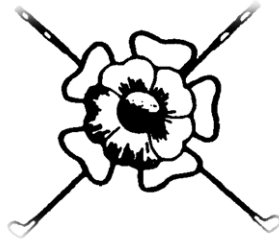


WISHAW GOLF CLUB



MINUTES OF THE 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 7th MARCH 2023
19:30 hours

Present: *Committee Members: Richard Langley, Paul Baker, Paul Williams, Sue Franklin, Kevin Daly, Dave Franklin, Elaine Pugh.*

Also Present Club Members: *Margaret Howitt, Martin Siviter, S Marshall, D Gillett, S Wood, R Powell, Andy Wosket, Neil Bould, Steve Copley, Phil Hackwood, Rob Pratt, Jason Allen, Rod Tough, Mick Proud, Steve Mullings, Colin Sarson, Tom Callaghan, Ian Bennett, Ian Leech, Rod Mahy, Darren Whitehouse, Brendan Kimmet, P G Williams, B Reilly, Barb Kelsey, Brian Hemming, John Harrison, M Mackenzie, Graham Naven, Andy Smith, A Broome, B. Robinson, Dean Suffolk, Richard Massey, Sam Knowles, Joe Lawlor, Tony Wheeldon.*

Apologies: *Martin Bevan, Vicki Haden, Neil Radford, Julia Hodge, Jayne Proud.*

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: *Good evening, everyone, thank you for joining us at the club's 27th AGM.*

This is my first annual owners' statement since completing the management buy-out of the club. I am extremely grateful to Martin & Margaret for their support through this process, and look forward to our continued co-operation as both parties remain fully committed to the ongoing success of the golf club. Martin & Margaret would like to express their gratitude for all the support the club membership has given them over 25 years.

The club continues to make great strides with the enhancements to the golf course. Following the extensive tee building project which players were able to enjoy this year, the club also invested in a drainage project on hole 3, with the construction of a new ditch and drainage lines, providing that area with much improved drainage. We also added a new teeing area on hole 4 which will come into play within the coming months.

We hope members have enjoyed the new practice facilities available with the new putting green and state of the art golf simulator studio.

The club had expected to take delivery of a new Toro greens mower in early 2022. However, following constant delays citing manufacturing difficulties in the US, we have cancelled the order and recently purchased a new John Deere E-2570 hybrid greens mower with delivery confirmed for next week.

An online booking system and club app was introduced for members and the general consensus has been that this is a positive move forward. We are aware that some are not using the system fairly and booking times not needed. The committee is speaking to such members, with the final option of suspending regular offenders from the booking hub available. We trust however that the majority are enjoying the new app, and we look forward to utilising all the facilities on it to improve our service.

The club was successful in obtaining planning permission for a club house extension to incorporate a new sports health club facility and balcony. Whilst the project is on hold following a change in personal circumstances to the land owners, the permission remains there and the project can be revisited at a later date.

We are still actively looking to enhance the club house facility, and work will commence on a new patio area over the old practice putting green within the next 4 weeks. Members will notice that we have added a new TV and installed sky sports, and hope you can enjoy watching your favourite golf tournaments here at the club.

The club is currently seeking to recruit a new permanent head chef to expand our catering service. In the meantime, we are employing external caterers to cover events, such as the recent live music night and quiz nights.

Your club committee have worked tirelessly on your behalf as always and their efforts are always appreciated. We look forward to supporting the new incoming captains and wish them a successful year.

The club was able to add Joe Lawlor to the team as our new Club Assistant Manager, after spending 5 years working with the PGA. He has been a massive help to me and I am grateful for his hard work and support.

Simon and his team; Stuart, Rob and Dean have provided us with an excellent golf course, which continually improves year on year. Their hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed and I am very appreciative of their efforts.

Finally, I wish you all a most enjoyable year's golf. Please join me for a drink after the evening's proceedings.

Minutes of the AGM in 2022: *The minutes were agreed and signed.*

Matters Arising: All of the items discussed in any other business in last year's AGM were discussed at the Committee Meeting on 4th April and posted in the minutes for that meeting. There is still no decision regarding how to honour Larry Barnes as there has been no appropriate time yet.

Buggies are still unable to be used when health and safety concerns deem this to be unavoidable. However, there have been times when some holes have been designated for buggy use.

The online booking system has been implemented.

The Club has now entered additional external competitions which should allow more players to take part.

Drainage issues are being addressed along with the general improvements to the course.

Chairman's Statement: Firstly, I am sure that I speak for everyone in offering sincere best wishes to Martin and Margaret Bevan, and a huge thank you for all the work they have put in to Wishaw Golf Club.

A huge thank you should also go to Richard Langley for taking on the responsibility and commitment to ensure we continue to have a golf course and club house to be proud of. Richard has always worked tirelessly for the members of Wishaw Golf Club and I'm sure I speak for everyone in wishing him every success with what he wants to achieve. Thank you, Richard.

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

The green keeping staff under the leadership of Simon for not only maintaining the course in an excellent condition but also for the work on the continued improvements and look of the course, with keeping the scrub under control and planning more wild flower areas.

The club house staff have also worked hard and despite some changes to staff they continue to offer an excellent friendly service.

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

It would not be right to continue without mentioning your membership committee. They have certainly helped me in my first year as Committee Chairman. They all give a lot of their time to assist in the smooth running of your golf club and are always willing to

hear from you, the Members, any comments or suggestions you have for improvements to the club or course and take these to committee for discussion.

The club captain, Paul Williams, has represented the club extremely well in all areas. I feel he has done an outstanding job on your behalf and has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Members and his chosen charity. He has been instrumental in introducing a B team to give more Members the opportunity of representing Wishaw and has also helped with the re-introduction of a scratch team for the coming season. So a huge, Thank You and Well Done' Paul.

The same can be said for Sue Franklin who stepped up to the plate again, and took on the role as Lady Captain. Sue always puts a lot of effort into Wishaw Golf Club and represents the ladies very well. Thank You Sue.

Equally Kevin Daly has done an excellent job as Seniors Captain and has now taken on the role as Seniors Secretary, a role that had been vacant since Rod Mahey stood down. Well done Kevin.

All of the captains have been ably assisted by their vice captains, who have supported them very well.

On behalf of the membership, thank you all very much.

Secretary's Report

Thankfully, we now appear to be well post-Covid and last year was relatively normal. Any issues during the year were dealt with by your Committee and reported in the minutes which are published monthly, both on the website and physically on the notice boards in the Clubhouse. I would like to express my thanks to all members of the Committee for their support over the past year.

We have seen our course improve both in terms of the golf and aesthetically. The thinning out of the tree areas and planting of the wildflower areas have been particularly impressive, giving the course a tidier, more attractive look. The work carried out on the tees, fairways and greens have made the course a pleasure to play, although sometimes a bit more challenging and the greenkeeping team are to be applauded for the way the course has developed and been looked after over the past year.

The introduction of the online booking system has worked fairly well with a few teething troubles, particularly at weekends where there is a high demand. At least we no longer have to keep pressing redial at 7.30 am.

This year we have reinstated the Club Newsletter which seems to have been well-received and I would like to thank our main contributors for articles; Paul Baker for his great quizzes, the Captains for their reports, Richard for

information on course and clubhouse developments and Jayne and Craig for their successes, giving me material for a few articles. Hopefully, Joe will be doing a section on the Rules over the coming months. I am always keen to hear from any members who would like articles included or just suggestions for topics so please contact me with these.

Membership now stands at 453.

As you are all aware, Richard has now taken over the sole running of the course and clubhouse and I'm sure you will join me in wishing him and his team all the best in this new venture. I am sure we will all be giving him the support he needs to make a success of this.

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

The balances at the end of the year showed that the Men's Section held £8428.21, the Ladies' Section, £1116.76, the Seniors' Section, £2911.87, Juniors' Section, £173.51. The Social Account held £4438.16 and the Charity Account had a balance of £5336.30.

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: *Good evening, everyone.*

"Whilst we are together, we should take a moment to remember those who we've lost during the year and those who may be in very poor health at this time."

I am very happy to say that it has been an honour to be Club Captain. I have risen to the challenges and really enjoyed what has been a fabulous golfing year, on and off the course.

Getting back to a more familiar golfing schedule after the pandemic was an important start. With some of the standouts being the record comp entries on Captains Day, the great golf played on the Club Championships weekend and the fantastic atmosphere in the clubhouse after the Team Challenge.

One of my goals was to give members more opportunities to represent the Club in competitive play. The B Team was a first for the club and I'm pleased to say it was a success. We are also returning to the Midlands Scratch League. So along with the West Midlands League team, we now have three teams competing in the new season - with new team captains and in new club shirts. Clearly, we're moving in the right direction.

I've really enjoyed speaking to members throughout the year and writing the captains newsletters. I have also really enjoyed representing the club both here and away from Wishaw. Fitting the time in has been the biggest challenge. But discussing team matters and charity work with our local clubs, following the West Mids Team when I could, managing the B team, playing with the Seniors team and keeping in touch with Wishaw Scotland and Denstone College - has been great though in truth not that difficult. I say that because word has got out about the improvements made, both on and off the course here at Wishaw.

And even for those who weren't aware ... what a great story it has been to tell.

So many things have stood out for me this year but I will never forget my away days at Breadsall Priory. And especially Nigel and Shaun's help with the charity auction! People were extremely generous on that evening and I can now announce that we've raised more than £5,500 for Birmingham Childrens Hospital.

In closing, my thoughts are with Martin and his family and I wish Richard good luck and every success with Wishaw 2023. I have already thanked this committee and you the members for your support over the year. But I will repeat my thanks to Sue whose wise words have been a huge help and support. And my best wishes go out to Darren, to Margaret, to Rob and to young Sam I know they are set to have a great year as Captains.

It truly is an honour to be a Club Captain and I am forever indebted to the person who came to me over three years ago now. Thank you, past captain Neil.

And thank you everyone.

Lady Captain's Statement: *Firstly, I would like to thank all the ladies for their support this year. We are only a small ladies section but we can be very proud of the success that we have again achieved not only in our club competitions but representing Wishaw in external competitions.*

We entered the NAPGC which this year consisted of two teams of 4 players in the Whitewebbs trophy, 4 pairs in the greensomes Toprock bowl and 2 pairs in the ladies Matchplay, well done to Anita and Kai who were successful in getting through in the Toprock to the national semifinal.

We play qualifiers for the Charles Heeley and well done to Jayne proud for winning div one at the final, qualifiers for the Coronation Foursomes, England Golf Australian Spoons, Ping 4 ball bb and the Ping mixed. Many congratulations to Craig Harrison and Jayne Proud who got through to the final and succeeded in winning the overall title.

We also entered 5 pairs in a mixed international competition whereby we beat Walmley at home and then won away at Moor Hall but unfortunately lost away at Leominster. All of the above involve quite a bit of travelling and I thank all the players who have

taken part.

This year we played 7 friendlies losing 2, drawing 1 and winning 4. I thank Carmel for arranging the games over many years but she has now decided to stand down, but thanks go to Chris Clewer for taking over this position.

My congratulations go to all the ladies who have had success in qualifying or winning any of our competitions.

My away day at the Chase golf club was well supported as was our overnigher at Breadsall Priory where great fun was had.

I have enjoyed my year supporting Paul who has worked tirelessly in raising a fantastic amount for this year's charity.

I take this opportunity to wish Richard every success in his new position. And I wish Darren, Margaret and Rob all the best for their year as Captains.

Seniors' Team Captain's Statement: *The season got underway with 1st Round of Senior Player of the Year (SPotY) in April and finished with our usual fixture at Mickleover in October. I would like to thank all who took part in the matches representing Wishaw Golf Club. A special thank you to Rob Pratt who covered for me on several occasions and a thank you to all those players who stood in to cover injuries, holidays and other reasons to originally picked players.*

Our results this season were disappointing from my point of view we played 28 matches and won 12 and lost 16. At Home we won 9 and Lost 5, Away we won 3 and we lost 11.

The SPotY was played over 6 rounds 3 at Wishaw and 3 away

Round 1 was at Wishaw and won by Peter Baker

Round 2 was Captains away day at Willesley Park Ashby de la Zouch and won by Stuart Thompson. That day the Captain had a big embarrassment, I forgot the wine for the winners of the front and back nine holes.

Round 3 was Treasurers away day played at Walmley Golf Club and was won by Rod Mahy.

Round 4 was played at Wishaw and was won by Rod Tough

Round 5 was also played at Wishaw and was won by Rod Mahy

Round 6 the final round was the Secretaries away day played at Ullesthorpe Golf Club and was won by Steve Copley.

The Senior Player of the Year for 2022 was Steve Copley, well done.

The Seniors Open was very successful and a big thank you goes to Geoff Greenwood and Richard Massey. Also thank you to the volunteers on the day and the sponsors for each hole. There were 152 entrants on the day and some entrants were declined because all the tee times were full.

Aston Wood OS invited three pairs from Wishaw to play in their Old Stags competition, thank you to the five players who joined me to make our three pairs up. Unfortunately, we did not win.

We must remember for Wishaw Seniors to be successful are the people behind the scenes; Ken Nimmo, the Treasurer, Richard Massey, the Match Allocation Secretary, that's from the playing perspective. Also, the greenkeepers for keeping the course in excellent condition throughout the season, I do not know all of their names. The kitchen staff, Mandy and Adam for supplying first class meals. Richard Langley for booking all the tee times. Finally, a big thank you to you all for making my Captaincy very enjoyable. Not only did I meet new players from the opposing teams but also from Wishaw of whom I probably would not have had the pleasure of meeting, if I had not been captain.

Confirmation of new Club Captain: *The new Club Captain was confirmed as Darren Whitehouse.*

Confirmation of new Ladies' Captain: *Margaret Howitt had been elected by the ladies and her appointment was confirmed by the meeting.*

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

Election of Ladies' Vice-Captain: *Barb Kelsey 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 Juniors' Captain.*

Election of Members of the Committee: *Paul Baker was proposed to continue as Chairman by Elaine Pugh, seconded by Darren Whitehouse. Joe Lawlor was proposed as Competition and Handicap Secretary by Elaine Pugh and seconded by Neil Bould. There being no other nominations for these posts and the positions were confirmed.*

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

Proposals

A proposal was received from Mike Stocking but it was not seconded so will be discussed in Any Other Business.

Any Other Business:

Mike Stocking had submitted a proposal to reinstate the Seniors' Wednesday Social, effectively giving the group a block booking every Wednesday morning. Richard

responded that the members of this group could book times but, as there is already a Wednesday Club competition at this time, it may be beneficial to them to choose a different day. There was no support in the meeting for any groups to be given block bookings.

Andy Wosket asked if there were any plans to use the area in front of the white and yellow tees on the 11th. Richard said that this was a difficult area and the team were looking into how best to use this ground.

Brendan Kimmet wanted to know whether competitions could be held over varying days to give more members the chance to submit qualifying cards. Richard said that this will be happening next year. Paul Williams pointed out that the Summer League offered this opportunity.

Jason Allen thanked Richard for allowing the Sutton Coldfield College Golf Academy to run at Wishaw. This has led to success for the group with them reaching a National Final this season.

Andy Wosket asked whether Phil Burwell's bell could be moved to the other side of the 18th Green. Richard responded that it was in its current position to encourage players to move off the green on the left-hand side, away from the 1st tee.

Phil Hackwood asked about the position of the waiting sign, Richard said that the path may be moved.

Brendan Riley asked what determines the guest rate. Richard replied that he considers £24 weekday and £30 weekend are fair rates.

Elaine outlined the changes to the Club Rules to reflect the new management structure. There were no objections to the changes.

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