

Chairman's Report 2021

I think its safe to say no one could have anticipated what has taken place over the last year and the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on everyone's life. I am thankful that the large majority of us have stayed safe and with the vaccine roll out taking place at speed, hopefully very soon we will be able to get back to a place of normality, whatever that may be.

From the outset of this report it is very important on behalf of the Main Committee, to thank everyone for their loyalty and support during the past year. We realise that the golfing year was severely affected with a number of Government enforced closures, yet come subscription renewal time in October, the large majority of members paid their fees on time and without issue. As I have said many times, it is that level of commitment to our club that will ensure it survives and indeed thrives over the coming years.

Although golf may not have been played for a large part of last year, work carried on improving the course and facilities wherever it was possible. As is highlighted within other reports, the most significant spend occurred updating our fleet machinery to ensure our Course Manager Adam Lund, has the best materials available to produce a course everyone can be proud of. The course is and will continue to be, the main focus of any future spending as it is acknowledged that a great course is the one of the main components of a successful club.

From a Main Committee point of view there have been a number of changes during 2020 which included recruitment of a new Honorary Treasurer following Graham Maddison standing down from the role. Ian Ross took over at the start of February and will be known to many members given his family links to the area and the club. I have been really impressed with the work Ian has undertaken already and am sure he will be an asset to our club in the coming years.

Moving forward, following a management review during 2020, a number of recommendations were taken forward and will begin to be implemented during 2021. These include looking at our club rules to ensure they are fit for purpose, a review of our office administration structure to ensure it is appropriate to our business need, implementation of recommendations from a Health and Safety Audit as well as reviewing current Committee structures. A series of working groups will be set up during 2021 to assist with work. I think it is very important that members outside the Main Committee get involved in this work to help frame how our club will look in the future. We have a lot of talent and expertise within the membership of the club and it would be foolish not to utilise this whenever possible. Therefore, I would ask anyone who wishes to help to contact the Honorary Secretary for further details.

With everyone pulling together over the next couple of years I expect our club to improve further in all areas, cementing its place as one of the best clubs in County Durham and the North East. Everyone should remember we are all part of the same club, are stronger working towards a common aim and are weaker when individuals follow self-benefitting ideals.

Finally, I wish to thank all members of the Main Committee for their hard work during the past year. I must pass particular thanks to Vice Captain / House Chairman, Colin Sturdy for his tireless work to ensure when we were allowed to open last year, the clubhouse was a safe place to enter. I also would like to wish Captain, Dave Liddell a productive second year in office.

Kevin Sample
Chairman