

DRAFT

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON 7 FEBRUARY 2020

Captain Ian Telford opened the meeting by welcoming 81 members to the 143rd Annual General Meeting of Airdrie Golf Club.

Notice calling the meeting taken as read.

The Captain asked for one minute silence in memory of members who died in the past year, James Mack, Margaret Henderson, Cherry Goldie, Iain Simpson, John Henderson, Margaret Paterson, Albert Thomson and Bill Loudon.

Apologies were received from Jack Morrison, Jan Watt, Paul Kerr, Robin Wood, David Bridges, Malcolm McLean, Roger Appadoo, Sandy Turnbull, Richard Sands, Martin Robertson, Alan Hall, Mark Stuart, Paul Andrew, Scott Rae, Bill McFadyen, Graham Dalzell, Jim Curtis, Hugh Campbell, Joan Campbell, Thomas O'Neill, Scott Bryce, and Alex Mark.

Approval of the Minutes of the 142nd Annual General Meeting held on Friday 8 February 2019 was proposed by Thomas Monaghan and seconded by Alan Gillespie.

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2019

Captain Telford advised the members he would identify and explain differences in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Local Rates - Increased from £2,889 to £4,060. This was due to the installation of water meters resulting in a measured charge instead of a previously estimated charge. The budget for 2019/20 now reflects this change.

Upkeep of the Course – A reduction in staff wages from £86,427 last year to £76,790 this year and this is due to a significant movement in the green staff. Jamie, Neil and Dylan all left during this period and the green staff seldom had a full complement. The green staff are to be congratulated in maintaining the current excellent condition of the course.

Clubhouse Expenses – Bar wages have increased from £41,995 to £43,660. This increase has to be viewed in terms of bar profit which increased by £6,500.

Depreciation – An increase from £35,066 to £41,376 and this is linked to the Loss on sale of assets of £4,961. It is the club's practise to replace greens machinery every five years and this year we replaced two. Costs are spread by five year leasing agreements and at the end of the lease period the machinery belongs to the club. Due to the depreciation rate operated by the club in recent times, the trade in value was less than the asset value on the books. This means this year the accounts show a loss on the sale of assets but the depreciation rate for the future has been increased in line with more realistic trade in values.

All income with the exception of competitions and unused bar cards has increased from the previous year. The reduced income from competitions was due to the Watt Medals being changed to Sundays during the winter resulting in fewer entries. It is anticipated the move to the first Saturday in the month will generate more income.

A Clubhouse Development Fund has been set up to carry out improvements in the Clubhouse. At 31/10/19 the fund was £4,236, of which £3,810 was donated by the Invitation Day Committee. Captain Telford thanked James Higgins, Iain Watt and Ewan Hutchison for their fantastic performance in organising the competition. Lottery funding and a further donation from the Ladies Section of £400 now takes the fund to £4,953.

This all means the club has moved from a deficit last year of £20,639 to a surplus of £10,162.

Captain Telford expressed his view that although we had a good year there are warning signs as we have only 20 members between 18 and 25, only one junior will move to 20c this year and there will be no juniors turning senior in the next 3 years. There are more members over 70 than members between 20 and 40. The percentage of women in golf nationally is 15% but our percentage is only 8%. Scottish Golf have made it a priority to increase the number of women playing golf.

Captain Telford felt, while the club was in a healthy position at the end of October, we need a plan to create and retain new members particularly from the categories where we are under-represented, if the club is to have a sustainable future.

BUDGET

Captain Telford then referred members to the proposed budget for 2019/20. This is based on 317 full members, which was the final figure for last year. The proposed £20 levy is not included in the figures and would be added to the Clubhouse Development Fund.

ANNUAL REPORT

Captain Telford thanked Tom Monaghan for his Finance Report and the assistance and support he has given him throughout the year. Tom is leaving the Committee and Captain Telford asked the membership to show their appreciation.

The House Report was written by Bill Gilchrist, House and Social Convenor and Captain Telford highlighted a few points. The underground drainage at the back of the clubhouse had been an ongoing problem and the repairs carried out appear to have been successful. Thanks to Past Captain Alan Hall for his assistance. Both inside and outside the clubhouse were looking much smarter at the start of the season with the club indebted to Alan Gillespie for the work carried out, in particular the front facing gable features. The new Trolley Store was so successful a ballot had to be held to allocate places. Thanks to Stuart and Bill Gilchrist for carrying out the fitting works, George McHutchison for providing the timber materials, and committee members for clearing the outhouse prior to the work commencing.

The clubhouse has suffered from a lack of investment due to the prospect of a new clubhouse and financial restraints because of falling membership. Bill Gilchrist initiated the idea of a Clubhouse Development Fund for much needed improvements and again any member who has expertise and time is welcome to join the team to help maintain the clubhouse.

The Sportsman's Dinner started the Captain's year on a high and this was thanks to Alan Gillespie and Bill Gilchrist organising such a great event. The money raised in the raffle that evening was donated to the Junior Section and allowed the club to attract match funding for setting up the Academy Course.

There have been great nights and new initiatives, Psychic Show, Gin Tasting and Live Lounge to try and find something to suit everyone. The last function was the Re-Claimers which was one of the best nights of all time. Bill has set the bar high and the challenge is for someone to take this forward. Captain Telford asked the membership to show their appreciation of Bill Gilchrist.

The Greens Report, written by Glen Rankin, identified the poor weather conditions at the start of the season. Agronomists STRI assessed the course and recommended a course of action. Their report was circulated to members with a list of proposed actions. Major maintenance work was undertaken in September which involved vertidrainage, scarifying and over seeding. This appears to have been successful and the greens are in good condition for this time of year, with a very successful winter league. It is hoped the preparation undertaken pays off and we are rewarded by having the course in great condition. Captain Telford thanked Past Captain Alan Hall for the huge amount of time he has dedicated to shockwaving the fairways. Captain Telford again asked for members to volunteer.

The Head Greenkeeper, Stuart Cameron, left in December after 20 years at the club. The club have secured Scott McKnight, currently Deputy Course Manager at Stirling Golf Club, as Course Manager.. Scott will join the club at the beginning of March and Captain Telford wished him every success for the future. Glen is also leaving Committee and his practical help on the course will be missed. Glen saved the Club considerable expense by trimming the tress on our boundary with Glenmavis Road. Captain Telford asked the members to show their appreciation of the great work Glen has undertaken.

The Team Report was written by Team Manager John Main, who has taken the team to its second win of the First Division. A truly fabulous achievement, congratulations to everyone who played for the team. Captain Telford referred to the great team spirit and felt this had contributed to the win. Dominic Dougan won the Club Championship with a magnificent score of 132 and donated his vouchers to the Junior Section, a wonderful gesture. He won the Lanarkshire Order of Merit by a mile and also the Lanarkshire Matchplay Championship at Carnwath. Captain Telford commended him on his ambassadorship for the Club.

Jane Clark wrote the Ladies Report and Captain Telford acknowledged the support Jane, along with Ladies Vice Captain Geraldine Caulfield, had given him during the year. The Club signed up to the Scottish Golf Women in Golf Charter this year and while the club had moved forward in promoting women in the club, it was not as far as he had hoped. Cathy Brown, Ladies Handicap Secretary is stepping down, with Isabel Russell and Joyce Russell taking over. Captain Telford wished them all well. The Solheim Cup was supported in both the mixed and family foursomes. The Family Foursomes has gained in popularity with the biggest field this year. Captain Telford thanked Robin and Susan Wood for supporting and sponsoring the event this year.

Captain Telford thanked Senior Captain Sandy Turnbull and his committee for running a very successful and vibrant section, with match play competitions, medals, an outing and Senior and Veteran team matches.

Within the Junior Section there are eight members under 14 and six over 14. Increasing these numbers will continue to be Captain Telford's priority. Scottish Golf have launched a "Box of Tricks" aimed at retaining junior members. A Junior Team Manager is needed with a commitment of five evenings between 25 May and 22 June and a Golf Sixes under 12 Team Manager whose commitment would be two Saturday and two Sunday afternoons. Jane Clark has obtained funding for a Girls Golf Hub and Airdrie Golf Club was one of the first to be fully booked, so ten girls between six and eleven wish to play golf. It is Captain Telford's wish these girls are still members in ten years time.

This year will see the introduction of the World Handicapping System and will require the club to operate both the existing Congu System and the WHS in parallel between April and November. This will require a sub-committee to cover the transition period. Captain Telford thanked Ryan Corrigan who is leaving committee for his work on handicaps and asked the members to show their appreciation.

The last person leaving committee is Past Captain Brian Jamieson who was Captain twice. Brian has been a tremendous servant of the club over a number of years and Captain Telford asked the members to show their appreciation.

Captain Telford expressed his thanks to the committee for their support and special thanks to Alan Gillespie, Keith McIntyre and Jack Craig.

Last but by no means least Captain Telford expressed his thanks to his wife, Elaine who has been helpful, patient and understanding throughout his year as Captain.

RESIGNATIONS

The following resignations were duly noted.

William Stewart, Stuart Hall, Ross Love, Gordon McCreadie, David Peacock, Niall Gartshore, Ian Francis, Ian MacPherson, Craig Arthur.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE

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| a) That Past Captain John Main and Mr Alexander Forsyth, having reached 50 years continuous membership be admitted to Rule 3 Honorary Membership. | APPROVED |
| b) That a £20 levy is paid this year, by the membership, into a Clubhouse Development Fund | APPROVED |
| c) That the full subscription for the season 2019/2020 is £695. | APPROVED |
| d) That the Honoraria for Secretary and Treasurer be increased from £6,780 to £7,140 | APPROVED |
| e) That in terms of Rule 48 the Club's borrowing be increased to £100,000. | APPROVED |
| f) That new members continue to be given an introductory discount of 15% for a period of 2 years, unless they have received a discount in the past. | APPROVED |

MEMBERS PROPOSALS

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| a) That the Watt Medal Final be played later in the season. | APPROVED |
| Members voted: For proposal | 31 |
| Status Quo | 25 |
| b) That each member, according to surname be allocated one hole which they become accountable for with fellow members to tidy up, replace divots, repair pitch marks during their round. | APPROVED |

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Captain Telford introduced Vice Captain Jack Craig as sole nominee for Captain. Jack has served on Committee twice now and has worked tirelessly in the background doing all the unglamorous but essential work. There being no other nominations Jack Craig was elected as Captain of Airdrie Golf Club.

Captain Jack Craig thanked Past Captain Telford for his hard work over the last and previous years on Committee. He has been an outstanding Captain, adding to the good work by Past Captain Brian Jamieson. The last year has been a very positive one and Past Captain Telford was not afraid to make brave decisions to take the club forward.

Captain Craig explained he has been a member for nearly 30 years and has served on committee for five years across two periods, mostly on the House Committee with three years as House Convenor. His hope is to increase member numbers, especially within the junior section.

Captain Craig advised that sadly last year we lost Vice President and Past Captain Iain Simpson to Cancer however Alexander Fraser has agreed to accept the Vice Presidency.

Captain Craig invited Keith McIntyre to be Vice Captain, which he accepted. Rosemary Appadoo re-elected as Secretary and Gino Russo re-elected as Treasurer.

Captain Craig thanked Brian, Bill, Glen, Ryan and Tom who are coming off Committee for their hard work over the past years, very much appreciated.

Five vacancies exist on Committee with four nominations, Arthur Donnelly, James Higgins, Gerard Kelly and Iain Palmer who are all duly elected. Nominations were sought for the remaining vacancy. Past Captain Bobby Shevill nominated Ian Doole, Seconded by Robert Russell. Ian Doole was duly elected. Ian Doole put himself forward to help promote the Junior Section and as Junior Team Manager.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS AND FIXING REMUNERATION

It was agreed Benson Wood and Co be re-appointed with a small fee increase of £200 due to the new digital reporting requirements.

A.O.B.

Alex Alexander asked for more transparency within the club, i.e. publishing minutes and Agendas from committee meetings. Captain Craig advised this will be discussed at next Committee meeting.

Past Captain John McAuley asked the Committee emphasise the importance of the rules for the knockout competitions. He felt there were many new members who didn't understand the rules and a high number of games were held to the last day. He requested an email is sent out with the rules for the competitions, member's responsibilities, and the need to agree reasonable dates in a timeous manner.

Gerard Kelly asked that, for the purpose of arranging ties, Clubv1 app is updated by members with their contact details. Past Captain Jamieson explained the club website can also be used for this. A paper list is available in the Dirty Bar. The Clubv1 hub can be used to contact members, with an automated email system.

Mary Mason asked for a list of membership categories with percentage costs be posted in Ladies and Gents Locker rooms. Past Captain Jamieson advised this information is available on the club website.

Alan Daley requested all the information discussed is made available to new members. This will be added to the new member Welcome Pack.

Captain Craig closed the meeting at 8.25pm

