

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at  
Withington Golf Club,  
243 Palatine Road, West Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2UE  
on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

Copies of the business agenda, list of attendees and list of apologies are attached.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all members to the meeting and asked that all sign the register that is being circulated. He asked the General Manager read the list of apologies and asked the floor for any further names (see attached).

The Chairman stated, that all are welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting, but reminded the meeting that only Full Members of the Club are entitled to vote, this excludes anyone under 18 years of age, Country, Student, Affiliate, Temporary, Social and guests.

The Chairman stated that it is always sad to lose friends and this year is no exception. A moment of silence was requested for the sad passing of friends: – Alec Gallagher, Don Schofield, Gerry Dwan, Marjorie Warren, Ron Price and Peter Napier-Heny.

The Chairman asked that the Notice convening the meeting be taken as read. This was duly approved by a unanimous show of hands.

The Chairman asked that the previous minutes of the AGM held on the 19th October 2018, which have been publicised and posted on notice boards, be taken as read.

The Chairman asked for agreement that the minutes are a true and correct record. This was duly proposed by Jacqui Bliss, seconded by David Bentley and approved by a unanimous show of hands.

The Chairman asked that the Annual Report, that has been circulated, be taken as read. This was duly approved by Judith Quine and seconded by Martin Igoe.

The Chairman stated that he had very little to say as the quality of the professionally prepared written Reports of the Directors speak for themselves.

The Chairman invited the Finance Director, Mr Brian Fleetwood to give an overview of the accounts for 2018/19.

As for last year there are separate accounts for the CASC entity and the more recently formed Trading Company. The formation of the Trading Company was required to ensure that the CASC entity remained within CASC regulations and in particular the £100,000 limit on income earned from non-member trading and property. Broadly, bar trading and room hire activity falls to the trading company as do sponsorship monies. Subscriptions are payable to the CASC. Green fees and other miscellaneous income also remain predominantly in the CASC entity. Green fees for members' guests do not count towards the £100,000 limit.

Income from car park and other rentals fall within the CASC entity and this income is allowable in the CASC entity against tax. All course expenditure is met by the CASC.

The Trading Company has made a gift aid donation to the CASC. Over the year income and expenditure of the Trading Company are equal.

Thanks to the continuing targeted efforts from the marketing team underpinned by the excellent presentation of the course to create the best product, membership is up and subscription income remained stable. Green fees and society income is, for the same reason, higher this year. Other income has remained stable.

Additional income has been received from the Highways Agency who required access across the Club's land to repair the motorway pillars.

We have also released some accruals which were held on the balance sheet contributing to the reported income.

Tight controls on expenditure continue and once more it should be recognised that it is the hard work of the Directors, staff and members that allows us to offer such good facilities and present the Club and course so positively to visitors and members. We continue to operate on a lean budget and there is very little scope to reduce routine expenditure without significant changes to the service offered to members and visitors.

We have however made decisions to spend money prudently where that expenditure will improve the course. In addition we took the decision to improve facilities through the creation and refurbishment of the new Centenary Lounge. The creation of the new bar will enable us to make better use of the main Clubhouse bar through private hire.

We made a small surplus in the year and this appears to indicate a healthy position. However, caution must be exercised as the regular income streams are not covering costs, one-off receipts cannot be relied upon in the future, and in the case of the release of accruals this does not represent new money. As a further caution, while income from green fees, visitors and subscriptions has been healthy in the year, this level of income is uncertain and could be negatively impacted by circumstance out of our control.

The Board is fully aware that there is an imbalance between income and expenditure and that we have had the good fortune over recent years to avoid serious negative impact through the receipt of one-off income.

Despite the loss of income, the Board has decided to terminate the arrangement with the motorcycle training company as parking availability is an issue. The Board believes that the area used by the company is better used by the Club.

Given the analysis of income and expenditure communicated over the past years, it should be no surprise that we were projecting a deficit again this year, a deficit in excess of £10K. The Board realises this is not sustainable but is aware that in the short term this is manageable.

Clearly events since the start of the year have meant that actual performance differs marginally from budget.

On a positive note, the Highways Agency has entered into a four year contract to allow access to maintain motorway pillars.

The unintentional flooding of the course has however caused major disruption. We have lost assets. We have lost income. We have expended additional effort and we have directed effort and costs to rectification rather than to maintenance and course improvement. And we have, no doubt, lost future income. All of this forms the basis of a claim, first directed towards our insurers who will deal with the Environmental Agency. A further element of the claim includes loss to members, both to equipment and loss of playing facilities.

With no questions, the Chairman asked for the approval of the Finance Report. A Wilding proposed the accounts be adopted and was seconded by Ken Marsh.

The Chairman stated that he was disappointed that no members had come forward to fill vacancies on the Board and as a result he will take over the role as Finance Director with Martin Keates to act as Chairman. We look to fill any further vacancies with the right people with the right skills.

### **Proposed changes to the Articles of Association**

*Resolution 3* - Management of the Club has been withdrawn

*Resolution 1*

#### **27. PLAYMORE GOLF**

*27.1 The Board shall have power to admit any Gentleman or Lady as a PlayMore Golf Member. He/she shall have all the privileges of a Member of the Club except that he/she shall be subject to playing restrictions as determined by the Board or, notwithstanding any other provision of the Articles take part in the management of the Club or vote at any General Meeting.*

This was duly approved by a show of hands

*Resolution 2*

Due to the lack of nominations for Board appointments and subcommittee there is a requirement to move any barriers for nominations. As a result, the Board wishes to reduce the criteria of Full Member from three years to one year.

#### **6. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

6.2 Any two Members, each having been a Full Member of the Club for at least *one year*, may nominate any Member who has been a Full Member of the Club for at least *one year*, to serve as Chairman or as a Director or to serve on any of the Sub-Committees of the Board, (having previously obtained his/her consent), by entering on the nomination sheet the name of such Member together with their own names as Proposer and Seconder.

This was duly approved by a show of hands.

The Chairman stated that the flooding of the golf course in August with a second flooding three weeks later was caused by damage to a sluice gate close to Northenden Weir that the Environment Agency were aware of. They have made a temporary repair and a new sluice gate has been ordered and will be fitted by the end of the financial year, April 2020.

Fortunately, we do have insurance against flooding and the Club is in negotiations with loss adjusters and loss adjusters as we believe this will be a substantial claim in the region of £250,000. Preliminary compensation for the loss of play may result in a 20% discount off members' annual subscription in 2020/21. This is being challenged.

Other uninsured losses are also being investigated:

Green fee income

Bar and catering income

Room hire

This could be tricky, as the claim is for loss in business disruption of a two-year period.

When we are able, ground will look to provide additional drainage on the course, over seed damaged areas before year end and again in Spring 2020. We continue to engage with the EA to see what further assistance they can provide.

The Chairman read the nominations for the Election of Honorary Officers; Captain, Lady Captain, President, Club Directors and Sub-Committee Members for 2019/20 as stated in the nomination notice. All were duly elected by a show of hands and unchallenged.

This concluded the end of the formal part of the business and the Chairman called for a 15-minute recess.

On resuming the Chairman asked the Lady Captain to address the meeting.

The outgoing Lady Captain stated that for some of the newer members may wonder what the Lady Captain does, apart from being an ambassador for the Ladies Section at this and other Golf Clubs? Well, she is the Captain of the Ladies Section, and is the Chair of the Ladies Committee. The role is similar to that of the Golf Director, but only in relation to Ladies golf.

The Lady Captain may attend Board meetings if she chooses, but does not have a vote and/or any management responsibility at the Club. I chose not to go to many of the meetings, but did receive the Directors Reports, so had a good idea of what was going on, I think!!

I hope I have earned the respect of those people who did not really know me before the start of my year as Lady Captain and not disappointed those who did!!

I am more than grateful to the ladies on Committee who have worked hard to deliver the Ladies' competitions, matches and handicaps. We had the new rules of golf for 2019 to think about and have implemented these and relayed details to all the ladies by email and by posting in the Ladies locker room.

Time for reminiscing some of my highlights for the year. In no particular order:

I was very lucky to be teamed up with Steve Emmett as Captain, and Bob Ganley as President, they have both been great fun to work and play golf with Bob's speeches, and his history walk around Manchester, have been more than entertaining. And, Steve's trousers speak for themselves!!

Whilst 3 of our ladies reached the grand age of 80, one lady (Kath Barton) knocked that into the park with the celebration of her 90th birthday! We had a celebratory afternoon tea event which Kath described as the best party she'd ever had!!

The Ladies Weekend away was at Herons Reach and we were fortunate to have good weather (no rain), and the course was fibulas!

I had forgotten how special Lady Captain's Day is. On a perfect day for golf, I received lots of good wishes and gifts. It was really heartwarming and my Lady Vice Captain won the competition with a great score. Perfect.

There were other special days too, the Easter Scramble, the Friendship Day at Heaton Moor and even the Exchange Day at Crewe. Thank you to all the organisers.

I have continued to enjoy Monday morning gardening with the other volunteers. We were surprised and pleased to receive a box of chocolates each at Christmas from Brian Farrow, how nice was that. But, we would welcome more volunteers to join us please!!

As for my golf, well I started the season by winning Spring Meeting and finished by winning Autumn Meeting!!! How about that for symmetry?

Finally, thank you to everybody who has supported our charity this year, The Christie. I have been a patient, a fundraiser and a volunteer at the hospital, and am very grateful that we have raised over £6000.

I am ready and pleased to hand over the baton to our Lady Vice Captain, Angeline, and I wish her an enjoyable and successful year ahead.

Angeline joined the Club 5 years ago with her husband Paul and quickly joined in with the Mixed Golf and Social scene. She is another one who likes wearing jazzy golf trousers and I am sure we will see more of those this year!!

Angeline will be the first 7 Day member to be Lady Captain and has established herself as a popular and well respected member of the Club as a whole, not just the Ladies Section and has become a very good golfer. So, all bodes well for the year ahead.

Enough from me, I am hoping for your support to make this another good year at Withington. And, with that, can I invite you please to have a drink with The Captain, President and myself.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Lady Captain was unable to attend this evening meeting due to a prior commitment and was in transit due to arrive shortly.

The Chairman invited the President to address the meeting.

Well that did not last long did it? But you know what they say; doesn't time fly when you are having fun and frolics? Friday Frolics that is.

Thank you Ladies for making me so welcome in this form of golf and of course in the many Mixed competitions that I have played this year. What a great experience it has been and I hope to continue my involvement.

Despite the poor weather on the day, my President's Prize to the Ladies was a particular highlight of my Presidency. The day was so enjoyable that I did not want it to end.

After such a full year, you reflect on what you will miss. The second Team Matches were a particular highlight. So thank you Mr Consistency John Seymour, mighty Nick Furness and laser focused Phil Hill. How could we lose? Well we did actually, but only 1 match, with 2 wins and 2 halves. Definitely a potential qualifier for Europa League if we transfer this to a premier league performance.

Now what about own bon viveurs on the Social committee. I refer of course to Kara and her inspired leadership of the group, ably assisted by her devoted committee. Great events have taken place this year, quiz, race and comedy nights, everyone a gem that enables us to feel a community bond beyond our common love of golf.

Golfing days out! A particular perk of Presidency. We had a lovely time at Cavendish up near Buxton? It is almost as if I had been transported to Switzerland so good were the views. Thanks to John Goddard for the fun and games at both mine and Mr Captain's expense afterwards, but all for the good cause of the Captain's Charity. Another great day at Preston. I was paired with the mighty Martin Keates. After a shank and an argument with a sandbox our golf improved. 3 down at 1 stage, we fought back to all square, only to lose at the last hole.

A chance to support the Captain's charity was an opportunity for what turned out to be a lovely Sunday afternoon at the beginning of September. 25 well behaved members of the Club were taken round Manchester for my historical tour of the city. Thanks to you all for turning up and enjoying a beer or 3 in the hostelry that we accidentally discovered after the walk.

Now I hate to use the old proverb of wisdom, 'every cloud has a silver lining' especially with the late Summer and Autumn that we have endured. However there was an unexpected upside to the bad weather. We had a most wonderful turnout for the Presidents Lunch which became a standalone event. Some 50 members gathered in the Centenary Lounge to spend a leisurely and truly enjoyable afternoon free from any other obligation other than to eat, drink and socialise. And what a great use of our new room that the House Committee led by Gaz, have so painstakingly worked on. A special thanks to Gaz for this. It is great that we see the room being used more and more? A definite plus to the atmosphere of our Club. I will always have very fond memories of this event. Sometimes an enforced change creates new thinking.

President's Day was a day of great elation and even greater humility. Elation for the honour of representing the Club for 365 days, but humility also, as you realise the enormity of the commitment that has been made by so many members to your special day.

Where do I begin? Well at the first tee of course. I thank Pat McKendry, as the official photographer on 3 occasions, the President's Lunch, President's Prize to the Ladies, and Presidents Day. He has left me a great compilation of photos to treasure.

I have tried hard this year to become acquainted with all the members in the Club, it is impossible. This you realise on President's Day when you stand at the 1<sup>st</sup> tee and greet the players. You come to know a large majority but not all. Why is it unachievable? Tony Longden and the dynamic marketing team of course. Their success in achieving a steady in flow of new members throughout the year prevents even the most ambitious attempt to know everyone. Tony and the team are punching hard to attract new members who are the life blood of the Club.

On the first tee also, a big thank you to the starters on both days.

A particular honour that came my way this year as President, was to present, on behalf of the Club, a gift to Gary our Course Manager who has served the Club with great distinction for 40 years. So over the traditional breakfast, myself, Gary, Tom, Lee, Rob and Adam, enjoyed a great hour together. And wasn't the course in absolutely tip top condition, until Mother Nature and the EA conspired otherwise? Thank you Gary and Eric, for your indefigatability as Grounds Director, through good times and bad.

Thank you also to those who offered communal commitment to those who have competed. Would not the day be an anti-climax without the dedicated commitment of those who man and woman the tent at the 18<sup>th</sup>?

The day's work on the course finishes, but what is going on in the office where numbers are crunched and results delivered? A particular thank you to the markers on the two President's Days. A thank you to all on Match and Handicap for the unseen work that is done in ensuring that we have a coherent programme of varied golfing events through the season, and for the task of closing competitions and publicising the results promptly.

Time for relaxation as both prize days draw to a conclusion. Before tucking in to the meal, let us feast our eyes on a floral display to brighten the spirits. Thanks to Joan for providing a cornucopia of dazzle, not once, not twice but on the 3 presidents occasions this year.

What would President's Night be without the meal and drinks to fully round off what was a great day? Thanks to Kath, Mark, Ella, Chelsea, Avtor and Kiran not just for the set piece occasions but throughout the year.

Thank you friends for sharing my President's Night. Just like the Last Supper with more guests than at the original one. You get to sit in the middle like Jesus, but nothing nasty happens the day after, except a bit of a headache.

Patrick, thank you for the support and advice given throughout the year, and a thank you for forwarding all the documentation that was required to members, especially around the occasions of President's Day.

Now, who am I talking about? She hits it straight most of the time. Thank you Lady Captain for your great company this year. I thoroughly enjoyed the Texas Scrambles and the bank holiday competitions played, and of course your great support and advice throughout my presidency.

Now who am I talking about? He hits it straight now and again. Is there a man in the Club who is as affable as our own Mr Captain? It has been a great pleasure working and playing alongside you this year Steve. I look forward to our great clash sometime next year following our 1 all stalemate after your brilliant performance with Mr VP on Saturday.

I hope that you will now be able to enjoy a holiday with Diane, but for God's sake get Diane a decent set of clubs so she can ditch that mashie niblick you bought her at the charity shop.

So, Withington Golf Club, one body, but many different parts all offering a great service. Two I mention with gratitude, and 1 I mention in awe. Thank you, Seniors Section for brightening up our Summer mornings with a pleasant stroll around a course followed by pie. I was going to say dinner, but on reflection, it always comes with a crust. And all the better for it I say. Thank you to the gardening group who put in the hours improving our golfing environment, whether in the immediacy of the clubhouse, or around the ponds of the 16<sup>th</sup> tee and elsewhere.

And what is awesome? I came to realise the complexity of the organisation of our Club. Its survival is dependent on the goodwill of so many members working separately, communally, and freely giving of their time, as highlighted. I express my thanks to the Board, the committees and to our Chair Tex McIvor.

Friends what has been a particular pleasure of Presidency, has been the opportunity to play with as many members of the Club as is possible. This year has enriched my life immeasurably because of this, and I will be forever grateful to the Club and to those who recommended, advised, supported and ultimately granted me, the honour to fulfil this role.

Now members, our soon to be, new President threw down a challenge, he said Bob, here is my CV, try and make it interesting to the punters. What do you do? I asked, 'I'm an accountant.' He replied.

But luckily, I know that your next President had done a lot in his life to overcome this disadvantage, and so things have not turned out as bad as they might have been. However, further research revealed disturbing intelligence, namely that he is an ambidextrous Scot, who shows psychopathic tendencies on a football pitch, and suicidal ones on the ski slope. Out goes dull in comes dangerous. The Boston Strangler meets Robert the Bruce.

Born in Edinburgh in the early 60's, his family moved south to Manchester when only 7 and as a sad consequence, he lost his posh Scots Edinburgh accent.

Hard to believe but there are almost two of him. An identical twin brother Keith who now lives in South Africa, is meant to be a better golfer than our dear to be President.

So where does the ambidextrous bit come in? In unenlightened times in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was considered to be a sign of the devil if you were left-handed as indeed our next President was. He played golf that way but was encouraged to play right-handed by a golf Pro as left-handed clubs were difficult to come across in the 60's.

Sadly, until very recently, the support he has given to his two favourite teams has to a large extent, been the kiss of death on them. The glory years of Edinburgh based Hibernian when they won the Scottish league 3 times in the 50's occurred a few years before he was born. His arrival in Manchester as an 8-year-old to support Manchester City, co-incided with their last major triumphs of the late sixties until very recent times. Well City came good eventually, just waiting for Hibernian to wake up from a 70-year slumber now.

So, members you don't really want your new President to transfer his allegiance to your favourite club do you?

A natural sportsman himself, a keen runner and a county badminton player for Cheshire when younger, he is now aiming now for a place on Strictly. The love of his life Andrea has worked on his pirouettes. Mr President elect seems quite keen on dancing but has some reservations about where Andrea puts those stilettos when practicing the Argentine tango.

Two sons, Iain and Matthew and now a recent grandfather to grandson Theo, he really is nothing like his sporting alter ego. I am proud to have known him for years. There isn't a more friendly affable person in the Club. It has been my great pleasure to renew my playing acquaintance with our soon to be President this year. Give a great WGC greeting to your new President Al Stewart.

Thanks Bob for those kind words. Praise from a headmaster? That never happened to me at school! Maybe I went to the wrong one.

Mr Captain; Lady Captain; Past Captains and Presidents and fellow members. I am both honoured and delighted to represent our Club as its President and I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and playing golf with you.

I would like to thank Steve, Lynne and Bob for all their hard work in the past year. I am sure you will agree that they have been a great team and a very difficult act to follow.

Thanks to everyone at the Club for your good wishes and support and to the outgoing Board members for their hard work. Also, a warm welcome to the new Board. Thanks to the ground-staff for their tremendous efforts under extremely difficult circumstances.

Also to my wonderful wife, Andrea for her great encouragement in getting me to play more golf! It's already cost me a few new outfits and dresses and none of these are mine!

I feel very fortunate to be President. I can recall being asked "Why I had accepted the role?" "It's because I was asked", was my reply. After all, this Club means a great deal to me, for

the fun and friendships it has given for over 40 years. Truth be told, it was my best chance of getting onto a Board these days!

And now, having proudly become part of the “youth policy “ for the Seniors Section, my main concern is not that Bob will remember to leave the President’s parking space empty tomorrow morning, but that I will too!

I am very much looking forward to working with Steve and Angeline, fellow City fans. Indeed, an all blue election result this year. What Boris Johnson would give for that!

It is a unique role reversal for Steve and myself. 7 years ago I was Captain and Steve as President. I am sure that we will have as much fun as then and hopefully raise a lot for our chosen charity, which you will hear about shortly.

Now the more astute amongst you will have observed that Angeline is not here. Some of you will be aware that she qualified to play at Turnberry. You could not turn that opportunity down. I did try to arrange a video call with Angeline but sadly was prevented by the new security implemented by its paranoid owner, Donald Trump. I don’t know, 5 minutes into the job and I’ve been trumped by another President!

Now speaking of President. I now have the pleasure of revealing the next vice-President. This person has had a varied career. Started off in banking and then ran a successful business for 16 years. Has been a member for nearly 30 years. Has served the Club in many areas and been an enthusiastic supporter of Mixed golf. Describes their golf as, started as a beginner and not made much progress, but still trying! But some might say is the better golfer in the family, and here’s a good clue. Has been Lady Captain twice and until most recently was Secretary of the Ladies Section. I think you may well have got there now but I give you our President for 2020/21, Brenda Dagnall. Brenda, I am sure everyone wishes you all the very best for your year, which as you know, arrives much sooner than expected.

Finally folks, I look forward to seeing you at the drive-in on Sunday morning and at the welcome night on the 16<sup>th</sup> Night which will be an informal night with great music and a late bar. But before then, at the bar where we would be delighted if you could join us as soon as this meeting is finished.

Thank you and have a great evening!

The Chairman asked the retiring Captain to address the room.

Mr Presidents’ old and new, Lady Captains’ old and new, members of Withington Golf Club.

What can I say? It has been an unforgettable year in more ways than one! Obviously the weather particularly over the last couple of months has been awful and it has been a very trying time for all of us, but I am not going to dwell on the negative side of my year as Captain, just the positives.

It is a funny old year being Captain, all the Captains give you advice and I have really appreciated it. Make the most of it. It will be over before you know it. Try not to get involved

in the Club politics and just enjoy yourself are sentiments that I have heard over and over again and how true they are!

When I first started it felt like I was an imposter parking in Martin's space and everyone calling me Mr Captain or Skip. I have just started getting used to the idea and actually feeling like the Club Captain and my time is over. It really does go so fast.

There have been many highlights to the year. I have really enjoyed all the functions we have had and would like to thank Kara and all the Social Committee for all their hard work. Captain's Day and Night was very special to me. It was a day I will never forget with so many of my friends from inside and outside the Club there to support me on my big day. I can only describe the day as like being at your own wedding, a strange mix of stress and enjoyment.

I loved the quiz that Mr President's pal Mike put on and hope we can get him to come back. I really enjoyed the Captain's Prize to the Ladies day. The weather was not great, but the day had a really lovely feel to it.

The Picnic to Cavendish was another brilliant day along with the trip to Preston. I just wished I had booked the Monday mornings off work afterwards.

The real highlight of my year was getting to play with Steve Marr in the team matches and the Captain's Pro's Challenge matches. Steve has had lots of problems of his own with Debbie being very ill but he is still been there for me. As you all know my game is very erratic so it has been wonderful to have someone so reliable as a partner. Steve and I were unbeaten on our team matches and only lost one game in our challenges. Well done to Martin Keates and Tom Keely who thrashed us that day. I hope they enjoyed their day out on me.

Thanks to all the other professionals from the other clubs, it was great to play with them and all the other Captains who I am sure will remain friends for life.

We had great weather and great fun on our Charity Day hosted by Paul Parker and supported by the very amusing Denis Taylor. Thanks to Mike McPherson for giving up so much of his time to help me with this. We did get to go and play a couple of nice courses as an excuse while we were banging our heads together arranging it. I am pleased to say that over the course of the year with our various fund raising activities we have managed to raise £7,000 for Christies. Thanks to everyone for supporting this especially Mr President for being a good sport getting dowsed in wet sponges along with myself at the Picnic in the Park event. Thanks to everyone who sponsored a hole for the charity too.

I am now going to say a few thank you's. Hopefully I will not forget anybody but knowing me I probably will. If I have forgotten to mention anyone it is not personal.

I would like to thank Gary and his team for all their hard work with the course this year. I know it cannot have been easy. Up until the flood the course was the best I have ever seen it. I lost count of the number of people from the other Mersey Clubs who commented on how good it was especially on the day of the Mersey Shield (less said about the score of that the

better). After the flood the ground staff had so much work to do and I really appreciate all their efforts.

I would like to thank all the Board members who give up an awful lot of their own time to help run this Club. Special thanks to our two retiring Board members. Dave Hunter has done an unbelievable job along with his Match & Handicap Committee. There is also Brian Fleetwood who had just finished 2 terms as Finance Director. Eric Botham has had his work cut out this year with the problems over the last 2 months. Well done Eric. Gaz Unsworth also spends hours and hours every week trying to keep this ageing building going. Tony Longden does a wonderful job with his marketing team in pushing the Club forward and gaining new members. Jacqui Bliss has not been a member for long but has already helped with lots of things at the Club and is now the Ladies representative. Thank you Jacqui. Thanks also to our hard working Chairman Tex McIvor. Unless you know what actually goes on here you will not know how much of his time he gives up. It has been a real eye opener this year getting to know how this Clubs works and I will not be taking things for granted anymore.

The person who has probably given me the most help and support this year is our Secretary Patrick. Only those of you that have been a previous Captain really know all he does so thanks again Patrick.

I would then like to thank all the guys in the Pro Shop. I have mentioned Steve already but thanks also to Andy, Debbie and all the other part time helpers. Then there is everyone who work behind the bar and in the kitchen. Especially Kath who does a fantastic job, Avtar whose food gets better and better and Kieran who is charm itself.

I know I have been able to go along to any do's yet and when I did try I was too young but I need to thank the Seniors Section for all their support.

Thank you to Joan Scott for looking after our Charity account this year and for her great flower arrangements.

There is our Lady Captain Lynne to thank. I have enjoyed getting to know you better this year and I hope you have enjoyed our matches together and the added excitement of playing out of the rough, trees and bunkers. This straight golf is far too boring!

Thanks to our President Bob Ganley, a true gentleman who I have also got to know well this year. I spoke about him on his night so I am not going to repeat myself but needless to say it has been an honoured to work with him this year.

Finally my wife Diane. Thanks for all your support. Do not worry the holidays are about to start again!

My next job is to introduce your new Captain for 2019-2020 Steve Wells.

Born in Wolverhampton in 1952.

Lived in Willenhall in the Black Country one of twin boys (non identical).

Went to Pool Hayes Comprehensive where he excelled at his studies and learnt the cello. Like myself he went to Manchester University but 12 years earlier so our paths never crossed although I must have sat in the same lecture theatres at the medical school at some point. Steve played rugby for the medics 2<sup>nd</sup> team until they all had their names taken by Leeds police after trashing pubs in the town centre. Apparently Steve was an innocent bystander so not wanting to be associated with these tearaways he joined the University Symphony Orchestra and has played in orchestras ever since.

His main stint has been with the Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra where he has been the Principal Cellist for over 30 years.

After graduating and having various house jobs around the North West Steve decided to go down the pathology path. Maybe it was his bedside manner but I cannot possibly comment. Steve was appointed as a consultant Histopathologist (he looks down microscopes) in 1983 until he retired in 2011. His list of achievements in his field are endless.

After retiring full time he has since undertaken a part time post performing post mortems and is doing an Open University History degree.

On a personal note, Steve married Jean the love of his life in 1988 and she persuaded him to move back to Didsbury from Bolton.

Steve is an avid Manchester City fan and a keen skier and walker. He climbed Mera Peak in Nepal at 21,247 feet.

Steve started playing golf in his late 40's and found WGC in 1998.

He is our first ever Captain who has previously been President.

Folks I am finally saying it, I think it's all over, it is now! May I present your new Captain Mr Stephen Wells.

The Captain stated that he would like to thank Steve Emmett for his kind introduction and say what a great honour I regard being asked to be Captain of this great Club, particularly as I have already had the pleasure of being President just a few years ago. I had thought that was to be the height of my achievement.

As many of you will have realised, I am not a natural sportsman and certainly not a natural golfer, so getting to the dizzy height of Captain is very flattering. I would particularly like to say what a great pleasure it is to be teamed up with Al Stewart again as we exchange our previous roles and to be joined by our new Lady Captain, Angeline and Junior Captain Lewis Davies. We all have difficult acts to follow as the outgoing team has been excellent with Steve at the helm so full of novel ideas and energy.

I will do my best to match the high standard set by Steve and all the recent Captains. I would also like to personally thank members of the Board for their hard work in what has been a difficult year latterly. I personally experienced the hard work of the marketing team in increasing our membership so effectively and was amazed at the very positive attitude even during weeks of flooding. We look forward to the new year of sunshine, green fairways and great golf!

I did not take much persuading for your new Lady Captain and President to agree to this year's charity to be Parkinson's UK, a cause close to my heart. You will all be aware of the disabling effects of this condition and how new drug therapy has enabled those afflicted to lead active lives, even playing golf, and I hope that one of their representatives will be able to join us on the Captain's welcome evening to give us a brief insight into the work of the charity.

It now gives me great pleasure to announce the next Vice Captain, a gentleman who I have always held in high regard, a longstanding member of the Club who travels great distances to play here and who will always be a better golfer than me. He is Ken Hulme. Thank you for accepting that role and I look forward to us playing together in some of the Club events next year.

Finally, it is my pleasure, along with the President and Lady Captain, to invite you all to join us in drinks at the bar and perhaps to raise a glass to our golf club and to good fortune in our next year together. Thank you.

The Chairman thanked Bob, Steve and Lynne for all their hard work over the last 12 months and wished the Captain, President and Lady Captain all the very best for their year ahead.

The Chairman invited the Lady Captain to say a few words.

The Lady Captain apologies for her late attendance, as she had just rushed back from playing a tournament in Scotland!

I would like to give a big thank you to Lynne for all the hard work she has put into her second stint as Lady Captain. I think that we will all look back on your year as another successful and enjoyable one in very trying circumstances. I think you will remember Mr P's inspirational orations for many years to come and Mr C for his flamboyant dress (a man after my own heart!).

The Lady Captain stated that she would save the remainder of her speech until the Captains' Drive In on Sunday. It was her pleasure to invite you all to join her for a drink at the bar.

The Chairman stated these are difficult times, managing the finances of the Club, engaging with our loss assessor and loss adjusters, but be assured, we will have the golf course back to full playing ability as soon as possible. Please join me in thanking the ground staff for all their hard work in these difficult times, and please if you see any of the staff on the golf course, thank them personally.

The Chairman thanked all for attending. The meeting closed at 8.50pm