

Prestwick St. Nicholas Golf Club
Minute of the Annual General Meeting
Held in the Clubhouse on Thursday 28 March 2019

The Captain, Mrs Annette Paterson, welcomed the 97 Members in attendance including 1 Honorary member and declared the meeting quorate. The Managing Secretary then read the notice calling the meeting. Apologies were intimated from 24 Members.

The Managing Secretary intimated with regret the deaths of 8 Members and former Members who had passed away during the previous 12 months namely:- Past Captain Andrew Blackwood, Senior Ordinary Member Ron Dale, Honorary Member Jack Pirie, Non-Playing Member Dr Catherine Barbour, Associate Member David Kinloch, Former Members Bobby Bell, Hugh Caddis and Doris Tennant. The company stood and observed a minute's silence.

Minute of 2018 AGM

Past Captain David Gilmour intimated that he felt that the minute did not accurately record his objection to that part of the minute of the 2017 AGM, under AOB, which referred to the composition and remit of the remuneration sub-Committee and specifically that the Managing Secretary should not be part of the Sub-Committee.

The Captain informed the meeting that the Managing Secretary's involvement in the Sub-Committee and his input was essential and repeated that he would not be involved in setting his own remuneration package. The Captain then read out the section of the 2017 AGM minute which had been amended at Past Captain Gilmour's request and stated that in her view the amended minute adequately covered what had been said. It was also her view that the minute of the 2018 AGM was accurate.

A motion to approve the 2018 Minute was then proposed by Past Captain Bill Rae, seconded by Past Captain Douglas Urquhart and carried.

Minute of 2019 SGM

There being no amendments, a motion to approve the minute of the 2019 SGM was proposed by Past Captain Stan Stevenson, seconded by Douglas Thow and carried.

Captain's Report

The following is a verbatim Report:

'You have all received a copy of the Review of the Year, which, you will be pleased to know I do not intend to read through!

Nulli Secundus is the Club motto and it means 'second to none'. This is an aspirational idea meaning to try to be the best. And so how do we achieve that goal here at Prestwick St Nicholas? I hope I can explain....

We established a 3-year Business plan which I believe is the foundation framework for the management of the Club. The plan is designed to ensure we give our members the best membership possible measured against other Golf Clubs and to have Prestwick St Nicholas as the Golf Club they aspire to be a member of. The committee are constantly working to achieve the objectives and the initiatives contained in this plan.

This document is "intended to be dynamic, constantly updated and re-defined with regard to the challenges facing members' Golf Clubs in Scotland"

This document is ready to be reviewed and the recent members' survey and the benchmarking report will all be taken into consideration in preparing the next 3-year plan.

Our Club scored an evaluation of 84% of the best practice activities of a successful modern Club and the bench marking report describes this as exceptional.

We are all here to golf and that makes the maintenance and development of the links course our top priority. We have an enthusiastic and passionate Head Greenkeeper and a hardworking and committed green keeping staff. I think the fresh air and manual work must be a recipe for a healthy lifestyle as the green keeping staff are very rarely off sick! I meet with John on a monthly basis but I have toured the course on 4 occasions with John McLachlan... Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter...and have enjoyed learning about how John and his staff deal with the extreme weather...the restructuring of bunkers...and the maintenance of the glorious greens.

I also know a lot about grass cutting ...but I won't tell my husband that in case he gives me a job! John is about to start work on building the eco bunker at the practice area. This may or may not be the way forward for a more efficient and economic bunker structure. It will be an interesting trial.

John and Links Convener Alistair have updated the course management policy and this outlines a clear and consistent approach to the management of the course.

There were 438 comments concerning the course in the members' survey and this is an indication of how important the links is to the members. John and the links Convener are going through all the comments and hope to implement some of the more practical and manageable ideas.

On your behalf I would like to thank John and his team for their hard work and dedication to the course and to the members of Prestwick St Nicholas.

Our Clubhouse is the hub of the Golf Club. It is where we socialise with our playing partners over a beer and reflect on our golf game. Grant Hood and his team continue to provide the high quality of service and variety of delicious food that is highly praised by members and visitors alike.

Grant and Eddie have recently streamlined the bar and catering record keeping system and revised the menus and up dated pricing.

I met with Grant on a monthly basis to discuss all things related to the smooth running of the bar and catering. These meetings are extremely important as they keep myself and the committee apprised of any staffing issues, forward bookings and maintenance requirements etc.

The Social events this year have been very well supported by members and Grant has taken note of the suggestions, (161), made in the members' survey and has already started to action a great many of the points raised.

Sincere thanks to Grant and the Clubhouse staff for their continued service to the members.

Gareth Hardy is now well established in the role of our Club professional. He is enthusiastic and approachable and we are very lucky to be able to use his experienced advice on how to improve our golf game. He has a sensitive and positive teaching approach which is very much appreciated by the members.

It is 5 years ago that Gareth and I launched ourselves at the local primary schools as part of the campaign to regenerate the junior section of the Club. We followed that with a very successful Open Day and we now find ourselves with a flourishing Little Nicks and junior section. On a Sunday we can have around 80 keen golfers taking part in the coaching and playing the course...an amazing turnaround!

The older juniors with a handicap will be taking part in the Ayrshire League this year again and we will be giving the younger non handicap juniors a taste of competition in the Super Sixes league.

We have a newly formed junior committee who are keen to grow the game of golf, continue skills development and encourage fellowship, good sportsmanship, honesty and integrity, while setting the stage for a lifetime of playing golf.

A very big thank you to our member volunteers and our parent helpers.

Committee meetings have been quite intense this year as one of the main issues we have been tackling is Club Governance.

Governance is putting in place structures, policies, procedures and processes to meet legal requirements and ensure your organisation is run efficiently and effectively for the long term.

I feel that a Golf Club that works on their governance will be ahead of the curve and put themselves in a strong position to face the ever-changing challenges that will emerge in the world we live in. We have reduced the main committee to 8. This will include the Captain, Vice-Captain and 6 key Conveners in the 6 most important areas of Club operations.

These have been identified as: Links...House...Membership and Marketing...Match and Handicap...Finance...Governance.

We will adopt a sub-committee mindset which will utilise members with special skill sets to work with the Conveners on a dedicated area of the business plan. Recommendations from these groups will be passed on to the main committee.

My grateful thanks goes to the Committee this year for their support and commitment to the Club.

Our Managing Secretary Eddie Prentice continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the Club members, dealing expertly with the finances, staffing, legal issues, Capital investment, membership and so the list goes on! He has guided me through my year as Captain and has been a great support and strength through the many issues that a Captain has to deal with. My grateful thanks, Eddie.

Margaret Low is the steady hand in all matters dealing with you the members. She knows you all and is generous with her help and guidance and nothing is a problem for her.

Thank you, Margaret, for your friendship and kindness.

Margaret Dalziel works quietly away doing the daily accounts and keeping track of all the daily finances needed to run the business of the Club. Thank you, Margaret.

My final thanks go to my Vice Captain Stuart...I know it hasn't been easy to shadow a control freak like me but thank you for your support this year and to Honorary President Gordon McKinlay who has stepped into his new role with ease and I have listened to his wise suggestions on many occasions...thank you Gordon.

It has been a privilege and an honour to be the Captain of this Golf Club. I have enjoyed representing the Club at various events and functions, attended prize-givings, interviewed new members, refereed finals and participated in Committee golf games.

I have loved being at the centre of golf club business for the past 5 years and I look forward to being a supportive and helpful Past Captain in the year ahead.

Nulli Secundus, (second to none), how do we achieve this at Prestwick St Nicholas Golf Club...with team work.

Teamwork from the members, the staff, the Committee and the management. All of us working together make our Club a success, now and for the future.

My very best wishes to everyone connected with this wonderful Club.

Financial Report and Accounts

The Managing Secretary, Mr Eddie Prentice presented the accounts and supporting notes thereon for the year ended 31 December 2018 and reported that the Club had returned a surplus for the 5th successive year.

Membership

The Managing Secretary reported that there had been an increase in overall membership numbers of 11 which compared to an overall increase in 2017 of 3. Ordinary membership increased by 1 in the year to 427 whilst Associate membership remained static for the third year in a row at 152. Both these categories remained well below their Constitutional limit.

During the year, there were a total of 29 new Ordinary (2017: 40) members and 11 new Associate (2017: 11) members. The combined budget for new Ordinary and Associate members was 40 made up of 25 Ordinary and 15 Associate. Combined resignations in these two categories in the year were 24 compared to a budget of 40.

There were 8 new Intermediate members and 15 resignations with 2 transferring to Ordinary on attaining the age of 30. During the year Country members rose by 3, Overseas by 6 and juniors by 18.

2017 Accounts

Pages 4 and 5 of the accounts booklet contained much detail on the various income and expenditure headings.

The Club made a surplus in the year of £1,533 which was approximately £1,000 higher than budget.

In 2018 Total Expenditure was £692,092 which was circa £15,000 higher than budget and £13,500 higher than 2017.

Total Income before exceptional items and was £686,595 compared to £651,642 in 2017.

Subscription and joining fee income were £13,863 higher than in 2017.

Green fee income after starter's fees was £14,500 higher than in 2017.

Bar and catering performance was approximately £2,000 down on 2017 however this was after allowing for an ex-gratia payment to a former employee as compensation for loss of office.

Bar and catering margins were resilient.

There was an operating surplus before depreciation and levy/exceptional income of £51,825 which compared to the equivalent figure of £24,840 for 2017.

Capital Expenditure in 2018 amounted to £108,420 and the major items purchased are fully detailed in the booklet. The three main items of expenditure were the new lounge furniture and décor, £20,000; phase 2 of the practice bays, £15,000; and £52,438 on two new golf buggies and a new tractor and excavator unit.

Cash and Bank balances rose by just under £13,500 in the year and stood at £319,126 at 31 December 2018.

There being no questions on the accounts a motion to approve the accounts was proposed by Katie Hodge, seconded by Sheila Bee and passed unanimously.

2019 Budget and proposed subscriptions

The Managing Secretary referred to the budget summary on page 6 of the Report and Accounts booklet and explained in some detail the rationale behind the budget assumptions.

For 2019 the budgeted number of new members in the Ordinary and Associate categories was set at 25 and 10 respectively and this compared to 29 and 11 new member admissions in these categories respectively in 2018. The number of resignations was set at 20 and 5 compared to 19 and 6 actual resignations respectively in 2018

The Managing Secretary then talked through some of the assumptions pertaining to the various income and expenditure streams.

Committee were budgeting for a revenue surplus of £2,861 or just under £60,000 before depreciation.

In the light of the above Committee asked for approval of an increase of 4.2% in the Ordinary subscription level for 2019 with other subscriptions increased pro-rata with exceptions in the case of Juniors and Country and Overseas members who have not transferred into those categories of membership.

There being no questions a motion to approve the budget and subscription increases was proposed by Past Captain Stan Stevenson, seconded by Past Captain Bill Rae and carried overwhelmingly.

Election of Office Bearers and Management Committee

Captain Annette Paterson advised the meeting that during her year in office she had been ably and enthusiastically supported by her Vice-Captain Stuart Millar. She commented on his commitment to the Club and she personally considered him to be a worthy successor to the post of Captain. Captain Paterson then asked the meeting that his appointment as Captain be approved and as was the custom this was done by loud acclamation.

In her final official act, Past-Captain Paterson congratulated the new Captain on his appointment and wished him a very successful year in office. In accepting the position, Captain Millar thanked Past Captain Paterson for her warm words and commended her for having presided over a very successful year in office as the Club's first ever lady Captain.

In his first official duty Captain Millar proposed that Past Captain Paterson be appointed an Honorary Vice President of the Club which, as was the custom, was approved by acclamation and he then took great pleasure in presenting her with her Past Captain's badge and an engraved crystal bowl.

Captain Millar commented that he had been a member of the Club for 24 years and it was a privilege and an honour to be given the opportunity to serve the Club as Captain. He would do his utmost to uphold the traditions and standards associated with the Club.

Captain Millar then announced that Neil Foggo had been nominated as Vice-Captain for the coming year. Neil has been a member of the Club, man and boy for 38 years and was following in the footsteps of his late father, Past Captain Malcolm Foggo who had served the Club with distinction for many years.

Neil was co-opted onto Committee in March 2017 and had been very active on the Membership and Marketing and House sub-committees. Captain Millar stated that in his opinion Neil would be an excellent Vice-Captain and he then asked the meeting to approve Neil's appointment and this was also done by acclamation.

The Captain thanked those members of Committee falling to retire, namely Past Captain R George Davidson, Alistair Belford, George Tindle and Monica MacMillan. The Captain advised the meeting that as a result of the Constitutional amendments passed at the SGM held in February 2019 there were no vacancies on Committee requiring to be filled at this year's AGM.

Appointment of Reporting Accountants

A motion to re-appoint the Reporting Accountants, Messrs Galbraith Pritchards, was proposed by Past Captain Douglas Urquhart, seconded by Steve Holdsworth and approved unanimously.

A.O.C.B.

- The Captain referred to a motion which had been submitted by Alan Ireland and 7 other voting members requesting that Committee cancels its planned alterations to the BRS booking times which were due to commence on 01 April 2019.

Member Ian Young spoke in support of the motion and gave a number of reasons why he and the other signatories to the motion felt that the changes to the BRS times previously intimated by Committee would

negatively impact on members' ability to book and play at the times they wished. He also felt that the booking system could be abused with times being booked by a number of members and then not used.

The Captain then explained Committee's rationale for making the changes and reminded the meeting that the changes were for a trial period of six months which would allow for any glitches to be rectified or indeed for the trial to be cancelled if unforeseen problems arose.

Member Hugh Currie spoke up in favour of Committee's proposal and stated that it would give him the opportunity to secure a tee-time before 9.30 which under existing arrangements he was frequently unable to do.

Past Captain Louis Thow stated that if a member booked a time and was unable to play, he must withdraw his name and that this applied to the existing arrangements as well.

On a vote being taken the motion to cancel the trial was not approved.

- There were no other items of AOB.

Vote of Thanks

In closing the meeting Honorary President Gordon McKinlay thanked Past Captain Annette Paterson for a successful year in office which was particularly pleasing as she had been the Club's first ever Lady Captain. He then wished both Stuart and Neil well for the year ahead.

He continued by thanking Managing Secretary, Eddie Prentice and Assistant Secretary, Margaret Low for organising the evening's proceedings and for Grant Hood and his staff for their efforts in looking after the members.

The members were fortunate in having a great team working inside the Club and a highly skilled team of greenkeepers looking after the course and he joined with the members in thanking them all for their input.

In concluding, the Honorary President thanked all of the members who had taken the time to come to the 2019 AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

E D Prentice
Managing Secretary

16 April 2019