



## HONITON GOLF CLUB

Notice is hereby given that the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held in the Clubhouse on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023, at 7.30pm

### AGENDA

The meeting will be opened by the Chairman (Alan Pollock)

**1. Minutes.**

- (a) To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
- (b) Matters arising from those minutes.

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

**3. To receive and adopt the financial statements for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

Presented by John Tierney

**4. To elect, under the provision of Article 33.3 proposed by Mr M Pipe.**

- |                 |                 |             |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| (a) President   | Mr A P Hill     | re-election |
| Vice Presidents | Mrs P Blackburn | re-election |
|                 | Mr T Dimond     | re-election |
|                 | Mr S Martin     | re-election |
|                 | Mr P Wall       | re-election |

**5. To elect under provision of Article 34.1**

- |                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) Mens Captain  | Paul Willey Proposed by W Broom     |
| Mens Vice Captain | Mark Parkinson Proposed by P Willey |

**6. To Introduce and Welcome the Ladies, Seniors' & Juniors Captains**

- (a) Ladies Captain 2023 – Jayne Jackson
- (b) Seniors Captain 2023– Bob Graham
- (c) Junior Captain 2023- Josh Lane

**7. Election of the Management Board**

Four vacancies are available on the Management Board for 2023.

In accordance with Article 7.2 two members have been nominated. Therefore no ballot was necessary. The following two members will serve on the management board for up to 3 years.

NICK WHITTAKER

ALAN POLLOCK

**8. Chairman's statement on proposed special resolutions (no vote)**

As outlined on the final pages of the booklet.

**9. To re-elect Easterbrook Eaton as Accountants.**

**10. Other business or questions from the floor on which no resolution may be passed.**

By order of the Management Board

Alan Pollock

Chairman



**HONITON GOLF CLUB LTD**  
**MINUTES OF THE 99<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON**  
**THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 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 64 voting MEMBERS

**APOLOGIES** had been received from 17 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 16 people.

**1a) MINUTES** The Minutes of the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held by post due to Covid 19 on Thursday 25th February 2020 were accepted as being a true record. Proposed by Alex Neil seconded by Jackie Seager and duly signed.

**1b) MATTERS ARISING:** No matters arising.

**2. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The Chairman began by saying his report was included within the AGM booklet, but he would highlight the main points.

During these difficult times the priority of your Board has been to ensure the viability of the club financially, to deliver the best possible experience of competition and social golf, and improve the course and the clubhouse facilities for members, visitors and guests.

The course reopened on the 29<sup>th</sup> March to members only with competitions being resumed from the 12<sup>th</sup> April. It is fitting that the first competition we held in our 125<sup>th</sup> year was Founders Day. Restrictions on hospitality remained in place until July but we established an outside dining facility under a marquee, which allowed the club to offer hospitality to members and visitors until restrictions were lifted and we were able to reopen the clubhouse.

Despite the disruptions to the business caused by Covid the Board has continued delivering its policy of investment in the course in accordance with our 5-year plan

Despite the disruptions to the business caused by Covid the Board has continued delivering its policy of investment in the course in accordance with our 5-year plan. We invested in a new fairway mower and took delivery in August.

Thanks to Stuart and his team we have continued to deliver the major elements of the 5-year programme of course development and improvement. The highlights include improvement to the drainage on several greens and fairways enabling the course to remain playable in conditions where previously it would have remained closed. The ongoing programme of raising the canopy on many of the trees has reduced the number of lost balls and speeded up play. Sadly, we had to remove some trees because of diseases such as ash die-back. Members will remember that some months ago we reported that were looking at the options and costs of extending the clubhouse to provide a function room, increasing the size of the restaurant and providing disabled access to the upstairs areas. bar and restaurant. The Panel reported in November that the original part of the clubhouse, which is timber framed, was in poor condition and was well past its design lifespan of 25 years. They considered that the only sensible option is to replace the clubhouse rather than build an extension. As this would be a major financial commitment, members should be reassured that the Board will not take any decision without a full consultation and approval from the members.

Membership has continued to grow with the number of members (all playing and social categories) being 617 in November 2021 compared with 553 in January 2021 and 552 in January 2020.

The member's priority as identified by the 2019 member's survey was an improvement to the practice facilities. To investigate ways of delivering this we engaged a course designer to evaluate the options available to include a short game area and a driving range.

In summer 2021 the Board set up a panel to review the management structures of the club and determine if the current arrangement of a part time manager and a part time accounts assistant is sufficient to meet the current and future needs of the business. This panel reported to the Board in November who are considering its findings. What is clear is that changes in the form of more resource is required in the office to enable the club to continue to meet the needs of a growing membership and increasing numbers of visitors and societies.

Managing the club during these challenging times would have been impossible but for the dedication of my fellow directors, staff and the many volunteers who give their time freely for the benefit of all members. The Board thank all members for their support during the last two years and we hope that the coming year will give us the opportunity to play our game and meet our friends safely without the need for any restrictions.

### **3. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2021**

John Tierney began by saying his report and company accounts were included in the AGM booklet, and asked if there were any questions relating to the accounts.

Jason Gosling asked why the members had not been informed of the membership increase in 2020, John Tierney replied that this was for new members joining, not for existing members as we were holding the subscriptions to help manage the Covid closures and had also done this for 2021 renewals, there had been no increase for current members for 3 years.

Mike Drew asked that if membership is on the increase and what was saturation point, John Tierney replied that it was something that had been discussed but we had not reached that point yet.

Dan Meek asked if more detail about the accounts and cash flow could be passed to the members, and if forward budgets could be produced for members to see. John Tierney replied this would be a lot of extra work. Which he could do but questioned to what benefit that would give, Dan Meek replied a forward budget would keep the members informed as to why subs have had to increase and would show what the money would be used for. John assured the membership that no large projects or large spend would go ahead without membership consultation.

Bill Eaton suggested as a members club, members had a right to know, John replied that the accounts are a record of the clubs finance and there was no hidden agenda.

Paul Borkowski suggested that as the club was in a sound financial position in order to offer more of an experience to younger members, could the club install sky sports, Paul had done some research on cost, and would be £112 per week, Paul will forward the information to the board for discussion.

Mike Drew asked if we had considered having the assets re-valued as it would almost certainly be higher and would make the balance sheet more robust, John Tierney agreed this would be something to consider.

To adopt the financial statements was proposed by Simon Martin & seconded by Wayne Broom and voted unanimously.

### **4. TO ELECT UNDER PROVISION OF ARTICLE 33.3:**

Max Pipe was standing down after 5 years as president and due to the sad loss of Alan Jackson new President and Vice Presidents were required.

#### **4a) Election of President – Mr A P Hill**

Proposed by Max Pipe seconded by Alex Neil and was voted unanimously. Max introduced Paul and gave some background, Paul became a Vice president in 2011, had served on the Executive committees, represented the club at all levels and has supported the club in many ways over his 45 years of membership. Paul replied he was very honoured and humbled to be President and would serve the club to the best of his ability and asked of the members to please talk if there are any problems.

#### **Re Election Vice Presidents –Mrs P Blackburn**

Proposed by Max Pipe seconded by Jason Gosling and was voted unanimously.

#### **Election of Vice president – Mr T Dimond**

Proposed by Max Pipe seconded by Rob Sexton and was voted unanimously, Max introduced Terry and gave some background, Terry joined the club in 1996 and became Club Captain in 2008, Terry sat on the Executive committees and had been Vice Chairman of the club, Terry has always been involved with the social side of the club and more recently set up the club 250 lottery arranged monthly social events, and has recently developed a course history and film of the course.

#### **Election of Vice President – Mr S Martin**

Proposed by Max Pipe seconded by Barry Dunn and was voted unanimously, Max introduced Simon and gave some background. Simon has been a member for 56 years and is the longest continuous serving member, Simon has also sat on the Executive committee and was treasurer for over 10 years

#### **Election of Vice President – Mr P Wall**

Proposed by Max Pipe seconded by Mike Sennitt and was voted unanimously, Max introduced Phil and gave some background. Phil joined the club in 1986 was Club Captain in 2001; he sat on the Executive Committee holding several post including Club Chairman and treasurer. Phil ran the children in need circus for 28 years and has and still is running the Club Christmas draw.

**5. TO ELECT UNDER PROVISION ARTICLE 34.1**

Neil Pulman said he had enjoyed his captaincy having completed 2 years in the position, he thanked all the members and team Captains, Stewart Slater Palairet, Ross Latchem Parker Trophy, Dave Carnall East Devon League, Wayne Broom B Team

**Mens Captain – Mr Wayne Broom**

Proposed by Neil Pulman Seconded by Max Pipe and voted unanimously. Neil presented Wayne with his club blazer. Wayne gave some background and said having only joined the club in 2016 was honoured and privileged to be Mens Captain and thanked Neil for doing a full 2 years.

**Vice Captain – Mr Paul Willey**

Proposed by Wayne Broom seconded by Bob Graham and voted unanimously.

**6. TO INTRODUCE AND WELCOME THE LADIES CAPTAIN SENIORS CAPTAIN & JUNIOR CAPTAIN 2022**

- 6a) Ladies Captain Sarah Loader
- 6b) Seniors Captain Rob Sexton
- 6c) Junior Captain Pierre Clifford Were all introduced by the Chairman.

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

The Chairman announced that there were four vacancies on the Board and six nominations had been received, the three candidates receiving the most votes would serve for up to 3 years, the fourth for up to 2 years.

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
Peter CLARKE	Proposer	Alan Pollock	201
	Seconded	Stephen Butcher	
Olwen EATON	Proposer	Stephen Butcher	120
	Seconded	Mike Watts	
Jason GOSLING	Proposer	Julian Hoyles	73
	Seconded	Ian Jeeves	
Vera RICHARDSON	Proposer	Alan Pollock	177
	Seconded	Penny Blackburn	
John TIERNEY	Proposer	Neil Pulman	208
	Seconded	Paul Hill	
Bob UNDERWOOD	Proposer	Alan Pollock	137
	Seconded	Michael Sennitt	

- 1 John TIERNEY Will serve up to 3 years
- 2 Peter CLARKE Will serve up to 3 years
- 3 Vera RICHARDSON Will serve up to 3 years
- 4 Bob UNDERWOOD Will serve up to 2 years

Returning Officers:

Print Mike SENNITT

Signed

Date

08/02/2022

Print Mike WATTS

Signed

916 votes cast

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

#### **8. TO ELECT UNDER PROVISION OF ARTICLE 43**

Honorary Life member Mr Max Pipe, fully supported by the board, proposed by Paul Hill seconded by Peter Clarke and voted unanimously. Max thanked everybody for what he felt was the highest accolade a member could receive and was honoured to be included amongst the members that had been given that honour.

#### **9. TO RE-ELECT EASTERBROOK EATON AS ACCOUNTANTS**

Proposed by Simon Martin, seconded by Penny Blackburn Easterbrook Eaton were unanimously elected Accountants to serve until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

#### **10. OTHER BUSINESS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR ON WHICH NO RESOLUTION MAY BE PASSED.**

Jason Gosling asked why when track and trace was in place some members had booked a guest with them and no name, Alan replied that at the time (2020) track and trace was required for all entering into the clubhouse and all names were taken even if not on the start sheet Jason added why was this still allowed, Adrian Cave explained that if a member wished to play in just a 1, 2 or 3 ball the unfilled slots would be booked as Guest on the booking system.

Jason Gosling asked why last years AGM was done by post and not via Zoom, Alan Pollock replied that the broadband would not support a large meeting and by doing by post, all voting members had the opportunity to vote, and AOB questions were sent via email. Jason asked what provision would be put in place if future meetings could not be held, Alan Pollock replied that a large investment would be required in broadband and broadcasting equipment. Such an investment would not be made for something that was unlikely to be required in the future. If the situation arose in the future, we would assess the situation at the time.

Roy Bumpstead said that members need to realise that subscriptions will need to go up so that investment in the clubhouse and course would be possible. Clubhouse improvements have been discussed and Roy asked how far down the road are we and is there a time frame. Alan Pollock replied that there was no time frame at this point but a group of members with building expertise had indicated that an extension to the clubhouse was not a cost effective or viable option. A new clubhouse would be more viable and sensible; Roy said a time frame needs to be put on it before the current clubhouse falls completely into disrepair.

Paul Borkowski asked about the course architect and development and when would the members see the ideas and have a presentation of the developments that have been suggested, Alan Pollock replied that we are at the stage of obtaining costings and it would be few months before we would be at a stage ready to present any proposals to members.

Jackie Seager suggested that new ideas needed to include the members to bring them along with the journey and thought that bringing them for discussion at member's forums would work; Alan Pollock felt that was an excellent idea and would move it forward.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.55 pm.

## **Chairman's Report – Alan Pollock**

It is again my privilege as Chairman to report to members and advise you of the achievements the club has made in the last twelve months. This is the first full year that the club has been able to operate without restrictions since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020.

### Course

The Board has continued delivering its policy of prioritising investment in the course. Completing planned improvements to drainage, building paths to protect high traffic areas well as delivering improvements to the 12<sup>th</sup> green and removing bunkers which are no longer required. We ordered a replacement greens mower in September 2021 with an expected delivery in April 2022, which, because of supplier constraints has not yet been delivered. Members will be aware of the supply problems currently being experienced and green keeping machinery much of which is manufactured abroad is no exception. At the time of writing our supplier cannot give us a delivery date. We will continue using our newer greens mower to cut greens and restrict the older more unreliable second mower to cut aprons and tee boxes.

The condition of the course continues to improve under the expert care of Stuart and his team. While the wonderful summer weather was great for golfers the dry conditions was an extra challenge for the greens staff to meet. The club has access to a private water supply used to irrigate the course; the extreme weather meant that to protect the greens we had to supplement that supply with mains water at a high cost.

### Hospitality

Off the course thanks to Emma and her team the quality of our catering continues to impress members and visitors. New for this year was the introduction of themed dining evenings and Emma's Sunday lunches continue to be well supported by members.

Early in the year our long serving bar manager Andras Roth decided to change career and handed in his notice. He and Eva had served the club for over six years. I would like to record our thanks to Andras and Eva and wish them well in their new venture. In common with all sectors of the hospitality industry recruitment and retention of staff has been a major problem since Covid. The recruitment process, sifting applications conducting interviews is very time consuming. Especially when we invite applicants to interview and they do not turn up which happened to us several times. We recruited a bar manager who decided that golf club hospitality was not for him and left in September. This would have resulted in periods when the bar could not have operated due to shortage of staff.

We want to record our thanks to Lynne Stabb who came out of retirement and ran the bar service from September to December. Following a second recruitment campaign the board selected Helen Clarke who took up her post as bar Manager in January.

### Clubhouse

On the recommendation of the clubhouse working group we commissioned a survey of the clubhouse in order to determine the viability of refurbishing and extending the existing premises versus a demolition of the existing clubhouse and constructing completely new facilities . The report, which was circulated to members, intimated there wasn't much difference in cost between a complete new build and a refurbishment of the existing clubhouse. With both costs being around the £1.5 million mark but with the new build being zero rated for Vat and the refurbishment attracting a 20% addition for Vat. This is in fact incorrect as vat is only zero rated for new build domestic dwellings not commercial buildings. Further the floor area for a new clubhouse indicated in the report was 290m<sup>2</sup> but the existing clubhouse without any

extensions is approx. 570m2 therefore the new build costs indicated were very misleading and would be approx. double to that indicated in the report.

Since the member's information meeting in November, Nick Whitaker has met timber frame manufacturers, roofers and a structural engineer to assess the condition of the existing timber frame and roof structures and obtain costings.

The structural engineer has confirmed that the existing roof structure is basically sound and with some minor works would be able to incorporate solar panels. The timber frame has had further inspection panels created and the evidence from those inspections indicate that the existing frame is sound enough to upgrade and re clad with provision for likely isolated repairs.

Further to these investigations a more realistic budget estimate of £800K inc vat to include upgrading and recladding the exterior timber frame walls , replace the roof covering with a light weight standing seam roof sheeting , and form a new extension including fitting solar panels on the roof, a lift to access the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and toilets on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor .

We are taking this option forward by commissioning an architect to produce preliminary design and schematic drawings for presentation to the members so that the proposals can be seen in detail.

### Membership

Membership continued to grow with total membership on 31<sup>st</sup> December being 665 compared with 618 in December 2021. The biggest increase was in male playing members from 384 in December 2021 to 419 male full playing members in December 2022. There were 64 Ladies playing members in December 2021 with a reduction to 62 in December 2022. Honiton continues to be able to attract new members with many reporting that the condition of the course is the primary reason with friendliness of the welcome to new members also being given. The small decline in the ladies membership is at odds with latest information from England Golf which is that while in 2017 about 12% of members of UK golf clubs were ladies, in 2021 figures on golf participation in UK and Ireland show that 34% of golf course users are ladies. It is predicted that woman's sport will be one of the biggest growth areas over the next seven years. The board are delighted to support an initiative from the ladies section for the club to seek Women in Golf Charter status which seeks to grow the number of ladies playing golf.

### Management

In summer 2021 the Board set up a panel to review the management structures of the club and determine if the current arrangement of a part time manager and a part time accounts assistant were sufficient to meet the current and future needs of the business. The board considered the panel's recommendations and feedback from our office staff and club manager Adrian. We concluded that that the workload had increased since 2014 to such an extent that the club needed a full- time manager. A recruitment exercise attracted sixteen applications, and after a structured selection and interview process, we welcome Devon Greenslade to Honiton Golf Club as Manager and wish him success in his new role.

This recruitment was successful in no small part due to the guidance of a member who has extensive experience of recruitment.

### Social

The Club ran a full programme of social events throughout the year including the Honiton 125 Celebration event delayed from 2021. We wish to thank Terry Dimond and his helpers who have successfully run the Honiton 250 lottery with social events centred on draw nights. The spring and autumn quiz nights were

again well supported and the board want to thank Max and Maggie Pipe for organising those evenings as well as for the first time since 2019 the Mystery trip.

Managing the club during these challenging times would have been impossible but for the dedication of my fellow directors, our staff and the many volunteers who give their time freely for the benefit of all members. But it is the members that give our club its character and the board thank you all for your support and wish you a successful year in 2023 on and off the golf course.

### **Lady Captains Report- Sarah Loader**

My year as Lady Captain has been extremely enjoyable and has flown by. This was the first year without any Covid restrictions and it was good to get back to some sort of normality.

The Ladies section had a full year of fixtures superbly organised by Jackie Seager and Liz Rogers. We averaged 35 ladies playing each Wednesday and had a successful drive to increase the numbers playing at weekends. We played for our usual club cups and trophies across the season and our Champion this year was Ann Trayling

We entered teams for the President's Trophy, Annodata Trophy and the Sheelah Creasey Bowl. It was with great pride that we saw the Sheelah Creasey team reach the semi-finals of their competition.

My thanks go to all the ladies for their support giving time and baking, for our Charity events. I am delighted that as a section we raised £1981.00 for Diabetes UK. I must though give special thanks to Jayne Jackson, my Vice Captain, and our Working Group, who met with me every month and made sure the year was as smooth as possible.

None of this would have been possible without the support of: my fellow Captains; the Golf Committee; Adrian; the staff in the Office and Pro Shop; Emma and her fantastic team; Lynne, Trevor and all behind the bar; and of course, our wonderful Green keeping Staff.

Thank you all.

### **Men's Captains Report – Wayne Broom**

What a year we've had, record breaking temperatures, our monarch's Jubilee, which was sadly followed by the Queen's passing, war in Ukraine and a cost-of-living crisis. Thankfully things were not quite so extreme for our club.

Even faced with the scorching weather over the summer the course has been a credit to Stuart and his team throughout, the excellent feedback about the course received from members and the many visitors I had the pleasure to meet, underpins the superb work that our ground staff do. Thank you to Stuart and all the team for your efforts.

A real highlight for the men's section was winning the Dartmoor League. Congratulations to Julian Netherway and his squad for a cracking achievement, good luck this year in the new league. The East Devon League took place after a two-year hiatus due to Covid and our lads came a respectable third, many thanks to skipper Dave Carnal.

We had mixed results in the B-Team, with room for improvement but good laughs and banter, many thanks to my VC Paul Willey for his efforts.



Our club championship as last year was won by Ben Philips, congratulations.

Of course, the clubhouse and bar have been very busy all year. Many thanks to Emma and her team, all the bar staff and Adrian and Tadd in the pro shop.

I am delighted that the club has raised £6640 for this year's Captains Charity DiabetesUK, many thanks to all members for their extraordinary generosity.

Good luck to all the captains this year.

### **Seniors Captain Report – Rob Sexton**

Fortunately this year we have had a full programme of golf following the pandemic. The weather too has been kind and, until the last few weeks, we had lost virtually no competitions on Fridays throughout the year. All our Honours Board competitions were able to be held and my congratulations go to all the winners, who also received glass trophies this year as recognition and as a memento for their success. At this juncture I would like to thank the Pro Shop staff for all the work they put in to ensure our Fridays run smoothly and to the greens staff who have prepared the course in such fantastic condition.

I have fully utilised the Past Captains this year, and called them for a meeting on three occasions rather than the traditional one in October. I have found their help, advice and experience most beneficial and I would fully recommend any future Captains to make full use of this resource. Thank you gentlemen for all your assistance and for making my year that much easier.

Through that forum we agreed to reintroduce subscriptions this year, combined with a request for members to register as a Section member, and this means that we now have a definitive list of members of the seniors. In total 132 registered and of those, 126 played in our Friday competitions over the 12 month period. I introduced a number of unusual formats, sprinkled amongst our standard methods of play, including Lucky 7's, shambles and the use of mulligan's, with the intention of making our golf a little more fun, and hopefully this worked and that the majority at least enjoyed something a bit different.

Unfortunately, despite several efforts, I was unable to persuade the Board to allow us to return to 2-tee starts; that will be a matter for discussion later. With a view to trying to recreate the atmosphere we used to enjoy I reintroduced the leader board and made a minimum of two sets of announcements so that everyone had the chance to hear what was important for them to know. I think this was successful to a degree, particularly in latter weeks, but it remains a disappointment that many of the competition winners were not present at the prize giving, and those that were did not receive the plaudits from their fellow players that we used to enjoy. In respect of announcements I also introduced a Seniors Information Page on the website, so that everyone, regardless of whether they were in attendance or not, could learn what was going on within the section.

Another initiative I introduced was a Scratch Championship this year in recognition of the fact that low handicappers can find it difficult to compete with their higher handicap colleagues in key competitions, as there are often several of those higher handicappers who have a really good day. We also agreed to rename the Ron Blatchford Trophy as the Seniors Championship, giving it full recognition for the status it holds within the Section.

Our three Opens were a success with much positive feedback from visitors, particularly with regards to the course conditions, and my thanks goes to the organisers of these events, Bob Graham, Mike Sennitt and David Scott, for their efforts, as well as the various volunteers who helped to make sure everything ran smoothly. We had problems at the first one, with a serious logjam at the fourth tee, but that was resolved for the other two competitions by placing a ball spotter on the green to ensure the call-on policy was adhered to, which I have recommended for all future club Opens.

We played all our matches this year, with 13 having been won, 15 lost and 5 halved. Unfortunately we lost over two legs to Exeter, which meant they took the Stan Parker trophy away with them. My thanks goes to all those who volunteered to play, especially those who were regular team members and to everyone who stepped up to the plate when I was short of team members – you really made my job so much easier. I think we had a really good team spirit this year, which made the matches all the more enjoyable. I must also say thanks to Phil Wall in particular for all the hard work he has put into arranging the fixtures and preparing the match forms for me – well done, Phil. And also to Emma and her team in the restaurant for the fabulous meals she regularly provides for us – our reputation as a gourmet's delight has been successfully restored!

We took part in four main competitions as a team this year, the Jurassic Challenge, the Emerton Court, Stag Trophy and the Pheasant Trophy, and, whilst we did not manage to win, the teams did well and I'd like to thank all those who represented us and to Alan Pollock for making all the arrangements.

My Captain's away day was held at Staddon Heights GC near Plymouth and, given that it is a coastal course, we were most fortunate with the weather; the course was most enjoyable and 32 members joined me for a day of entertaining golf. We also held our Ladies Night and traditional Xmas lunch and I have to thank George Blake, Max Pipe, Bob Graham and Mick Swann, and Andy Manley for having entertained us so royally during those events.

Finally I really must thank my Vice Captain, Bob Graham, for all the support he has given me this year. Nothing has been too much trouble for him and we have worked really well as a team, which has made my job so much easier than it could have been. Between us we have created some new posts for his term of office, and they will partially comprise a Captain's Committee, taking a significant amount of the work away from the role, so hopefully he will have a very successful, enjoyable and stress-free year. I wish him all the success for next year and I know he will be a really capable and popular Captain.

And finally (really this time) a big thank you to all the Section Members. Taking over as your Captain is a daunting task, one which filled me with some trepidation as I did not know how I would be received or whether I would do a good enough job for you. I have to say that everyone has been most supportive and good-humoured, and that has allowed me to thoroughly enjoy my year as your Captain. I only hope that you see it that way too. Thanks to you all.

### **Finance Report for year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - John Tierney**

Welcome to my report on the finances of the club. I hope to be able to explain some of the highlights for the year passed and convey how the current year is going. We have achieved another solid set of financials for the year with a surplus of £105,068. This was a small increase on the previous excellent year which produced a surplus of £97,409.

#### Income

In broad terms our income was approximately £50,000 ahead of the previous year. This was helped by our three main income streams. Our membership income was £45,000 higher as a result of additional members and the rise in our subscription. Green fees were also very positive and raised £137,730, some £37,000 ahead of last year. Green fees were helped by the excellent summer but also our increase in rates. It reflects well on the course, our green staff team and justifies the Boards investment in the course. Finally, the bar surplus recovered to pre-covid levels and was £14,000 ahead of last year.

The positive contribution from these income streams helped to more than replace the ending of the Job Retention Scheme and Leisure Grants which had helped us by approximately £50,000 in the previous financial year to navigate through the crisis.

## Expenditure

I will break this down into the 3 main groupings that we use in our budgeting.

### Course Maintenance

We spent less on green staff wages which reflects the redundancy cost that we incurred in the previous year. We spent £22,000 more on the materials, fuel and supplies used in maintaining the course. This was expected as in the previous years we had run down our stocks and done what we could to rein in expenditure during Covid. Overall the course Maintenance was £12,000 lower than the previous year.

### Club House

We spent £15,000 more in running the club house when compared to the previous year. This is, in the main, down to the club house being fully opened when compared to the previous year.

### Administration

This increased compared to the previous year mostly due to three things. The end of the Council Tax holiday meant over £6,000 more spend when compared to the previous year. With the re-opening of the Club the contract with the Golf Professional Returned to its pre Covid level adding £8,000 over the previous year and we spent £10,000 with a course architect as we continue to look for options to invest and improve the course.

Finally, depreciation was a little higher as new machinery was included in the calculation and our Corporation Tax liability rose because of, the profit from our visitor's green fees.

## Balance Sheet

We had over £457,000 in our cash reserve at the end of the year, an increase of approximately £107,000 from the previous year whilst also repaying the remaining £20,000 of member loans that helped to see us through some more challenging times.

It is important to retain some perspective on our cash position. We have rebuilt the club's finances over a number of years now but the cash we hold still only covers a year's expenditure in broad terms. You are all aware of the club house discussions going on and the likelihood is that a portion of our cash will be required as well as additional fund raising.

## Current Year

Whilst our cash reserve is currently around £487,000 and a little up on the year end figure we are in the time of year when we see the balance reducing whilst our income from Subscriptions and green fees is at its lowest. This trend usually starts to reverse around Easter time and our budgeting would point to a much reduced but still a surplus for the current year.

We have included in the above outlook the costs of refurbishing the Bungalow and the initial capital outlay on two new machines which is part of our capital replacement. Order times are currently ridiculous and we are awaiting delivery of a machine ordered in October 2021!

### Beyond the current year

It is likely to be a very challenging time balancing the income and expenditure. We are all aware of the current inflation figures and how this is impacting our own budgets. So far we coped well with these pressures with an excellent long term tie in for Electricity until January 2024 as an example. At that time our electricity bill could increase by £20,000 a year. We have excellent staff and to keep them means that we need to pay them competitively in the local market. This will mean a rise in our wage bill. Our aggregates for the course, fertilizers and fuel are costing us more.

It is hard to predict the effect on our income of tougher times but in being prudent we need to budget for these to fall back from the current levels.

### **Director of Golf Report- Neil Pulman**

After having to deal with Covid restrictions for over half of 2021 it was great to return to the normality of competitive golf for the 2022 golfing year. Not having to deal with previous Covid restrictions made the running of Opens, Comps etc much easier (even though always a challenge) both on and off the course.

We held regular Golf Committee meetings throughout the year and thanks to all the committee members involved. In addition to other tasks the committee's main responsibility is to ensure golf competitions, matches, opens etc for both the club and sections are fulfilled and organised as planned.

All our planned Opens took place this year and due to the great weather, none had to be rearranged. Again, our Opens were well supported by both visitors and members alike. We continue to gain new members and we have had a lot of visitors and societies visit the club. We have had numerous positive feedbacks from visitors and societies both on and off the course.

As per last year the diary is complete for 2023 and most of you will have received one, if not they are available from the office or behind the bar. A big thank you to all involved and to members and businesses that placed an advert in the diary. I am sure there will be dates to add and amendments to make as the year goes on.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone involved (in any capacity) for their help in ensuring golf continued as we know it throughout 2021. Hopefully there will be no more Covid restrictions imposed on us for 2022 as we move towards normality.

I personally would like to also welcome our new full time General Manager (GM) Devon and also a big thank you to our outgoing GM Adrian for his hard work, help and assistance.

### **Junior Report- Adrian Cave**

Firstly, thank you to Pierre Clifford for his excellent junior captaincy, and running a great junior Captains Day raising funds for the junior section; a job well done!

This year's juniors continued with Wednesday evening coaching, ably delivered by Tadd, thank you to him. Thank you to Bill & Olwen Eaton for organising and overseeing Saturday morning juniors with parents & grandparents, getting them on the course as often as possible, and thank you to Paul Clifford for his help over the year.

This year some of the Junior trophy events were played and it was great to see the winners attending the club's annual prize giving to receive their trophy alongside all the Mens, seniors and ladies club trophy winners.

This year we will be challenging for the Basil steer trophy (interclub Junior knockout) and the East Devon junior League which is being reintroduced this year. Good luck to the incoming captain Josh Lane and all the juniors.

Finally thank you to all our sponsors, club staff, club members, and parents all of whom add to the enjoyment of our junior members.

### **Greens Director Report – Stuart Broom**

A very successful year on the course was experienced during 2022. Up until the autumn we had an extremely dry year, this has now evened itself out with a total rainfall total for 2022 of 1280mm.

The summer was spectacular for golf, but threw up some difficult situations for the greens team. We suffered with a lack of water towards the end of the drought, but we managed to prioritise the greens and keep them looking and playing very well. On the whole the course was in great condition through the year, with many good comments from members, guests and visitors.

There were lots of improvements made throughout the year, to name a few:

- Re-shaping of right hand 11th greenside bunker
- Improved 7th tee area
- Removal of hedge by the putting green and improved aspect behind 1st tee.
- Drainage on 12th green, bunker removed and a new 'runoff' area created
- New path and drainage improvements on 13th hole
- Improvements to 11th tee (ongoing)
- Removal of old/unnecessary bunkers

The greens team has changed this year. We made the decision during the summer to expand the team and go back to a team of 6, and with Phil Everett unfortunately departing; we decided to employ 2 new members of the team. Sam Dabner and Dan Rigby started in August and have settled in really well. Rob Cockwill, who joined us in August 2021, was promoted to the position of Deputy Head green keeper in September.

The team have also been busy undertaking training where possible to help improve knowledge which in turn will help to improve the course conditions. In March Rob and I attended 'BTME', the industry show in Harrogate where we undertook training in Budgeting, soil sampling, fertiliser programmes, and surveying

trees. Haydon continues to work towards his level 2 apprenticeship in golf green keeping and should be completing anytime soon. Dan and I completed our excavator qualification in October, and this has been put to good use.

On the course, our spring greens renovations saw a different approach this year. With the threat of leatherjacket damage, I took the decision to move away from using large solid or hollow tines and tried a 'little and often' approach. This saw the greens regularly aerated with 8mm pencil tines and top dressed through February, March, and April. This was a great success, with the same amount of topdressing applied as other years, but in several small applications, with less disruption to play, and also ensuring that if we had issues with leatherjackets then the damage would be minimal.

Overseeding of any winter disease damage was successful, with scars growing in well. A lot of work was put into repairing walkways after the busy spring that we had, and these areas have fared better for it this autumn.

The use of wetting agents on the tees and greens was imperative in getting through the drought this year, and the irrigation system stood up to the test. Any areas that suffered a loss of grass cover were over seeded in September following our main greens renovations.

Unfortunately we have still not received delivery of the greens mower that was ordered in October 2021, this is due to supply chain issues. Hopefully we will see it soon this spring and then we will also be able to take delivery of some attachments that are due to come alongside it which are a set of verti-cuts, and some sarrel rollers. These pieces of equipment will help us further improve our greens. We are due a delivery of a new aeration machine at the end of January, and this will replace our 17 year old machine that we use on the greens for pencil tining and verti-draining.

Overall, 2022 was a year of progression on the course, with the team changing, adapting and improving alongside some good investment. We feel that the condition of the surfaces is improving year on year and we are very proud of the product that we produce.

### **Social report – Neil Pulman**

After Alex Neil's resignation from the board (family reasons) in April 2022 I agreed to help out with the social events on a temporary basis until a replacement could be found. Sadly, this didn't materialise and I remained in post so to speak.

Anyway, after the previous couple of years social washouts due to Covid the club have held numerous social events. We held a golf comp and afternoon tea for the Queens Diamond Jubilee and finally a 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner night. Thank you to the section Captains for organising these.

Max and Maggie Pipe have again held their infamous quiz nights and additionally organised a successful mystery away day, thank you both.

The majority of the social events held this year have been the HGC 250 Lottery Draw nights. These have included a horse racing night, Italian and French dining themed nights, Yuletide function night and Burns night. I would personally like to say a big thank you to Terry Dimond for his hard work and effort in

organising the very successful HGC 250 draw and social evenings. Thank you also to Terry in helping me with the Xmas draw.

Additionally thank you to our Catering and bar staff deserve a big thank for their excellent service in support of these events.

Finally, a big thank you to the members who have supported our social events during this year.

## Special Resolutions

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 1 – APPOINTMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

7.3 Each nominee shall consent in writing on a nomination form to be obtained from the Management Board.

#### **To be replaced with new article 7.3**

7.3 Each nominee shall consent in writing on a nomination form to be obtained from Management Board. **This consent form requires the nominee to set out their skills, experience and vision for the club which will be circulated to members enabling them to vote on the most appropriate person. All newly appointed directors shall consent to an induction period of two months, during which time they will be given training in their responsibilities under the Company Act 2006, governance, strategy and organisational structure of the club.**

Proposed by: Olwen Eaton

Seconded by: Rowena Bradnum

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 2 – APPOINTMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

7.8 All outgoing Members of the Board will be eligible for re-election.

#### **To be replaced with new article 7.8**

7.8 An outgoing member of the board will be eligible for re-election; **however they shall be eligible for re-election subject to a maximum uninterrupted term in office of six years at which time they must retire and shall not be eligible for re-election until the AGM that follows their retirement.**

Proposed by: Mike Watts

Seconded by: Robin Cockett

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 3 – CO-OPTING MEMBERS TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

8.1 If at any time there is not a sufficient number of candidates nominated, the Management Board may co-opt from other Voting Members to fill the remaining vacancies.

#### **To be replaced with new article 8.1**

8.1 If at any time there is not a sufficient number of candidates nominated, the Management Board may co-opt from other Voting Members to fill the remaining vacancies. **Position, skills and experience required for the role must be advertised to all the members and selection should be based on these criteria. If more than one candidate applies the decision to elect must be made by a panel of not less than three Board members.**

Proposed by: Olwen Eaton

Seconded by: Jackie Seager

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 4 – APPOINTMENT OF VOTING MEMBERS**

27.1 In the event that there are not a sufficient number of Nominees, the Board may appoint by ordinary resolution such Voting Members as they see fit to fill the remaining vacancies. Any Voting Member so appointed shall retire at the AGM following their appointment.

#### **To be replaced with new article 27.1**

27.1 In the event that there are not a sufficient number of Nominees, the Board may appoint, according to **8.1**, by ordinary resolution such Voting Members to fill the remaining vacancies. Any Voting Member so appointed shall retire at the AGM following their appointment.

**Proposed by: Olwen Eaton**  
**Seconded by: Jackie Seager**

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 5 – DECISION MAKING BY DIRECTORS**

17.1 The general rule about decision-making by directors is that any decision of the directors must be either a majority decision at a meeting of the Management Board or a decision taken in accordance with article 18 (Unanimous Decisions).

#### **To be replaced with new article 17.1**

17.1 The general rule about decision-making by directors is that any decision of the directors must be either a majority decision at a meeting of the Management Board or a decision taken in accordance with article 18 (Unanimous Decisions). **All decisions must be backed with rationale and facts, recorded in writing and summarised in the management minutes, clearly outlining all options considered unless it is a sensitive matter and to be kept confidential. All points for and against each option, including the reason(s) supporting a decision taken, must be recorded.**

**Proposed by: Olwen Eaton**  
**Seconded by: Susan Hyde**

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 6 - ACCOUNTS**

12.1 The Management Board shall appoint one of its members to be responsible for ensuring that proper books of the accounts of the Club are kept, and for the production annually of the Statement of Accounts for the Club's designated financial year from time to time.

#### **To be replaced with new article 12.1**

12.1 The Management Board shall appoint one of its members to be responsible for ensuring that proper books of accounts of the Club are kept, producing annually the Statement of Accounts (**Profit & Loss Account, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and Financial Planning**) for the Club's designated financial year, **and ensuring that the Club's financial controls and accounts are audited.**

**Proposed by: Laurie Quinn**  
**Seconded by: Bill Eaton**

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 7 – MANAGEMENT OF COMPLAINTS**

13.1 The Management Board will deal with any complaint made in writing.

#### **To be replaced with new article 13.1**

13.1 The Management Board will deal with any complaint made in writing **according to the written policies and procedures of the club.**

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 7 – MANAGEMENT OF COMPLAINTS**

13.2 Any such complaints must be made within 30 days of the alleged incident.

#### **To be replaced with new article 13.2**

13.2 Any such complaints must be made within 30 days of the alleged incident, **unless specifically agreed by the board that a longer period is appropriate.**

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 7 – MANAGEMENT OF COMPLAINTS**

13.3 It may refer any complaint to an appropriate sub-committee for a recommendation.

#### **To be replaced with new article 13.3**



13.3 It may refer any complaint to an appropriate sub-committee for a recommendation. **No persons shall be involved in any complaint in which they have, or may reasonably be thought to have had, any previous involvement or personal interest.**

**Proposed by: Olwen Eaton (13.1, 13.2 and 13.3)**

**Seconded by: Janet Hughes**

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 8 – CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS**

**Additional article: 34.3**

**34.3 A Club Captain may be elected in line with the Equality Act 2010 (or any subsequent updated Act) and all members, regardless of gender, shall be provided with an equal opportunity to stand for election.**

**Proposed by: Olwen Eaton**

**Seconded by: Paul Borkowski**

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 9 - POWERS**

3.5 lobby, advertise, publish, educate, examine, research and survey in respect of all matters of law, regulation, economics, accounting, governance, politics and/or other issues and to hold meetings, events and other procedures and co-operate with or assist any other body or organisation in each case in such way or by such means as may, in the opinion of the directors, affect or advance the principal object in any way;

**To be replaced with new article 3.5**

3.5 lobby, advertise, publish, educate, examine, research and survey in respect of all matters of law, regulation, economics, accounting, governance, politics and/or other issues and to hold meetings, events and other procedures and co-operate with or assist any other body or organisation in each case in such way or by such means as may, in the opinion of the directors, affect or advance the principal object in any way; **Compliance audits to be carried out annually by independent member or outside source.**

**Proposed by: Olwen Eaton**

**Seconded by: Laurie Quinn**