). It is therefore resolved to re-appoint Attwood's Chartered Accountants, as Accountants.

## 8. To receive a report from the Club and Men's Captain in accordance with Articles 31.2.4 & 31.2.5

Mr Williamson advised that due to Brian Marshall's absence due to ill health the Captain's report as issued would be taken as read. He recorded thanks for Brian's 2 years of fabulous work as Club Captain.

#### 9. To receive a report from the Ladies Captain in accordance with Articles 31.2.6.

Mr Williamson noted that the Ladies Captain's report had been provided as part of the AGM booklet.

#### 10. Resolution 3 - To elect the Club Captain in accordance with Article 31.2.8.

. In the absence of the outgoing Club Captain, who was due to propose John Jones as the Club Captain, Ian Tyrrell has agreed to say a few words in support of John Jones. Ian reminded the meeting what an upstanding fellow John was and that he had all the qualities to be an excellent Club Captain (wit, charm, patience and good looks!). He therefore had no hesitation in recommending John as the new Club Captain.

Mr Williamson reminded the members that this resolution required a simple majority to be approved. He advised that members had been able to vote by post, proxy or by using an online voting system (Choice Voting). For members voting at the meeting Mr Williamson requested they record their votes on their voting slips. He then asked for a show of hands For, Against and any Abstentions on Resolution 1. The show of hands being used to give a "real time" result with this being crossed checked against the voting slips after the meeting.

Voting Result



Following audit of postal, proxy, online votes and votes from the meeting it is confirmed that Resolution 3 was approved by majority (132 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions). It is therefore resolved to elect John Jones as the Club Captain for 2022-23.

Mr Ian Tyrrell presented John Jones with his Captain's tie. John then said a few words in thanks and recognition of the fantastic work that Brian Marshall had done in his 2 years of Club Captaincy. What an act to follow!

John said that he had no specific projects planned as Brian had done everything! That said his goals were to ensure that the members were able to enjoy their golf and befit from the friendliness of the Club. He wanted to reinforce the ethos of both competitive and social golf and encourage a greater integration of all the sections. At the same time, he was very keen to ensure that the integration of new members into the Club was further progressed. He concluded by noting that social golf and competition golf were not mutually exclusive. All members are here because they love the game and he wanted to encourage participation.

# 11. Resolution 4 - To elect the Development and Marketing Director in accordance with Article 31.2.8.

Only one candidate had been nominated, Mr Brian Marshal (proposed by Chris Jewkes and seconded by Geoff Insall). Mr Williamson reminded the members that this resolution required a simple majority to be approved. He advised that members had been able to vote by post, proxy or by using an online voting system (Choice Voting). For members voting at the meeting Mr Williamson requested they record their votes on their voting slips. He then asked for a show of hands For, Against and any Abstentions on Resolution 1. The show of hands being used to give a "real time" result with this being crossed checked against the voting slips after the meeting.

#### **Voting Result**

Following audit of postal, proxy, online votes and votes from the meeting it is confirmed that Resolution 4 was approved by majority (113 votes in favour, 5 against and 15 abstentions). It is therefore resolved to elect Brian Marshall as the Development and Marketing Director.

#### 12. To consider the following propositions in accordance with Article 31.2.9.

# a) Resolution 5a - LIFE MEMBERSHIP. In accordance with Club Rules, it is proposed that Jeff Fletcher be elected as a Life Member of the Club.

Mr Williamson made the following statement in support of Resolution 5a:

Over his many years of membership Jeff has served the club in several different ways most notably acting as our official photographer. This has included organising and taking all the captain's official photographs including mounting & framing plus many course photos used in promotional material. As well as this Jeff has acted as an official starter at many of our formal Open events prior to the pandemic. Due to poor health Jeff's golfing days have all but finished but the Board believe the award of Honorary Life Membership would be a fitting reward for all he has done for Evesham Golf Club.

Mr Williamson reminded the members that this resolution required a simple majority to be approved. He advised that members had been able to vote by post, proxy or by using an



online voting system (Choice Voting). For members voting at the meeting Mr Williamson requested they record their votes on their voting slips. He then asked for a show of hands For, Against and any Abstentions on Resolution 5a. The show of hands being used to give a "real time" result with this being crossed checked against the voting slips after the meeting.

#### **Voting Result**

Following audit of postal, proxy, online votes and votes from the meeting it is confirmed that Resolution 5a was approved by majority (117 votes in favour, 1 against and 12 abstentions). It is therefore resolved to elect Jeff Fletcher as a Life Member of the Club.

b) **Resolution 5a - LIFE MEMBERSHIP.** In accordance with Club Rules, it is proposed that Peter Edmunds be elected as a Life Member of the Club.

Mr Williamson made the following statement in support of Resolution 5b:

Over his many years of membership Peter has served the club in several different roles including Captain, Head of Greens (twice), Secretary of the Seniors Section and also as a Trustee. In recent years Peter has played less and less and now only plays the occasional 9 holes and the Board believe the award of Honorary Life Membership would be a fitting reward for all his years of service to and membership of Evesham Golf Club

Mr Williamson reminded the members that this resolution required a simple majority to be approved. He advised that members had been able to vote by post, proxy or by using an online voting system (Choice Voting). For members voting at the meeting Mr Williamson requested they record their votes on their voting slips. He then asked for a show of hands For, Against and any Abstentions on Resolution 5b. The show of hands being used to give a "real time" result with this being crossed checked against the voting slips after the meeting.

#### **Voting Result**

Following audit of postal, proxy, online votes and votes from the meeting it is confirmed that Resolution 5a was approved by majority (120 votes in favour, 2 against and 10 abstentions). It is therefore resolved to elect Peter Edmunds as a Life Member of the Club.

c) Resolution 6 - SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023 - In accordance with Articles 5.2.1 & 29.2, that the 7-day playing subscription for the year 2022/2023 be fixed by the Board at £970 per annum, all other categories rates will be as set out in the "Membership Classes, Subscription Rates and Conditions for Membership" rules document.

Mr Williamson asked for any questions.

Mr Ian Tyrrell asked how the figure of £970 had been determined. Mr Jewkes explained the Board undertook a detailed budget planning meeting in September 2021. This identified both essential expenditure and additional items Directors felt were needed. Using this figure and estimates about membership numbers for the 2022-23 year it was possible to determine any imbalance between the income and expenditure. After discussion the Board agreed to use some of the Club's cash reserves to set the rate at £970 (an 3.9% increase on the previous year).



There being no further questions Mr Williamson reminded the members that this resolution required a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority to be approved. He advised that members had been able to vote by post, proxy or by using an online voting system (Choice Voting). For members voting at the meeting Mr Williamson requested they record their votes on their voting slips. He advised members that that following conclusion of Resolution 8 votes voting slips would be collected and counted during a brief adjournment. Once all votes had been counted and verified the meeting would be reconvened to announce the result.

# d) Resolution 7 – To confirm that the Club will continue to use a tee booking system in the future the form of which to be determined by Resolution 8.

Mr Williamson bought the resolution to members attention. Mr Smart then made a brief statement about the resolution advising members that the Board had hoped there would not be a need to have competing resolutions. He thanked Ian Hughes for the cordial nature of the discussions despite the different views. He then asked for any questions.

Richard Saville commented that the Club had not used a tee booking system for 125 years and did not want to see one introduced now.

lan Facer stated that he joined the Club because there was no tee booking system. That said he was prepared to support the Board provided the Club rules were adhered to with respect to competitions, diarised events, and knockout competitions. He asked for confirmation on this. Mr Smart agreed that such events would (as they always have done in the last 2 years) would retain priority.

Darren Nightingale raised concerns about abuse of privileges some members appeared to have in securing tee bookings outside of the 2 week forward booking limit. He provided an email by way of evidence of this abuse. John Jones advised that the Captain does have priority and needs to book ahead to ensure he has a suitable tee time to facilitate presentations etc on a Saturday. Mr Anthony Fawcett supported the Captain in this matter. Mr Smart agreed to investigate the matter raised by Darren Nightingale and respond to him outside of the meeting.

Pete Moore said it was disappointing that such a significant change was being put forward without more consultation with the membership. Mr Smart said that he would have wanted this but the introduction of Resolution 8 at such a late stage made this impossible. He did undertake to survey members in future and further re-iterated that the Board would review the success of the Board system (should it be adopted) after 6 months with the membership. John Richards (Seniors Captain) stated that their section had surveyed their members and reported this back to the Board. He understood that the Ladies section had done the same. John Jones stated that the Men's section had not formally done this but in fairness to the Board their plan was always to review the tee booking system with the membership until the introduction of Resolution 8.

lan Hughes stated that he was aware of people playing but not using the existing tee booking system so proved it was not necessary.

Melanie Evans said new members, who were working, found the system invaluable as they knew when they were playing and therefore could manage golf alongside their busy working lives. Without a system these members would not stay and, in fact, many had joined because a system was in place.



lan Tyrrell asked what would happen if Resolution 7 was passed but neither option under Resolution 8 achieved the required majority. Mr Smart referred to their email exchange but for the benefit of the members present advised:

- If Resolution 7 was not passed then the Club would revert to its pre-pandemic operation i.e. no tee booking system.
- If Resolution 7 was passed i.e. the membership had voted for a tee booking system but neither option under Resolution 8 was approved then the current tee booking system would remain in place. The Board would then urgently conduct a survey of members to find out what form of system would be acceptable in order to obtain required majority support.

There being no further questions Mr Williamson reminded the members that this resolution required a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority to be approved. He advised that members had been able to vote by post, proxy or by using an online voting system (Choice Voting). For members voting at the meeting Mr Williamson requested they record their votes on their voting slips. He advised members that following conclusion of Resolution 8 votes voting slips would be collected and counted during a brief adjournment. Once all votes had been counted and verified the meeting would be reconvened to announce the result.

## e) Resolution 8 - To adopt the tee booking system recommended by the Board or the alternate approach proposed by a Member.

Mr Smart advised that he did not intend to say anything as the Board's position was clearly laid out. He invited Mr Ian Hughes to say a few words about the member alternative. Mr Ian Hughes then made a speech on the subject which included advising members that Mr Dave Kewley (former Club Chairman) had withdrawn his support of the proposal (a previous communication from Mr Hughes had indicated that is the Member Alternative resolution had the support of all former Club Chairmen still at the Club).

Mr Smart thanked Mr Ian Hughes and asked for any questions.

There being no questions Mr Williamson reminded the members that this resolution required a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority to be approved. He advised that members had been able to vote by post, proxy or by using an online voting system (Choice Voting). For members voting at the meeting Mr Williamson requested they record their votes on their voting slips. He then asked for voting slips to be handed in and adjourned the meeting to allow a count of all votes received which was to be observed by Mr Bill Dobie.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting so that the votes in respect of Resolutions 6, 7 and 8 could be counted and the requisite majorities calculated.

Mr Smart reconvened the meeting following the counting of votes and asked that Mr Williamson notify the meeting of the results

#### Voting Results for Resolutions 6, 7 and 8

Mr Williamson advised that following audit of postal, proxy, online votes and votes from the meeting as observed by Mr Bill Dobie the results were:



#### Resolution 6 – 2022/23 Subscription Rates

It is confirmed that Resolution 6 was approved by the required 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority (91% - 108 votes in favour, 11 against and 13 abstentions). It is therefore resolved that the 7-day playing subscription for the year 2022/2023 be fixed by the Board at £970 per annum, all other categories rates will be as set out in the "Membership Classes, Subscription Rates and Conditions for Membership" rules document.

#### Resolution 7 - To Confirm if the Club will retain a tee booking system or not

It is confirmed that Resolution 7 was approved by the required 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority (87% - 179 votes in favour, 26 against and 4 abstentions). It is therefore resolved that the Club will continue to use a tee booking system in the future the form of which to be determined by Resolution 8.

Resolution 8 – To adopt the tee booking system proposed by the Board or the alternate approach proposed by a Member.

It is confirmed that Resolution 8 chose the Board system by the required 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority (69% - 118 votes in favour, 52 against and 4 abstentions). It is therefore resolved that the Club will adopt the tee booking system proposed by the Board.

There being no other business the C	Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm
Andy Smart, Chairman	