

# **HALE GOLF CLUB**

## **Minutes of Council Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009**

### **PRESENT**

B. S. Jefferies (Captain/ Chairman), J. A. Acratopulo (Ex-Captain), A. Bradley (President), R. R. Cross (Vice-president), P. K. Hardern (Immediate past-president), A. W. Heath (Lady Captain), P. M. Walsh (Lady Secretary), C. M. Wood (Hon. Secretary), D. W. Swale (Assistant Secretary), P. E. Hilton (Hon. Treasurer), A. F. Kenney (Chairman of Green Committee), K. E. Lodge (Chairman of House Committee), I. O. Goulty, (Chairman of Membership Committee), J. R. Foster, M. J. Kirchin, B. Greenbank, R. W. O'Brien and D. M. Smith, M. I. Sharp (Lady Captain-elect) J. R. Gower-Jones (Captain-nominate)

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from:

C. J. Davies, R. A. Da Forno, A. G. Dewhurst and  
vice-presidents: G. O. Harris, A. N. G. Hyde, W. W. Kennedy, C. J. Mawson, J. N. Nichols,  
A. G. Pendleton and P. F. Veitch.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Captain signed the minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 as a correct record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **CAPTAIN'S REMARKS**

The Captain brought to Council's attention the imminent 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Cyril Conroy, an honorary life member. To mark this it was proposed to present Cyril with a special decorated cake from the club, whilst at the same time on his actual birthday (March 4<sup>th</sup>) displaying, in the bar, some recent pictures of Cyril along with a bottle of whisky to allow members to toast Cyril. The Captain looked to Council to approve these actions and expenditure, which it duly did.

The Captain brought two letters, to which he had already responded on an interim basis, from members to Council's attention.

The first, from Nick Turnbull, contained the suggestion that Alec Bickerdike be made an honorary life member of the Club. Council supported the Captain's view that this was not appropriate and the Secretary would write accordingly, pointing out that Alec's contribution had been recognised by affording him continuing courtesy of the course.

The second was from Anne Smyth who felt that the staff who were now honorary members should no longer benefit from any Christmas gratuities. Council did not accept this view and again the Secretary would write accordingly.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

KEL reported that Citation, who the Club retains as a consultant on H&S issues, had carried out an audit in January of House and Greens systems and submitted their report. While the report had only just been received, in the case of House, only a few minor points had been brought to the Club's attention - these will be acted upon. AFK said the same applied to Citation's points on Greens' responsibilities.

KEL stated that after the AGM he would meet with the new Captain to go through the issues relating to H&S responsibility and also remind the new Council of its responsibilities regarding this matter.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer had previously circulated the final draft of the 2008 accounts for Council approval (Appendix 1).

Several points were raised:

It was pointed out that stock taking costs were considerably higher than in previous years. ROB said he had introduced a somewhat increased programme of stock taking which he was happy with and did not feel was unduly expensive.

It was noted that income from temporary members had fallen. The Treasurer said that, whilst he was sure that there had been little evasion of the paying of green fees, the Club was in the process of introducing a modified system which should make it easier to account for green fees accurately. It was noted that the term 'temporary members' no longer applied to visitors and that in future the item should appear as 'green fees'.

In response to a query, AFK described how the 'competition income' item in the accounts was derived, pointing out that it referred only to Men's Competitions and also pointing out that similar income from Ladies' Competitions was totally administered by the Ladies' Committee.

The President thanked the Treasurer for the work done on the accounts and noted the Club's sound cash position and absence of loans. He encouraged all sections to be aware of the budget for 2009 and to do everything possible to keep costs as low as practicable. He also felt that, in the case of the legacy fund, any donations should be allocated to specific projects as quickly as possible. To this end it was agreed by Council that the current cash in this fund, which came from the kindly legacy of Jimmy Hodson, would be used to build the new practice green in the modified practice area.

Council approved the final draft of the accounts which would now be prepared for publication.

## GREEN COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no pre-circulated report from Greens.

AFK reported that there was still an on-going problem with the drainage contractors, but he was hopeful this would be resolved in the very near future and apologised for the inevitable untidiness this work and delay was causing. The Club still owes monies for the partial work already done.

AFK praised the extensive work the ground staff had done on the course in recent months which he was sure was appreciated by the membership. Greens are keen to continue with the planting of more new trees and would like to use some of the 200 Club money for this purpose. The Past-President said that distribution of 200 Club money was at the discretion of the organiser who could either suggest expenditure items himself to the different committees or agree to their requests. AFK will approach Paul Bramwell.

AFK reported that the shortlist for the new professional had now been trimmed to three. The three candidates would now be asked to visit the club again prior to a final round of interviews.

The need for at least one lightning hut to be provided at the far end of the course was raised. Whilst there was no great enthusiasm from Greens for this suggestion, it was agreed that further technical details relating to the effectiveness of such huts were required and these would be sought.

The Past-President reported that, in agreement with Greens, he was organising a working party to re-furbish the Harris Hut which it is also hoped may be of some use to the new professional.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Appendix 2)

KEL asked for the House Report to be taken as read, but referred specifically to the fire resulting from a malfunction of the rotary towel drier. Temporarily the drying is contracted out and permanent out-sourcing will be costed as an alternative to replacing the drier, although this is not likely to be the attractive option. To this end he asked for Council approval to spend £3,300 on replacement if this was indeed the conclusion. Council accepted this position.

KEL reported that he had some concerns about noise annoyance to neighbours when there was loud music at the club, but had investigated noise levels during a recent Sunday evening party and found them not to be a problem.

The Secretary and House Committee are seeking to clarify and apply the main room booking policy (Appendix 3). KEL reported that the Stewards are strongly opposed to these charges, obviously seeing them as potentially damaging to their overall business, but he had analysed the potential charges for the year and he and the Secretary did not see any cancellations resulting. Council agreed that the policy as described should be continued as a trial for this year. The Secretary and House Committee were entrusted to use some discretion in

implementation, but the President felt strongly that this should be kept to a minimum and avoided if possible. KEL will discuss the matter further with the Stewards.

There was a lengthy discussion on the subject of use of the course and clubhouse. This was initiated by KEL who felt Friday night mixed roll-ups, which were entered into the Calendar early, were being unfairly squeezed out by men's matches and private parties. The Secretary said that he took responsibility as he believed that it was possible for the events concerned to run side by side on the course and in the clubhouse. For Greens, AFK complained he was not always consulted about use of the course.

In conclusion, the Captain said that it was now too late to alter bookings for this year and that it would be necessary to adopt appropriate compromises and to monitor the outcome with a view to devising a workable solution for future years.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

IOG presented the Membership Committee report (Appendix 4).

IOG said that, whilst there were a significant number of changes at the year end, the overall position regarding full playing members was virtually unchanged and the number of non-playing members continued to rise and had in fact more than doubled over the last five years.

The following were elected by Council to full playing membership of the club:

Hilary Darwell	(Proposer Irene Kirk, Seconder Tessa Day)
Andrew Fishwick	(Proposer Roger Perks, Seconder Cliff Wright)
Min Fishwick	(Proposer Jane Perks, Seconder Clare Makin)
Louise Gerald	(Proposer Mandy Gilbert, Seconder Barbara Spark)
Paul Gilbert	(Proposer Andrew Gething, Seconder Paul Bramwell)
Adam Gladwin	(Proposer Glyn Isaac, Seconder Bob Cooke)
John Johnston	(Proposer John Adams, Seconder Terry Hope)
Gill Kay	(Proposer Gwynneth Bramwell, Seconder Sue Harrison)
Estrid Michaelson	(Proposer Anne Webster, Seconder Jenny Moffat)
Don Pearson	(Proposer Vic Stratta, Seconder Robin Malthouse)
Jan Ravenscroft	(Proposer Wendy Jenkins, Seconder Helen Allot)
Clare Withey	(Proposer Janet Grant, Seconder Chris Marsh)
Guy Withey	(Proposer Jonathan Grant, Seconder Richard Duerr)
John Yates	(Proposer Bernie Wilcox, Seconder Mike Hauser)

The following person was elected by Council to non-playing membership of the club:

Cheryl Carey           (Proposer John Munnery, Seconder Tiff Fielden)

The following person was elected by Council to junior membership of the club:

Jake Oliver           (Proposer Mark Oliver, Seconder Mike Oliver)

The following transfers were approved by Council:

Full playing to non-playing:

Kate Barlow  
Stephen Brogden  
Xavier Brook  
Glen Chapple  
Leslie Freeman  
Margaret Harris  
Ken Harrison  
Tim Jones  
Mike Perkin  
Nick Turnbull  
Terry Wild

Non-playing to full playing:

Margaret Gilman  
Sam Roden

Country to full playing:

Katherine Veitch

Full playing to country:

Peter White

Non-playing to country:

Richard Flint

The President proposed that, in recognition of Anne Hellowell's appointment as President of the Manchester and District Society of Past Lady Captains for the current year, her annual playing fee be waived. This was seconded by the Captain with strong support from the Lady Captain. The suggestion was approved by Council.

IOG then clarified the situation on waiving subscription in relation to office. The Captain's subscription is waived for his year of office and the following year and the Lady Captain's subscription is waived for her year of office. The Secretary's and Treasurer's subscriptions are waived for the years following their years of office.

IOG reported that the idea of having a new category of membership which allowed older players to continue playing on a restricted basis for a reduced subscription had been brought to Membership Committee. After Membership Committee discussion, the opinion of Management Committee members was canvassed, leading to a proposal to Council that nothing be done on this issue (see Appendix 5). This was accepted by Council.

IOG recommended that the non-playing subscription of David Leese, who is terminally ill and unable to respond, should not be pursued. This was agreed by Council.

Finally, IOG reported that consideration of a system allowing staged subscription payments for 2010 onwards was on-going.

## LADIES' COMMITTEE REPORT

The Ladies presented a report on a new EWGA ruling which the Club needs to implement (Appendix 6).

This will involve the running of four separate medals at the weekend. It was agreed that these will be held on Sunday mornings, but it is not known at this stage how many ladies will wish to enter. At the moment, use of Sunday mornings by the business ladies as an extension to Thursday competitions involves relatively few players, but this may not be the case with the new medal events. It was agreed that the only approach possible at this stage was for Ladies and Greens to monitor the entry closely and amend the reserved tee times accordingly.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was no pre-circulated Secretary's report, but the Secretary raised the following points.

The collection of annual subscriptions is well advanced and has not been affected by most of the members being informed of subscription details by e-mail rather than by invoice. In addition, about 25% of subscriptions have been paid by electronic bank transfer, which reduces the membership officer's workload.

The Secretary was to finalise and issue the schedule of Council meetings for 2009-2010 (see Appendix 8).

The Secretary referred to the Assistant Secretary's paper on the relationship between Management Committee and Council (Appendix 7) and said it was generally agreed that this issue needed consideration. He proposed that a sub-group consisting of himself, the Vice-president, the Captain-Nominate and the Assistant Secretary be set up to consider this and report their recommendations to the next meeting of Council. This proposal was accepted by Council.

Finally, he noted that organising and controlling the Calendar is a task which involved reconciling conflicting demands, such as those of mixed roll-ups and men's matches. He endeavoured to undertake this task in good faith and with fairness, but conflicts were inevitable and refining the system was an on-going process.

## SUGGESTION BOOK

There were no entries in the Suggestion Book.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

This being their last Council meeting, the Captain thanked the retiring Lady Captain, the retiring Lady Secretary and Brian Greenbank for all the work they had done on Council.

The Assistant Secretary brought to Council Philippa Nichols' request that a collection box for the Marie Curie Fund be placed in the bar area for the whole of March to coincide with its

national appeal. Several members of Council said that they had previously resisted such approaches on the grounds that this could lead to regular charity collections on behalf of many worthy causes. Whilst it was accepted that one long-standing exception, the Poppy Appeal, existed Council felt it must refuse this request and asked the Assistant Secretary to convey this decision to Philippa.

The Past-President raised three points. Firstly, he felt bar staff should not benefit from the collection of Christmas gratuities as they benefited throughout the year via their day to day work on the bar. The Treasurer replied that virtually all the gratuities went to the Green staff and to the Stewards as the club recognised this situation.

Secondly, he questioned the Charity event in the Calendar for the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009. AFK explained that this was not a full event, simply four players playing nine holes at nine clubs in a fund raising effort and had been approved earlier.

Thirdly, he wished to ensure that the club made a suitable gift to Ringway Golf Club on the occasion of its centenary celebration. It was agreed that the Secretary would liaise with the President and the Captain-nominate about this.

The President said that the past-presidents wished to propose the creation of a new vice-president. The proposal was seconded by the Captain and approved by Council and the name of the nominee will be formally announced at the AGM.

Finally, the President thanked the Captain for his chairmanship of the Council meetings during his term of office and then kindly asked Council to join him for a drink.

The Captain closed the meeting at 9.50p.m.

Date of next meeting: Monday 27th April 2009 at 7.30pm

Signed

John Gower-Jones  
(Captain, Hale Golf Club, 2009-10)

Date 27th April 2009

# **Appendices 1-8 to Council Meeting Minutes 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009**

## **Appendix 1**

### **HALE GOLF CLUB**

#### **ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

#### **REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTANTS TO THE MEMBERS OF HALE GOLF CLUB**

We have examined the books and accounts of Hale Golf Club for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 and the accounts set out on pages 2 to 7 are in accordance with the books of account of the Club and information and explanations given to us.

Riverside House  
Kings Reach Business Park  
Yew Street  
Stockport  
SK4 2HD

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# HALE GOLF CLUB

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

2007 £		£	2008 £
	<b>INCOME</b>		
260,750	Subscriptions (Schedule 1)		273,635
19,770	Entrance Fees		22,340
11,660	Fees & Rentals (Schedule 2)		10,055
50,523	House Committee (Schedule 3)		51,598
<u>12,165</u>	Sundry Income (Schedule 4)		<u>5,259</u>
354,868			362,887
	<b>LESS: EXPENDITURE COURSE</b>		
61,639	Wages, Pension and NI	75,295	
2,220	Repairs & Machinery Maintenance	5,111	
21,864	Course Upkeep	27,022	
3,307	Machinery Fuel	4,084	
420	Sundry Expenses	318	
15,350	Professional – Retainer	14,483	
21,120	Depreciation of Plant & Machinery	20,083	
<u>(1,577)</u>	P&M – Accumulated cost/depreciation adjustment re prior years	<u>-</u>	
124,343			146,396
	<b>CLUBHOUSE</b>		
74,639	Wages, Pension & NI	78,653	
14,483	Electricity & Gas	17,280	
13,949	Repairs & Renewals	22,147	
939	Burglar Alarm Maintenance	1,058	
12,069	Cleaning & Laundry	12,421	
722	Sundry Expenses	1,431	
7,433	Depreciation of Furniture & Fittings	5,269	
<u>1,103</u>	F&F Accumulated cost/depreciation adjustment re prior years	<u>-</u>	
125,337			138,259
	<b>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>		
13,348	General Rates	13,840	
2,708	Water	3,024	
991	Telephone	1,411	
6,095	Insurance	6,325	
3,510	Health & Safety	1,996	
1,755	Accountancy	2,095	
398	Books of Members	420	
1,794	Printing, Postage & Stationery	1,307	
4,356	Subscriptions Payable	4,547	
1,865	Sundry Expenses	1,006	
85	Bank Charges	43	
<u>1,604</u>	Loan Interest	<u>615</u>	
38,509			36,629
<u>11,374</u>	Non-Recoverable VAT		<u>11,151</u>
<u>299,563</u>	Total Expenditure for the year		<u>332,435</u>
55,305			30,452
<u>24,400</u>	TRANSFER TO CAPITAL FUND (Note 3)		<u>19,680</u>
30,905	<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY) FOR THE YEAR</b>		10,772
-	Less Reorganisation Costs		-
-	Practice ground		(900)

(7,100)	Twelfth tee	(146)
(4,321)	Eighth tee	-
<u>(1,570)</u>	Second tee	<u>(1,346)</u>
17,914	<b>SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY) TO GENERAL RESERVE</b>	<u>8,380</u>

## HALE GOLF CLUB

### SCHEDULES TO THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

**2007**

**2008**

£	<b>SCHEDULE 1: SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>	£
£		
165,649	Gentlemen	173,878
76,725	Ladies	78,585
1,750	Boys	1,888
70	Girls	220
5,150	Country Gentlemen	5,934
300	Country Ladies	450
5,846	Non-playing Gentlemen	6,160
5,050	Non-playing Ladies	6,380
<u>210</u>	Temporary Juniors	<u>140</u>
260,750		273,635

#### **SCHEDULE 2: FEES & RENTALS**

£		
£		
10,733	Temporary Members	9,199
<u>927</u>	Lockers	<u>856</u>
11,660		10,055

#### **SCHEDULE 3: HOUSE COMMITTEE**

£		
£		
103,679	Bar Sales	110,950
<u>(51,122)</u>	<u>Less:</u> Cost of Sales	<u>(56,925)</u>
52,557		54,025
(366)	<u>Less:</u> Expenses: Stock Taking	(685)
<u>(1,668)</u>	Bar Sundries	<u>(1,742)</u>
50,523		51,598

#### **SCHEDULE 4: SUNDRY INCOME**

£			
£			
1,880	Sundry Income		57
3,668	Interest on Deposit Accounts	6,025	
(635)	<u>Less: Corporation Tax</u>	<u>(1,241)</u>	4,784
2,787	Competition Fees	2,595	
<u>(2,266)</u>	<u>Less: Cost of Prizes</u>	<u>(2,177)</u>	418
5,434			
<u>6,731</u>	AM AM		-
<u>12,165</u>			<u>5,259</u>
=====			=====

## HALE GOLF CLUB

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

2006		NOTE	£	£
£				
666,098	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	2		664,088
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
5,407	Stock at Cost		5,405	
8,019	Sundry Debtors and Prepayments		13,341	
55,512	Cash at Bank		51,657	
43,323	Cash at Bank – Capital Fund	3	55,753	
2,500	Cash at Bank – Legacy Fund		2,700	
<u>300</u>	Cash in Hand		<u>300</u>	
<u>115,061</u>			<u>129,156</u>	
	<b>LESS: CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>			
38,478	Sundry Creditors and Accruals	4	31,553	
11,250	Bank Loan	5	-	
<u>2,500</u>	Legacy Accounts		<u>2,700</u>	
<u>52,228</u>	<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/ (LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>34,253</u>	
<u>62,833</u>				<u>94,903</u>
730,931	<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			758,991
	<b>LESS: CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR</b>			
<u>-</u>	Bank Loan	5		<u>-</u>
730,931				758,991

=====			=====
	<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
687,608	General Reserve	6	703,238
<u>43,323</u>	Capital Fund	3	<u>55,753</u>
730,931			758,991
=====			=====

Approved by the Council on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

**B S JEFFERIES**  
CAPTAIN

**P E HILTON**  
HON TREASURER

## Appendix 2

# Hale Golf Club

## House Committee Report to Council

23 February 2009

1. Health and Safety
  - 1.1. The annual Health and Safety Audit was carried out by Citation on 21<sup>st</sup> January. Amongst other topics, food safety, fire and electrical hazards and the management structure were covered. No significant issues emerged, and a report will be issued in due course. The Greens Audit will be reported separately.
2. Social Events
  - 2.1. December Dance, New Year's Eve Ball, Seniors Dinner to the Ladies, Burns Night, VP Dinner were all successful. The ability to promote events by e-mail has proved to be very effective in gaining wider support for the events, and increasing attendance. Such promotion needs to be used sparingly to avoid burdening members with excessive Club e-mails.
3. Clubhouse
  - 3.1. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> a fire occurred in the rotary drier used for drying the towels etc. The fire was quickly extinguished using a fire extinguisher, but unfortunately the dryer itself was damaged beyond repair. No other damage resulted, apart from residual smoke throughout the clubhouse, and this cleared over the next few hours. Over the next few weeks until a replacement is obtained, laundry will be contracted out, and hand towels will not be available.

A replacement unit has been identified, at a cost of £2618 plus VAT and plus installation. In discussion with the Stewards, it is proposed that consideration be given to the option of contracting out the laundry in the long term, although it is likely that this will not be financially attractive. The possibility of an insurance claim is also being explored.

**Due to the timing, Council is asked to approve the expenditure of £3300 on a replacement dryer, unless other solutions are found to be cost-effective. This amount will be reduced by any contribution from insurance.**

**This expenditure was not budgeted for.**
  - 3.2. Waste removal continues to cause problems with missed scheduled removals, complaints by truck drivers of restricted bin access, trucks damaging grass verges, overflowing bins and squirrel nuisance. The contractor, SITA has been made aware of our concerns, and work is under way to enlarge the bin storage area and to make members aware of the need to avoid blocking access.
4. Staff
  - 4.1. It has been agreed that Martina will return to work in April on a part-time basis. This should ease the staffing problems, but additional part-time help may be needed to meet the ongoing cleaning needs. Until her return, we continue to operate without a designated cleaner.
  - 4.2. During the annual review, for a number of reasons it was agreed that Darius should reduce the number of hours he is working. The staffing needs will need to be re-assessed to accommodate this development.

K E Lodge/ 22 February 2009

## Appendix 3

**DRAFT 1**  
**Hale Golf Club**  
**Clarification of rules for Room Bookings**

1. Objective

To clarify the rules associated with the use of and payment for the Main Dining Room (MDR)

2. General

- 2.1. Hale Golf Club is in possession of a “Club Licence” under the Licensing Act 2003, and a copy of the Licence and its provisions are posted on the Main Notice Board. Under the Licence, only Members, Associate Members and their guests over the age of 18 may be served alcohol, and only during the specified hours.
- 2.2. The comments below apply only to the MDR, and the assumption is that the Bar and Side Bar will be available at all times for use by other members, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary.
- 2.3. Booking of the MDR does not confer any golfing privileges.
- 2.4. For all events, the Member booking the event must be present for the duration of the event, and is responsible for the clubhouse and his/her guests.
- 2.5. All bookings are subject to availability and payment of any fees.
- 2.6. Any additional costs such as hire of dance floor is payable by the event organizer
- 2.7. Individual Charities are not supported by the Club, as all Club resources are owned by Members, and the Club is not authorised to select the Charities to which such resources should be channelled. The only exception to this rule is the annual sale of Poppies on behalf of the British Legion, a practice which is a long-standing tradition.

3. Members’ Private Parties

- 3.1. Members may book the MDR for private events hosted by and paid for by the Member. Examples of such events are: Birthday Parties, Anniversaries. For these events a fee (currently £50) is payable

4. Hale Golf Club-Based Societies

- 4.1. Golfing societies such as Shanks, Cockatoos, Out-of-Bounders, 12-Club, Ferrets may book the MDR for Society Events without charge.

5. Visiting Golf Societies

- 5.1. Where visiting golf societies pay Green Fees, no charge is made for use of the MDR. If no Member is present at the event, the visitors must be members of another golf club, and thereby “Associate Members of Hale Golf Club” as is required under the Licencing Act. The party may also include guests of “Associate Members”

6. Visiting Societies where no Green Fees are paid

- 6.1. Visiting groups such as Bridge or Pub societies which are hosted by a Member, and where no green fees are paid, will be charged at the non-Members’ rate (currently £100) for use of the MDR.

7. Fund-Raising Events

- 7.1. The MDR will not be made available for events which are set up as fund-raisers and where tickets are sold to the general public. Such events would not meet the requirements of the Club Licence.

KEL/14 Feb 09

## **Appendix 4**

### **Hale Golf Club**

#### **Membership Committee Report to Council**

##### **1. Membership Movements**

Membership movements are summarised on worksheet 1 (movements) of the membership spreadsheet (Appendix 4a). Membership Committee is pleased to recommend that the following be elected by Council as a full playing members having met all the necessary criteria and obtained the appropriate number of supporting signatures:

Female	Male
Min Fishwick	Andrew Fishwick
Hilary Darwell	Adam Gladwin
Clare Withey	Guy Withey
Gill Kay	Don Pearson
Estrid Michaelson	Paul Gilbert
Jan Ravenscroft	John Yates
Louise Gerald	John Johnston

Cheryl Carey is recommended for election as a non-playing member and Jake Oliver as a junior member.

Council is asked to approve the transfers from playing to non-playing membership, transfers back to playing from non-playing of Margaret Gilman and Sam Roden and Katherine Veitch's move from Country member to full playing and transfers resulting from changes in age category.

Council is also asked to note the resignations shown on the movement spreadsheet.

##### **2. Prospective Members**

An updated list of prospective new members is presented as worksheet 2 (prospective) of the membership spreadsheet (Appendix 4a).

The membership Committee noted that if the above new members and transfers are approved that we would result in the club having 302 playing members compared to 298 a year ago. This is seen as a very healthy position in the current climate. The residual list of prospective candidates is, however, quite small now.

The Committee also noted that the non-playing membership had doubled over the last five years or so, clearly reflecting the success of the social side of the club and the excellence of the stewards.

##### **3. Discussion regarding Senior Membership**



Membership Committee discussed the paper circulated by Ian Goulty regarding the possibility of a new category of Senior Management (Appendix 5). It was agreed that the demand from members was limited and the complexity of the possible criteria made it extremely difficult to create a coherent set of rules. The committee recommended that no action be taken regarding any new class of “senior membership”.

CGA 15.2.09

## **Appendix 5**

### **REPORT TO MEMBERS OF MEMBERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL RE A POSSIBLE NEW CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Proposal**

On 24th November 2008 Billy Kennedy sent me an e-mail as Chairman of the Membership Committee asking Council to consider a new category of membership. His suggestion was that those aged 80 and over might pay half the annual subscription subject to a restriction that they do not play in club competitions and "possibly other restrictions." He argues that this might delay resignations from those who find that full use of the course is not possible due to age and infirmity.

#### **Background**

Some years ago there were discounts available on application from the Hon. Treasurer for gentlemen over 65 and for ladies over 60. For example in 1990/91 when the respective full subs were £278 and £185 gentlemen over 65 with 20 years full membership might have received a discount of £40; gentlemen over 65 with 10-20 years membership £30; ladies over 60 with 20 years membership £35 and ladies over 60 with 10-20 years membership £25. These discounts, which of course varied from year to year, were discontinued from 1997 after a full discussion in Council in September 1996.

In January 1998 the then Hon Sec., John Hughes, produced a membership discussion paper at a time when the club had exceeded its arbitrary limit of 190 full playing members (although the limit of 110 lady playing members was not reached let alone exceeded). There was also concern about the age profile of membership (nothing much changes!). The options were:-

1. Do nothing
2. Close the list of applicants
3. Increase the maximum number from 190 to 200
4. Create a new "senior member" category

The debate concentrated on option 4. The suggested new category was for those over 70 with continuous full membership of 15 years. Such members would retain the right to vote but pay two thirds of the full subscription and be restricted to weekday golf. This was tabled at the Feb 1998 Council meeting and deferred to the March meeting when it was decided to test the water at the AGM but with no recommendation. It was duly raised at the 1998 AGM but there was no material interest in creating any new membership category. So the idea was dropped and instead the arbitrary limits on membership numbers have since been relaxed. In practice we have stayed fairly close to the 300 total. As at 10th November 2008 we had 209 full playing gentlemen and 93 full playing ladies (not including life or hon. life members).

In recent years the idea of a "senior membership" in one form or another has been a recurring item. In Feb 2006 a proposal from Messrs Grundy and Wynn was for senior members finding it difficult to play 18 holes and/or to take part in competitions to be allowed to play non-competitive golf on 4/5 weekdays at say half the full playing subscription. Such membership category to be open to those over 75 with over 25 years continuous full playing membership. This was considered and rejected by Council.

In Jan 2008 Billy Kennedy raised the issue again when he submitted his request to transfer to non-playing membership. Now he has repeated it in November 2008.

## **Consultation**

I promised Billy Kennedy that the matter would this time be fully debated by Council at its meeting on 23rd Feb 2009. To that end I consulted each member of the Management Committee by e-mail and have been assisted by constructive responses from everyone. This paper is the result of that feedback. I am simply the messenger so don't shoot me.

Just over half of those consulted had some initial sympathy for some concession based on age and length of membership by way of a transition from full to non-playing status but recognised that the devil lay in the detail. One wrote "I am in favour of a concession earned by age and length of club membership provided it sets a high hurdle such that very few members qualify." This expresses more pithily the views of others who had concerns regarding any income shortfall being made up by others. Others were against the proposal in principle eg "I am not in favour of introducing a special rate based on age. Apart from it being ageist, it could be seen as unfair on younger members."

## **Relevant arguments and related suggestions**

1. A sliding scale of discounts based on age and length of membership has been suggested but this was considered fully and abandoned back in 1996. There is no appetite to return to those days. Some clubs eg Ringway do offer such discounts with strings but others eg Worsley are doing now what Hale did in 1996 and regretting not doing it sooner.

2. Nobody has proposed a straight reduction for members above a certain age without conditions. Agreeing those conditions is seen as being difficult and likely to be divisive. If the conditions are so restrictive that any new membership category would be attractive to only a very few members then it is not worth introducing and risking the inevitable requests from other members pleading their own circumstances as special cases (the thin end of the wedge argument).

3. Even if conditions could be agreed there would inevitably be unwanted admin. and, very likely, resentment from others. Some of the younger members restricted from playing due to work and family commitments would not be happy if their subs increased by however small an amount to subsidise a new class of membership. The suggestion that any shortfall be made up by increasing membership numbers receives no support.

4. It is difficult to be precise as to numbers but it's thought that very few members who have transferred to non-playing membership would have applied for the new membership category based on Billy's proposal or would transfer back. Those few who might in future have applied before transferring to non-playing still have the option which they have always had, namely to apply to Council for a reduced subscription under Rule 29. However it is recognised that such applications would only be successful in exceptional circumstances.

5. Introduction of a 5 day membership is something which has never received any serious support.

6. There remains Hon. Life membership for those who have given conspicuous services to the club (Rule 17) and this has been used more in recent years.

7. Spreading the payment of subscriptions has been mentioned in the feedback but this is something already being actively considered for 2010 quite separately from the proposal for "senior membership."

8. In looking at this proposal in a wider context it has been suggested that we should review and simplify the subscriptions and entrance fees for juniors (under 18) and young adults. This is something which the Membership Committee will look at in 2009 if Council wishes it to do so.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the feedback it is considered very difficult if not impossible to frame criteria for a new "senior membership" category so as to achieve a clear majority of those consulted to date let alone the wider membership. No SGM should be called to consider any Rule change which might be divisive. It is therefore recommended that no action be taken regarding a new class of "senior membership."

IOG January 2009

## **Appendix 6**

### **REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM THE LADIES SECTION REGARDING THE NEW EWGA RULING FEBRUARY 2009**

Set down below is our interpretation of the new ruling from EWGA as it applies to the Ladies section of Hale Golf Club.

Clubs must run a minimum of 4 and maximum of 24 medals each year. The competitions must take place on Club days and a weekend and are open to all playing lady members with a CONGU handicap. There should be no more than 2 medals per month. These are stand alone competitions not Alternate Day competitions, and it is hoped to encourage more members to play at the weekend and enable those members with limited time an opportunity to play in EWGA medals competitions. There will be a Regional Final for the top 100 scores and a Final which is held the following year.

The medal competition can be attached to Club trophies so this will enable us to offer 4 extra week end medals, playable by all the Ladies section. This should satisfy Lady members wishing to put in qualifying cards for the Club trophies or who simply want to qualify for the EWGA Regional Finals.

We are continuing with the 10.00 – 10.30am tee times on Sunday for all Sunday competitions, but should they attract more competitors we would obviously need more tee-time. We cannot judge what the take up will be until it has been tried but do not anticipate there being too much disruption to other members.

Trina Walsh  
February 2009

## Appendix 7

### WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL

My personal observation is that this item needs attention. It does appear that, in the current situation, one could see the Council meeting as largely a re-run of the Management Committee meeting or indeed the latter as largely a dress rehearsal for the following week's Council meeting.

The day to day work and management of the club is clearly done by the six constituent committees. I think that if the Captain and the majority of the Heads of the six committees feel that a Management Committee is useful then I see no necessary harm in it but personally I do not think it is essential. Providing each section prepares a report prior to the Council meeting and where appropriate places items on the agenda which need Council approval or guidance then I think the system could run efficiently without the absolute need for a Management Committee.

If the two sets of meetings (Management Committee and Council) continue as at present I think we have to clearly differentiate between the two and I feel the way to do this is to modify the Council Meeting.

In the first instance I think the general reports circulated to the Council should be taken as read and not treated as specific agenda items. I feel agenda for the Council meetings should be on the following lines:

1. Summary of Financial position (Variances/ amendment to budget etc)
2. Summary of Membership / Elections to Membership
3. Health & Safety
4. a, b, c, etc Specific items brought to table by committees which require Council approval/ guidance
5. Any items in pre-circulated reports which need clarification

An agenda of the above type would concentrate the Council on the key issues it is required to consider in the overall control of the Club for the benefit of the members that elect it to office. It would also serve to recognise the essential work of the committees in the actual day to day management and their proposals for change/improvement etc

To re-iterate the Management Committee should simply be an optional extra level of day to day management if the majority of Heads of Committee feel it helps the Committees to function. If it is there for any other reason I think this needs to be stated and discussed

D W Swale  
Assistant Secretary  
February 2009

## Appendix 8

**SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL, MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS 2009-10**

(all meetings at 7.30pm unless stated)

April 2009	6	
	13	
	16	Membership Committee 6.00pm
	20	Management Committee (TBC)
	27	Council (full sub)
May	4	
	11	
	18	
	25	
June	1	
	8	
	15	
	22	
	29	
July	6	
	13	
	16	Membership Committee 6.00pm
	20	Management Committee (TBC)
	27	Council (half sub)
August	3	
	10	
	17	
	24	
	31	
September	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	
October	5	
	8	Membership Committee 6.00pm
	12	Management Committee (TBC)
	19	Council (budget, no sub)
	26	
November	2	
	9	
	16	
	23	
	30	
December	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	
January 2010	4	Council (membership, full sub)
	11	
	18	

	25	
February	1	
	8	
	15	
	18	Membership Committee 6.00pm
	22	Management Committee (TBC)
March	1	Council (accounts, full sub)
	8	
	15	
	22	
	29	
April	5	
	12	
	15	Membership Committee 6.00pm
	19	Management Committee (TBC)
	26	Council (full sub)

Christopher Wood 240209



# **HALE GOLF CLUB**

## **Minutes of Council Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

### **PRESENT**

J. R. Gower-Jones (Captain/ Chairman), A. Bradley (President), P. K. Hardern (Past-President), M. I. Sharp (Lady Captain), J. I. Moss (Lady Secretary), C. M. Wood (Hon. Secretary), D. W. Swale (Assistant Secretary), P. E. Hilton (Hon. Treasurer), A. F. Kenney (Chairman of Greens Committee), K. E. Lodge (Chairman of House Committee), I. O. Goulty, (Chairman of Membership Committee), J. R. Foster, R. W. O'Brien and D. M. Smith, C.J. Davies

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from:

B. S. Jefferies, R. R. Cross, R. A. Da Forno, A. G. Dewhurst, M. J. Kirchin and  
Vice-Presidents: G. O. Harris, A. N. G. Hyde, W. W. Kennedy, C. J. Mawson, J. N. Nichols, A. G. Pendleton and P. F. Veitch.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Secretary explained that he wished to propose an amendment to the minutes as he accepted that the minute on page 5, para 2 was misleading. He proposed replacing "The Secretary's and Treasurer's subscriptions are waived for the years following their years of office" with "In the cases of the Secretary and the Treasurer, subscriptions are waived during their years of office, commencing the year after the AGM at which their election takes place." This was accepted.

The Secretary explained that the minute on page 7, para 2 reflected the actual situation, rather than what had been said. The issue was addressed by the Treasurer. He stated that the majority of the Christmas gratuities went to the ground staff and stewards. The Treasurer said that he worked on a formula he had inherited and which he believed went back several years. It was proposed that in future years the proposed allocation of Christmas gratuities be considered by Management Committee and presented to Council for approval. The minute was accepted as correct.

The Captain then signed the minutes of the meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 as a correct record with the proviso that the agreed change was incorporated.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

PKH wished to point out that the refurbishment of the Harris Hut had been put back but it was still on the agenda and would be done as soon as possible. He also informed the meeting

that he had recently checked the cottage for signs of subsidence and no changes were evident. He would inspect again after six months.

## CAPTAIN'S REMARKS

Firstly, the Captain referred to the offer, by a current member, of an anonymous donation to the club of £5K. Management Committee had discussed this and recommended acceptance of the donation which was gratefully accepted by Council and the donor will be thanked accordingly. The Management Committee and Council were aware of the identity of the donor but some concern was raised that outside these groups the donor was not as anonymous as one might hope in this kind of arrangement.

Secondly, he referred to the pre-circulated report titled 'Relationship between Management Committee and Council' (Appendix 1). He briefly reminded Council about the background and the make-up of the sub-group who had produced the paper. He proposed that the recommendations were accepted and this was agreed unanimously and the changes will now be incorporated into the workings of Council and Management Committee.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

KEL took the new Council through the key points of the Health and Safety policy pointing out that although the Captain was asked to sign of the three key documents, namely the H&S policy statement, the Food Safety statement and the Environmental statement, he was doing so on behalf of the Council who as a body had ultimate responsibility for policy and its implementation.

IOG questioned why the Trustees were included on the Safety Management Structure organisational chart. In discussion it was agreed that they had no role in the policy and no reference was made to them in any documentation. It was proposed and agreed that they be removed from the chart.

DWS asked if a Council member had a particular concern about any of the specific arrangements referred to in the details of the overall H&S policy, where in the first instance should that concern should be raised. It was agreed that it should be directed to the House and/or Greens Committee.

Several members felt that at each Council meeting there should be a report on any H&S incidents including near misses. If there are no incidents this should also be reported.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report (Appendix 2 ) was taken as read but the Secretary had two specific areas he wanted to discuss with Council.

The first referred to an unusual situation which had occurred earlier in the day. After heavy overnight rain the Head Greenkeeper arrived at work to find the course unplayable and he decided to close the course. One of the Ladies teams had a match so he informed the team

captain and the match was cancelled and the ‘course closed’ was put up. About 9.30 he was contacted by the steward and some members (Cockatoos) and told that they had a friendly match with a group from Prestbury who had arrived at Hale. He felt he was put under considerable pressure to allow them to play and subsequently agreed although he did not open the course and left the closed signs in place (these were still up after they finished playing).

The Secretary suggested a notice to be put in place on the Course notice board stating:  
“No golf may be played while the ‘course closed’ signs is displayed. The Greenkeeper will remove the sign as soon as the course is playable and members must not ask for exception to be made or for the sign to be removed prematurely”.

AFK did not wish to put up such a notice but did feel Russell had been put under unfair pressure and he needed to speak the individuals concerned.

The Captain expressed the opinion that any decision to close the course was to be made by the Head Greenkeeper in consultation with the Chairman of Greens and that Council will fully support that decision and the Greenkeeper should not feel pressure to open the course against his judgement.

The Lady Captain said that whilst the Ladies team concerned were happy to cancel the match due to the poor conditions she made the point that the weather had averted another problem in that the ladies had expected to use the dining room for lunch but it appeared to have been set for the Cockatoos fixture which was a later booking.

Secondly, the Secretary referred members to a pre-circulated note titled “Subscriptions by Monthly Instalment” (Appendix 3)

At the end of the discussion the Secretary asked for the four recommendations in Section 9 the report to be accepted by Council. They were duly accepted with the result that the sub-group will come to the July Council meeting with a draft of what will be published to members and which of the two companies will be used.

In general discussion, RWO said he felt consideration must be given to which scheme left us in a more vulnerable position if either company went bankrupt. From the information given by the group it would appear that using the Fees Company is less of a risk in this respect.

#### TREASURER’S REPORT (See Appendices 4 and 5)

The Treasurer pointed out that there were no major variations from budget although course upkeep expenditure was skewed towards this quarter and should come back into line.

The expenditure on the practice ground (£16.9K) is as expected and is budgeted as a Capital project and funds are available from the Capital Fund.

In response to a question from IOG, the Treasurer said subscription income was apportioned across the year but he did agree that entrance fee income would exceed the conservative budget by some significant amount and in line with IOG’s earlier observations.

As regards the purchase of the new mowers the Club can now pay for them over three years via a zero interest credit agreement with ING. PKH asked if there was a discount if we paid cash from our reserves but it is likely that the distributor has no involvement with the financing which will be an arrangement between the manufacturer and ING. This said, AFK will check this out.

The Captain noted the good work Chris Adams had done in the collection of subscriptions.

## GREENS COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Appendix 6)

Most of the report was taken as read.

It was agreed that the decision on engraving trophies be left to Greens.

Greens will look into ways of protecting all our equipment but AFK pointed out we do not have enough storage space which is sufficiently secure to be covered by our insurance. The cost of providing this extra secure storage is thought to be too high for the risks involved.

Greens were encouraged to continue to look at detailed ideas and costs for providing some covered bays for the practice area.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Appendix 7)

This was again largely taken as read.

As regards upgrading the security of the cottage (estimate £2K) it was agreed that the judgement on this be left to KEL in consultation with the Stewards. KEL pointed out that the work on the CCTV system had come in at £1500 which was higher than expected and hence had not been specifically approved but was accepted by Council.

KEL said that he felt refurbishment of the patio area and new furniture was becoming a priority.

He also said there were meal pricing issues which needed to be discussed with the Stewards.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

IOG presented the Membership Committee report (Appendix 8), the summary of membership movements and the list of prospective members.

Council elected the following to Full membership:

David Cockbain (Proposer Bill Harvey, Seconded Roger Laith)  
Ron Skilling (Proposer John Savin, Seconded Brian Greenbank)

The following were elected to Junior Membership:

Lucy Daynes (Proposer Emma Daynes, Seconded Mark Daynes)  
George Duerr (Proposer Paul Bramwell, Seconded Nigel Taylor)  
Alex Golding (Proposer Richard Duerr, Seconded Anne Webster)  
Oliver Golding (Proposer Anne Webster, Seconded Richard Duerr)  
Hugh Makin (Proposer Clair Makin, Seconded Alistair Makin)  
Peter Makin (Proposer Alistair Makin, Seconded Clair Makin)

Council approved the transfer of the following from Non-Playing to Full membership:

Sonja Leggett

IOG pointed out that the Club now had 206 Men and 100 Lady Full playing members and, whilst it does not have a fixed limit, he believed that the evidence of competition entry pointed to the fact that the male membership is virtually full and the few applicants in the pipeline might not be able to be accommodated until the new year.

## LADIES' COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Appendix 9)

The occasional clash between Seniors and Ladies matches on a Monday is still causing angst even though it has been solved for this year. The opinion was expressed by the Captain and others that the Ladies fixture being an official club match should take precedence but it is of course arranged later by Cheshire. It was suggested that the Lady Secretary and Seniors Organiser get together to work out a solution for 2010.

## SUGGESTION BOOK

There were no entries in the Suggestion Book.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

IOG reminded Council that there were two Management Committee proposals for Council agreement which had not been discussed (Management Committee recommendations form Appendix 10).

The first was a recommendation that the Club presented Ringway Golf Club with an inscribed clock as part of its centenary celebration. This was approved by Council.

The second was a recommendation to Council that Non-Playing Members could be co-opted onto committees if appropriate. Again this was accepted by Council.

The Captain closed the meeting at 10.08 p.m. and kindly invited Council members to join him for a drink.

Date of next meeting: Monday 27th July 2009 at 7.30pm.

Signed

John Gower-Jones  
(Captain, Hale Golf Club 2009-10)

July 27<sup>th</sup> 2009

## **Appendices 1-10 Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

### **Appendix 1**

#### **Hale Golf Club**

## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL**

### **Introduction**

At the February 2009 meeting of Council it was agreed that a group consisting of the Captain-Nominate, the Vice-President, the Honorary Secretary and the Assistant Secretary be set up to consider the relationship between Management Committee and Council and report their recommendations to the next meeting of Council.

The group met, agreed a number of conclusions and made several recommendations.

### **Conclusions**

- Council is the decision-making body, not Management Committee.
- The Captain should chair both Council and Management Committee to ensure that the most important items are allotted most time.
- Management Committee has a role in discussing controversial or cross-committee matters or expenditure greater than that specified in the Regulations (£1000).
- Management Committee meetings should give rise to reasoned recommendations to Council.
- Council and Management Committee meetings should concentrate on major issues, not minor details.
- Neither Council nor Management Committee should waste time discussing reports that should be taken as read.
- Management Committee meetings should not be used as a rehearsal for Council meetings.
- Management Committee meetings should be scheduled for the year and cancelled if no business is forthcoming.
- The President, whose role is to provide wise counsel when consulted, should attend a Management Committee meeting if the Captain invites him.

### **Recommendations**

- Members of Management Committee to circulate written notes (not necessarily reports) on issues they wish to be discussed seven days in advance.
- The Captain to determine whether there is sufficient business to proceed with the meeting. If there is not, the Secretary to cancel it.
- Management Committee meetings to be rescheduled to fall midway between Council meetings (below).
- Brief Management Committee minutes (reasoned recommendations) to be circulated to Council members.

- Papers for Council to be circulated seven days in advance. Papers not so circulated not to be considered.
- Papers for Council to be taken as read: the author should move straight to recommendations at the meeting. Minor points of clarification should be resolved with the author prior to the meeting.
- Bombshells dropped under 'any other business' at Council meetings not to be considered.

**Schedule of Council, Management Committee and Membership Committee meetings  
2009-10 (all meetings at 7.30pm unless stated)**

April 2009

16 Membership Committee 6.00pm  
20 Management Committee (TBC)  
27 Council (full sub)

June

15 Management Committee (TBC)

July

16 Membership Committee 6.00pm  
27 Council (half sub)

September

7 Management Committee (TBC)

October 5

8 Membership Committee 6.00pm  
19 Council (budget no sub)

November

23 Management Committee (TBC)

January 2010

4 Council (membership full sub)

February

1 Management Committee (TBC)  
18 Membership Committee 6.00pm

March

1 Council (accounts full sub)  
29 Management Committee (TBC)

April

15 Membership Committee 6.00pm  
26 Council (full sub)

Christopher Wood



## Appendix 2

### HGC

## SECRETARY'S REPORT TO APRIL MEETING OF COUNCIL

- The handbook should be available later in the week beginning 26 April. I am grateful for all the work that Cliff Wright has done on this.
- The following Calendar entries have been made since the last Council meeting.

May 13	Seminar J G-J am E
May 29	Mixed roll-up 5.30-6.00 (rearranged)
22 - 29 June	Captain away
3 July	Hale Prep Barn Dance AWeb E
24 July	Mixed roll-up 5.30-6.00 (rearranged)
5 Sept	Private Party PSi M
19-23 Sep	Stewards' hols
17 Oct	Mixed Dinner
14 Nov	HBTC DD E
19 Dec	Private Xmas Party MR/MG E
30 Jan	41-Club Dinner CWr E
19 March	Shanks v OoBs L/G/D (12)
- It is hoped that the 2010-2011 Calendar can be uploaded onto the website earlier than last year (there are already four or five provisional bookings). The Secretary will contact those concerned during the next month.
- As mentioned at the AGM it has proved possible to convert the web-site calendar (in Publisher) to Handbook format (in Word) in a less time-consuming way. This will enable a fixtures and events list to be produced in-house in January.
- The Secretariat wishes to simplify the restrictions members have placed on the Club's publication of certain e-mail and web-site details where possible. While some progress has been made using general requests it appears that this will have to be done on an individual basis if further progress is to be achieved.
- A letter has been received from Francis House Children's Hospice asking for the donation of a game for four at the Club. We have awarded this prize in recent years but it has not been taken up. It would seem churlish to rescind the prize, which has been awarded again with conditions.
- The Secretary has attended an EGU seminar about promoting golf in Cheshire and proposes to attend a two-day event on marketing golf clubs (possibly accompanied but at virtually no cost to the Club).

- Knutsford Golf Club have asked to use our web-site as the template for their own. This has been agreed but on condition that we benefit from any improvements that our computer consultants suggest while working on Knutsford's web-site.
- Correspondence has been received from Trafford MBC about the construction of a new garage at Ross Mill Farm. No comment submitted.

Christopher Wood, Hon. Secretary  
23 April 2009

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## **Appendix 3**

### **Hale Golf Club**

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS BY MONTHLY INSTALMENT**

### **1. Introduction**

Council agreed in principle at its November meeting to a formal subscription instalment plan being made available to all members and asked the Secretary and Treasurer to explore the options available in the market and recommend a way forward. The intention was to bring this into operation in time for the collection of 2010 subscriptions. This report results from that exploration.

### **2. Self-operation/ credit company**

We know from our existing member arrangements that the administrative and financial burden upon the Club if it were itself to offer payments over several months to all members is such that it cannot be contemplated without paid assistance. The use of a credit company involves no set-up cost to the Club and no minimum number of members is needed to trigger the arrangement. Members can pay joint subscriptions, entrance fees and locker fees by instalment. Most members will continue to pay by lump sum but the take-up of instalments is expected to be of the order of 25% by the second year.

The club receives the full subscription at the end of January, paid into its dedicated subscription account, and the member pays the credit company a number of instalments by direct debit. Interest at an appropriate rate is added to the subscription to cover financing and administration costs.

By establishing direct debit systems, subsequent years' subscriptions are automatically dealt with by sending an updated list of subscription rates to the credit company which calculates and applies for the new instalments from the participating members.

The use of credit company direct debits to service these members raises the possibility of extending their use to streamline subscription collection procedures generally by extending them to some or all lump sum payments. We intend this to be the subject of a report to the July meeting of Council.

### **3. Fairway Credit/ Fees Company**

There are two companies that effectively dominate the market place, Fairway Credit and the Fees Company. Both have visited Hale and given a presentation.

Both companies operate instalment plans of varying length up to 12 months. In each case the member signs an agreement with the credit company agreeing to pay the subscription and a flat percentage fee divided by the number of payments. Fees increase with the length of term. Payments would start on 2 January in our case. The Club then receives the full subscription 30 days later on 1 February. The Club and participating members are thus exposed to a small bankruptcy risk for 30 days. Thereafter the Club is in a net funding position from the credit company. Both companies also offer a fee to the Club if some/all the funds are not required for a few months. (This can be evaluated by the Treasurer simply against holding the funds in the Club's - or another - bank.)

Both companies have follow-up procedures if any instalments are not paid, keeping the Club involved in the process. Ultimately, if the member defaults, the Club has to refund the subscription proportion missed. (The Club may then take action against the former member and can, of course, let in another new member.)

Both companies are well recommended by references taken up from other Clubs.

### **4. Number of instalments**

Both companies strongly suggested that the number of different arrangements be minimised. We therefore recommend that the Club should initially offer:

- a 10 month arrangement January-October
- a 4 month arrangement January-April.

### **5. Fairway Credit**

Fairway Credit is part of Premium Credit, which is well-established business specialising in monthly instalments for insurance premiums and financing audit/accountancy fees for small and medium companies. It is a subsidiary of MBNA Bank and ultimately owned by Bank of America. It provides plans for over 1,000 golf clubs. It is approved by the EGU, and the company has practical links to Club 2000.

Fairway also operates Consumer Credit Act (CCA) documentation and will only work with a client who has taken out a CCA licence as an introducer of credit provider. This costs £750 for a one-off licence.

Fairway pays the Club a small loyalty bonus (0.2% for the first three years) which, if 20% of playing members take up the scheme, would be around £100.

Fairway does not act as a BACS agent for single payments. If the company was to be used for collecting subscriptions, Fairway would collect the funds in full from the member on 2 January and remit them to the Club 30 days later, slightly increasing the Club's exposure to bankruptcy.

## 6. The Fees Company

Whilst only having around 100 golf clubs, the Fees Company has extensive experience in other similar areas such as education and school fees. It is a much smaller operation than Fairway, but has a very satisfactory credit reference. It has its origins in the Alliance and Leicester Building Society.

The Fees Company does not use CCA documentation for private members' clubs and does not require us to hold a licence.

It is also a BACS approved bureau, with consequent regulation. This means it can operate a direct debit scheme on behalf of the Club, linking up with our bankers to arrange transfers from members' accounts directly into the Club's bank. If, as we hope, we move to more use of direct debits this could prove to be very useful and risk-free.

## 7. Charges

The table shows the administration charges for the chosen periods based on the Club's current playing subscription of £845.

	<b>% Admin Fee</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Monthly instalment</b>
<b>10 months</b>			
Fairway	6.1%	£51.55	£89.65
The Fees Co	6.5%	£54.93	£89.99
<b>4 months</b>			
Fairway	4.5%	£38.03	£220.76
The Fees Co	4.5%	£38.03	£220.76

## 8 Conclusions

Both companies are clearly capable of operating our initial requirement for instalment plans. Fairway is a little cheaper for members but this equates to only a few pence per month.

Fairway insists on a CCA licence which will cost the Club £750. CCA documentation would be useful if we had to chase a lot of defaulting members, but this is not the case at Hale.

The Fees Company appear from our enquiries of other clubs to be the nimbler operation. In their presentation they illustrated they had investigated the nature of the Club and showed a good appreciation of our needs.

Looking to the future, we hope to collect lump sum subscriptions by direct debit and so it is the Fees Company that just takes the lead. However, since this report was first drafted Barclays Bank has raised questions about its ability to offer the direct debit guarantee to payees because of the Club's 'non-corporate' status. Using Fairway Credit would obviate this problem but this issue needs to be resolved (other clubs and other banks are able to offer such guarantees) before we are able to make a firm choice between credit companies.

## 9. Recommendations

- A) The Club should initially offer 10 month and 4 month full subscription instalment arrangements.
- B) Existing arrangements for payment by instalments should be withdrawn.
- C) The Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Officer should investigate the issue of direct debit guarantees further and be given delegated authority to choose which credit company should operate the Club's subscription instalment arrangements.
- D) The Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Officer should produce a draft notice to members about subscription instalment arrangements and direct debits for the July meeting of Council and publish it thereafter.

CGA/PH/CMW  
210409

## Appendix 4

### Treasury Report to Council

#### Management Accounts

Headlines from the accounts to 31/03/09 are as follows:-

#### *Bar Takings*

Takings for the quarter to 31/03/09 are £25.8k compared to £25.6k for the quarter to 31/03/08 and an annual budget of £110k. We achieved £111k for the full year in 2008. Room hire charges have generated a total of £0.6k in the quarter (31/03/08: £0.1k).

#### *Wages*

The cost of staff wages for the quarter was as follows:

£'000s	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
House	21.8	22.0	0.2
Greens	19.5	19.7	0.2
Total	<u>41.3</u>	<u>41.7</u>	<u>0.4</u>

#### *Bank Account*

The bank account balances at 31/03/09 amounted to £311.9k. (31/03/08: £280.7k). This improvement can be explained largely by the work of Chris Adams in collecting all playing subscriptions by the end of March.

#### *PAYE Audit*

The treasurer has responded to HMRC's latest request for information and we await his response. I believe our maximum exposure is now £2.5k, although I have presented a further case which if successful would mean minimal exposure. The past captain has opined on the content of our correspondence.

## Appendix 5

*Hale Golf Club*

£'000s

### Income and Expenditure Report

3 months to  
Mar-09

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
<u>Subscriptions &amp; Green Fees</u>			
Entrance Fees - Men	4.4	1.6	2.8
Entrance Fees - Ladies	0.0	0.0	0.0
Green Fees	0.8	2.5	(1.7)
Subscriptions	68.4	70.2	(1.8)
Lockers	0.2	0.2	0.0
	73.8	74.5	(0.7)
<u>Bar</u>			
Bar Takings	25.8	27.5	(1.7)
Bar Purchases	(12.0)	(13.8)	1.7
	13.8	13.8	0.1
<u>Other Income</u>			
Sundry Income	0.6	0.2	0.4
Competition fees	0.6	0.0	0.6
Competition prizes	(1.2)	0.0	(1.2)
Bank Interest Received	0.2	1.0	(0.8)
	0.1	1.2	(1.0)
	<b>87.7</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>(1.7)</b>
<u>Greens</u>			
Wages & NI - Course	(19.5)	(19.7)	0.2
Repairs & Maintenance - Machinery	(2.4)	(1.3)	(1.1)
Course Upkeep	(8.7)	(6.5)	(2.2)
Machinery Fuel	(0.0)	(1.0)	1.0
Sundry Expenses - Course	0.0	(0.1)	0.1
Professional Retainer	0.0	(4.1)	4.1
Depreciation - Plant & Machinery	(5.8)	(5.8)	0.0
<b>Total - Greens</b>	<b>(36.5)</b>	<b>(38.5)</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<u>House</u>			
Wages & NI - House	(21.3)	(21.7)	0.3
Pensions	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.1)
Electricity	(2.9)	(2.5)	(0.4)
Gas	(2.3)	(2.5)	0.2
Repairs & Renewals	(4.5)	(4.6)	0.1
Burglar Alarm Maintenance	(1.3)	(0.4)	(1.0)
Cleaning & Laundry	(1.9)	(2.6)	0.7

Waste Management	(0.5)	(0.5)	0.0
Cleaning Windows	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.0)
Sundry Expenses - House	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.0
Depreciation - Fixtures & Fittings	(1.9)	(1.9)	0.0
	(37.3)	(37.2)	(0.1)
<b><u>Other Expenditure</u></b>			
General Rates	(3.5)	(3.6)	0.1
Water	(0.2)	(0.7)	0.5
Telephone	(0.3)	(0.4)	0.0
Insurance	(1.6)	(1.7)	0.1
Health & Safety	0.0	(0.5)	0.5
Book of Members	0.0	(0.1)	0.1
Printing Postage & Stationery	(0.3)	(0.4)	0.1
Subscriptions Payable	(1.2)	(1.2)	0.0
Sundry Expenses - General	(0.5)	(0.1)	(0.4)
Club Events	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bank Charges	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)
Loan Interest Payable	(0.0)	0.0	(0.0)
Accountancy	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.0)
VAT - Non Recoverable	(5.0)	(3.1)	(1.8)
Corporation tax	(0.1)	(0.3)	0.1
	(13.3)	(12.5)	(0.8)
Exceptional - Practice Ground	(16.9)	0.0	(16.9)
Capital Fund Transfer	(5.1)	(5.1)	0.0
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(21.4)</b>	<b>(4.0)</b>	<b>(17.4)</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>			
Tumble Dryer	1.9	0.0	1.9
		0.0	0.0
	1.9	0.0	1.9
<b>BANK ACCOUNT</b>			
Bank balances at end of quarter:	311.9		
Bank balances previous year:	280.7		

## Appendix 6

### GREENS REPORT TO COUNCIL MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009

#### Drainage/Practice Ground

The contractors have finally finished the work commissioned on the practice ground. Although this is way behind schedule it would appear the work done has had the desired effect as the practice ground has been playable since February. We will continue to monitor this situation and do additional remedial drainage where necessary.

The new practice chipping area as a result of the above work being delayed is likewise well behind schedule. This will become the focus of Thursday off course work and will be completed as soon as possible subject to weather conditions.

The open ditches across the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> have allowed us to monitor the drainage outflow and as a result we have decided that the pipes running under the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> fairways are adequate and do not need replacing for the moment.

### **Course**

We are moving into the busy mowing time which means that other projects slow down or come to a halt. Other than the completion of outstanding work as outlined above no major works are planned through the summer. The greens committee in conjunction with the greens staff will shortly be looking into the plans for winter projects 2009/2010 and will report as the priorities are identified.

The causeway construction across the gulley on the 9<sup>th</sup> is well under way. This work is being carried out by outside contractors and is being funded by Barbara Grant and family in memory of Alan.

The work is scheduled for 2/3 weeks and should be completed within this time scale. There has been minimal disruption to play and I hope members will bear with this as the end result will benefit everyone.

### **Trophies**

We are in the annual process of having the trophies engraved. It has become apparent that a number of the older trophies have little space left for engraving and in some cases need some remedial work on plinths etc.

It has been suggested that the trophies that are awarded for board prizes need not be engraved as the winners name is more publicly displayed on the appropriate board.

This suggestion caused some debate and we would appreciate other members thoughts on this.

In the very short term there is no problem however ultimately over the coming years some decision will need to be made.

### **Machinery**

The order for the replacement for the fairways mower is in place. We have managed to secure an arrangement that means we pay one third plus all of the VAT up front, with the remainder paid in two payments one after 12 months and one after 24 months, this is financed by the manufactures interest free to us.

On Thursday night thieves visited the club and stole a digger that belonged to the contractors working on the causeway construction on the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway. They also attempted to steal our digger by driving it out the rear of the green keepers compound presumably, hoping to cross



the fields. They obviously did not know about the steep drop and overturned the machine. Fortunately for us the machine was not damaged other than a few scrapes.

This is the second attempt at theft of this piece of machinery. We are looking into what we can do to increase security however it should be noted that we are not insured for any items that are not locked in the shed that is alarmed.

It should also be noted that the two containers that we have utilised for additional storage are in a very poor state, offer very little security, and are not insured. It would seem that we need to urgently reassess this situation.

### **New Professional**

Hopefully you have all had a chance to meet our new professional Richard Booth, if not please introduce yourself at the first possible opportunity.

Richard has had the shop refitted and has a small amount of stock available. He has been working part time whilst serving his notice with his previous job and will start full time at Hale on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

It is important that we as a club support our professional in every way possible. This can simply be by having a chat when at the club, but more importantly giving him a chance to compete for your business, whether it be consumables, (gloves balls tees etc) hardware (clubs etc) or for lessons.

I am sure members will find his approach different to Alec's, and ultimately if he is to be successful will depend on his application and abilities, however it is important to both the club and the professional that we give him every opportunity in the first instance.

### **Covered Practice Bay**

During the process of recruiting the new professional it became clear from all of the candidates that a priority for any teaching professional was to have some sort of covered bay that they could teach from during poor weather and in the winter.

Jonty Fallows has come up with one suggestion and we are looking into various other proprietary alternatives that are available as mobile shelters (dry range). The likely cost is somewhere in the region of £5-8K.

This facility obviously has dual benefits in that members can practice from it the pro can teach from it. As it is likely that a lot of the pro's pupils will be members the benefits multiply.

Whilst not looking for a budget at this stage the Greens committee would like to ask council for agreement that this is a reasonable aim in terms of cost and benefit. There may be some funding available from outside the normal budgets and planning may be needed.

Considering the amount of preparation work required before an absolute plan can be presented for council approval we would welcome some indication of how council views this proposal.

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## Appendix 7

# Hale Golf Club

## HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

### 27 April 2009

#### Health and Safety

The Citation audit report is being addressed.

#### Social Events

Mixed Roll-up dates have been posted for the summer, each with a different dining theme.

The May Dance has been set with a “Black and White” theme, with the intent to provide a broader appeal, and less formality.

A Social Sub-Committee, chaired by Ceri Hyde has been set up to co-ordinate the social calendar.

#### Clubhouse

Following the fire in the Dryer, a replacement has been purchased at a cost of about £2500 including installation, and some interim costs were incurred in contracting out the laundry. This was not budgeted for, but was approved in principle at the February Council.

The CCTV system was becoming increasingly unreliable, and it was considered urgent for security reasons to replace it with a new system. This was done at minimum cost by procuring a system and installing it using the Club handyman. The total cost was about £1500, and was not budgeted for. Council is asked to approve this retrospectively.

Security continues to raise concerns due to the rise in burglaries in the neighbourhood and also to experience at other sporting clubs. We propose to improve the internal security within the Cottage by replacing doors and locks, at an estimated cost of £2000, and Council is asked to approve this unbudgeted amount.

#### Staff

Martina has returned to work in a part-time capacity, but having moved with her “Partner” to Liverpool, there is some uncertainty over the viability of this arrangement. This presents a problem for our efforts to reduce the working hours for Darius.

K E Lodge/ 24 April 2009

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## Appendix 8

### Hale Golf Club

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL 27 APRIL 2009

### 4. Membership movements

Membership movements are summarised on the movements worksheet of the membership spreadsheet. Membership Committee *recommends that Ron Skilling and David Cockbain be elected by Council as full playing members* having met all the necessary criteria and obtained the appropriate number of supporting signatures. *Lucy Daines, Hugh Makin, Peter Makin, Alex Golding, Oliver Golding and George Duerr are recommended for election as Junior members.* Council is asked to note that Sonja Leggett has asked to transfer back to playing membership and that Yvonne Russell has resigned.

### 5. Arrears

All new members have paid and all full members have either paid or have previously agreed instalment arrangements, save for one who will probably resign. There remain a small number of outstanding Student, Country and Non-playing member subscriptions to resolve (see list of arrears of subscriptions).

### 3. Instalment arrangements

The report on subscriptions by instalments (circulated separately) was discussed and supported.

### 4. Young people's membership

Preliminary agreement was reached that the structure of membership subscriptions for young players should be simplified and that, if possible, subscriptions should be reduced to encourage young people to play golf. Recommendations will be put to Council in the future.

### 5. Involvement of new members in club activities

There is to be a Stableford for new male members, followed by lunch (and a Dod) on 23 May.

#### Arrears 2009

Tim Atherton	Country	£150
John J Bolton	Non-playing	£126.50
Caroline Cafferty	Non-playing	£126.50
Glen Chapple	Non-playing	£126.50
John Cranston	Non-playing	£126.50
E A Craston	Country	£150
Sammy Dawson-Smith	Student	£150
J P Fish	Country	£150
Rick Gatrell	Non-playing	£126.50
Matthew Hewitson*	Full	£845
Alistair Horrocks	Country	£150
J Brian Jenkins	Country	£150
David Kempton	Country	£150

Sean Kennedy	Student	£150
Nick Morton	Non-playing	£126.50
Mike Porter	Non-playing	£126.50
Geoff Yearsley*	Country	£150

\* Probable resignations

CA/CW 22 April 2009

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## **Appendix 9**

### **1 REPORT FROM THE LADIES SECTION TO COUNCIL**

**April 2009**

The Ladies Section is vigorous and thriving with growing numbers of ladies playing on Thursdays- 52 playing in a recent Par. Tea is a lively and integral part of Thursday competitions.

Three EWGA medal competitions have now been played, two on Sundays and one on Thursday. They are separate competitions and open to all lady members, including juniors, with handicap certificates.

We were delighted to welcome Richard Booth to Thursday tea when he introduced himself to the ladies. This resulted in a queue of ladies wishing to book lessons with him.

A Round Robin competition is in progress for 36 handicaps. It is an excellent way for new members to meet and play with ladies of similar abilities and has been well supported.

The issue of clashing matches clashing on Mondays has been resolved for this year, although not entirely satisfactorily. The match list is not given to the match captain until January. It is a very tight schedule and changes are very difficult to make. Is there any possibility in future, that arrangement of dates for Monday Senior matches in May, June and July could be deferred until we receive our dates for club matches?

Lady Captain

MIS 22 April 2009

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## **Appendix 10**

### **NOTE ON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 20 APRIL 2009**

Management Committee agreed to recommend to Council that:

- The Club should present a suitable clock (to be chosen by the President and the Captain) to Ringway GC, to mark their centenary.
- An anonymous donation from a member should be accepted and the Chairmen of Green and House Committee should jointly recommend how best it should be spent.
- The circulated report on the relationship between Management Committee and Council should be accepted and its recommendations implemented.

- The circulated report on subscriptions in monthly instalments be accepted (the circulated version has been revised since the Management Committee meeting).
- The co-option of members on to committees should be dependent upon their potential contribution, rather than upon whether or not they are Full members.

Christopher Wood  
Honorary Secretary  
21 April 2009

# **HALE GOLF CLUB**

## **Minutes of Council Meeting of 27th July 2009**

### **PRESENT**

J. R. Gower-Jones (Captain/ Chairman), A. Bradley (President), R. R. Cross (Vice-President), P. K. Hardern (Vice-President), C. J. Brown (Vice-President), M. I. Sharp (Lady Captain), J. I. Moss (Lady Secretary), C. M. Wood (Hon. Secretary), D. W. Swale (Assistant Secretary), P. E. Hilton (Hon. Treasurer), K. E. Lodge (Chairman of House Committee), I. O. Goulty, (Chairman of Membership Committee), R. A. da Forno (Assistant Treasurer), C. J. Davies, A. G. Dewhurst, J. R. Foster, M. J. Kirchin, R. W. O'Brien and D. M. Smith.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from:

B. S. Jefferies, A. F. Kenney and Vice-Presidents: G. O. Harris, A. N. G. Hyde, W. W. Kennedy, C. J. Mawson, J. N. Nichols, A. G. Pendleton and P. F. Veitch.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Captain signed the minutes of the meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 as a correct record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

KEL noted that the change removing the Trustees from the Safety Management Structure Document was in hand.

### **CAPTAIN'S REMARKS**

Firstly, the Captain welcomed Chris Brown to the meeting in his new role as Vice-President and then went on to thank Peter Hardern for his significant recent contribution to Council, this being his last meeting in his role as immediate Past-President.

Secondly, he proposed to Council that a small gift should be made to Richard Booth and his wife to mark the birth of their twin daughters. A gift of £100 was agreed and will be presented to Richard by the Captain.

Finally, he reported that one member had enquired as to what had been done with the legacy from Jimmy Hodson and had asked how this had been marked. It was stated that the legacy had been used on several projects, including the new bell on the side of the fourth fairway. It was proposed and agreed that a small commemorative plaque be placed on the bell post.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

There were no specific matters to report.

KEL said that the Citation H & S audit had been reviewed and corrective action taken where appropriate

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer took Council briefly through the half year summary (Appendix 1), pointing out that income was slightly ahead of budget whilst greens and house expenses were lower than budget. However, spending an agreed but unbudgeted £17.9K on drainage/ landscaping had led to a current overspend against budget of £6.7K. Other capital expenditure was in line with budget and the bank balance at this point of the year was as expected.

PKH asked if bar staff wages were now under firm control and the Treasurer replied that in his opinion this was the case. KEL pointed out that the return to work by Martina after maternity leave was having to be carefully managed as regards overall costs but reported that the Stewards had been most co-operative and helpful on this issue.

The only other point the Treasurer had to report was that HMRC have concluded their PAYE audit, and have dropped their investigation into the severance payment made to the Club's former head greenkeeper. He was congratulated on this outcome.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report (Appendix 2) was taken as read but as per the report the Secretary had three specific recommendations to put to Council.

The first recommendation that the exchange day with Ashton-on-Mersey G. C. continue in 2010 was defeated on the casting vote of the Captain. The club will look for a new exchange partner but the Secretary had already expressed his position that he would look to someone else to arrange this. The Captain was to ask the Chairman of Green Committee to arrange an exchange in 2010.

The recommendation to refuse reciprocal rights with Alderley Edge G. C. was agreed by Council.

The Secretary's recommendation that Snooper Shot-Saver be granted permission to gather data on the course was accepted by Council.

The Secretary then referred to the paper "Subscriptions by Monthly Instalment and Direct Debit" (Appendix 3).

The recommendations made by the authors were accepted by Council and will be implemented in 2010. This means that a system of 10 or four monthly payments of subscriptions by direct debit will now be available to Full Members as will the facility for other members to pay their full subscriptions by direct debit. In addition, the latter will be given a one-off £10 incentive to move to direct debit payment.

Finally the Secretary referred to the paper "Main Room Charge Policy" (Appendix 4) which he now asked to be approved by Council and adopted. The policy was adopted as presented.

The President said that it had been previous custom not to accept wedding receptions and certain other types of events. This was noted.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

IOG presented the Membership Committee report (Appendix 5) plus the summary of membership movements and the list of prospective members.

Council elected the following to Student membership:

Jonathan Ravenscroft (Proposer Chris Ravenscroft, Seconded Jan Ravenscroft)

Council elected the following to Junior membership:

Thomas Davies	(Proposer Chris Davies, Seconded Helen Davies)
Holly Kirk	(Proposer Irene Kirk, Seconded Ron Kirk)
Sarah Kirk	(Proposer Irene Kirk, Seconded Ron Kirk)
Andrew Reid Dick	(Proposer Chris Brown, Seconded Pat Brown)

In addition, the transfer of Matthew Hewitson from Full Member to Country Member was approved by Council.

IOG then referred to the proposals relating to revised membership categories for members less than 35 years of age. Council members were asked to look at these in detail and make any comments /suggestions to IOG so that the item can be brought to the next Council meeting with a recommendation for approval.

## GREEN COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Appendix 6)

Greens asked for retrospective approval for the £1500 they had spent on a steel container to house the mini-digger which had been the subject of two attempted thefts. Retrospective approval was given.

The recent anonymous gift of £5000 will be used to construct a covered bay on the practice area. Greens were asked to place a copy of the plan for this item on the notice board for Member's information.

The overall plan for development of the greenkeeper's area was a high priority for Greens. In general discussion it was agreed that this should also involve House development plans. What was now needed was an overall general plan and it was suggested that, in the first instance, Management Committee should look at this before committing to any specific professional advice and hence costs.

Greens asked for Council's approval to co-opt Paul Simpson to help with competitions. This was given.

The contract with the new professional has still to be finalised as regards notice of termination. Management Committee were proposing the following:-



“A contract with the Professional be approved that provides for three months’ notice of termination by the Club during the first three years of service, an additional month’s notice for each completed year from year four to year six and a further two months’ retainer for each completed year from year seven to year twelve.”

In discussion, this did not meet with general approval and some also saw it as over-complex. At the meeting Council was unable to establish what had already been indicated to the Professional but a proposal was made that he be offered three months notice either way for the first three years rising by a month per year in years 4-6 to a maximum of 6 months. DWS proposed an amendment which established a 6 month notice period from the beginning on the grounds that he felt this was a beneficial position for the club but this was not seconded. The proposal was accepted and the Captain is now to negotiate this with the Professional with an agreed fallback position of six months.

Greens were asked to locate the whereabouts of the missing Club flag and to ask Richard to look after flag arrangements. Wherever possible he will also be asked to monitor dress code on the course.

Finally, the President made two observations/suggestions to Greens. Firstly, he believed they should consider making the new Men’s 12<sup>th</sup> a call-through hole. Secondly, he thought some of the trees between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> fairways should be moved to create clumps of trees in order to improve the view down the course from the clubhouse.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Appendix 7)

Roof repairs to the clubhouse and cottage were seen as a high priority and House were looking for approximately £7500 to carry out this work. This was unbudgeted and approval was given to move this along. The Treasurer pointed out that at the moment repairs on the House budget has a positive variance of around £4K and he asked House to do their best to bring in repairs at year end as near as possible to budget.

Consistency of meal charges for different groups/ occasions was being monitored and discussed with the Stewards.

Management Committee was asked to look in some detail at the issue of clashes between the Ladies Section and TNC.

KEL raised the issue of Friday night mixed roll-ups which were now in the 2010 calendar. The Captain said that in the main he wished to deal with this issue when the item brought forward in the suggestion book was handled later in the meeting.

## LADIES’ COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Appendix 8)

The Lady Captain reported that the Bell Cup team, in defence of the trophy, had won their recent match and were now in the quarter-finals.

## SUGGESTION BOOK

The following suggestion had been entered in the book on 27/06/09 and signed by nine members:

“There appears to be an increased number of visiting golf societies on Friday afternoons. This limits the opportunities for Members to play on Friday afternoons whether in friendly matches, mixed roll-ups or knock outs.

We would suggest that Council restricts the number of societies to more appropriate days.”

In discussion KEL said that in the middle of summer (May 22<sup>nd</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>) every Friday was taken up with a club match, visiting party, exchange day or private party and this greatly affected the increasingly popular mixed roll-ups and hence he and others supported this concern. Green Committee and the Secretary felt that societies and Friday club nights can both be accommodated as there was not a course use issue and clubhouse use could be sorted out by using all of the facilities.

KEL felt that things would be helped by restricting visiting parties on Fridays within the May-August period and moving them to times outside this core period. It was pointed out that the only other day to accommodate visiting parties was Wednesday. It was generally thought that the value to the club of visiting parties at the current level was positive not only from a financial point of view but also, in certain cases, as encouraging recruitment of new members to the Club. DWS established that the suggestion was to reschedule visiting parties rather than reduce the current level. There is clearly a balance to be struck, and Council has agreed that the Secretary be left to achieve this balance. The Captain and Secretary will reply to the authors of the suggestion.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary said that he had had two separate requests from Anne Hellawell for courtesy of the course for a small group relating to her current role as President of the Manchester and District Society of Past Lady Captains. Both are ironically for Fridays but as they were not seen as disruptive and as a one-off the requests were granted by Council.

The President then gave the following address to Council:

“My two year term of office ends shortly and it is my great pleasure to propose to Council that Roger Cross is the next President of Hale Golf Club. As a past captain, Chair of House and a member of the committee that first looked at the question of revising the management structure he is ideally suited for the role and I wish him every success.

I know the Captain would like to second the proposal but before that may I just say a very few more words. Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support during my term as President and your help in making it an enjoyable time for me. And also to those not here tonight including the past captains and lady captains I have worked with. Also, I think it appropriate to take the opportunity to thank all of you for the work you are doing for the Club. I think the new management structure is working well and the co-opting of members to help is a great success. We have a good team and the members are very fortunate to have

people like you and the others who are a part of the team who are willing to give their time and ensure the success of the Club.

And we are a successful club and have a full membership unlike many golf clubs not far from here. But, of course, we must not be complacent and we must continue to ensure the Club is an attractive place to play golf and to come to socialize but at the same time exercise careful management over our costs.

Having a successful club is not just about having a great golf course and an attractive clubhouse. We have traditions and values and we are an inclusive and friendly club. These are some of our greatest strengths. It has been a privilege to have been President of this golf club and I would like to invite you all to have a drink with me at the end of the meeting.

Before I pass back to the Captain re my proposal of Roger Cross as the next President of the Club, I would like to say that the announcement of the new President will take place at 12.45 on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August. After that there will be an informal Captain's Saturday lunch but I hope as many as possible, ladies and men, will put their names down to come. Ken will be putting up the lunch list any time."

The Captain then seconded the proposal, saying how much he was looking forward to working with Roger, and Roger Cross was unanimously elected as the next President of Hale Golf Club. Roger thanked members of Council for their support.

Finally the Captain expressed his thanks to Alan for his work and support, wished him a happy retirement from the post and also asked that Council's thanks be passed on to Jennifer to recognise the support she had given during the last two years.

The meeting closed at 10.09 p.m.

Date of next meeting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m.

Signed

John Gower-Jones  
(Captain, Hale Golf Club 2009-10)

19<sup>th</sup> October 2009

## Appendices 1-8 Council Meeting 27/07/09

### Appendix 1

#### *HALE GOLF CLUB*

#### **INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT**

6 MONTHS TO JUNE 2009

£'000s

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>INCOME</b>			
SUBSCRIPTIONS	136.7	140.4	(3.6)
ENTRANCE FEES	8.7	3.1	5.6
GREEN FEES	9.0	5.0	4.0
LOCKERS	0.5	0.5	0.0
BAR TAKINGS	58.2	55.0	3.2
BAR EXPENSES	(29.1)	(27.5)	(1.6)
COMPETITION FEES	1.3	0.0	1.3
COMPETITION PRIZES	(1.5)	0.0	(1.5)
BANK INTEREST RECEIVED	0.0	1.5	(1.5)
SUNDRY INCOME	0.2	0.3	(0.2)
	<u>184.0</u>	<u>178.2</u>	<u>5.8</u>
<b>COURSE EXPENSES</b>			
WAGES & NI	39.5	39.4	(0.2)
REPAIRS/MACHINERY MAINTENANCE	4.1	2.6	(1.5)
COURSE UPKEEP	15.8	13.1	(2.7)
MACHINERY FUEL	0.6	2.1	1.5
SUNDRY EXPENSES COURSE	0.0	0.2	0.2
PRO RETAINER	2.5	8.2	5.7
DEPRECIATION - P&M	11.6	11.6	0.0
	<u>74.0</u>	<u>77.1</u>	<u>3.0</u>
<b>CLUBHOUSE EXPENSES</b>			
WAGES PENSION & NI	45.3	44.0	(1.3)
ELECTRICITY & GAS	13.3	10.0	(3.3)
REPAIRS & RENEWALS	5.0	9.2	4.2
BURGLAR ALARM MAINTENANCE	1.3	0.7	(0.6)
CLEANING & LAUNDRY	3.8	6.4	2.5
SUNDRY EXPENSES - CLUBHOUSE	0.2	0.5	0.3
DEPRECIATION - F&F	3.7	3.7	0.0
	<u>72.7</u>	<u>74.4</u>	<u>1.7</u>
<b>GENERAL / ADMIN EXPENSES</b>			
GENERAL RATES	7.3	7.3	(0.0)
WATER	1.0	1.5	0.5
TELEPHONE	0.7	0.7	0.0
INSURANCE	3.2	3.4	0.2
HEALTH & SAFETY	0.0	1.0	1.0
BOOK OF MEMBERS	0.0	0.2	0.2
PRINTING POSTAGE & STATIONERY	0.4	0.7	0.3
SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE	2.4	2.4	0.0
SUNDRY EXPENSES - GEN & ADMIN	1.8	0.2	(1.6)
BANK CHARGES	0.1	0.1	(0.0)
ACCOUNTANCY	0.9	0.9	0.0
NON RECOVERABLE VAT	6.3	6.3	0.0
CAPITAL FUND TRANSFER	10.2	10.2	0.0
LANDSCAPING PRACTICE GROUND	17.9	0.0	(17.9)
	<u>52.1</u>	<u>34.8</u>	<u>(17.3)</u>

NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(14.8)	(8.0)	(6.7)
Bank Balances at 30th June 2009	242.9		
Bank Balances at 30th June 2008	230.3		

## Appendix 2

### HGC

## Secretary's Report to July meeting of Council

- The following Calendar entries have been made since the last Council meeting:

Aug 28	M&DSPLC mtg/G
Sept 28	Warrington Ladies Ctte Exch G/L 10.00 (14)
Sept 30	Golf in the mind 7.30
Oct 16	M&DSPLC mtg
Oct 28	Bowdon Bowl C Dinner (MHam) E
Nov 21	Private party (JWh) M
Jan 27	NC Bridge Club E
Mar 21	Ladies Par 10-10.30?
Mar 28	Ladies Medal 10-10.30?

- The 2010-2011 preliminary Calendar has been uploaded onto the website. Paper copies will be tabled.
- The Secretariat is in the process of simplifying the restrictions members have placed on the Club's publication of certain e-mail and web-site details by contacting the members concerned individually.
- A review of the Club's insurance is being undertaken by Cliff Wright. It appears, inter alia, that our buildings are over-insured but that our contents are under-insured. A further report will be made to Council at the October meeting.
- A letter was received from a Trafford Division police staff member, Roy Tildsley, asking that the Club offer a complementary round of golf for four persons as a prize in a police golf society auction on behalf of Christies Hospital. Given the Club's connections with Christies, the request was granted, for players with handicaps, by arrangement with myself regarding a convenient tee time. No acknowledgement has been received.
- The Secretary has attended a grant-aided two-day EGU seminar about promoting golf club membership and marketing golf club facilities to visitors. Several interesting ideas emerged, some of which may well need to be implemented as the club, like other golf clubs, faces the prospect of declining membership numbers in the medium term.

- A grant-aided environmental survey has been undertaken by the Groundwork Trust and a number of recommendations, relating mainly to house matters, ensued. Ken Lodge and I accepted that there were several ways in which the Club's environmental performance could be improved. I am endeavouring to recruit a member to take responsibility for co-ordinating environmental management activities.
- Correspondence has been received from Trafford MBC about a modification to the design of the rebuilt house at Fairways, Ross Mill Lane. No comment was submitted.
- Two individuals (one in Germany, one in the USA) wrote to ask for copies of the Club score card for their collections. Coloured versions were posted.
- Ashton-on-Mersey Golf Club wrote a warm letter of thanks following their visit in June, asking for the same date next year (Friday 11 June 2010). Hale are due to visit Ashton-on-Mersey on Friday 9 October for the annual Secretary v Treasurer match. Council has previously agreed that this might be the last exchange. A decision as to how to proceed is needed.
- Alderley Edge Golf Club have raised a query about reciprocal arrangements. They write that they:  

“have been looking at the potential for ‘reciprocal arrangements’ with other local clubs, a trend which seems to be gaining some momentum around the country. It means members of clubs within the arrangement can play at other clubs [subject to agreed hours of play] at no cost or for a minimal fee. This would obviously be an additional and attractive feature of club membership. Would Hale be interested in discussing such a scheme?”

A decision as to how to proceed is needed.
- The Club has received a request from a company producing GPS golfing aids and satellite navigation products for Europe and the USA. They have requested that they gather data on our course for their GPS golfing aid database (Snooper Shot Saver [www.snooperneo.co.uk](http://www.snooperneo.co.uk)). This would involve them visiting the club and walking the course to collect information on the layout. There would be no costs involved. This might increase visitor numbers, by encouraging non-regulars to play the course. A decision as to how to proceed is needed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the arrangement with Ashton-on-Mersey be continued but that they be offered a Wednesday rather than a Friday.
2. That the request from Alderley Edge for a reciprocal arrangement be rejected, at least for the present.
3. That permission be granted for Snooper to gather data on the course.

Christopher Wood  
Hon. Secretary  
20 July 2009

## Appendix 3

### Hale Golf Club

## SUBSCRIPTIONS BY MONTHLY INSTALMENT AND DIRECT DEBIT

### 1. Introduction

Council agreed in principle at its April meeting that the Club should initially offer 10 month and 4 month Full membership subscription instalment arrangements to all members and that existing arrangements for payment by instalments should be withdrawn. It also agreed that the Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Officer should investigate the issue of direct debit guarantees further and be given delegated authority to choose which credit company should operate the Club's subscription instalment arrangements. Finally, it was agreed that a draft notice to members about subscription instalment arrangements and direct debits should be presented to the July meeting of Council and be published thereafter.

### 2. Barclays and direct debits

Barclays Bank has raised questions about its ability to offer the direct debit guarantee to payees because of the Club's 'non-corporate' status. Further investigation has resulted in Barclays accepting that can operate direct debits but they wish to take a charge on the Club's land (as they did when they loaned us money) if they are to guarantee direct debit payments. This would involve the Trustees, a possible change in the Club's rules and considerable expense. It is therefore not feasible to use Barclays to receive direct debit payments of 2010 subscriptions.

### 3. Fairway Credit instalments and direct debits

After further research it has been decided to recommend that the Club utilise the services of Fairway Credit to collect instalments. To reiterate information provided at the April meeting of Council, Fairway Credit is part of Premium Credit, which is a well-established business specialising in monthly instalments for insurance premiums and financing audit/accountancy fees for small and medium companies. It is a subsidiary of MBNA Bank and ultimately owned by Bank of America. It is by far the largest provider (it services over 1,000 golf clubs) and is approved by the EGU.

The table shows the administration charges for the collection of instalments over the chosen periods based on the Club's current playing subscription of £845.

	<b>% Admin Fee</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Monthly instalment</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
<b>10 months</b>	6.1%	£51.55	£89.65	£896.50
<b>4 months</b>	4.5%	£38.03	£220.76	£883.04

Fairway Credit can be also used to collect subscriptions in full from members on 2 January and remit them to the Club 30 days later. This arrangement does not require the Club's bank to guarantee direct debits but exposes the Club to risk should Fairway Credit default in

January. It is therefore recommended that Fairway Credit collect payments from all non-Full members who choose to pay the whole of their subscription by direct debit. The cost is £1.50 per payment.

A one-off incentive of, say £10, may be needed to encourage country, junior and non-playing members to pay in this way. This would be returnable if members subsequently cancelled their direct debit instructions.

#### **4. Summary**

In 2010 Full members will be able to pay:

- the whole of their subscriptions by cheque or BACS in January in the usual way, or
- four or 10 monthly instalments by direct debit to Fairway Credit who will provide the Club with the whole of their subscriptions at the end of January.

In 2010 non-Full members will be able to pay:

- the whole of their subscriptions by cheque or BACS in January in the usual way, or
- the whole of their subscriptions by direct debit to Fairway Credit who will provide the Club with the whole of their subscriptions at the end of January.

Hopefully, in 2011 Full members will also be able to pay the whole of their subscriptions by direct debit under a guarantee offered by Barclays.

A draft notice to members is appended. A letter to those members who currently pay by instalments will need to be drafted.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- E) The Club should utilise the services of Fairway Credit to offer 10 month and 4 month full subscription instalment arrangements.
- F) The Club should utilise the services of Fairway Credit to collect payments from all non-Full members who choose to pay the whole of their subscription by direct debit.
- C) The Club should offer a one-off £10 discount to country, junior and non-playing members who choose to pay their subscriptions by direct debit.

CGA/PH/CMW  
200709

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#### **Appendix 4**

### **HALE GOLF CLUB MAIN ROOM CHARGE POLICY**

#### **8. Introduction**



- 8.1. This document clarifies and subsumes those approved by Council at its meetings of 21 July 2008 and 23 February 2009.
  - 8.2. Hale Golf Club is in possession of a “Club Licence” under the Licensing Act 2003, and a copy of the Licence and its provisions are posted on the main notice board. Under the Licence, only Members, Associate Members and their guests over the age of 18 may be served alcohol, and only during the specified hours.
  - 8.3. This charge policy applies only to the Main Room, and the assumption is that the Bar and Side Bar will be available at all times for use by other members, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary. (No charge is made for small members’ parties sharing use of the Side Bar.)
  - 8.4. For all events, the Member booking the event must be present for the duration of the event, and is responsible for the clubhouse and his/her guests.
  - 8.5. Booking of the Main Room does not confer any golfing privileges.
  - 8.6. All bookings are subject to availability and payment of any charges.
  - 8.7. Any additional costs such as hire of dance floor is payable by the event organizer.
  - 8.8. Council retains the right to exempt new or continuing events from these arrangements.
  - 8.9. Robert Spark (Treasury) monitors receipt of charges by reconciling income with the charges listed by the Secretary on the Calendar. To facilitate monitoring the Secretary requests a separate cheque for the room charge whenever possible.
2. **Members’ Private Parties** Members may book the Main Room for private events hosted by and paid for by the Member. Examples of such events are Birthday Parties and Anniversaries. For these events a charge (currently £50) is payable. No charge is made for small members’ parties sharing use of the Main Room.
  3. **Hale Golf Club-based Societies** Golfing societies such as the Shanks, Cockatoos, Out-of-Bounders, 12-Club, Ferrets and Optics may book the Main Room for society events without charge if a majority of users are Full Members of HGC, otherwise the Members’ charge applies.
  4. **Visiting Golf Societies** Where visiting golf societies pay green fees, no charge is made for use of the Main Room so long as the green fees exceed the Main Room charge. If no Member is present at the event, the visitors must be members of another golf club, and thereby “Associate Members of Hale Golf Club” as is required under the Licensing Act. The party may also include guests of “Associate Members”.
  5. **Visiting Societies where no Green Fees are paid** Visiting groups such as Bridge or Pub societies which are hosted by a Member, and where no green fees are paid, will be charged at the non-Members’ rate (currently £100) for use of the Main Room.

- 6. Fund-raising Events** The Main Room will not be made available for events which are set up as fund-raisers and where tickets are sold to the general public. Such events would not meet the requirements of the Club Licence.\*
- 7. Stewards' Events** No charge is made for events arranged by the Stewards either for the benefit of members (such as Sunday lunches, gourmet dinners, etc) or for the Stewards' guests.

\* Individual charities are not supported by the Club, as all Club resources are owned by Members, and the Club is not authorised to select the charities to which such resources should be channelled. The only exceptions to this rule are any charity nominated by the Captain or Lady Captain and the annual sale of poppies on behalf of the British Legion, a practice which is a long-standing tradition.

## RECOMMENDATION

That this *Main Room Charge Policy* document (which brings together and develops documents previously approved by Council) be adopted as Council policy.

KEL/CMW 16 June 2009

## Appendix 5

### Hale Golf Club

#### Membership Committee Report to Council

##### 6. Arrears

The committee noted that the following subscriptions were still outstanding:

Student	Sammy Dawson-Smith	Cheque lost in post: new one promised (subsequently received)
Non-playing	Rick Gatrell	Oversight: cheque promised (subsequently received)
Country	Brian Jenkins	No response to letter sent to Spanish address

All arrangements were up to date.

##### 7. Membership Movements

Membership movements are summarised on worksheet 1 (Movements) of the membership spreadsheet. Jonathan Ravenscroft is recommended as a new Student member. Membership Committee is pleased to recommend that the following be elected by Council as junior members:

Holly Kirk  
Sarah Kirk  
Tom Davies  
Andrew Reid Dick

Council is asked to approve the transfer from Full to Country membership of Matthew Hewitson due to his change in location of employment.

## **8. Prospective Members**

An updated list of prospective new members is presented as worksheet 2 (Prospective) of the membership spreadsheet. The list is building in a satisfactory manner for admissions in 2010 but the outlook for 2011 remains uncertain.

## **9. Discussion regarding Junior and Younger Adult Membership**

Membership Committee discussed a paper entitled *Membership categories, subscriptions and entrance fees for members under the age of 35* proposing the simplification and improvement of the subscription arrangements for younger members. The amended paper accompanies this report.

CGA/CMW 170709

### **Hale Golf Club**

## **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ENTRANCE FEES FOR MEMBERS UNDER THE AGE OF 35**

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To improve and simplify the provisions regarding the subscriptions of Hale Golf Club members under the age of 35.
2. To assist in achieving the EGU's goal of encouraging more young golfers to play and continue to play golf.

### **CURRENT POSITION**

There are four categories of playing membership for members under the age of 35:-

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Subscription</b>	<b>Entrance Fee</b>
Junior	£70	Nil
Student	£150	Nil
Country	£150	Nil
Full	£845*	£845

\* see below for those under 25

Playing rights for junior members are restricted. Council determines the entrance fees and subscriptions for each class of membership. Pages 76 and 77 of the 2009/10 Members' Handbook record the subscriptions and entrance fees for the current year. The section which this paper seeks to review and amend reads:-

"Members aged between 20 years and 6 months and 24 years 6 months on 1st January are charged graduated subscriptions:

Under 21 years 6 months £169

Under 22 years 6 months £338

Under 23 years 6 months £507

Under 24 years 6 months £676 after which the full subscription rate will become payable.

The entrance fee for a junior transferring to full membership is reduced by 25% of the full subscription for each year he or she has been a junior, up to a maximum of 4 years. New members under the age of 35 years on 1st January pay a reduced entrance fee."

## CONSIDERATIONS

1. 18 years of age is a more recognisable age limit for Junior membership than 20 years and 6 months. It does not seem right for a 19 or 20 year old to be paying the same as an 11 or 12 year old.
2. Our current graduated subscriptions provisions are unnecessarily cumbersome.
3. There is currently insufficient incentive for those ceasing full-time education to transfer to full playing membership. It is becoming increasingly difficult to define a 'full-time student'.
4. Currently there is only one member paying a graduated subscription. She was just over 22 years 6 months as at 1st January and therefore pays £507. We think that is too much.
5. The Club has very few Full members under the age of 35.

## PROPOSALS

1. Full membership subscriptions should be simplified and reduced.
2. The category of student member should be abolished because of definitional problems and the wide range of ages involved (a rule needs to be rescinded).
3. Junior membership should be restricted to those under 18 years of age as at 1st January (a rule change is necessary). Once a Junior member has reached 18 years of age he or she would need to apply to the Hon. Secretary to transfer to Full or Country membership as appropriate. In practice, the Hon. Secretary is likely to contact each such member in advance setting out the options. The Membership Committee would then deal with each such application on its merits and make the appropriate recommendation to Council.
4. Based on 2009 subscriptions we suggest that the following subscriptions be adopted:-

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Subscription</b>	<b>Entrance Fee</b>
Junior (under 18)	£70	Nil
Country	£150	Nil
Full (18-20)	£150	Nil
Full (21-24)	£210	Nil or Nil <sup>1</sup> or £210 <sup>2</sup>
Full (25-29)	£420	£420
Full (30-34)	£845	£635

£210, £420 and £635 are 25%, 50% and 75% of the full subscription

<sup>1</sup>Previous association with Club

<sup>2</sup>No previous association with Club

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a proposal be taken to the next AGM that Rule 19 be amended to read:-  
"19. JUNIOR MEMBERS - Junior membership shall be restricted to those who at 1st January in any year are under the age of 18 years. Junior members may be elected at the discretion of the Council."
2. That a proposal be taken to the next AGM that Rule 22 (student members) be rescinded.
3. That the subscription proposals be implemented under delegated authority by Membership Committee as soon as practicable.

IOG/CMW 19 July 2009

## Appendix 6

### **GREENS REPORT TO COUNCIL MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> July 2009**

#### **Practice Ground**

All the external contractors work has now been finished and would appear to be working well. The real test will be through the winter when this area has been unusable in the past.

The new teeing area has been completed after some late alterations to make less visual impact from the club house. The astroturf area is already in use and we hope to bring the grassed area in play soon.

Completion of the new chipping green has been delayed but will now receive high priority so that it can be seeded and be ready for next summer.

#### **Course**

The two new machines have been put to good use and we hope the members are seeing the benefit both in terms of playing and visually. The two machines which have replaced one

much larger machine allow the green staff to cut the fairways and fringes to a much higher standard with better use of staff time.

The weather has been much more helpful than last year allowing the greens to be presented to a high standard. The head green keeper is still not satisfied and believes that we can continue to make improvements in the speed and quality of the putting surface. I have passed on the many compliments that I have received from members and visitors however it is fantastic from the Greens committee to know that the Greens staff believe that we can still do better.

Whilst the growing season continues our main objective will be to “cut grass” however as this slows down we hope to start work on the drainage to the left of the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway with the aim of bringing this area up to fairway standard.

The Alan Grant causeway has been completed and we delighted with the result. We would like to thank Barbara and family for this most generous gift

We are in the process of producing a winter program of work which includes the following:

Completing the work to the upper area of the practice ground and new chipping area;  
Further drainage works to the left of the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway (as above);  
Pruning of the trees to the left of the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway and on the corner of the out of bounds;  
Lift level and replace 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> tees;  
Lift and renew drainage to the practice green.

### **Machinery/Sheds**

Further to the two attempts to steal our mini digger, we have purchased a second hand steel container which is extremely robust and satisfies our insurers conditions for covering machinery stored within. This was at a cost of £1500 which with the agreement of the management committee we spent as it was thought imprudent to wait until the next council meeting. We hope this action meets with council approval.

We are grateful to Chris Wood and Cliff Wright who conducted a full review of our insurance. We are now confident that we are covered for the appropriate value of our machinery which exceeds £250,000.

In the long term we know and it has been discussed many times that further shed/storage will be required both for security and health and safety reasons. We propose that a professional plan is drawn of the current green keeper's compound and land surrounding it so that all future needs can be planned into the area available. To help us formulate this plan we would be grateful for any thoughts or for members to provide a wish list of what we might need or want to provide in this area in the future.

For instance we know the greens staff need more sheds but would the membership want a battery charging facility, or store for trolleys or even buggies. At this stage we are looking forward strategically and are looking at what might be possible, all ideas considered.

### **New Professional**

Richard has now been with us full time for 3 months. I know that he is pleased with how things have gone so far and certainly the feedback from the members has been excellent. I hope the membership will continue to support Richard after this “honeymoon period”. I am sure he would appreciate constructive comment on any golf related matter.

### **Covered Practice Bay**

The management committee discussed the possibility of using the donation offered by a member of circa £5000 for the construction of a covered practice/ teaching bay on the practice ground. Richard, Russell Johny and myself have looked at various options available either in kit form or provided as a complete solution.

Our main concern is that obviously this structure must work in golfing terms however its position and its visual impact both from the clubhouse, and on entrance down the drive should be minimal. None of the products commercially available seem to be ideal. Johny Fallows has suggested that we construct a simple structure in Green Oak with a timber shingle roof set back in the area to the left of the current practice net. The ground works could be done by our own staff and construction would require a skilled joiner with labour again provided by our own staff. At this time Johny and I are working on dimensions and approximate costings, and we are sure that we can deliver a bespoke design within a budget of £5000.

Obviously we would like to push forward with this plan with the aim of having the structure up in time for this winter. For this to be possible we would need Council approval to move this forward before the next council meeting.

### **Green Committee**

The Greens Committee has been looking at co-opting one or two members to help in particular on competition days. We have approached Paul Simpson who is keen to help. He is a relatively new member however he plays in most comps and has extremely good IT skills. In addition as a lecturer in business at Manchester University he may help us to sharpen up our act. We hope council will approve this proposal.

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## **Appendix 7**

### **Hale Golf Club House Committee Report to Council 27 July 2009**

#### **Health and Safety**

- Handrails have been installed on the slope to the patio.
- PAT Testing has been carried out on electrical equipment.
- A wheelchair ramp has been purchased for front door access.

#### **Social Events**

- Mixed Roll-ups have been re-named as “Mixed Club Night”, and have been entered in the 2010 calendar for the first Friday in each of the summer months. There is a strong member consensus that these dates should be preserved.

The May Dance with a “Black and White” theme was a success.  
The Social Sub-Committee is working well.

#### Clubhouse

Internal doors have been strengthened in the Cottage to improve security.  
The valleys of the Clubhouse roof have deteriorated over the years, and undergone frequent repairs. The plan had been to carry out minor repairs to the valleys again this year, but after inspection there is a recommendation that a more permanent repair be carried out at the end of the current summer. The best price for this work is £2900 plus VAT. This work was not included in the House R&R budget for 2009.  
The very old Cottage roof has a number of complex interfaces with the much newer Clubhouse roof, and the old roof is in a very poor condition. Last year a number of leaks occurred, and water damage to the Cottage and Clubhouse resulted. Temporary repairs were done, and it was planned to carry out a major re-roofing in 2010, at “guestimated” cost of £4000. After inspection by two contractors, the estimated cost of a complete re-roofing of the Cottage with tiles matching those on the Clubhouse is £4600 plus VAT. This work was not included in the House R&R budget for 2009.

#### Catering

A meeting has been held with the stewards to emphasize the need to ensure that meal prices remain competitive with that of other clubs, and also that there is internal consistency of pricing for similar meals.

#### Event Programme

A number of members have expressed concern over the interaction between TNC and Ladies’ events on Thursdays. Many ladies would like to continue with social activities after their golf and presentations, and TNC are very constrained in the bar and side bar, making attendance at TNC less enjoyable. This challenge is not going to disappear, and at some point needs to be addressed.  
It is recommended that Council undertake a review of options, for consideration at the next Council meeting. This review would consider options including changing days for either Ladies or TNC, or modifying format of either or both. Any changes to days would have significant consequences.

#### Staff

Martina continues to work in a part-time capacity with reduced hours, and a second part-time cleaner has been engaged.

K E Lodge/ 20 July 2009

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## Appendix 8

### REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM THE LADIES SECTION

**July 2009**

Thursday competitions continue to be well supported and by allowing late tee times, the business ladies have been able to compete in our major trophies.

The Bell Cup team have been successful in the first two rounds of the Bell Cup and we hope this will continue on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July when they play Warrington at home at 4.30pm.



An informal evening in June was attended by eight of our new members and some of their sponsors. By meeting other new members and committee members and by explaining golf etiquette, club competitions and how to enter them, it is hoped this will have encouraged them to gain their handicaps and participate in golf and social events.

Lady Captain

# **HALE GOLF CLUB**

## **Minutes of Council Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

### **PRESENT**

J. R. Gower-Jones (Captain/ Chairman), R. R. Cross (President), C. J. Brown (Vice President), M. I. Sharp (Lady Captain), J. I. Moss (Lady Secretary), C. M. Wood (Hon. Secretary), D. W. Swale (Assistant Secretary), P. E. Hilton (Hon. Treasurer), K. E. Lodge (Chairman of House Committee), A. F. Kenney (Chairman of Green Committee), I. O. Goulty (Chairman of Membership Committee), C. J. Davies, A. G. Dewhurst, J. R. Foster and D. M. Smith.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from:

B. S. Jefferies, A. Bradley, R. A. da Forno, R. W. O'Brien, M. J. Kirchin and Vice-Presidents: P. K. Hardern, G. O. Harris, A. N. G. Hyde, W. W. Kennedy, C. J. Mawson, J. N. Nichols, A. G. Pendleton and P. F. Veitch.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Captain signed the minutes of the meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009 as a correct record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

The Captain reported that we once again had the Club flag in operation.

In the case of the professional's contract the Captain reported that this was now with Richard for signing and he had agreed to the notice period schedule proposed at the previous Council meeting. The Captain received Council approval to sign the contract on behalf of the Club.

The Secretary said that a note from AB re wedding receptions would be referred to when the House Committee report was discussed.

### **CAPTAIN'S REMARKS**

The Captain asked the Council to stand for a minute's silence in memory of Max Sunderland, a long-standing member, who had recently passed away.

The Captain welcomed Roger Cross to his first Council meeting as President of the Club.

A gift to Russell and his wife, to mark the birth of their first child, had been made by the Club. The Secretary reported that a note of thanks from Russell had been displayed on the notice board.

The Captain said that Management Committee had recommended that a sub-committee reporting to Council be set up to propose and subsequently implement a plan for the sequential development of the greenkeepers' equipment storage area, to include the urgently needed secure storage to reduce over-crowding in the existing shed, storage space for members' trolleys, battery charging facilities and, possibly, a professional's shop and covered teaching facilities. He looked to the Chairs of Green and House Committees each to propose a member of the sub-committee.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

KEL reported that the Club had recently had a fire inspection from a local fire brigade officer and he was satisfied with what he saw. He had remarked that we should ensure we have COSHH information on all chemicals on site and he had that recommended the installation of a fire alarm system.

This will in effect be our last free inspection as this facility is being withdrawn and in future it will be our own responsibility to review our fire safety procedures via a self-inspection programme.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer took Council through his year-end forecast document and proposed 2010 budget document (Appendix 1).

In the main this was self-explanatory, the bottom line being that at year-end 2009 we expect to have £118K cash whilst at the end of 2010 it would be £153K with the committed current Capex expenditure budget of £11K. The Treasurer felt we should limit 2010 Capex to £40K which would reduce the 2010 year end cash figure to £124K.

Several points about the budget were discussed in some detail. A minority of Council thought that staff wages should not be increased this year but the majority did not support this and hence an increase of 2.5%, in line with the Treasurer's recommendation, was agreed. KEL sought confirmation that whilst this was the total figure some flexibility from individual to individual was acceptable. This was agreed.

JRF felt that, considering it is an issue, room hire rental income should in future be coded and recorded separately. This was agreed.

The Treasurer took Council through his proposals for 2010 fees. He proposed an increase of £10 for full playing, non-playing and under-18 junior membership but no increase for student and country membership. This proposal, which will bring in about £4K of extra subscription income, was accepted unanimously by Council after discussion.

AKF thought that we might have difficulty explaining to some members why we had any increase when we had a large amount of cash in hand. The Treasurer said that the increase was designed so we could break even in 2010 rather than making a loss. DWS felt that we might need to point out to members that a significant buffer was needed at this time as he thought that membership numbers could still prove to be a problem over the coming years and our very positive bar profits could be hit if we unfortunately made the wrong decision when the time arises that we appoint new stewards. He pointed out that in neither of these circumstances was a large increase in subscriptions the market answer.

IOG pointed out that we are continuing our conservative policy of under-budgeting for entrance fees. In response to a query, the Treasurer agreed to explore the possibility of gaining more interest on the Club's cash.

The President raised the issue of reduced membership for older members which hopefully might encourage some to stay as playing members rather than move straight to non-playing membership. IOG pointed out that this idea had been rejected by Council earlier this year and that there was no reason to re-visit it so soon. The Captain agreed that it was too early to return to the issue but that it could be looked at again in the future.

The Captain thanked the Treasurer on the Council's behalf for his work and stewardship of the accounts.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT (Appendix 2)

The Secretary said that he was aware that accepting a small visiting party (12) on Sunday June 6th 2010 had caused some concern but that a Council decision about the same party in 2007 provided precedent. Several members said that a party of this size should cause no problems but IOG thought that this issue should have been brought to Council. AFK expressed some concern about allowing visiting parties at the weekend. In response, the Secretary repeated that he believed that previous Council policy gave him discretion in this matter and that limited weekend bookings were sensible when the Club was trying to limit Friday visiting parties. It was agreed that any non-repeat weekend bookings would be discussed with the Chairs of Green and House Committees before acceptance.

The conclusions and recommendations in Cliff Wright's report on all aspects of Club insurance were put to Council and accepted in their entirety following some clarification of what was covered by Directors' liability insurance. Cliff was thanked for his detailed and informative analysis.

The Secretary said he and the Treasurer were proposing that locker fees be raised by approximately 25% as they had not been increased for many years. The Lady Secretary spoke against this proposal and DWS asked if there was a waiting list for lockers. The Secretary said that there were some ladies' lockers not taken at the present time. Council approved the increase with 2 objections.

The final issue related to the Secretary's proposal that an edited version of the Council minutes be published on the web-site and notice board. He believed that this was good practice supported by EGU guidelines and was already successfully implemented at several

local clubs. The Captain supported the proposal and felt the various objections he had encountered, namely the extra secretarial time required, lack of member interest, lack of need for members to know detail and the inhibition of Council members expressing their opinions did not convince him otherwise. There were objections from the three committee chairmen. AFK thought that he would be subject to even more questioning on greens issues. KEL thought that most of the members would not be interested in any publication longer than one page and that Council members would face too much questioning on specific issues. IOG thought we needed to communicate the decisions of Council to members but felt that this was best done by a summary rather than Council minutes. He felt an abridged set of minutes without appendices would not make sense.

JRF and DWS both supported the publication of the minutes but it was clear there was a serious difference of opinion. As a compromise, and hoping to satisfy both factions, rather than putting the issue to a vote the Captain said that he and the Secretary would compile a summary of the decisions of the current meeting for further discussion and this proposal was unanimously agreed.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

(Appendices 3 and 4)

The following two ladies were elected to full playing membership:

Ann Alexander (Proposer- Mary Adams, Seconder- Michelle Rea);  
Helen Matthew (Proposer- Rosie Gerrard, Seconder- Wendy Walsh).

The Secretary clarified the situation on direct debit payments for 2010 subscriptions. Full members will be able to pay by direct debit instalments (monthly over either four or ten months) but direct debits for the total subscription for social and country members will not now be introduced until 2011 as the work involved was substantial and the bank had not been particularly helpful on the matter.

IOG then referred to Membership Committee's proposals relating to new membership categories for members less than 35 years of age. He said that he had received few comments, but that these had been favourable. This proposal, which requires rule changes, was accepted by Council. IOG would have preferred there to be an SGM called in the immediate future so that the rule changes were in place for 2010 subscriptions. The Secretary felt that the small number of members concerned and the work involved did not merit addressing the rule changes prior to the AGM as Council was free to alter subscriptions to the proposed levels without rule changes. IOG wished it minuted that whilst he was willing to accept this he thought it the wrong decision.

IOG also thought that the suggested graduated increase of under-18 junior membership subscription (agreed by the Membership Committee in his absence) from the agreed £80 in 2010 to £90 in 2011 and £100 in 2012 should not be accepted without further reference to Council.

## GREEN COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Appendix 5)

The Greens report was taken in the main as read. Three issues were briefly discussed. Firstly, it was agreed that the memorial to Jimmy Hodson will now be an inscribed bench close to the men's 12<sup>th</sup> tee rather than a brass plaque on the bell at the side of the 4<sup>th</sup> fairway. Secondly, AFK indicated that Greens were looking to plant more trees to define fairways. On the ninth fairway this was to be accompanied by a project to drain and widen the left hand side of the fairway. Thirdly, no exchange with another club be undertaken in 2010.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Appendix 6)

House were looking for approval to initiate immediate repairs to the cottage roof at a cost of £4.5K. This was accepted by Council. KEL reminded Council that a further £7K would be needed shortly to repair the clubhouse roof.

House also looked for approval to replace the crockery at a cost of £1.8K as the existing crockery was now inadequate and could no longer be purchased. This request was also accepted by Council.

KEL referred to the difficulties that had occurred relating to the use of the club for a wedding reception on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Council had been misled about the nature of wedding occasion but there seemed no point in pursuing this situation further with the member concerned.

Roger O'Brien had prepared a short paper on this issue and Alan Bradley had written to the Secretary with his views. The Secretary suggested that, since a review of the room booking policy was due at the beginning of next year with a subsequent report to Council, this should include consideration of the use of the clubhouse for wedding receptions. This was accepted but it was agreed that in the meantime no bookings for wedding receptions should be taken.

## LADIES' COMMITTEE REPORT

(Appendix 7)

The report was taken as read. The Captain felt that the proposed nine hole competition was a very good idea and would help older members to feel included in competitive golf.

## SUGGESTION BOOK

The following suggestion was entered in the book on 25/08/09 and signed by four members

"That as a minimum the small lounge (TV room) should be left furnished and available for members' use whilst outside functions are taking place. This is particularly important on evenings (especially Fridays) during the peak summer golfing season when members are

likely to require drink and/or food. This may mean restricting the numbers attending a function so as to ensure service to members.”

The Secretary said that this suggestion had been considered at the Management Committee meeting. It was recommended that the Stewards be reminded, when they are catering for a large party, always to provide service to members, including seating, and that members be reminded to notify the Stewards in advance that they would like to eat.

This was accepted. The Secretary will reply to the authors of the suggestion accordingly.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Captain said that he proposed to turn down a request from a member to put a notice on the board offering to supply Christmas turkeys to members, and this was agreed.

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm and the Captain kindly asked members to join him for a drink.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4th January 2010.

Signed

John Gower-Jones  
(Captain, Hale Golf Club 2009-10)

4th January 2010

### **Appendices 2, 3, 5-7 Council Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

#### **Appendix 2**

#### **SECRETARY’S REPORT TO OCTOBER MEETING OF COUNCIL**

- The following Calendar entries have been made since the last Council meeting:

Fri 23 October 2009	OoBs L/G/D (12) 1.30 Joe Walsh
Sat 24 October 2009	Private Party Clive Harwood M
Fri 18 December 2009	Private Pty G/D (10) 1200 Vic Stratta M-G
Sat 16 January 2010	BGLC Dinner Dance Robert Spark M
Sat 6 February 2010	Railway Inn GS Annual Dinner John Kennedy E✓

Sat 20 February 2010	Vine Inn GS D E
Wed 24 February 2010	Chas O'Neill Medical Soc G/D Bob Davies E-G
Sun 6 June 2010	Lobden LC's Day G/L/G/D (12) 9.00
Wed 9 June 2010	Fr & He GS L/G/D (30) 1.00 Matt Barr
Wed 16 June 2010	Railway Inn GS L/G/D 1.00 (40)
Fri 25 June 2010	Bowdon LTC GD L/G/D 1.00 (36) Roger Flint
Sat 10 July 2010	Private party Malcolm Taylor M
Fri 16 July 2010	Hale LTC GD L/G/D 12.30 (60) Mary Adams
Wed 4 August 2010	New Knee GS G/D (16) 1.00
Sat 7 August 2010	Private party Elizabeth Gourlay M
Sat 14 August 2010	Private party Nigel Taylor M
Wed 1 September 2010	Bull's Head GS L/G/D 1.00 (30) Awh
Sat 11 September 2010	Private Pty David Gandy M

(A=away, B=breakfast, D=dinner, E=external, G=golf, H=home, L=lunch  
M=member)

- A review of the use of buggies at the Club is to be undertaken by Cliff Wright and is scheduled for the January meeting of Council.
- Ron Skilling has kindly taken responsibility for co-ordinating environmental management activities across the club, in consultation with the Chairs of Green and House Committees.
- Barbara Grant has kindly taken over responsibility for opening and distributing mail and listening to recorded telephone messages. This task was previously undertaken by Anne McNamara but it was felt that she had enough responsibilities to discharge without this burden.
- Correspondence has been received from:

The EGU to state that Brendan and Anne McNamara were not selected as regional finalists in the London Pride Steward of the Year competition.

An individual from the UK wrote to ask for a copy of the Club score card for his collection. A coloured version was posted.

The EGU asking for a questionnaire on council tax to be completed (awaiting information).

The CUGC asking for updated information for the Cheshire handbook.

Christopher Wood  
Hon. Secretary  
13 October 2009

## INSURANCE

As you will know, I have been undertaking a review of the Club's insurance policy. Time did not allow this to be thoroughly completed prior to the renewal on 24 June 2009 when a total annual premium of £6067.36 was paid.



The review is now complete and the main areas of insurance cover which required investigation are summarised below, together with my findings and my recommendations.

## **Buildings**

A sum assured of £957,212 appeared high and I, accordingly, asked Nigel Taylor to "express his opinion" as to the suitability of this sum, which includes the Clubhouse, cottage and machinery shed and storage containers. Nigel is of the view that we would be "comfortably" insured at a figure of £670K for the Clubhouse and cottage and I would suggest a further £80K for the storage facilities - a total of £750K sum assured, which would be index linked at renewal.

A premium reduction of £259.01, plus Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) at 5%, would apply to this scenario, which I recommend.

## **Contents**

The current total sum assured is £315,124. There are three categories here:

1. Machinery - Russell Lewis has prepared a schedule of machinery (attached) totalling £317,600. To leave our three trailers outside, a premium of £6.25 would apply, providing the trailers are chained together.
2. General Clubhouse contents - somewhat difficult to assess given the many items to be included. However, having consulted both Ken Lodge and Alan Dewhurst, a figure of £125K is thought to be appropriate.
3. Irrigation equipment - this was included in the original insurance proposal in the overall sum assured, but we do not appear to have specific cover at present. A lower premium is applied here as opposed to other "contents" areas and would, for example, cost £200, plus IPT, to obtain cover of £100K - this figure thought to cover the replacement of the whole irrigation system.

To insure the irrigation system, we have to insure the whole system and cannot just pick and choose, say, the sprinkler heads at each green. One has to ask, in what circumstances would we actually make a claim under this section of the policy? Any outside contractors undertaking work on the course would have their own 'liability' insurance cover, whilst our green keepers would know the whereabouts of the pipework, etc. A golfer is very unlikely to cause any damage to the system. Vandalism is the only possible cause of a claim that I can think of and, even then, one would think that not every hole would be affected.

Having given the irrigation system considerable thought and sought the guidance of our Broker as to his claims experience, I feel that there is a strong argument not to insure the system. I recommend accordingly. However, this decision may need to be revisited when consultations are complete.

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As you can see, we are considerably under-insured in this Section. To have cover of £317K for Machinery and £125K for General Contents, we are looking at additional

premiums £472.03 and £64.94 respectively. I recommend that we increase our insurance cover to these figures.

### **IT Equipment**

The cover has been increased from £2300 to £4500 which is more in keeping with the equipment currently in place at a cost of an additional £23.10.

### **Deterioration of Stock**

Sum assured £20K - £2500 per freezer and we have two freezers! The current premium is £26.25.

This sum assured is the standard cover provided within the policy and, although it is in excess of our needs, no return premium will be given.

### **Pro Shop Stock**

We have previously insured the stock in the Pro shop. The stock does not belong to the Club.

Having consulted Al Kenney and Richard Booth, this cover was cancelled at renewal with a saving of £630.

### **Directors' Liability**

Current sum assured £250K.

In this litigious age an increased sum assured would seem wise. The Trustees of the Club are covered under this section of the policy.

To increase the sum assured to £1m would incur an additional premium of £210. However, the circumstances in which a liability would arise at such a figure would appear remote and a figure of £500K would appear more appropriate for which an additional premium of £75 would apply. This latter figure of £500K is recommended.

### **Business Interruption**

We previously had cover of £541K over 24 months.

Based on recent Club turnover and the fact that we would, I am sure, make other arrangements swiftly to allow the Club to operate as fully as possible in the event of a major incident, the sum assured and the timescale were reduced at renewal in June to £350K and 12 months respectively. The reduced premium was reflected in a saving of £108.67 within the overall premium paid at that time.

### **Policy Warranties**

As far as I can ascertain, we meet the quite onerous warranties (e.g. deep fat frying, alarm and protection, electrical inspections and roof maintenance) within the policy. This is stated after consultation with Mac and Anne, Ken Lodge and Alan Dewhurst.

However, following the smoking ban legislation, I recommend that we can seek the removal of the smoking materials warranty.

### **Insurance Cover for Members**

The Hon. Secretary is sometimes asked by members whether the Club provides any insurance cover on their behalf. The answer is "no". Members should make their own arrangements to suit their individual requirements.

Likewise, I do not think that it would be appropriate for the Club to recommend any one insurance product/provider to members. We do receive several letters annually from insurers advertising their policies for golfers and, if thought appropriate, these could be placed on the Club notice board.

### **Summary**

In undertaking this review, the objective was to establish that the Club has insurance cover in place which meets its current needs and requirements, at appropriate levels and at a competitive premium, whilst trying to take a balanced view as to potential areas of risk. It was not purely a money saving exercise.

Indeed, notwithstanding the savings made prior to renewal in June and the changes outlined above, there will be an overall saving of £17.44 over the premium paid at the June 2008 renewal, instead of the 5.25% premium increase (about £300) that would have been applicable in the absence of this review.

I am satisfied that, with the changes outlined, the Club would now have the correct levels of cover in place, subject to annual review.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the changes to the Club's insurance outlined above be adopted.
2. That the Secretary be given delegated authority to insure the irrigation system if consultations indicate forcibly that this is desirable.

Cliff Wright  
8 October 2009

## **LOCKER FEES**

Locker fees have remained the same since the new Clubhouse opened. Since 1996 the Retail Prices Index has risen by over 40% and playing membership subscriptions have increased by over 90%. Locker fees should have been increased over the years, perhaps roughly in line with the RPI. It is suggested that locker fees be increased in 2010 partially to reflect the

increase in RPI. Locker fees might be reviewed again in two or three years' time in the light of contemporary conditions.

Locker type	Current fee	Inflation-linked fee*	<b>Proposed fee</b>	Increase (%)
Small (ladies)	8	11.44	<b>10.00</b>	25
Medium (gents)	20	28.60	<b>25.00</b>	25
Large (ladies and gents)	35	50.05	<b>43.00</b>	23

\*1996 fee increased by 43%

### **Recommendation**

That fees for small, medium and large lockers be increased to £10, £25 and £43 respectively.

Christopher Wood  
Honorary Secretary  
Paul Hilton  
Honorary Treasurer  
12 October 2009

## **PUBLICATION OF NOTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

### **Introduction**

The minutes of the Council meeting of 24 April 2007 (Ag 10) state:

“The Captain [John Acratopulo] raised the issue of the availability of Council minutes to Club members. A brief discussion took place about the wisdom of resuming publication of full (or summary) minutes from meetings on the notice board to keep members informed (whilst not disclosing matters of a confidential or personal nature). This resulted in a decision that, for the time being, publication would not be resumed but that the possibility should be kept under review.”

In view of the successful establishment of the Club web-site it is suggested that the time is ripe to return to this issue and extend access to notes of Council meetings to all members.

### **Background**

Council members are elected by members to husband the Club during their period of office. Council members are therefore accountable to Club members but written communication between them is limited to the AGM (reports from the Captain, Treasurer and Secretary), the Captain's letter (and associated reports), miscellaneous notices (on the Board and by e-mail) and the Suggestion Book. There are, of course, informal communications about Council business and, although usually positive, these can sometimes result in misunderstandings.

At present, Council minutes are drafted by the Assistant Secretary, checked by the Secretary and approved (with modification where necessary) by the Captain. They are then distributed to all current Council members, to all vice-presidents and, when appropriate, to the Captain-elect and the Lady Captain-elect (30 persons in all).

The Club Services Manager of the EGU, Paul Keeling, has stated that the publication of Council minutes is regarded as good practice by the EGU in the interests of transparency, improvement of communication and accountability. He confirmed that the vast majority of golf clubs make their council minutes available to all members (in a suitably edited form where necessary). He recommended that the notes should not attribute opinions to individual members of Council.

The EGU training consultant, Jane Carter (Golf Consulting), has written:

“My view is that especially for private members clubs this is quite an important part of the communication process. It is 'their' club after all and they should understand the economic climate, issues and hopefully the positive things being discussed by Council. I agree they may need to be edited but only to protect personalities and not to hide any bad news! My experience is that even if they are posted, members don't rush to read them but it's amazing how powerful the argument is that you are giving them the opportunity to understand what is happening.”

Comments from the secretaries of Ringway, Knutsford and Alderley Edge indicate that the process of editing is not time-consuming and that the benefits of publication outweigh the disbenefits. Thus, the secretary at Ringway commented: “Overall, we have not found it to be a problem and it does mean the Members feel as if they are being kept informed.”

### **Proposal**

It is suggested that the Council minutes, once distributed to Council members, should be edited by the Secretariat and subjected to a further check, by the Captain, to remove any items that he considers to be sensitive and then be posted on the website and on the Secretariat notice board. The notes of the last Council meeting, generated in the way described, are appended. The struck out sections indicate where editing has taken place.

### **Recommendation**

- Notes of Council meetings should be published on the members-only area of the website and on the notice-board, with the Captain acting as ‘censor’.

Christopher Wood  
Honorary Secretary  
15 October 2009

### **Appendix 3**

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL**

## 10. Arrears

The Committee noted that there were no subscriptions outstanding. All arrangements were up to date.

## 11. Membership Movements

Membership movements are summarised on Worksheet 1 (movements) of the membership spreadsheet (Appendix 4). Having completed the necessary procedures, **Ann Alexander and Helen Matthew are recommended to Council for election as Full Playing members.**

## 12. Prospective Members

An updated list of prospective new members is presented as Worksheet 2 (prospective) of the membership spreadsheet. This list provides no grounds for complacency.

## 13. Members under the Age of 35

Membership Committee reviewed the recommendations of the paper relating to members under the age of 35 and examined the consequences of the proposed changes to subscription levels for each member of this group. The Committee felt that Recommendation 3 in the paper - to await the March AGM to introduce the necessary rule changes - remained sensible and cost-effective. Membership Committee accordingly suggests that 2010 subscriptions for the individuals concerned should be levied within the existing rules of the Club but that, where possible, 2010 subscriptions should be levied at the rates proposed in the paper. Any new under-35 year old members joining in 2010 after the rule changes have been agreed at the March AGM will pay the new rates. The proposals are broadly cost-neutral whenever they are implemented.

Should the rule changes not be accepted at the AGM, Membership Committee would need to submit revised proposals to Council which might reverse some of the increases or reductions in individual subscriptions.

*Junior members over the age of 18 but under 20 years 6 months* To facilitate the transition to the situation after the rule changes Council is **recommended to alter the 2010 subscriptions of these junior members from £70 to £150** in accordance with the paper (no rule change is needed). Seven individuals are involved. They will be billed as young Full members in January 2011 once the rule changes have been agreed. (The subscriptions for the 18-20s locally are Knutsford £201, Ringway £270, Alderley Edge £215 and Wilmslow £235. The average subscriptions for intermediate males and females are £350 in Cheshire and £315 nationally.)

*Full-time students* of whatever age continue to pay the student subscription of £150 in 2010. They will also be billed as young Full members in January 2011 once the rule changes have been agreed.

*Full members of 21-24 and 25-29* Council is **recommended to alter the subscriptions and entrance fees of these members** in accordance with the paper (no rule change is needed).

There is only one Full playing member in each of these categories. Both would gain substantially by levying subscriptions of £210 and £420 respectively.

## **5. Junior Subscription Level**

The junior subscription has remained at £70 since 2004 whereas it used to be pegged at about 11% of the playing subscription. The subscriptions for under 18s locally are Knutsford £201, Ringway £200, Alderley Edge £125 and Wilmslow £130. The average subscription for male and female juniors aged 16 in Cheshire (and nationally) is £125, rising to £155 for young persons aged 18 (£163 nationally). Membership Committee suggests that Hale Golf Club increase junior subscriptions from £70 in successive years to bring them up to about 11% of the full subscription. An increase to £80 in 2010, to £90 in 2011 and to £100 in 2012 would seem appropriate.

Membership Committee accordingly **recommends that the under 18 junior subscription be increased in 2010 to £80.**

## **6. Paying 2010 Subscriptions by Instalment**

Fairway Credit have been appointed to handle the Club's instalment arrangements for 2010. A provisional initial credit limit has been given to the Club of £75,000, which represents over 25% of our full playing membership and so should be more than adequate to cover our needs. The next step is the application for a credit licence and we shall then be ready to issue direct debit forms to members wishing to use this facility. Given the amount of administrative time likely to be involved in setting up direct debits for instalments, the Committee accepts that the introduction of direct debits for the collection of the whole of other subscriptions should be postponed until 2011.

## **7. Older Full Members**

Letters had been received from Duncan Skidmore and Frank Wynn urging Council to reintroduce the reduced full playing membership subscriptions that had applied in the mid-1990s. Membership Committee reported on this issue in February 2009 when Council accepted that no change to subscription levels be made. Nothing has changed since then to cause Membership Committee to alter its position and it accordingly **recommends that, once again, no change be made.**

CGA/CMW 13 October 2009

## **Appendix 5**

# **GREEN COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL OCT 2009**

## **Course**

We are now entering the winter period when the green keepers move away from course presentation and onto project work to improve the course generally and fix ongoing problems that have arisen during the year.

There are no specific large projects being planned for this winter. However, this does not mean that the green keepers will not be busy. We will continue with our programme of refurbishing tees and bunkers where necessary and improve drainage where possible.

The ground to the left of the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway is a priority and drainage work has already started in this area. We are particularly grateful to Knutsford GC for the loan of their trenching machine which should speed up this process and make less mess.

I think we can all agree that Russell and the team have done a great job this year so far. We will encourage him to move things forward again to provide an even better golfing experience next season.

As usual we will ask members to expect some disruption to the course whilst improvements are made over the winter, but we will try and minimise these wherever possible.

Due to a generous donation we are moving forward with the planning of a covered bay area on the practice ground. This will allow the professional to continue giving lessons through the winter, and allow members to continue to practice. Johny Fallows is preparing a design and we hope to commence the construction ASAP.

We have discussed the suggestion that lightning shelters be placed on the course. Having researched this, the advice is that any golfer should not seek shelter on the course in the event of a thunder storm, and instead should make their way to the clubhouse. The rules of golf allow players to suspend play if lightning is forecast or suspected and members should make their own judgment.

We have also considered the suggestion that the new 12<sup>th</sup> tee should be made a call through hole and have rejected this on the grounds that players on the lower level looking back may be at risk from balls hit at them that they cannot see.

A further suggestion that we consider clumping trees together in between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with gaps between these groupings has been rejected. The trees have been planted in a way that the mower can easily get between them. Clumping them together would prevent this it would also mean that they would come out further into the existing 9<sup>th</sup> fairway which is considered undesirable. The idea that by having gaps would allow a view to the first green is not possible simply because the angle of viewing from the clubhouse to the first green is so narrow against the line between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> fairways.

We would like to plant more trees this winter (not between 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>). We would like to replace some of the trees that were vandalised and plant at a few selected spots around the course. As ever, there is no budget for this and we would be grateful for any donations towards this planting. I would like to thank Paul Bramwell and Sam Logan for generous donations this year.

In addition to the work on drainage along the left hand side of the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway we will prune the trees adjacent to this hole to open up this area. Once this area is up to fairway standard



we expect to cut the fairway into the area that is now rough, allowing a similar area to the right of the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway to become semi rough. Play will thus be discouraged away from the new trees allowing the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway to play with the causeway in the middle of the fairway and the big tree on the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway being on the right of the fairway instead of the middle.

For the higher handicap players this will make it easier to play up the left and avoid the tree, and for the lower handicap players invite them to take on the OoB. Once this has been shown to be effective we would expect to make the separation of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> fairways more permanent. Ultimately, this would mean planting more trees to block out a 2<sup>nd</sup> shot on the first hole that has been pushed right onto the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway off the tee. (I hope that makes sense.)

The bulk of the work on the practice ground has now been completed. The new practice green is maturing well and we hope to bring this into play around April next year. Generally the area at the top of the practice ground is looking scruffy due to the work that has been done. This will be remedied over the winter and the visual appearance of the practice ground as you drive in will be improved. We are aware that this has been an eyesore for some time however we hope that the benefits of this work will be seen next summer.

We have used the bulk of the Jimmy Hodson bequest for the work on the new practice green. We had agreed to put a commemorative plaque on the new bell in Jimmy's memory. In the meantime, Humphrey Grundy has suggested that we place a bench by the new 12<sup>th</sup> tee in Jimmy's memory. I think a bench by the twelfth tee is a good idea and would appreciate Council's comment on this suggestion.

## **Professional**

Richard has settled in well and we have heard mostly positive comments so far. The membership has really supported Richard in his first few months and we hope that will continue through his first winter.

The flexible opening of the shop seems to have worked so that Richard is covering nearly everything that the membership wanted. I would stress that it has been agreed that Richard will endeavour to cover events which may span 7 days a week, the consequence is that he will not "be there" all the time. Richard has posted times when the shop is guaranteed to be open and these times will be less through the winter. I heard a grumble that the shop was not open for a member to purchase a drink after he had played 9 holes of a competition. I pointed out that Alec was never available on Saturday mornings after 10am (junior coaching) and that we agreed that Richard could close after the final group had gone off the 1<sup>st</sup> tee on Saturday afternoons. Members playing 18 holes should purchase provisions that will last 18 holes.

The Captain's Challenge has been played on various days to suit the Captain, and his opposition. Sunday challenges are still available but are scheduled at around one week in three.

Richard is aware of the dress code rules and will help to monitor this. All members of Council should help with this by quietly pointing out to members what is expected. Generally the dress code is upheld with a few notable exceptions. A quiet word in a friendly tone from a member of Council goes a long way to upholding our standards.

We have sourced a new club flag. We hope to get Russell, Richard and Mac around the table to find a way to manage the task of having the flag up and down at the correct times. A number of members have suggested that the flag should stay up all the time, lowered to half mast at the appropriate times. We would appreciate Council's comment on this suggestion.

### **Planning for the Future**

I have spoken briefly to Ken Lodge about the formation of a sub-committee to propose and see through development of the green keepers' area. Ken has expressed an interest in this after he stands down as chairman of House. I hope that we can move this forward in the meantime and perhaps combine this task with drawing up a list of desirable projects that legacies/donations can be allocated to. It would be very helpful if this sub-committee sat across Greens and House and we will look to kick start this process ASAP.

Al Kenney  
Chair of Green Committee

### **Appendix 6**

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL, OCTOBER 2009**

### **Health and Safety**

An inspection of the Clubhouse by the Fire Department was planned for 26<sup>th</sup> August, but was postponed to 10<sup>th</sup> October at their request. A brief report will be made to Council on any matters of importance which may arise.

The Trustees have been removed from the Safety Organization Chart.

### **Social Events**

Autumn and Winter events including Quiz Night, Mixed Dinner, Investors' Dinner, December Dance have all received good support. After canvassing members, it was decided not to hold a New Year Ball due to lack of interest.

The Vice-Presidents' Dinner 2 October was initially cancelled, but after a number of requests it was re-instated in its original unstructured format as a Hot Pot. Attendance was good, and it has been suggested that this format be followed for future autumn fixtures, and a speaker be booked for future spring fixtures which will be designated as Vice-Presidents' Dinner.

The private member's event on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September turned out to be a full wedding reception, despite assurances to the contrary and provoked considerable criticism from members due to the disruption to Club activities and use of Club staff time. For some reason it was decided by the hosts and their "Wedding Organizer" to remove and replace the Club dining chairs for the evening, permission being given by the Stewards. Apparently, no consideration was given to possible damage to Club chairs, or to insurance. Despite the above concerns, the Stewards were well-briefed to ensure service was sustained for golfers and casual diners on the evening, and this did not cause a problem. A paper providing more background to the event has been prepared by Roger O'Brien following a discussion by the House Committee and his paper is attached.

Proposal:

- a) To simplify future administration, any event associated with a wedding such as a “Breakfast,” or “Reception” must be fully evaluated for possible disruption to the Club, and approved by the Secretary, House Chairman and Captain before the booking is accepted.
- b) For such events a room hire charge of £250 be levied to cover the additional cost of bar staff, laundry and other sundry costs.

Clubhouse

At the July Council, the proposed expenditure on roof repairs/replacement was approved subject to budgetary concerns. On further review, the House Committee proposes to proceed with the replacement of the Cottage roof this year, and to postpone the Clubhouse roof until 2010.

We need to replace the Club crockery at a cost of about £1800. Council approval is sought.

Legacy Proposals. Suggested candidates for any legacy funds are as follows:

Upgrade of Patio

Furniture

Paving

Parasols

French Doors between Dining Room and Patio

New Crockery

New Lighting

Upgraded Sound System

Automated Coffee Machine

Event Programme

After wide consultation no change is proposed to the current arrangements for TNC and Ladies’ Day. We will work to encourage members to be more tolerant and respectful of others’ needs.

Staff

Martina has resigned, and will not be replaced in the short term.

A new system of completing and approving staff time sheets has been agreed.

KEL/ 12 October 2009

**WEDDING RECEPTIONS - NOTE TO COUNCIL - OCTOBER 2009**

1. The House Committee has reviewed the issue of whether the Clubhouse should be available for wedding receptions.
2. The issue has been considered by the Council in the past, most recently at the Council meeting on 27 July 2009. The majority view then was that although substantial amounts of money could be made by hiring out the Clubhouse for weddings, this was not something which, as a general rule, the Club should do. There was only one known previous occasion when the Clubhouse had been used for a wedding reception; that was for Mr & Mrs McNamara’s daughter’s wedding, but that was considered to be different because they were in effect employees and no charge was made.

3. It was mentioned during the discussion on 27 July that the Clubhouse had been booked by a member for 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for a private party. It was said that although this was connected with a wedding which was due to take place at about the same time, it was not the wedding reception itself. In the event, it turned out to be exactly that: the wedding took place at 3.30 that afternoon and the bride attended the party in her wedding dress.
4. The House Committee feel that they and the Council were misled as to the purpose of the party. Within a short time of the Council having decided that wedding receptions would not as a general rule be permitted, one was held at the Club. However it does not appear that the member concerned deliberately misled the Club in any way.
5. There was another aspect of the party which concerns the House Committee. The member concerned arranged (with the approval of Mrs McNamara) to bring in his own chairs for the party. The Club's chairs were all removed, stored temporarily in the lorry which brought the other chairs and returned the next day. Our chairs are valuable and it was not acceptable that they were removed from the Club by an unknown contractor and kept overnight in an unknown place. When asked later about this, Mrs McNamara confirmed that she had agreed to this arrangement, but had not appreciated the insurance and other implications.
6. It is worth noting that the cost of this wedding reception for the member concerned was very considerably less than if he had gone to a more conventional venue. The room-hire charge was £50 and the bar bill about £654 for wine plus a cash bar paid by guests of unknown amount. The meal price was set as £12 per head. There were 67 guests. The House Committee think that *if* the Club were to permit wedding receptions to be held at the Club, the charges should be much higher.
7. It is probably true to say that allowing the Club to be used for weddings could be a source of significant revenue for the Club and the McNamaras.
8. The Council may decide that no wedding receptions can be held at the Club (save perhaps in exceptional circumstances). However, *if* the decision is that wedding receptions *are* permissible, the Council is asked to lay down clear guidelines as to what is and what is not allowable. For example, there would be certain times when a wedding reception would not be acceptable. Also, it would be necessary to decide whether hirers would be limited to members only and whether the wedding must be that of the member or his or her son or daughter. Other restrictions might well be desirable and the question of how much to charge would have to be considered, but there is no point in going any further on points of this kind unless the Council decides that, in principle, *some* wedding receptions may be held at the Club.

RJ O'B

## **Appendix 7**

# **REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM THE LADIES' SECTION**

The Ladies' Section has had another successful season. The Bell Cup team reached the semi-finals and were then beaten by the eventual winners on a very soggy course at Greenmount.

The plate team also reached the semi-final of the East Cheshire Inter Club Shield but lost to Mere.

43 teams played in the recent Open Turkey Trot and 23 teams have already applied for this popular event next year.

Thursday competitions have continued to be well supported and enjoyed. To encourage new lady members to play in competition a 9 hole Round Robin will run throughout the winter.

Margaret Sharp  
Lady Captain  
October 2009