

DRAFT

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON 8 FEBRUARY 2019

Captain Brian Jamieson opened the meeting by welcoming 79 members to the 142nd Annual General Meeting of Airdrie Golf Club.

Notice calling the meeting taken as read.

The Captain asked for one minute silence in memory of members who died in the last year; Margaret Cowan, Alistair Wynnes and Ian Scott.

Apologies were received from J Watt, C McBride, G McComb, S Turnbull, J Morrison, J Russell, W Russell, K McIntyre, G Caulfield, Craig Arthur, M Stewart, J Russel and R Russell.

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 9 February 2018 was proposed by Glen Rankin and seconded by Sandy Turnbull.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Jim Lewis had requested forfeited bar levies to be shown as a separate line in the accounts. This has been added under unused bar cards.

Gordon Taylor asked about the possible refurbishment of the disabled toilet. However due to the current financial restraints this work was not considered a priority. However if the financial situation improves a refurbishment would be looked into.

Further to James Higgin's request to reinstate Sky Sports – the Treasurer had confirmed the cost for a year's subscription which was in excess of £5200 which included a discount of £1300. It was decided this was excessive and reintroducing Sky Sport could not be justified under the current financial position.

Michael Chubb asked about plans for the existing pool room – again if the clubs financial position improved this area would be considered for an upgrade.

Frank Rodgers asked whether there would be any benefit in acquiring specialist machinery capable of heavy duty work in soft ground conditions. The Head Green keeper he felt that the benefit would be minimal and the cost prohibitive.

Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2018

Captain Jamieson referred the members to the Income and Expenditure Accounts which show a loss of £20,639 for the season 2017/18. He explained that the main reason behind this loss was a reduction in ordinary members from a budgeted figure of 335 to a figure of 302. While the club managed to attract 27 new ordinary members during this period there was a loss of 56 members. This reduction could not have been predicted, as the majority of resignations came after the AGM. Mostly members failed to pay their subscriptions with no indication as to their reasons for resigning. Captain Jamieson felt resignations could be attributed to the weather during 2016/17 and resultant course closures, along with the ability of golfers to obtain cheap golf through various offers.

Sponsorship continues to generate significant amounts of revenue, along with the Joker Lottery and the Invitation Day. Bar profits, and visitors Income was down substantially, this being a direct consequence of the course closures during the period between November to March. Spending on the course itself was kept on target and expenditure on the clubhouse was within budget mostly due to reduced heating bills.

The level of deficit is clearly unsustainable so going forward ways must be found to reverse the trend of decreased membership. It is important the club can market itself in innovative ways which make it stand out from other local clubs.

Subsequently a sub-committee was set up, which included Danny Dickson and Gerry Dearie, to look at innovative ways to attract new members. The introduction of the summer membership was not a success with only two members taking up the special offer. The 18 month deal that has now run for several years was again reasonably successful. Captain Jamieson thanked Danny and Gerry for their input and all members who contributed with alternative ideas

Budget

The Captain explained this year's proposed budget had to take into account last year's deficit so remedial action has been taken to balance the books. The proposed budget is based on an Ordinary membership of 295. At present there are 316 ordinary members. The budget assumes that the proposed increase in fees will be passed by members, together with an increase in 20a and 20d subscriptions which reach 75% of the full subscription this year.

There are budget reductions in petrol, oil and repairs as the proposed acquisition of new greens and tees machine on the same lease agreement will reduce the repairs expenditure. A saving in wages for greens staff had to be achieved and this meant releasing the apprentice greenkeeper whose wage subsidy was finished. Savings in the staff wages within the clubhouse budget of £2000 is proposed along with a reduction in expenditure on repairs, furnishing and bar requisites of £7000, which is possible if ongoing repairs can mostly be carried out in-house.

Acceptance of the Budget and final accounts was proposed by Willie Fortucci and Seconded by Alan Hall.

Annual Report

Captain Jamieson advised the Gents Locker room refurbishment was completed in March 2018 providing 143 large and 83 small lockers, with the project coming in on budget. The Captain thanked everyone involved in the project and in particular to Ian Telford, Project Manager, Bill & Stewart Gilchrist, Allan Gillespie, and Brian McLeod. A donation from Robbie Kennedy helped with the refurbishment of the stairwell and foyer.

New piping and radiators have been installed in the clubhouse, ladies toilets upgraded and new tables purchased for the members lounge.

Social events over the past year have been very successful and Brian praised Bill Gilchrist for his enthusiasm as Social Convenor, Sadie and the bar staff for their support along with the great food provided by Ace Catering. The introduction of the Armistice Day Challenge was very well supported with £2000 donated to the British Legion. The World Cup social events and quizzes proved very popular.

The year was hugely successful for Airdrie Golf Club on an individual and Team front. The Gents team won the Lanarkshire 1st division title for the first time in 34 years. Captain Jamieson offered his congratulations to all 15 players and Team Manager John Main on what has been an unforgettable year. Greg Dalziel won the 2018 Scottish Boys order of merit and represented Scotland in the Boys Home Internationals at Royal Dornoch. He also Captained the Scottish Boys Team in the European Team Championships in the Czech Republic

An ambitious winter program proposed last year was not undertaken due to the extreme weather conditions. However drainage and re-turfing work was carried out and this proved beneficial. Large areas on many greens were affected by snow requiring remedial work to bring them back to playable condition. There then followed the driest summer since 1976 which meant greens staff had to be focussed to ensure we did not lose any greens. Astro Turfing of paths has progressed well this year at almost no cost to the club. Glen Rankin, Greens Convenor has been instrumental in sourcing free Astro turf for the club. Robbie Main has started construction on the wall at the 3rd tee and Captain Jamieson thanked him for his contribution.

No questions were raised and the report was noted.

Resignations

The following resignations were duly noted.

Edward Fleming, Karen Glen, Gerry McGuigan, David Ross, Scott Shevill, John Gardiner, Allison Callander, Jan Mills, James Paterson and James Donald.

Recommendations from Committee

- a) That Past Captain D Gardner, Mrs R Robertson and Mr Arthur Smith having reached 50 years continuous membership be admitted to Rule 3 Honorary Membership APPROVED
- b) That the subscription for the season 2018/2019 be increased to £695 or other such sum and the current bar levy be discontinued APPROVED
- c) That the subscription for the season 2018/2019 for Rule 20g be increased to £330 or other such sum APPROVED
- d) That the subscription for the season 2018/2019 for Rule 20g(1) be increased to £430 or other such sum APPROVED

- e(i) That new members be given an introductory discount of 15% for a period of 2 years
Amendment 1 – If the new member has received a discount in the past they will not receive the discount (Proposed by Alan B Hall, Seconded Danny Dickson)
AMENDMENT APPROVED

- e(ii) If the new member is introduced by an existing member, the existing member will be entitled to a one year discount of 10% on their annual subscription when the new member has paid their second year's subscription.

Amendment 1 – If the new member is introduced by an existing member, the existing member will receive a credit on their bar card equal to 10% of their annual subscription when the new member has paid their second year's subscription.
(Proposed Jim Lewis, Seconded Alex Brown)

Amendment 2 – Status Quo, Proposed by Ian Cochrane, Seconded by Alan Gillespie

Members Voted thus:
Amendment 1 - 36 votes
Amendment 2 - 30 votes

Members Voted thus:
Committee Recommendation
Amendment 1 - Majority

AMENDMENT 1 APPROVED

- f) That a new five weekday membership category (Rule 20K) be created. Play will be permitted in Wednesday medals but not in Club match play competitions. Such members will have no voting rights and no free access to reciprocal golf courses. The proposed annual subscription for this category is £525 or other such sum.

Amendment 1 – That a caveat is added to the Committee Recommendation that five day members cannot win any Club Trophies (Proposed by Ian Watt, Seconded by James Higgins)

Committee Recommendation
Amendment 1 - Majority

AMENDMENT APPROVED

- g) That the Watt Medal Competition revert to the arrangements prevailing prior to the 2018 AGM.

APPROVED

Member Proposals

- a) That, in recognition of his service to the club, Mr W Campbell be admitted to Rule 3 Honorary Membership
- b) That the T.B. Main Trophy is returned to its original format
- c) That Sunday Medals can be played every Sunday during the golf season.

APPROVED

APPROVED

Amendment 1 – Status Quo (Proposed by David Morrison, Seconded William Campbell)

Members voted thus:

Member proposal

Amendment 1 -Majority

AMENDMENT APPROVED

Captain Brian Jamieson thanked the committee for their huge contribution to the day to day running of the club. He thanked his wife and family who had given him the support which allowed him to carry out his Captain's duties. Specific mention was made of the Treasurer, Secretary, Robbie Kennedy, Dan Russell, and Simon McLean but many others had also contributed. Brian then introduced Vice- Captain Ian Telford and presented him with the Captain's Medal and wished him a successful year.

Captain Telford paid homage to Brian's tenure as Captain and also thanked John McAuley, Past Captain, for his six years service on committee. Captain Telford explained his priorities will be recruitment and retention of members, as well as increasing lady and junior members. The initiatives introduced last year for junior golf and Get into Golf will continue. Ryan Corrigan and Robbie Main will run the Junior Team. A Child Protection Policy will be published and Yvonne Shaw and Andrew Caskey will take on the Child Protection Officer role.

Election of Office Bearers

Captain Telford thanked David Morrison for his service as President and introduced Robin Wood as the new President, with Ian Simpson as Vice-President. Jack Craig was introduced as Vice-Captain. Gino Russo re-elected as Treasurer and Rosemary Appadoo elected as Secretary. There are 3 vacancies this year with 3 nominations therefore all were agreed.

Appointment of Auditors and fixing remuneration

It was agreed that Benson Wood and Co be re-appointed at the existing fee.

Any Other Business

Alex Alexander – Sustainability of membership referring to the resignation of John Gardiner due to him putting in a complaint which was subsequently leaked out with committee.

Bill Gilchrist advised members that the apprentice greenkeeper, who was released by the club, had found employment with an outside contractor, through the efforts of the committee.

Ian Cochrane asked that the Committee upgrade the Gents Toilets as a matter of urgency.

Danny Dickson suggested the Captain's board should not be updated until after election.

Captain Ian Telford thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.16pm