

Halesworth Golf AGM

Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 7th December 2019

Present: Ben Townsend (Manager), Ken Parry-Brown (Club Captain & Treasurer), John Clatworthy (Club Vice-Captain), Rachael Goldsmith (Ladies' Captain), Caroline Emeny (Ladies Vice-Captain), Paul Hyden (Seniors' Captain), Richard Fernley (Seniors' Vice-Captain), Rob Sherington (Competition Secretary) and 21 other members.

Apologies for Absence: Tom Fletcher, Robert Steven, Cathy Judd, Rene Pearce, Ian Stannard

Adoption of Minutes of the 2017 AGM: These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. (Proposer: Bob Judd, Seconder: Gary Slaymaker)

Matters Arising: Kevin Bates raised the question of slow play and Bob Judd suggested that some did not realise that slow play could be penalised. It was suggested that members are reminded by appropriate notices. Two balls going out on a Sunday because one member has withdrawn from the competition are always likely to be delayed,

Treasurer's Report: Ken Parry-Brown had prepared a detailed set of audited accounts for the year up to the end of October 2019 and these were distributed at the meeting together with a set of notes explaining the breakdown and information about the 100 club. Bob Judd noticed that there had been a reduction in available funds over the last few years and felt that this was not sustainable for the club if it continued. Rob Sherington referred to the money paid out in expenses to the teams playing in the county competitions and in his view the club was in no immediate danger of running out of funds. Should all teams reach the final of county competitions this would prove expensive and decisions about funding would need to be made but in reality this would be very unlikely to occur. Ken understood the point that Bob was making and promised to seek a review from the Committee and incoming Captain John said he would take this on.

Election of Officers: The list of Committee Officers which had previously been displayed was accepted without any further nominations from the membership. The nominations were proposed and seconded by Gary Slaymaker and Lynda Baldry respectively and ratified by a block vote.

Retiring Captain's Address: The first thing I must do is to thank you all for electing me Captain last year. I took on the job with much trepidation: I had hardly ever played on a Sunday: I just played with the Seniors and not very well at that. But it became very clear to me that you would all assist me, but without telling me I must do it this way or that. You let me enjoy my Captaincy. Thank you. But saying that, I must still thank the Past Captains of the Club who have left me, as they did my predecessors, notes on the must-dos etc. I have enjoyed the year: I have played an awful lot of golf, on 48 different courses! But most of the rounds have been here at Halesworth, and that has been a special pleasure. Some courses have had characteristics which would enhance ours, but none have had the all-round finish we have come to expect and enjoy here. I would like to thank Mark and his team for all the hard work they put in every day. Do you know of any other course that has

no temporary greens or temporary tees? The state of the course is brilliant because of their hard work and diligence. A big thank you to them all.

The Seniors organised, as they do each year, a competition for their benefit on the last Friday in November, a working day. There are no cash prizes, the entire entrance fees and raffle proceeds are given as a gratuity to the green staff. Those who are unable to play are invited to contribute to this fund when we go to the bar after this meeting.

The early part of the year was dominated by earth moving equipment. The lake only appeared in March; it seems to have been a fixture much longer. I inevitably nominated it as my charity hazard: I thank those who have lost balls into the water and put money into the tins in the pro-shop. Those with a guilty conscience may still donate.

A further change is coming: there will be a big oak tree arriving on the 18th to better show the left-hand edge of the fairway by the lake, and some trees, including some cedars, on the other side of the lake.

We must thank Mr & Mrs Hunt for the investment they have made, and are still making, into the course. It is very much appreciated by us all.

We have all had great assistance from Richard, Ali and Sally working so hard in the shop and especially to Richard who has had a greater burden with Ben working at the Wilderness as well.

In his absence the office has continued smoothly, despite the change in the software used by the Club to Intelligent Golf. The office and Richard seem to have got it taped as has Robert Steven, our Handicap Secretary; but we are learning. I think that the change is extremely beneficial.

Ellie and her staff behind the Bar appeared to take on the change very easily, is it an age thing working on computerised systems? They have put up with our individual idiosyncrasies and run the catering and bar very efficiently for our benefit. We must not forget the team of chefs preparing food, everything from snacks to dinners. The quality of the food is the envy of all the visitors we have for inter-club matches.

As I said that it was with trepidation that I took on the role of Captain, but I have been very ably assisted by your committee: Sue, Rachel and Caroline representing the Ladies, Paul and Richard the Seniors, Competition Secretary Rob and Don as Committee Secretary. All have done a brilliant job, as has Ben. He listened to grumps, and he has acted upon them if he thought there was a good reason to do so.

I have played a lot of golf during the year, nearly 200 rounds on 48 different courses! And I have played in a lot of matches, for the Gentlemen, for the Seniors and with very great pleasure the Mixed matches. I must say a special thank to Rachael who put up with my abysmal golf in the Mixed.

I think that you can feel that I have very much enjoyed my year. I was 'volunteered' into the job in the unfortunate absence of Philip. I would commend the job to you all, I was lucky to have the opportunity to be Captain. If you have the chance, grab it with both hands – it is a great honour, privilege and pleasure.

Elected Captain's Address: To start with, I'd like to echo Ken's gratitude to all those who keep the club running smoothly and the course in tip top condition. I believe we are truly fortunate to have this wonderful facility on our doorsteps.

Ken, last year when you addressed the AGM you likened yourself to a cable tie, 'merely' mending the break in the chain of club captains. Well what a fix you've been! Just being who you are prepared you absolutely for the role and I think you've done a great job that will be a tough act to follow. So thank you Ken. I have here your past captains tie and a small token of my appreciation for all your efforts.

To the incoming committee members, I think that many members are unaware of the effort that you all put in behind the scenes to keep everything on an even keel. So, thank you all for offering up your time. A special thank you to Rob Sherington for agreeing to take on the vice-captaincy while continuing with his role of competition secretary. He's a bit of an introvert, so many of you may not know Rob but I'm sure that with some encouragement he'll come out of his shell over the next year!

To the other incoming captains, Caroline and Richard, good luck for the year ahead, I'm really looking forward to working with you.

Ken and I have spoken of those who keep the wheels turning here at Halesworth Golf. And then there's you lot. And by 'you lot', I mean the members who collectively make this the friendliest club I've ever come across. So it is a real honour to be elected captain and I thank you all. Ken, Stan, Bob and Gary have all offered to help me if and when I need it. Thanks very much; I'll do my best to not make any of you rue the offer.

In a break with tradition, I'll be splitting funds raised over the next year equally between two charities. For continuity, I'll continue with Ken's chosen charity, Halesworth Volunteer Centre. My other charity will be Labrador Rescue. Caroline has nominated Bowel Cancel UK to be her selected charity. I hope and trust that all charity events will be well supported. While on the subject, I've chosen hazards on the 18th as my 'charity' hazards but will be making 'season tickets' available at the bargain price of £5 for the year. If you choose this option, you'll get a token that I'm hoping will become the bag accessory to be seen with over the next year!

To all the teams that will be representing Halesworth Golf over the next year, good luck!

Thank you to Angela Middleton, Judith Bedwell, Linda Freeman and Barbara Dennis who will be captaining the ladies teams. And, thank you to Rob Sherington, Tom Fletcher, Richard Fernley and Graham Shillings for taking on captaincy of the gents teams.

Now, I'd like us all to take a moment to remember those members who are no longer with us.

Finally, I hope we all enjoy another great year of golf

Club Manager's Address (Summary)

- The club has again raised over £20,000 for charity through all the charity days, donations and the captains efforts, a huge well done to Gary Slaymaker, Steve Ward for the EAAA
- When many golf clubs are struggling for members we have around 465 that's with 85 new members joining this year

What we have done in 2019 –

- One massive addition of a lake which has not only created a stunning outlook from the clubhouse it has created a signature and very memorable hole

- We purchased a new fleet of green keeping machinery
- In April new tee boxes came into play on the 12th and 13th holes
- New drains in several bunkers on the 18 and 9 hole course
- New golfing and handicapping software—Intelligent Golf
- We have just finished planting 4,000 trees at the back of the driving range on the mound
- We will now be planting a handful of semi-mature oaks around the lake –they will be around 18/20 ft in height

2020 NEXT YEAR!

- Starting in January we will be building a new kitchen extension with staff facilities
- Update and refurbishing gents and ladies toilet/shower areas,
 - Showers
 - Hand basins
 - Tiles
 - Sinks
 - Mirrors etc

We will also be replacing everything around the front of the clubhouse including the main entrance doors and planting

- It's not 100% confirmed but we are currently doing everything we can to get mains water to the clubhouse!
- Thank you to all the staff who work extremely hard to look after us
- Thank all the committee members for volunteering and giving up their time
- Thank all Captains and present Rachael and Ken with mementos.

100 Club Draw:

1st : Linda Freeman

2nd : Cathy Chandler