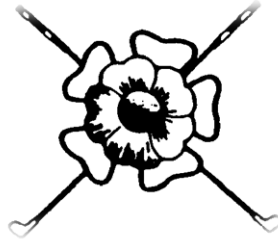


WISHAW GOLF CLUB



MINUTES OF THE 26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 8th MARCH 2022
19:30 hours

Present: Martin Bevan (Director) and Committee Members: Richard Langley, Paul Baker, Neil Radford, Dave Franklin, Elaine Pugh.

Also Present Club Members: Steve Liddell, Pete Spencer, Paul G Williams, Noel Bush, Brendan Kimmett, Tom Morahan, Lisa Perks, R Price, J Askew, S Copley, Neil Bould, Gina Wosket, Andy Wosket, Brian Hemming, Ian Oliver, Rod Mahy, Andy Smith, R Massey, S Mayor, Rob Pratt, Billy Simpson, Paul Williams, Craig Harrison, Karen Bridges, Roy Barwell, Jason Allen, Mick Rogers, D Whitehouse, S Franklin, A Broome, Jayne Proud, Simon Knowles, Barb Kelsey, Sam Knowles, Will West, Mick Proud, Brendan Reilly, Phil Hackwood, Colin Sarson, Graeme Wilson, Ted Payne, Gary Poulton, Suzanne Poulton.

Apologies: Vicki Haden, Nigel Fincher, Julia Hodge, Larry Barnes.

Paul Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for mobile phones to be silenced and to state their name and speak up when asking questions.

Owner's Statement: Welcome to your annual general meeting which we are very pleased to be able to hold here in the Clubhouse.

Many things have changed for us all since the last meeting two years ago in the most part due to the challenges presented to us by covid. As the situation deteriorated in the early months the company took the action it thought necessary to protect its employees, its members and its business whilst having to follow all of the government's instructions. We took the decision that the care and maintenance of the course should be our main business focus whilst it remained uncertain how long the company's operations would be severely affected. This would ensure that at all times the golf course would be maintained in the best possible condition so that it could be re-opened immediately as soon as restrictions were eased. However, this did mean keeping Simon and his team at work even though the course was closed to golfers. We were able to take advantage of

some government and local council support, for which we are extremely grateful, a good part of which has subsequently been repaid.

One advantage was that this time gave us the breathing space to consider which improvements could be made to best benefit the course and the Clubhouse whilst it was closed or play restricted, some of the results of which you can already see

Regrettably some members have passed away during this time and we have not been able as a community to pay our respects as we would in normal times. We did whatever we were allowed to show our appreciation for their contribution to the Club. The bell on the exit from the 18th green has been erected in memory of Phil Burwell whose outstanding contribution to the Club as its secretary for many years will be well known to you all. It is our memorial bell which, when rung will give a respectful reminder of all those who are no longer with us

As I said this period of relative inactivity did give us the time to consider how to expand and improve the golf course and its facilities. We identified a number of areas for improvement and have been helped by the many members who have taken the time and trouble to let us have their comments on the proposals.

The Club has a good working relationship with Patrick Quinn who has provided some expert advice with regard to the course and his company has carried out most of the major course alterations which include the new extended teeing areas on holes 2,6,7,9,12 and 14 in addition to the recently completed tees on holes 11 and 17. I hope you will all enjoy playing on these new areas in the coming season.

The Club's practice facilities are in the process of being upgraded to include a new putting green and the new cabin will shortly be fitted out with a state-of-the-art golf simulator. A new Toro greens mower is on order which is a further significant investment in the quality modern equipment needed to enable the grounds staff to keep the course in pristine condition.

The provision and management of the Clubhouse services has been challenging given the constant rule changes and restrictions, added to the natural and understandable apprehension of members and their guests to use the Clubhouse facilities. The health and wellbeing of members, their guests and the staff are paramount, specialist outside cleaners have been brought in and the staff informed of the required procedures. The Clubhouse bar and kitchen are open 7 days a week and we are hopeful that some social events will soon be possible to arrange.

A tee time service was imposed on golf Clubs as part of the return golf programme co-ordinated by England Golf. The Club has always had this service for weekend play but this had to be extended to include weekdays. The overall reaction from members has been positive as this gives certainty to a tee time booking. Therefore, the Club intends to keep a permanent tee time booking system in place. An online facility is to be

available soon. I would like to stress that this does not stop members turning up on spec and asking in the shop for the next available tee time.

The Club has spent a great deal of effort and expense investigating its options for upgrading the Clubhouse. After receiving an initial planning permission late last year for an extension and new sports rehabilitation building, we sought comments from the membership so that we could achieve as much as possible from the work. I am very grateful to Phil Hackwood who stepped forward to review the suggestions and add his considerable expertise to the project. His contribution has been key to bringing together all the various ideas helping us to plot a clear path forward. This resulted in the original application needing some amendment and we are currently awaiting approval from the planning committee.

From the beginning of the pandemic your members' committee has been able to meet, albeit sometimes an irregular basis, but they have been able to ensure that their valuable work has been continued without interruption. There is always plenty to be organised and every member of the committee has served the Club well giving freely of their time and experience over what has been a very difficult period. Nobody knew for certain how it would turn out, but I was impressed when even after the first awful 12 months of covid, when it could not have been any fun, that when asked to do it all again for another year, everyone just said yes.

Similarly, the company's staff have remained optimistic, supportive and full of enthusiasm throughout, greatly helping to make the Wishaw Golf Club the best it can be.

Well done to Rob who will soon have completed his apprenticeship course which will result in an NVQ qualification. We have been pleased to have Will join us in the golf shop from the Belfry. He has been a valuable addition to the team and a great support to Richard this year.

Finally, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable year's golfing, please join us for a drink at the end of tonight's proceedings.

Minutes of the Virtual AGM in 2020: The minutes were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising: We did have a virtual AGM in 2020 and the Matters Arising from this were dealt with by the Committee when we were able to meet. Those who raised the issues were responded to and the decisions were reflected in the minutes of that time.

Chairman's Statement: I would like to start by thanking the owners and directors, on behalf of the membership for having the courage and belief to not only maintain the golf course through the uncertain period of the pandemic, but also to continue their efforts in making further improvements to the course and making plans for the redevelopment of the Clubhouse.

I would also like to thank all the staff for the hard work they have done.

The green keeping staff, for not only maintaining the course in an excellent condition, but also for the work they have done in clearing a number of the areas of scrub, that have not only improved the look of the course but will also be of benefit in its ongoing maintenance.

The Club house staff have also worked hard to maintain an excellent level of service through the difficult times of furlough and self-isolation, learning new skills to make sure that they could cover all areas: shop, bar and kitchen.

A big thank you also to the organisers and players who have represented Wishaw Golf Club in the various competitions that we enter, this helps to maintain our profile in the golfing community, no doubt the Captains will talk more about these later.

Now a special thank you to Jason Allen for all the work he has done in trying to get a Junior section back into Wishaw. The taster sessions that he organised and ran, with the help of Martin Jones, Richard Langley and young Will, were well attended, and I have heard nothing but praise for all of them. Thank you. Jason has also taken on the role of Welfare Officer and I'm certain he will do an excellent job.

It would not be right to continue without mentioning your Club committee, they have certainly helped me in my role as acting chairman, especially Elaine, who has been invaluable. They all give a lot of their time in trying to make sure that things run smoothly for the membership. Whilst you can't please all the people all of the time, they make every effort to try and please the majority and are always willing to listen to what you the members have to say.

The Club Captain, Neil Radford has represented the Club extremely well in all areas. After an unfortunate first year of Captaincy when the pandemic, and very little golf, didn't give many opportunities for him or the other Captains to make the most of their time, I feel Neil really made up for it in his second term and thoroughly enjoyed himself. Well done, Neil!

The same can be said for Vicki Haddon, though losing her vice-Captain part way through her Captaincy due to family circumstances, meant that she had to rely more on the lady members. Needless to say, they rallied to assist. Well done to Vicki, and all the ladies!

Equally Colin Green has done an excellent job as Seniors Captain.

All of the Captains have been ably assisted by their vice Captains who have supported them well, especially Paul Williams who has been a strong right arm for the Club Captain.

Your Committee has continued to work hard on behalf of you the members and I would like to thank them all for their hard work.

I would now like to make special mention of Richard Langley. His contribution to the professional running of this Club is significant. Well done Richard and thank you very much.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Larry Barnes who, as you have heard, is stepping down as Committee Chairman after working tirelessly for over 20 years.

I cannot praise enough the work that Larry has done for the members of Wishaw Golf Club. It has only been since I've been attempting to cover his role, that I have begun to realise just how much Larry has done for the benefit of the membership, and without his help and support whilst I've been covering for him, I do not know how I would have managed.

He has always supported the functions, whether it was the Wednesday night socials that Richard Langley organised, quiz nights or Captains handover. Larry organised or helped organise most of the social events at the Club, whether it was presentation night or the children's Christmas party.

I have served on the committee, as Club Captain and am only too aware of the help and support that Larry has given to all the Captains, and in his years as chairman there have been more than a few. I hope to see Larry back on the golf course soon and preferably without the shanks that have plagued him for a while.

Secretary's Report: *Well, what a weird couple of years! Being the Members' Committee Secretary has certainly been strange. We couldn't have a physical AGM last year or the year before and Committee Meetings were also affected by lockdowns and restrictions.*

One memorable Committee meeting was when there was a limit on the number of people allowed to sit together indoors, so Larry came up with the bright idea of meeting outside. It was dry, but being in April, it really wasn't very warm.

Presentations and Handovers have also been disrupted. The Captains all agreed to serve for 2 years and I think that they all did very well. It was really awful not being able to present the awards for our Majors from 2019 and 2020 but we did eventually manage to hand these out during the Captains' Charity weekend last year and I think the winners all appreciated this. The photographs proved very popular too and Brendan has agreed to take photographs during the presentations planned for 2nd April this year.

Richard and the team have continued to serve us really well during this time despite the many challenges associated with the pandemic both inside and outside the Clubhouse. The course itself is looking very good and the new tees will really enhance the look and playing of the course.

Membership now stands at 439.

It has been very helpful that I can now write out to you directly about issues and upcoming events, as I have this past week to let winners and runners-up know about arrangements for the Presentations. I can also receive emails from members using the secretary's email.

I would like to thank Richard Langley for his continuing support and all the staff at Wishaw Golf Club for their excellent work over the past 2 years. My thanks also to the committee for their support.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts: Dave presented the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021. A copy of the Accounts is attached.

One item requiring explanation was an income of £74 which arose when the Club was trying to initiate Internet Banking early in 2021. Lloyds Bank had been less than helpful and awarded the Club the £74 as compensation for the inconvenience caused.

The balances at the end of the year showed that the Men's Section held £8710.29, the Ladies' Section, £1400.73, the Seniors' Section, £2549.26, Juniors' Section, £153.51. The Social Account held £4248.16 and the Charity Account had a balance of £6151.

Dave congratulated Neil on his fundraising efforts over the past 2 years.

There were no questions from the floor concerning the accounts.

Club Captain's Statement: I'd like to start by saying it's been a privilege and an honour to be your Club Captain for the last two years.

Vicky and myself got off to a really bad start as the covid pandemic hit immediately at the beginning of our term of Captaincy and our thoughts and ideas went out of the window.

The Club was closed, no golf, no social activities. A very difficult time for everyone.

Eventually we were able to play some golf under restrictions and found that the greens staff had kept the course in good order whilst we had been away. What a delight it was to get out on the course and play golf again. Gradually, although with difficulties, some normality resumed and competitive golf got going again and with help from Martin, Richard and the committee, we got into our roles as Captains.

Planning went ahead for a Captains' fun competition and I organised my Captains away event at Hill Valley Shropshire. Both were extremely well supported by the membership and quite a considerable sum of money was raised for our charity, Macmillan Nurses, I believe approximately £3000.00.

As the year came to an end still severely restricted it was clear that we would not be able to hold any social events at the Clubhouse and it was decided, as with most other Clubs, that Vicky & I should carry on for a second term of office which we agreed to do. Thankfully, things have improved and some restrictions have been lifted. Club competitions have resumed, Club knockout competitions and majors have been played. Interclub competitions are back. I know we still have to make those phone calls to get our tee times and we can't always get our bacon sandwich when we want it but we are luckier than a lot of poor souls that have bigger problems to worry about.

In my second term of office, I have been able play with different groups and have met quite a lot of new members, also this term I have been to Wales with a 30 strong group mostly Wishaw members and also Portugal with a group from Wishaw. We have again run our Captains' fun competition and had our Captains away event at Hawkstone park. These events along with others have boosted our Macmillan's charity funds to over £6000.00. Vicky & myself would like to say thank you to the members who have supported us so well.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my vice-Captain Paul Williams and acting Chairman Paul Baker for their help in organising some of these events, and I know Vicky is indebted to Elaine Pugh for all the help she has given.

Throughout our two-term period we have seen great improvements made on the course, investments have been made with 4 new greens, new tees have been built, new pathways put in, hedges removed, ditches cleared, trees felled, rough areas cleared all to make our course a better place to play golf, along with some expensive new machinery, and now plans are afoot to improve our Clubhouse all big investments. All of this good stuff has still gone ahead through a very difficult period of time. So, I believe things are looking good for Wishaw Golf Club.

Thank you to Darren Whitehouse who ran the West Midland teams. Dave franklin who organized the NAPGC teams, and my vice Paul Williams who organized our annual Denstone college match and has been at my side all though my Captaincy.

As a final note, I would like to add that since Bob Bright stood down as Club secretary Elaine Pugh has taken on the role seamlessly and is doing a sterling job as is Paul Baker who stepped in as acting chairman for Larry Barnes.

Our thanks to Richard Langley martin Bevan and all the committee for their help during our office.

Lady Captain's Statement: *It's been a tough time for everybody these last two years but now things are looking much more positive.*

When I took on the role of Lady Captain, I had plenty of free time and was able play in

the week and weekends but since acquiring my new job I haven't been able to play as much golf as I would have liked and not having a vice captain has been difficult, thankfully Elaine Pugh has been at my side and covered most stuff that I couldn't. Thank you for that Elaine.

The ladies' membership increased by quite a few over the past 2 years and I hope that this trend will continue. Sue Franklin and Barbara Kelsey have been looking after the ladies' competition golf. Thank you, Ladies.

Sue & Jayne got to the NAPGC final and were narrowly beaten for the trophy. The ladies' section also competed in the Whitewebbs competition with good results 2 points being the losing margin to get through.

Gina Wosket & Margaret Howitt represented the club in the Coronation foursomes at Droitwich, they achieved 8th place in a very competitive field. We've had a hole in one from Barbara Kelsey on the 8th. Elaine won the Club Championship net competition 2021, well done Elaine and I won the Gross.

Many thanks to Carmel Barwell who organizes all our friendly inter-club matches which have been a welcome success, Carmel has done a great job. The ladies Tuesday & Thursday games have continued successfully. Elaine does a great job organizing these.

The Ladies also had a nice away day at Druids Heath which Gina Wasket helped arrange and we all had a good time there.

I have enjoyed helping Neil with organizing the Captains Day and Captains fun Charity competitions, a special thankyou from me to the refreshment Ladies on the course who raised a lot of money with those fantastic cakes.

The improvements that are happening on the course at the moment are very encouraging and I am looking forward to some great golfing next season.

Seniors' Team Captain's Statement: *Unfortunately, the Seniors' Captain was unable to be present and there was no statement.*

Confirmation of new Club Captain: *The new Club Captain was confirmed as Paul Williams. Paul thanked everyone for the support he had received during his time as Vice-Captain.*

Confirmation of new Ladies' Captain: *Sue Franklin had been elected by the ladies and her appointment was confirmed by the meeting. Sue wished Paul all the best for his upcoming year.*

Election of Club Vice-Captain: *Darren Whitehouse had been proposed as Club Vice-Captain and seconded by Andy Dawson. There being no other nominations, Darren was confirmed as Club Vice-Captain.*

Election of Ladies' Vice-Captain: Lisa Perks had been elected by the Ladies' Section at their AGM and this appointment was confirmed by the meeting.

Confirmation of Juniors' Captain: Sam Knowles was appointed as Junior Captain.

Election of Members of the Committee: Paul explained that the Members' Committee Secretary and the Treasurer had completed 2 years and were required to stand down this year. Elaine and Dave had both been nominated for these posts respectively and as there were no other nominations, were confirmed by the meeting.

He also went on to explain that the posts of Chairman and Competitions and Handicaps Secretary would have been due for election in 2021. However, since there was no AGM that year it was not possible. In order to avoid all Committee Members being replaced together and to ensure continuity, these posts will be held for 1 year. Paul Baker and Richard Langley have both agreed to continue and having both been duly nominated and seconded and in the absence of other nominations they were confirmed.

Appointment of Auditor: Jayne Proud was confirmed as Auditor of our accounts for the next year.

Any Other Business: Andy Wosket suggested we make Larry Barnes an honorary member of the Club in recognition of his long years of service. Martin responded by saying that he had spoken to Larry who felt unable to return yet. Martin agreed that we should do something for Larry, but only when the time is appropriate.

Ted Payne brought up the subject of the unavailability of buggies for long periods of time each year. He is registered disabled and is unable to play without using a buggy and feels that more could be done to allow those who need them to play. He asked whether it would be possible to open a few holes which buggies could use rather than close the whole course to buggy users. Paul Baker said that he understood the problem from the players' point of view but there had to be a balance between course damage and the need to play. Martin said that there were plans for more buggy paths in the future. Noel Bush said that he played at Kilworth where they instructed buggy users to use the rough, rather than fairways.

Andy Wosket asked when we were going to get online booking. Richard replied that this was in hand and should be available early next season.

Andy also mentioned the loss of inter-club competitions since the Club left the NAPGC. Dave said that we have entered 2 teams in the inter-club championships, Paul Baker added that Paul Williams is arranging some friendlies with 2 clubs having been contacted so far. Sue Franklin said that there are competitions on All-England Golf. Richard had been approached by the Birmingham Alliance but it would mean reserving too many tee times at peak times on a Saturday. Paul Baker said that the Committee would look into the issue and asked anyone with suggestions to contact a Committee Member to put them forward.

Rod Mahy suggested that golfers take mats round the course to avoid making divots. Martin had seen articles about this being done at other courses, but noted that they were charging the golfers £25 for them.

Brendan Riley asked whether anything would be done about the drainage on holes 3 and 6. Martin agreed that hole 3 gathers a tremendous amount of water but the only remedy would be to take that hole out of play and completely rebuild that area of the course. He felt that new tees were more of a priority at the moment, but hole 3 is definitely on the list for future development.

A member who did not give his name asked when competition cards would be qualifying for handicaps. Richard responded that this should be in April, as soon as the new tees were open.

Paul Baker thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:30 hrs.