

HALE GOLF CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 105TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY 28TH MARCH 2008 AT 8.15PM

PRESENT

The Captain (Mr J A Acratopulo), the President (Mr A Bradley) and 93 members (Appendix 1 is the list of members who signed themselves present).

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of the meeting was taken as read on the proposition of Mr O Harris, seconded by Mr A Dewhurst. The proposition was passed unanimously by the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the members noted in Appendix 2.

The Captain suggested the list was taken as read and included in the minutes.

The Captain then asked the meeting to stand in silent memory of the following members who had passed away during the year.

John Cranmer
Diana Komrower
John Turner
David Winterbottom

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM (30.03.07) AND SGM (03.07.07)

It was proposed by Mr O Harris, seconded by Mr T Hope, that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 30th March 2007 be approved and this motion was passed by the meeting.

Similarly it was proposed by Mr I Goulty, seconded by Mr W Kennedy, that the minutes of the SGM held on July 3rd 2007 be approved and this motion was passed by the meeting.

The minutes of the two meetings were duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Hon. Secretary presented the following report:

“Mr Captain, Mr President, Lady Captain, Mr Captain Elect, Lady Captain Elect, and fellow members....

This is, of course, my last year and my last report.

It has been an interesting last year.

If you look at the minutes of last year's AGM, you will see that this item was a sort ofsecretarial confessional...somewhat in the manner of old school reports and hackneyed phrases like "Tried hard but could do better". The agenda of action put forward in March 2006 really had not been brought to the successful conclusion or closure on all the fronts hoped for.

However, faced with a catalogue of confessed under-achievement, your secretary again put forward a set of targets where others might have been more prudent. So this report now has to follow the pattern of the last couple of years and see how we have fared. At least you can take comfort that the present secretary will not continue in office. And it would most certainly not be appropriate to set targets again cos' a sec can't be held responsible for an ex-sec's excesses. Chris can set his own next year.

As usual, I must start the evaluation with the state of membership in broad statistical terms. Last year it was successful: it remains so! We have more than held our own in the matter of maintaining our membership profile and attracting new entrants. Again, under the ebullient chairing of Bill Walsh, the Membership Committee has managed the entry of new members vigorously - certainly our position is the envy of many a golf club.

The Captain will later give you the details of the new members who have joined in his year but the crucial, the vital, statistical facts are these.

At the 2007 AGM, Hale Golf Club had

305 full members, 105 non-playing, 43 country/country student, and 31 junior.

Now in 2008 in we have, respectively,

308	116	43	30
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We are a little less fortunate than last year in having only 15 persons in the stages of entering into membership of Hale Golf Club as full members, but in some cases these are very close to election. Last year's comparable figure was 20.

You will know that, in the latter part of the Club year, Bill stood down from the role of Chair of the Committee. Council asked Ian Goulty to take over the Chair and he has been minding the shop pending the outcome of the changes to rules later in this meeting.

If the alteration to Rules **is** approved tonight then next year the Chair of the Membership Committee will be an Officer elected at the AGM, a proposed move which measures the importance your Council attaches to the matter of maintaining membership and recruitment of appropriate new members.

We have managed the new licensing arrangements for a year without fuss (and now really it's really a question of asking what all the hysteria was about). But note we do not have 24 hour drinking: we seem to do OK on the opening hours that Council prescribed. You will recall that the Trafford licensing authority approved the Club's request to open the bar between 10.00 and 02.00, 10.00-24.00 on Sundays. But you will also remember that Council agreed that the existing opening hours (11.00-23.00 but 12.00-20.30 on Sundays) should continue unless it (that is Council) expressly allowed otherwise in meeting specific requests. It is significant that we have received very few of these with the effect of reducing the expected income from members and guests paying for extra

staff time for using the main function room and bar for private social functions.

Now let us turn attention to those Club matters where progress last year was confessed to be less than what had been anticipated following themes and actions reported on last year and put forward as targets for this one.

The review of the management structures did continue with our Captain anxious to build on the momentum from the previous year. That review reaches its conclusion tonight. Your Council and its officers have picked their way through the options recorded in the minutes of last year's AGM which you approved earlier.

I think that what you now have before you in document C is based on a creative consensus and an earnest attempt to look for gradual progression from the ways in which the Club is accustomed to work (that is through its Council) passing more responsibility to committees to meet present workload.

At this stage it might have been useful to draw attention to last year's AGM minute listing the need to question (at least question) some of our structures and practices. For brevity we'll skip that! Instead I would recommend that you glance at the quite excellent piece of summative work from Chris Wood which you will find in this year's AGM document C called 'Proposed Rule Changes: Explanatory Note. Because of its relevance I would like to reproduce it in the Secretary's report as a statement of the intention for, and hoped for outcome from, the 'secretarial year'. It reads:

"These changes to the Rules are proposed by the Council of Hale Golf Club to meet five objectives:

- To recognise the roles played by the chairs of Green, House and Membership Committees by making their positions open to direct election (thus assuring an incoming Captain that there will be a full set of officers), rather than appointing them from the elected full Council members or co-opting them.
- To enable Council to assume a more strategic role by setting policy, delegating more functions and responsibility to the officers and their respective committees/ divisions and receiving progress reports and reviewing the effectiveness of their policies at less frequent meetings.
- To reflect the changes (including the introduction of the Book of Candidates) made over recent years to the membership entry procedures by delegating these procedures to Membership Committee, eliminating the redundant nomination process and formally presenting candidates to Council only for election.
- To update the Club's rules to ensure that they conform to the current provisions of licensing legislation (which was amended in 2003).
- To make consequential changes to the rules and to bring them up to date by correcting minor errors, typographical and formatting inconsistencies, rescinding a Rule that is no longer relevant and allowing communication by means other than post. (When the Rules were changed in 2002 to ensure the equality of ladies a policy decision was taken not to undertake the tidying that was recognised as desirable.)"

As so often the case with elegant précis, the clarity represents the outcome of a process of lumpy refinement. Getting there was much more pragmatic than elegant business.

Behind the emerging consensus was the feeling that the membership of Hale Golf Club would wish

to continue with the existing concept of the Captain both as figure-head **and** as first executive leading the Council. Under the proposals, the Captain as executive will be one of a larger group of officers, still *primus inter pares*, but his responsibilities will be made more manageable by devolving them to officers and their Committees.

You will note that co-option enables members to become acquainted with the management ways of the Club without first being elected to Council. That's been a bee in my bonnet for several years. It recognises that:

- We need more members than Council can generate to tackle the number of jobs currently necessary.
- There are members who will prefer to serve the Club by way of active committee membership than through passive membership of Council.

This recommendation reflects one of the concerns of the Veitch report of 1997.

Certain proposed solutions, like paying for a secretary/manager, have again been resisted. Consistent with the spirit of co-option and delegation, a secretariat is being constructed where members are being recruited - indeed, have been recruited to take on particular jobs. Rather than pay appointed secretaries, we may find we can continue to elect honorary secretaries, one of whose principal tasks will be to co-ordinate the activities of the group that make up the secretariat.

You will recall that I was mightily relieved this time last year when Chris Wood stood as Assistant Hon Secretary and, from that position, was prepared to consider moving into the Secretary's chair tonight.

He had agreed to consider taking on the job but put forward certain caveats and reservations. One was how to make the job more manageable by splitting it up! That has come to pass. Hence the idea of the secretariat. He has already prepared the way for that!

The principal of co-option and delegation has led to changes in having more officers and the need to change the rules. He has worked tirelessly this year on the rule changes necessary to make that happen and on a 'cosmetic' clean up of the rules.

He has also been very strong-minded in looking to technology to improve the secretary's lot and communication between members at all levels of the Club.

A year ago I remarked that "In a year's time the conditions and technology for doing the secretary's job might have been improved also" thus reducing the labour intensity (and the cost) of some of the communication tasks.

That we now have an excellent basis for our web-site and are advancing into e-mail communication owes an enormous amount to Chris and his determination. **I know that there are still some members who have yet to give him their e-mail addresses - if they include you please help in out in this matter.**

It is true to say he has been propelled by his own requirements. He has been the architect of the structures and tools which persuaded him to stand as the Hon Sec. He will be the first to test if that will prevent us moving towards paid help.

And if ever we have to pay him by the yard then subs really will go up!!

I know that Chris would be the first person to acknowledge the great contribution of Ken Hawes (and Tony Miller, our supplier of kit and ideas) to our communications technologies.

He would also recognise the great contribution Ian Goulty has made to the alterations to rules which I very much hope will meet your approval. Together they have worked tremendously hard and the Club owes them a debt of gratitude - against the odds they have brought the changes forward to tonight's meeting. Document C is the final version of seemingly endless drafts. Chris's energy in these directions has allowed me to keep an eye on the ball of ongoing club activities.

Chris thanks for your work this year. I have enjoyed working with you.

I am again grateful to Ken Lodge for continuing to run with the Health and Safety portfolio.

Can I add my own thanks to Ian and Ken (Hawes). I wish you as much enjoyment in the job of Hon Sec as I have had. I am sure that you will receive the same kind of support that members have given me. To all of you here present in the kirk tonight (and all the other members of Hale Golf Club), thank you for giving me the chance to be useful and the kindness you have shown me.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT

(This report was presented, in the absence of David Harrison due to illness, by the Assistant Treasure, Paul Hilton.)

If I could first draw your attention to page 2 and the Income & Expenditure Account.

Income

Under the income section the first point to note, apart from the usual increases in subscription income, is that bar sales were down against 2006.

The detail is set out in schedule 3 on the opposite page, where you will see a £5,000 reduction from £108,920 to £103,679. I think such swings are inevitable from time to time and can be caused by just a handful of members changing their drinking habits.

However, the important thing is that the margin was improved in the year, bringing the net contribution to within £2,000 of last year.

Under Sundry Income, the majority of the improvement arose from the Am-Am where the usual generosity from members, and this year from one member in particular, made a profit of £6,731.

Course Expenditure

You will notice a significant reduction in the cost of course wages, which follows the departure of the previous head green-keeper. Note that this £14,000 saving has been used by the Green Committee to pay for some significant course improvements which you can see at the bottom of this statement in relation to the 12th, 8th and 2nd tees.

The adjustment re prior years follows a reconciliation of our fixed asset register. You will notice a similar adjustment further down under House Expenditure, the net adjustment being favourable.

Club House Expenditure

You will recall the significant increase in clubhouse wages last year. This trend has been abated this year through the hard work and diligence of the stewards and the Chairman of House in focusing on the hours worked by the hourly paid staff. The cost is now down to the levels we are comfortable with.

General & Administration

There is nothing material to report under this section, apart from possibly Health & Safety where pressures to incur more cost have continued.

All this has allowed us to transfer to the capital fund an amount similar to last year, being £24,400.

At the bottom of the statement you will see how the main course projects have been funded, the majority going on the new 12th tee which the longer hitters and those with heads for heights can look forward to playing this year.

Balance Sheet

If you turn your attention to page 4, I will take you through the main points to note on the balance sheet.

The main item of interest is the closing cash position, being a total balance of about £100,000 including the legacy fund.

This should be considered in the context of:

- The increase in creditors during the year;
- The bank loan of £11,250, which incidentally has been fully repaid this very day;
- But most of all in the context of the increasing need to protect the club against unforeseen expenditure, an increasing need to maintain and upgrade our clubhouse and course to modern standards and, dare I say it, the potential for falling membership which is being suffered by so many other clubs.

You will also see that a new line has been added so that members can see the balance remaining on legacy funds.

Conclusion

That just about wraps up my presentation of the accounts. The remaining pages merely include schedules to support the preceding ones.

To summarise, the club is in a very strong financial position and one which I intend to protect.

We are in this enviable position because of the skill, integrity and hard work displayed by David Harrison over his twelve years in office. The club has been through a period of significant expenditure during that time. We have built this clubhouse and we have spent around £800,000 on improving the course and its machinery. To come through that phase in such a strong position is a testament to David and something for which we should be extremely grateful.

David did ask me to publicly convey his thanks to me for standing in during his hour of need, but such thanks are really not necessary.

If anyone has any questions I will be happy to answer them as best I can.

There being no questions from the meeting the Captain looked to move a motion to receive and approve the accounts as a true statement of the Club's financial affairs. A proposal to this effect was proposed by Mr A Gething, seconded by Mr PK Hardern. The proposal was passed unanimously by the meeting.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

"Mr President, Lady Captain, Mr Captain-Elect, Lady Captain-Elect and fellow members.....

.....Well, it doesn't seem 12 months since you all had the confidence to vote me in as the Captain of Hale Golf Club on the recommendation of the past Captains.

It has been a privilege and I thank you for it.

My own personal objectives at the time were to attend as many golfing, social and committee functions as possible during my year in office, and to move the Club forward into the 21st century but bear in mind tradition. This I have endeavoured to achieve while enjoying my Captaincy of this lovely family Club which we are all so fortunate to be members of.

It is appropriate now to welcome formally the newcomers to our Club who have joined as members in the last year:

Paul Simpson, James Heaton, Alistair Makin, Philip Whewell, Matthew Hewitson, Tarik Rashid, Ron Kirk, Ian Pinnington, Jonathan Murphy, Susie Buchan, P J (Joe) Kennedy, Nigel Reeves, John Webb, George Rowland, Peter White, Stuart Lang, Ian Ritchie, Tricia Pathak, Pam Dixon, and Richard Simons (all as full members, in the order they joined).

And Jo Wood, Brian Lever, Lois Bolton, Annette McBride and Jean Horrocks (as non-playing members, also in the order in which they joined).

During my year in office, I have been fortunate to have two Presidents; Peter Hardern early on and latterly Alan Bradley both of whom have given me support, advice and counsel, all much appreciated. Thank you both very much!

I have also had two Lady Captains, initially Cally Taylor who guided me through my early days into the ways of the ladies section and then, more recently, Win Heath who has the good fortune to be in office for some 16 months to align more closely the Lady Captain's year of office with that of the Captain. Again thank you both!

I must also thank Terry Hope, our ex-captain, who, as you know, initially knocked on my door and invited me to have my name put forward as Captain elect. He has helped me on many occasions with background information on what took place during his Captaincy. Many thanks, Terry!

During the year there has also been a change of trustees. John Nichols and Mike Reid resigned. Thanks to them for their work as trustees over the years. Following their resignation, Council appointed Peter Hardern and Andrew Pendleton to take their place, joining Ian Goulty and Peter Veitch in the group which cannot exceed four in number. We are grateful to Peter and Andrew for taking on this responsibility and also to Ian Goulty and his legal colleague carrying out all the necessary legal technicalities.

I now move on to thank everybody who has worked so hard in my year to continue to make this Club the success it is and to improve our family Club even more.

I start with our retiring Honorary Secretary, John Savin, who has been in office for four years and, prior to this, served six years on the Green Committee. The work and the time he spends at home and down here in the office is incalculable. To mention a few areas.....diary management, liaising with our consultants Citation, taking advice from the golfing associations, attending Management and Membership meetings, seeing to the day-to-day running of the Club, and working latterly on Rule changes and introducing the website etc etc.... We all thank you, John.

As you have already heard, he has been ably assisted by Chris Wood as Assistant Honorary Secretary who has been in the learning seat this year, prior to taking over the wheel later this evening. Previously Chris served on the Green Committee for six years.

Next I thank David Harrison our Honorary Treasurer who, as you know, is in hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery. David has been in office for 12 years since 1996 and before that for one year as Assistant Treasurer.

I myself was Assistant Treasurer with David for some years and know at first hand his diligence and the time he spent in the best interests of the Club's financial affairs. As our Assistant Treasurer has already reported, David retires leaving the Club in excellent financial shape with cash in the bank and our bank loan paid off – the envy of many golf clubs!"

At this point in his report the Captain presented David Harrison with a salver in recognition of his services as the Club's Hon. Treasurer for 12 years. In David's absence, this was received by Hale member and close friend, Conrad Nelstrop. Members welcomed this token of appreciation most warmly.

The Captain continued: "David has been assisted by Paul Hilton who has been more than an Assistant Treasurer, helping David during his illness. We thank you Paul and wish you well as Honorary Treasurer when your election is confirmed this evening. I would like to thank Roger Da Forno for agreeing to be co-opted into the Treasurer's department to help Paul Hilton. As you can see, Roger has been nominated to become Assistant Treasurer later this evening.

Everybody can see the work achieved by the Green Committee led by Al Kenney and comprising Chris Davies, Jonathan Foster, Brian Greenbank, Dave Smith and Trina Walsh. Tessa Day has also worked on the Committee as a co-opted member. You will all have seen Al Kenney's report so I need add no more except to say thank you for all your hard work. Pass on our thanks to Russell Lewis and his team of green keepers. Jonathan Foster's three year period as a member of Council and the Green Committee has come to an end but he is standing for re-election tonight.

You will also have read the House Committee report. Again, what can I add but just a big thank you? To Ken Lodge and his team of Alan Dewhurst, Mike Kirchin, Roger O'Brien, Cally Taylor and Win Heath. Ceri Hyde has been co-opted to the Committee and we thank her for her contribution, notably to the St David's celebration. You will have seen that Alan and Mike are seeking re-election later tonight.

At this point I would like to thank Mr and Mrs McNamara and their team for the huge contribution they make, as stewards, to the running of this Club. We are certainly the envy of many clubs.

I must thank Trina Walsh for her help in acquainting me with my role in relation to ladies' events (best not to mention functions!!!!). I particularly enjoyed Mr Captain's Day with the ladies!

I thank Roger O'Brien for taking over the role of bar chairman (and all the flack that it involves!). I also thank:

Andrew Richards for his help with Saturday lunches,

Peter Smith and his team for the Am-Am,

And Mike Hauser and Alan Dewhurst for running TNC supported, in their absence, by Tom Kenyon. TNC dinner is now very well attended and has, to some extent, taken over from the traditional Saturday lunches.

Thanks:

to Paul Bramwell for the 200 club-the new TV is a big improvement;

to Lord Lee of Trafford (known to us all as John Lee) for the Investors' Dinner;

to Chris Wood for the quiz nights;

to Andy Veitch and Chris Brown for running the Saturday junior coaching sessions;

to John Kennedy for organising the snooker competition;

to Bill Walsh and, more recently, Ian Goulty for chairing the Membership Committee;

to Robin Malthouse and Roger Cross for their sterling work running the seniors golf with 70 plus participating;

and to Ian Harris as our archivist.

I come next to the thriving bridge section where thanks are due:

to Val Watson and Vanessa Veitch who run both the inter-club ladies matches and also the mixed Spring and Autumn Bridge evenings;

to Barry and Pat Jefferies who run the Wednesday Chicago Bridge evenings (now to be run by Robin and Sue Holden);

to Tony Higgins who runs the men's winter bridge afternoons and to Willy Keunen for the summer ones.

Thanks to you all!

There are other people who help behind the scenes with professional advice or material. Their assistance we note with appreciation but it will remain anonymous.

Dave Smith has organised the men's matches this year. Thank you for that I was picked automatically which was a great honour for me playing off 21! We played 11 matches winning two, losing eight and halving one. David Smith told me to mention that I won eight of my matches.

In my year, we arranged and played a new fixture with the Royal Liverpool Golf Club and had the better of an honourable draw! We did not enter the Dunham in 2007 but have this year and we are drawn against Davenport at home on 5th April.

The Senior Section, with 70+ players to select from, played 27 matches, won seven, halved four and lost fifteen. This year a new fixture was arranged against Northenden.

The Lady Captain reports that, in 2007, the Ladies Handicap Team won their group and played Tytherington Golf Club in the quarter-finals at Birchfield Golf Club and won 4-3. The team next went to Stockport Golf Club for the semi-finals but unfortunately lost there to Ringway Golf Club. The ladies' team also reached the third round of the Bell Cup. This year they are playing on Sunday 18th May and would appreciate our support.

Congratulations to our major prize winners in 2007-8. They were:

Bentley Cup: Chris Brown

Captain's Cup (for the medal final): Andrew Pendleton
Owen Memorial Challenge Bowl: Chris Brown
Galloway Scratch Challenge Cup: Al Kenney
Ibbotson Memorial Trophy: John Savin
Sandiford Cup: Chris Brown and Matthew Nelstrop
Centenary Trophy: Matthew Nelstrop
Sharp Memorial Trophy: Peter Veitch
Charlton Challenge Cup: Irene Kirk
Bridgford Trophy: Gillian Brogdon
Moir Cup: Gillian Brogdon

I come next to the Sunday morning Captain's Challenges played with Alec Bickerdike, which are one of the most pleasurable aspects of being Captain. In all 43 matches were arranged but due to weather and other factors the number actually played was 35. Of these Alec and I won 19, lost 13 and halved three. These include a mixed challenge by Bob Cooke and Tiffany Fielden which we lost! All the games were great fun and I thank all who participated, giving up their Sunday mornings.

As you know, over the last few years a great deal of discussion and debate has taken place in your Council to examine the management structure and the Rules of the Club. This year your Council has put forward a recommendation to this AGM (see Item 10 on the agenda) for your consideration and approval. I am sure you will have read document C enclosed with the Notice of Meeting. I wish to thank all those involved in the hard work to produce the recommendation, in particular Chris Wood, Ian Goulty and John Savin. Thanks also to your Vice-President, Roger Cross, who gave co-ordinated momentum to the project in its early stages.

Most importantly I want to thank Barbara and my family for supporting me during my year in office and for never mentioning the extended time I have spent at the Golf Club.

It now gives me great pleasure to propose Barry Jefferies as Captain of Hale Golf Club for 2008-2009. As you know, he is a keen golfer and has seven years' experience of the Council and is an active social member particularly on the bridge scene.

I therefore formally propose Barry Jefferies as your Captain."

The President, Mr A Bradley seconded the proposal stating " It gives me great pleasure to second the proposal that Barry Jefferies be elected as the next captain of Hale Golf Club."

The proposal was passed unanimously and Barry Jefferies was duly elected as the new Captain, taking the chair for the rest of the meeting.

NEW CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS

Thank you, John, for those kind words and also you, Mr President, for your support but also to you Lady Captain and all you other fellow members for the support you have all given to my nomination as Captain of this great Club of ours.

Special thanks are also due to all the past captains who had the confidence in me to put my name forward. I can assure you all that I will do my utmost to ensure that that confidence was not misplaced.

It seems no time at all since John came knocking on my door one Tuesday evening last November to ask whether I would be prepared to accept nomination as your next Captain. It was an event that I had never seriously expected but an invitation that I could not turn down because I am well aware of the immense honour it is to be invited to captain Hale Golf Club.

I am conscious of the wonderful traditions of this great Club of ours and I will do my utmost to maintain and to live up to those traditions. Our Club has a spirit and a vibrancy that no other club can match

At this time last year John referred to this family club of ours and that is how I see it. We cater not just for the keen young golfers but also for all those more elderly members who are no longer able to take advantage of the golfing facilities. Our social activities are second to none and provide a very full programme for those non-playing members.

During my year I will seek to support those social activities just as much as the golfing scene and we are very fortunate to have Anne and Mac to help promote the clubhouse activities.

John will be a very difficult act to follow. He has worked tirelessly on our behalf throughout the last year. He has approached the job with boundless energy and enthusiasm and has been present at virtually every major club event both on the golf course and in the clubhouse.

John, you have been an outstanding and popular Captain and I would like to thank you on behalf of all members for all that you have done for us and for the Club and I hope that you will now find time for a holiday because I know that you have not taken one during your captaincy. You have certainly earned it!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The new Captain then dealt with the election of Officers and Council members, a vote not being necessary as no positions were contested . By general approval of the meeting the following were elected:

Officers:

Hon Secretary	C M Wood
Assistant Hon Secretary	D W Swale
Hon Treasurer	P E Hilton
Assistant Hon Treasurer	R A Da Forno

Council Members	A G Dewhurst
	J R Foster
	M J Kirchin

Council members were elected for a three year period.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Paul Hilton proposed a continuation of Hallidays Limited of Portland St, Manchester as Auditors. This proposal, seconded by Mr A G Dewhurst, was carried unanimously.

ALTERATIONS TO RULES OF THE HALE GOLF CLUB

The meeting was asked to consider the Document C which summarised the thinking behind the proposed rule changes and presented a copy of the new rules. There was one minor amendment to the rules as presented in this document. The meeting was told that the last line of the rules should read “entitled to attend” not “entitled to vote.”

A motion to approve the amended rules was proposed by Mr T L Hope, seconded by Mr G O Harris. The motion was passed unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The new Captain stated he had one or two points to raise before bringing the Meeting to a close.

“The first of these is a very important and pleasant task. I am delighted to be able to announce that at their last Meeting, Council approved the appointment of Neal Hyde to be an Honorary Life Member for conspicuous service to the Club.

Neal was Captain in 1974 and President from 1988 to 1990 and I’m sure I don’t need to remind members that he took on the task of writing the book ‘Hale Golf Club - A Celebration of the First Century 1903- 2003’. If there are any newer members who have not seen the book, I strongly advise them to get hold of a copy and read it because it gives an excellent background to the history and traditions of this great Club of ours.

As soon as this meeting is brought to a close, I will be posting a Sunday Morning Captain’s Challenge list and I hope that plenty of you will take the opportunity to play against Alec and myself.

For my part over this coming year I will seek to play with as many different members as I can.

Saturday lunch lists will be posted shortly but, mainly because of the Steward’s holidays, it is going to be difficult to fit any in during April.

I shall be driving in at 12.45 pm tomorrow and I hope to see as many as possible of you to witness the event.

Finally, before bringing the meeting to a close, can I thank you all for your attendance and invite you to join me in a drink at the bar.”

In the absence of any other items of “any other business” the new Captain declared the meeting closed at 9.28pm

Signed

Barry Jefferies
(Captain, Hale Golf Club 2008-09)

27th March 2009

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF ATTENDEES

President (A Bradley)	Fish Mrs S	Hyde Mrs C A	Pinnington I
Captain (JA Acratopulo)	Fisher Mrs J M R	Hyde Mrs M A	Pinnington Mrs JA
Adams J	Frank P I	Jacques C	Richards A
Allott Mrs H	Gandy D S	Jefferies B S	Savin J R
Anderson Mrs J	Gerrard Miss R	Jefferies Mrs P	Seymour Mrs A
Barlow Mrs C E M	Gething A	Kemp A R	Sharp W D
Barr M	Gillan F	Lee J R L	Sharp Mrs M I
Bolton J C F	Gilman Dr M	Lodge K	Simpson P
Bradley Mrs J	Goodman J T	Logan S H M	Smith D M
Bramwell M N	Goulty I O	Massey M F	Spark R
Bramwell P J	Gower-Jones J R	Massey Mrs C	Spark Mrs B M
Bramwell Mrs G	Gower-Jones Mrs J	Moorhead Mrs R	Sunderland H M
Brown C J	Graveley R	Morris R	Sunderland Mrs C
Buchan Mrs S E	Greenbank B	Moss Mrs J I	Swale D W
Carstairs I C M	Hardern P K	Murphy R V	Taylor G N C
Cross R R	Harris G O	Murphy Mrs A	Taylor M G A
Da Forno R A	Harvey W M	Nelstrop C J	Taylor Mrs C M
Dare D W F	Hauser P M	Nelstrop Mrs V R	Watson D M
Davies C	Heath Miss A W	Nichols J N	Whewell P
Dewhurst A G	Higgins B A	Nichols Mrs P M	White A J
Edwards J A	Hill G	O'Brien R W	Wood C M
Fallows J T	Hilton P E	O'Brien Mrs B J	Wright C E
Fallows Mrs S	Hughes J W	Pendleton A	
	Hyde A N G	Pendleton Mrs J	
	Hyde C A	Pennington P L	

APPENDIX 2

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Adams C G
Allen J H
Atherton P
Bailey K
Barlow J P
Beal G A
Bramwell J D
Bramwell P B
Brown Mrs P
Cannell A R
Davies Mrs C A
Davies R P
Day Mrs T R
Dixon W
Done Mrs D
Done R
Fillingham J A

Fitzpatrick J A
Foster J R
Frank M E
Frank P I
Frank T L
Gold Mrs S
Grant Mrs J
Grant J A
Griffiths T D
Hampson D
Hampson M
Harding Mrs M J
Harris Mrs M
Harris Mrs M C
Harris J L
Harrison K A
Harwood C
Hawes K R
Heathcock J E
Heaton J
Hellawell Mrs A
Holden Mrs S
Holden R J
Holt D M
Hope Mrs B
Horlock T

Horwood Mrs A
Hughes Mrs P J
Jackson J S
Jones T (Tim)
Kennedy Mrs B
Kennedy J N
Kenyon T
Keunen Mrs R C
Keunen W H J W
Kirchin M J
Lever Mrs L
Lewtas Mrs S B
Lewtas C J
Lodge Mrs L
Malthouse MrsMH
Malthouse R
Martin J
Mawson A D
Mawson C J
McBride J A
Moss J H
Nicholson J W P
Ogden J T
Pendleton A G
Perks Mrs F J
Perks R M E

Roden S
Sheen R
Shenton P A
Silcock Mrs J M
Simpson Mrs G
Simpson R M W
Smith A P
Stratta P V
Sutherland Mrs J
Sutherland D A
Taylor Mrs A
Taylor M T
Taylor C P R
Trounce J R
Turner Mrs Y
Twiss B
Veitch Mrs V
Veitch P F
Veitch Mrs C
Veitch W A
Walsh Mrs P M
Walsh W E
Webster Mrs A
White J N
Woodcock A
Woodcock Mrs F

HALE GOLF CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 106TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2009 AT 8.15PM

PRESENT

The Captain (Mr B S Jefferies), the President (Mr A Bradley) and 86 members (Appendix 1 is the list of members who signed themselves present).

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of the meeting was taken as read on the proposition of Mr O Harris, seconded by Mr J C Munnery. The proposition was passed unanimously by the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the members noted in Appendix 2.

The Captain suggested the list was taken as read and included in the minutes.

The Captain then asked the meeting to stand in silent memory of the following members who had passed away during the year.

Bob Done
Richard Duggan
David Harrison
Tricia Jacques
Gertrude Whitehead

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM (28.03.08)

It was proposed by Mr A N G Hyde, seconded by Lord Lee, that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 28th March 2008 be approved and this motion was passed by the meeting.

The minutes of this meeting were duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Hon. Secretary presented the following report:

Introduction

“Mr Captain, Mr President, Lady Captain, Mr Captain-nominate, Lady Captain-elect, and fellow members....

This is my first report. I would like to acknowledge the support of the Captain, the President, the ex-Lady Captain, the ex-Lady Secretary, the other officers and you, the members, during my rookie year.

I am building on the foundations laid so ably by John Savin, John Goodman, John Hughes, Ray Murphy, Roger Nichols, John Nichols, Cyril Conroy and their predecessors. Unlike them, I have not attempted to discharge the role of Hon. Secretary with the support only of an Assistant Hon. Secretary, highly capable though David Swale is. I have been fortunate to have co-opted a very able team in forming a Secretariat. I gratefully acknowledge the help during my first year of office, not just of Dave, but of:

- Chris Adams on membership;
- Ken Hawes on communications;
- Robert Spark on Council events; and
- Anne McNamara on mail, phone calls and the calendar.

Cliff Wright has just joined the team to help on secretarial projects.

Only now that I've been in post for a year do I truly appreciate the amount of effort my predecessors put into the position. Hale has been exceptionally fortunate to have had a succession of unpaid secretaries. Given that 84% of golf clubs employ a full- or part-time secretary or manager, I wonder whether the Club always adequately recognises the efforts of its past secretaries.

I hope to give you an insight into just what a sterling job John Savin and his predecessors did by explaining what the Secretariat has done during the last year.

Implementation of new rules

The elections of the chairs of committees provided for in the new rules will take place later this evening. In parallel with the implementation of the new rules, Council encouraged co-option to help committees and divisions such as the Secretariat to carry out their responsibilities. Council also reduced the number of its meetings to five and this, as intended, has resulted in greater delegation to officers and committees and to numerous procedural changes. Generally, the new arrangements have worked well though some issues about the relationship between Council and Management Committee remain to be clarified. The Secretariat has produced Council minutes within two weeks of each meeting and notes on Management Committee meetings within one week.

Membership

The new rules have directly affected membership procedures. Ian Goulty has served on Council as Chair of Membership Committee during the last year and has proved to be an assiduous taskmaster. Membership entry procedures, records and paperwork (of which there is a huge amount) have been clarified and refined over the past year. The Secretariat has produced minutes of Membership Committee meetings within a few days of each meeting.

The membership figures at the 2008 (adjusted) and 2009 AGMs are as follows:

Membership category	2008	2009
Male Full	208	204
Lady Full	90	98

Honorary/ Life	13	15
Country	32	38
Student	10	12
Male Non-playing	57	65
Lady Non-playing	57	66
Junior	20	13
TOTAL	487	511

Hale Golf Club, unlike the vast majority of clubs, increased its playing membership over the last year. However, Membership Committee is not complacent about the future. Quite the contrary, in fact, because there are very few applicants currently on the waiting list.

I feel very strongly that the Secretary should not collect subscriptions. I am therefore especially indebted to Chris Adams who has taken this on, working with both the Treasurer and myself. The Club has set up a dedicated subscription account and many members have made electronic transfers this year. In any group as large as our membership there will inevitably be a few members who, for all sorts of reasons, demand a disproportionate amount of time. As a result, as I have seen from close quarters, the collection of subscriptions takes far too long. I suspect that this has always been so but I see no reason why it should be in the future. We hope to streamline subscription collection procedures, for example by offering instalment facilities to all Full members later this year.

Office refurbishment

The office has been refurbished to enable the Secretariat to work at one desk while Greens, House or the Ladies work side by side at the other. New letter trays have eased the distribution of letters, invoices and messages to officers and staff. The amount of storage and the area of floor space have both been increased and I hope that members will agree that the room looks more attractive and business-like. I am grateful for the help of John Goodman and Albert McBride on this project.

Secretariat notice-board

A dedicated notice-board has been created on which are posted, for varying durations:

- A copy of the Club Rules and Regulations;
- A list of those serving on the Club committees;
- The current month's calendar;
- The preliminary calendar for the year;
- A list of candidates for election to the Club (and the outcome of their applications);
- The minutes of the last AGM;
- Nominations for election to Council; and
- Miscellaneous secretarial notices.

Web-site

The web-site has been in operation for over a year. Since last year Russell Lewis, the Head Greenkeeper, has maintained the page stating whether or not the course is open and the work being undertaken on the course daily. Apart from containing:

- A copy of the Club Rules and Regulations;
- A list of those serving on the Club committees;
- The results of men's competitions; and
- News from Greens,

the members-only web-site (user-name: clubmember, password: 3945) also provides:

- A current list of members;
- The current calendar; and
- The minutes of the last AGM.

Current list of members

After each Council meeting, the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of new members are posted on the members-only section of the website to promote their integration. In effect, details for the whole membership (so any changes of address, etc, can be recorded) are updated six times a year, rather than just once (for the handbook). This process, which is undertaken directly from the Club's database to minimise errors, takes about two hours, a good proportion of which is devoted to personalising entries for members who have declined to allow their full details to appear. David Swale and I are therefore hoping that, because we have had no problems with unauthorised access, those members who requested limitations on their web-site or hand-book details will now reconsider and allow all their details to appear.

Current calendar

The calendar in the handbook can never be more than a snapshot in time. The 15 month calendar currently on the notice-board is already dated. The calendar on the website is updated frequently (the revision date is noted), often after the Stewards have taken a provisional booking, and is definitive. The calendar will be extended to cover 2010-2011 as soon as possible.

AGM minutes

The minutes of the last AGM have been available on the web-site (and the notice-board) since mid-April 2008. We again intend to publish this year's minutes within two weeks. The Secretariat will make copies available to those without internet access on request.

E-mail

The Club is trying to communicate with all its members by e-mail to save time and money. For example, this year, we sent out 284 AGM notices by e-mail in half an hour at no cost. It took about six man hours to send out 82 envelopes to the remaining members at a cost of over £30. I think these figures, repeated for the Captain's letter, subscription requests and other communications over the year, speak for themselves. Some savings are already evident in the accounts. Incidentally, we try to limit the number of circular e-mail messages to no more than one per month. If you have placed a limitation on the Club's use of your e-mail address, please consider removing it. If you have an e-mail address, but have not revealed it, please do so.

Golfing events at other clubs

The Club often receives posters and invitations for golf at local clubs. Those for men are sorted by month and placed in a folder that is kept by the competition terminal in the far bar room for members to peruse.

Handbook

The handbook should be available in April. Not only is the list of members generated directly from the Club database, but this year the handbook list of events will be created directly from the web-site calendar. The dates of joining and preferred names of several members are missing. Please check your entry carefully (and those of others) and let the Secretariat have details of any additions or alterations you want to make.

Health and safety

I am very grateful to Ken Lodge for continuing to take the major responsibility for the health and safety portfolio. The progress made by Green and House Committees resulted in a satisfactory annual report from our consultants although there will always be a need for further action and continued vigilance.

Licensing

Licensing has not been an issue this year which I take as testament to the excellent job that John Savin did on this.

Other matters

During the last year the Secretariat has:

- Implemented changes in the recording and collection of main room charges for visitors and members;
- Implemented changes in green fee collection and monitoring at the bar (with a new folder sheet and tag system) and at the front door (with a new notice and box closure);
- Reconciled locker attribution and payments, made more lockers available for use, installed a key safe and ordered duplicate keys from the manufacturers where needed;
- Instituted an accessible lost property arrangement (top drawer of corridor filing cabinet for items less than two months old, second drawer for items three-four months old);
- Changed the way the Club honours boards are updated;
- Arranged and organised the Council Frolic and the Exchange Day (Secretary's team vs Treasurer's team); and
- Endeavoured to ensure that all correspondence, e-mails and telephone messages are answered (or acknowledged) within four days.

As I know many secretaries must have said previously, much remains to be done! In particular, over the next 12 months, I hope to:

- Update the arrangements for notifying members about subscriptions and for their collection;
- Improve communications with members;
- Undertake several secretarial projects;
- Endeavour to mitigate the inevitable consequences of the current financial situation on the Club; and
- Reduce the time taken up by secretarial activities without diminishing the standard of service provided.

I hope that I can count on your continued support during my sophomore year. Thank you.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer presented the following report.

INCOME

No material variances under this heading apart from under Sundry Income as there was no AM-AM in 2008.

Note also under Schedule 4 on page 3 that we earned £6,025 in interest on cash balances during 2008, something which we cannot expect in 2009.

COURSE EXPENDITURE

The main variance under Course Expenditure is on Wages, which occurred because a new starter was employed for only the last 4 months of the year in 2007.

The continued pressure on the cost of maintenance and course upkeep is apparent under the relevant headings.

CLUBHOUSE EXPENDITURE

Clubhouse Wages have been managed well during the year, and fuel costs have increased as you would expect.

The Repairs and Renewals budget came under pressure last year, as a result of several significant individual items of expenditure such as the external decoration of the clubhouse, reupholstering chairs, new honours boards etc.

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION

There are no items of any significance to discuss under General & Administration.

A sum of £19,680 was transferred to the Capital Fund in line with the usual formula.

BALANCE SHEET

If you turn your attention to page 4, I will take you through the main points to note on the balance sheet.

The main item of interest is the closing cash position, being a total balance of £110,410 (2007: £102,000).

Although it is reassuring to have such a balance of club funds, so far in 2009 we are experiencing an expensive year. The sorely needed replacement fairway mower will cost us around £38k, albeit spread over two years, and the works to the practice ground and the loss of interest income for example will all put pressure on club finances. However, I believe we are well placed to handle this pressure and at this stage I expect to report a solid financial position again next year, albeit with a reduced cash balance.

If anyone has any questions I will be happy to answer them as best I can.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Mr President, Lady Captain and fellow members.....

I have to say that this last 12 months has absolutely flown by and I can barely believe that I have now completed my year in office. My aim from the beginning was to enjoy the experience and to

attend as many of the golfing and social functions as I reasonably could. I have succeeded in both those aims and am grateful for the magnificent support I have received from all members.

I intend to devote most of this report to thanking the many people who helped in the running of our Club over the last 12 months but before starting on that I want to welcome the newcomers who have joined as members in the last year.

All the following are full playing members and they are listed in the order in which they joined:-

Helen Davies, Ian Hunt, Freda Hunt, Martin Sykes, David Roots, Jean Kemp, George Buchan, Susan Bromley, Howard Webb, Martin Oldfield, David Cook, Hamish Rankin, Andrew Fishwick, Adam Gladwin, Paul Gilbert, John Johnston, Don Pearson, Guy Withey, John Yates, Min Fishwick, Hilary Darwell, Estrid Michaelson, Gill Kay, Clare Withey, Jan Ravenscroft and Louise Gerald.

Anne McNamara, Brendan McNamara and Russell Lewis were elected as Honorary Members. Dan and George Woodcock as Student Members and Daniel Wright, Jack Wilcox, Lizzie Kenney and Jake Oliver as Junior Members.

The following were elected as Non-Playing Members, again in the order in which they joined:-

Chrissie Record, Pauline Whewell, Anne Marie Lawson, Sarah Whittenbury, Ellen Fillingham, Wendy Trounce, Wendy Carstairs and Cheryl Carey.

They are all very welcome and I hope they are all taking full advantage of their membership and joining in with the various Club activities.

For the whole of my year in office I have had the pleasure of working with our President Alan Bradley and I would like to thank him for all the advice and encouragement that he has given.

I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside Win Heath as Lady Captain for all but the last nine day of my year in office. I was able to benefit from her knowledge and experience of Club matters. Thank you, Win, for your help and support and for keeping me so well informed as to what was happening within the Ladies' section of the Club.

I need also to thank my predecessor, John Acratopulo, for the help he was able to give to me, particularly in my early months and also for the willing way in which he stood in for me when I was away.

I would like to recognise the help provided to the Club by the four Trustees who are Ian Goulty, Peter Veitch, Peter Hardern and Andrew Pendleton. They play a crucial role in the running of the Club.

Moving on now to the officers of the Club, I will start with Chris Wood who has just completed his first year in office as Honorary Secretary. It is very easy for us all to underestimate the amount of work involved in this job but Chris has devoted many hours to it and has made life for me so much easier than it might otherwise have been. He has carried out a complete refurbishment of the office and totally transformed the working environment.

Chris has succeeded in making the job much more manageable by co-opting members in to relieve him of some aspects of the work. Robert Spark took over organisation of the Council Frolic and of the match between Secretary and Treasurer at Ashton-on-Mersey and I would like to thank him for making such a success of those two events.

Chris Adams was also co-opted to organise the collection of subscriptions and has been able to relieve the Secretary of the responsibility for much of this work. Chris Adams has also provided invaluable assistance to the Membership Committee in monitoring the applications from new and prospective members.

Anne McNamara has also provided considerable assistance to Chris Wood in connection with post opening and monitoring of room bookings.

Ken Hawes has continued to give valuable assistance on the development of the Club website and this is now running very effectively. Members are making good use of it and it is an excellent source of information on events at the Club.

Chris has been very ably assisted by the Assistant Honorary Secretary, David Swale, who has had responsibility for taking and producing the minutes for all Council meetings and for much else. My thanks all the above people involved with the Secretariat for the tremendous support that I have received from them.

Turning now to the Honorary Treasurer, Paul Hilton, he too has just completed his first year in office and he has done an excellent job for the Club in presenting us with such a healthy balance sheet and with being able to support Council's decision to maintain subscriptions at their existing levels.

I have to say that at this time last year, I was a little apprehensive in the knowledge that both the Secretary and the Treasurer were about to start their first years in office, both having taken over from very experienced predecessors. I soon realised that I had no need to worry and have received magnificent support from them both.

My thanks also to Roger Da Forno, the Assistant Honorary Treasurer, who has done much work behind the scenes mainly in relation to the control of employees' wages.

I have already mentioned the help that Robert Spark had given to the Secretariat but he also provided help to Paul Hilton in carrying out a review of the systems in place for the receipt of green fees.

I now turn to the Green Committee ably led by Al Kenney. He and his team of Chris Davies, Jonathan Foster, Brian Greenbank, Dave Smith and Trina Walsh with support from Tessa Day as a co-opted member have worked tirelessly through the year in bringing in many improvements to the course. Brian Greenbank's term in office comes to an end tonight but I understand that he is happy to continue in a co-opted role and I am grateful to him for that.

Al Kenney and his committee are indeed fortunate to have such an excellent team of green keepers and I would like him to pass on to Russell Lewis and to David Taylor and David Bligh my personal thanks for the magnificent work they have done on the course over the last 12 months. They are able to do many jobs that in the past we would have had to put out to outside contractors. The work on the practice ground did have to be contracted out but, when complete, will be of considerable benefit both to members and to our new professional.

It has been a particularly difficult year for Ken Lodge and his House Committee of Alan Dewhurst, Mike Kirchin, Roger O'Brien and Win Heath, ably assisted by the co-opted member, Ceri Hyde. They have been faced with the breakdown of a number of the kitchen appliances and problems with the alarm system and the electricity supply.

They have, however, coped admirably with all these problems and I am grateful to them all for the work they have done. The Club has enjoyed a full round of social events, particularly the Jazz Evening organised by Ceri Hyde which is to be repeated this year in a slightly different format.

The three Dinner Dances organised by Mike Kirchin in May, December and at New Year were all very successful although for this year we will be looking for more support for the New Year function.

Roger O'Brien, who is standing for re-election later tonight, has also been responsible for the role of bar chairman, a job which he has carried out with quiet efficiency.

The success of the social life of this Club is very much dependent on the magnificent contribution from our stewards Anne and Brendan McNamara. They have done a wonderful job for us and the standard of our catering is the envy of all other local clubs. Thank you, Anne and Mac, and to your excellent team of helpers.

Next I would like to mention Trina Walsh who has stood down from her post as Lady Secretary and will therefore be leaving the Green Committee. She has done sterling work for the Ladies over the last three years and has had a considerable input into the work of Al Kenney's team. Thank you, Trina, for all your hard work.

I am particularly grateful to Ian Goulty not only for the extremely efficient way in which he has run the Membership Committee but also for the help and guidance he has given me throughout my year. Thank you, Ian. My thanks also go to the rest of that committee Chris Adams, Gillian Brogdon, Chris Davies, Trina Walsh and Chris Wood. They have had a particularly busy year as is obvious from the number of new members accepted into the Club this year.

My thanks also go to:-

Andrew Richards for his help with the organisation of my Saturday lunches.

Alan Dewhurst and Mike Hauser for the running of TNC supported in their absence by Tom Kenyon .

Thanks are also due to each of the following:-

Paul Bramwell for the running of the 200 Club.

John Lee for the hugely popular Investors' Dinner.

Chris Wood for the very enjoyable Quiz Nights. He is now stepping down from this job and is leaving the task in the capable hands of John and Barbara Savin.

Andy Veitch and Chris Brown for their part in the running of the Saturday junior coaching sessions.

Ian Harris for his on-going work as the Club Archivist.

The Seniors' Section of the Club deserves a special mention because it goes from strength to strength. There are now some 70 members registered and selecting teams is an unenviable task when you have so many people eager to play in the Club matches. There are also a number of Stableford competitions run throughout the summer.

The results of the Seniors Club matches were not, I am afraid, particularly impressive. Two matches were cancelled because of the weather and of the remainder we won six, halved one and lost 18.

We won't, however, seek to blame the organisers for those results. Robin Malthouse and Roger Cross do a magnificent job in controlling all these events and we are all most grateful for all the hard work they put in. Thank you, Robin and Roger.

Moving on now to the very popular Bridge Section of the Club, my thanks to:-

- Val Watson and to Vanessa Veitch for their organisation of both the inter-club ladies' matches and also the mixed Spring and Autumn rubber bridge evenings;
- Robin and Sue Holden for their work in running the very popular Wednesday Chicago bridge evenings. All these events seem to be going from strength to strength; and
- Tony Higgins who runs the men's winter bridge afternoons and Willy Keunen who takes over each summer.

Bridge has become so popular within the Club over recent years that we should perhaps be calling ourselves Hale Golf and Bridge Club! One of the most recent tasks I have had was to captain the Gentlemen's team to a resounding win against the Ladies in the duplicate bridge match. This has become a regular feature in the Club calendar thanks to the perseverance of Val Watson.

Moving on now to the men's inter-club golf matches, my thanks go to Dave Smith for all the hard work he put in to ensure that we had a full team for each match. A total of 11 matches were played. There were three wins, two halves, four losses and two matches abandoned because of the weather.

I make no apologies for saying that the most significant date in my year as Captain was Monday 22 September. That was the day when our ladies put Hale Golf Club firmly on the map by winning the Bell Cup, a magnificent achievement for a small nine hole course such as ours and Barbara Spark and her team are to be congratulated on a very fine win.

I would like to think that a significant factor in that win was the wonderful support that the team received from Hale members on that day. There must have been some 20 Hale members who travelled down to Tytherington whereas the other three teams involved on the day had virtually no support whatsoever. This to me is indicative of the great spirit that exists within this Club. On behalf of all members can I congratulate the team on such a wonderful performance and wish them well in their defence of the trophy.

Congratulations also to all our major prize winners in 2008-9. They were:-

Bentley Cup	Chris Adams
Captain's Cup (for the medal final)	Ron Kirk
Owen Memorial Challenge Bowl	Peter Bramwell
Galloway Scratch Challenge Cup	Tom Griffiths
Ibbotson Memorial Trophy	Bob Cooke
Sandiford Cup	Chris Adams and David Swale
Sharp Memorial Trophy	Barry Jefferies
Charlton Challenge Cup	Judy Sutherland
Bridgford Trophy	Win Heath
Moir Cup	Win Heath

Finally in this review of the year, I would like to mention my very enjoyable challenge matches with Alec. As you all know, Alec retired in November last year after some 10 years as our

professional. Until his retirement we played on every available Sunday and even after that Alec came back on a fortnightly basis for these challenges. I can report that Alec and I won slightly more than we lost!

Alec will be very much missed by us all but as you can see from Al Kenney's recent Green Report his replacement is to be Richard Booth. Contracts have still to be drawn up but hopefully Richard will be seen around the Club in the very near future.

I apologise for the length of this report but there have been so many different members I needed to thank for their help and support over this last 12 months and it demonstrates just how many willing volunteers we rely upon for the running of this Club. If there is anyone I have forgotten, please accept my apologies.

But before I do finish I must make a special mention of the magnificent help and support I have received from Pat. It has been a tremendous advantage to have a wife who is closely involved in the golfing scene and I am sure my successor will quickly appreciate this. Thank you, Pat, for your tolerance and understanding.

I now have great pleasure in proposing John Gower-Jones as Captain of Hale Golf Club for 2009-2010. John has been an active member of the Club for some 25 years and has served his time on Council.

I therefore formally propose John Gower-Jones as your Captain.

The President, Mr A Bradley seconded the proposal stating "It gives me great pleasure to second the proposal that John Gower-Jones be elected as the next captain of Hale Golf Club."

The proposal was passed unanimously and John Gower-Jones was duly elected as the new Captain, taking the chair for the rest of the meeting.

NEW CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS

Mr President, Lady Captain, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for electing me as Captain of Hale Golf Club. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to serve the Club in this way, and I know that I can look to you all for support and encouragement throughout what I hope will be another good year for the Club. When Barry announced as long ago as last November that the ex-captains had chosen me as this year's nominee, I said that above all I would want to maintain and enhance what seemed to me to be at the heart of Hale Golf Club, namely the essential friendliness, respect, and support that all members accord to each other, and to their guests, both on and off the course. Changes will come and go, but those qualities, I hope, will never change.

I would, however, want above all this evening to pay a very real tribute to Barry Jefferies; he has set an immensely high standard in his commitment to the duties of Captaincy, which he has fulfilled with tremendous distinction and great generosity, and always, at least as far as I can see, with immense good humour, whilst scooping up golfing prizes here and there and maintaining his handicap at a most inappropriate level. I didn't realise until this Wednesday, however, that the success or failure of Barry's entire year would depend on the outcome of the bridge match against the ladies; you will all be relieved to know that he came through that ultimate test with flying colours. I know Barry would want me to acknowledge publicly the support he has had from Pat throughout the year. Barry, you genuinely seem to have enjoyed yourself, and this has been reflected in the atmosphere throughout the Club, which, under your guidance, has gone from

strength to strength. You've even managed to hold the annual subscription at last year's level, for which, I suspect, you will go down in history. You have been particularly helpful to me in preparing for my year, and it gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to express not only my thanks but also the thanks of all the members of this Club for all you have done on our behalf. Would all those present please stand and show your appreciation for Barry.

We now move on to the next item on the Agenda, the election of officers and Council members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The new Captain then dealt with the election of Officers and Council member. By unanimous approval of the meeting the following were elected:

Officers:

Hon Secretary	C M Wood
Assistant Hon Secretary	D W Swale
Hon Treasurer	P E Hilton
Assistant Hon Treasurer	R A Da Forno
Hon. Chair Green Committee	A F Kenney
Hon. Chair House Committee	K E Lodge
Hon Chair Membership Committee	I O Goult

Council Member	R W O'Brien
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A Council member is elected for a three year period.

APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS

Paul Hilton proposed a continuation of Hallidays Limited of Portland St, Manchester, as Accountants. This proposal, seconded by Mr A F Kenney, was carried unanimously. Mr R M E Perks asked whether Hallidays were acting as full auditors or as examining accountants. The Treasurer confirmed that the latter was in fact the case.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business from the floor of the meeting

The new Captain stated he had a few points to raise before bringing the Meeting to a close.

Firstly, he said he was delighted to announce the appointment of Mr C J Brown as a Vice-President of the club noting his contribution to both the running and playing side of the Club.

Secondly, he said he was looking forward to the imminent appointment of the new Club professional and a resumption of the Captain's challenge on Sunday mornings.

Thirdly, he made a preliminary announcement about the biennial Am-Am which will take place on Sunday June 21 this year. The format is 30 teams of four, which can be men, mixed or ladies with at least one Hale member. The cost is the same as two years ago, £220 including lunch with wine. The Captain asked members put the date in their diary and to enter or participate in a team.

Fourthly, he informed the meeting that he would be driving in on the following day at 12.45 pm and invited as many members as possible to attend.

Finally, before bringing the meeting to a close, the Captain thanked members for their attendance and invited them to join him for a drink at the bar.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.14 pm.

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

26th March 2010

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Captain (B S Jefferies)	Frank P I	Kenney A F	Sharp Mrs M I
President (A Bradley)	Gandy D S	Kirchin M J	Shenton Ms P A
Adams C G	Gillan F	Lang S	Skidmore D R
Anderson Mrs J	Gilman Dr M	Lee J R L	Smith A P
Barlow J P	Goodman J T	Lodge K	Soper B F
Barr M	Gower-Jones J R	Massey M F	Spark R
Bradley Mrs J	Gower-Jones Mrs J	Massey Mrs C	Spark Mrs B M
Bramwell P J	Grant Mrs F B	McNairney J	Swale D W
Brown C J	Harris G O	Moss J H	Taylor Mrs A
Cannell A R	Hauser P M	Moss Mrs P	Taylor C P R
Carstairs I C M	Hawes K R	Munnery J C	Taylor M T
Cross R R	Heath Miss A W	Munnery J R	Twiss B
Da Forno R A	Hill G	Murphy R V	Veitch P F
Davies C	Hilton P E	Murphy Mrs A	Veitch Mrs V
Dewhurst A G	Holden R J	O'Brien R W	Watson D M
Dixon W	Holden Mrs S	Perkin Miss L C	White A J
Done Mrs D	Hope T L	Perks Mrs F J	White J N
Edwards J	Hyde A N G	Perks R M E	Webster Mrs A
Fish Mrs S	Hyde C A	Rankin H	Withey G
Fisher Mrs J M R	Hyde Mrs C A	Richards A	Wood C M
Foster J R	Hyde Mrs M A	Roots D	Wynn F
	Jackson J S	Savin J R	
	Jefferies Mrs P	Sharp W D	

APPENDIX 2

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Adams J	Furness M	Kemp A R	Sankey W A
Allen J H	Gething A	Kenyon T	Sheen R
Allott Mrs H	Goulty I O	Kirk Mrs I	Simpson Mrs G
Bailey K	Grant Mrs J	Kirk R	Simpson R M W
Beal G A	Grant J A	Lewtas Mrs S B	Smith D M
Bramwell Mrs G	Graveley R	Lewtas C J	Sunderland Mrs C
Bramwell M N	Gray J	Logan S H M	Sunderland H M
Bromley Mrs S	Griffiths T D	Malthouse MrsMH	Sutherland Mrs J
Brown Mrs P	Hampson D	Malthouse R	Sutherland D A
Bryant Mrs S D	Hampson M	Mawson A D	Taylor Mrs C M
Buchan G	Hardern P K	Mawson C J	Taylor M G A
Buchan Mrs S E	Harris Mrs M	McBride J A	Trounce J R
Cooke R M O	Harris Mrs M C	Moorehead Mrs R	Turner Mrs Y
Davies R P	Harris J L	Moss Mrs J I	Veitch Mrs C
Daynes Mrs E	Harrison Mrs S C	Murray C H H	Veitch Ms K H
Daynes M N	Harvey W M	Nelstrop C J	Veitch W A
Dixon J J	Harwood C	Nelstrop M B	Vickerman P T C
Dixon Mrs P	Heathcock J E	Nelstrop Mrs V R	Walsh E J
Duggan Mrs T A	Hellawell Mrs A	Nichols J N	Walsh Mrs P M
Fallows J T	Higgins B A	O'Brien Mrs B J	Walsh W E
Fallows Mrs S	Hinds F X	Oldfield M	Whewell P
Fielden Ms T J E	Hope Mrs B	Pendleton A	Wilcox B A
Fillingham J A	Horrocks J T	Pendleton Mrs J	Woodcock A
Fishwick A	Hughes J W	Pinnington I	Woodcock Mrs F
Fishwick Mrs M	Hughes Mrs P J	Pinnington Mrs JA	Wright C E
Frank M E	Hulbert J C G	Ravenscroft C A	
Freeman J C	Jacques C	Ravenscroft Mrs J	
Freeman Mrs L	Jones R N	Roden S	

HALE GOLF CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 107TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY 26TH MARCH 2010 AT 8.15PM

PRESENT

The Captain (Mr J R Gower-Jones), the President (Mr R R Cross) and 128 members (Appendix 2 is the list of members who signed themselves present).

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of the meeting was taken as read on the proposition of Mr O Harris, seconded by Mr D M Watson. The proposition was passed unanimously by the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the members noted in Appendix 3.

The Captain suggested the list was taken as read and included in the minutes.

The Captain then asked the meeting to stand in silent memory of the following members who had passed away during the year.

David Lease
Roddy Simpson
Max Sunderland
Reg Taylor
Leslie Veitch

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

It was proposed by Mr A N G Hyde, seconded by Mr A G Dewhurst, that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 27th March 2009 be approved and this motion was passed by the meeting.

The minutes of this meeting were duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

ALTERATION TO CLUB RULES

The Captain referred to the proposed alteration to Club rules, information on which had been attached to the AGM notice (See Appendix 1). He briefly explained that this rule change simplified the junior and young person membership categories and hopefully would encourage younger players to join and stay within the Club. He reported that this proposal, after lengthy discussion, was fully supported by Council and proposed acceptance of the rule change to the meeting. This was seconded by Ms V A Chamberlain and the alteration was passed unanimously (the revised rules have been posted on the website).

HON TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer presented his report for the financial year ending December 31st 2009.

He presented a balance sheet in line with the budget and showing a very positive position particularly considering the financial difficulties being experienced by many clubs.

As regards the profit and loss account he noted the increase in house wages against budget but pointed out that bar takings were up on budget and that green fee income had increased. The latter probably reflected better income allocation rather than increased numbers. It was felt that previously some green fees had been recorded through bar income.

Mr O Harris proposed that the meeting accepted the accounts and this was seconded by Mr W Sankey and the proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Captain then dealt with the election of officers and Council members. None of the nominations for officers were contested but in the case of council members a vote was necessary with five nominations for three seats. By general approval of the meeting the following officers were elected:

Officers:

Hon Secretary	C M Wood
Hon Assistant Secretary	D W Swale
Hon Treasurer	P E Hilton
Hon Assistant Treasurer	R A Da Forno
Hon. Chairman Green Committee	A F Kenney
Hon. Chairman House Committee	A G Dewhurst
Hon Chairman Membership Committee	J C Munnery

Council Members

After an election, for which Mr A Bradley, Mr P K Hardern and Mr P F Veitch kindly acted as tellers, the following two members were elected to serve for three years:

C J Davies
Mrs C A Hyde

And the following member was elected to serve for two years

P Simpson

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Hon. Secretary presented the following report:

Introduction

“Mr Captain, Mr President, Lady Captain, Lady Captain-elect, and fellow members....

This is my second report. I would like to acknowledge the support of the President, the ex-Lady Captain, the Lady Secretary, the other officers and you, the members, during my middle year of office. I would especially like to thank the Captain for his help and his humour.

Unlike my predecessors, I have attempted to discharge the role of Hon. Secretary with the support not only

of an Hon. Assistant Secretary but of a co-opted team. I gratefully acknowledge the help this year, not just of the redoubtable David Swale who has been a tower of strength, but of Chris Adams, Cliff Wright, Robert Spark, Ken Hawes and Barbara Grant.

I vowed last year to try to reduce the time taken up by secretarial activities without diminishing the standard of service provided. I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that the workload cannot be significantly reduced. I kept a record of the hours I spent being Secretary in 2009. Notwithstanding the help of an outstanding team, each member of which devotes considerable time to the Club, it came to 20 hours per week on average. I think, despite my undoubted inefficiency, that three days a week is too much.

I said last year that, as 84% of golf clubs employ a full- or part-time secretary or manager, Hale has been exceptionally fortunate to have had a succession of unpaid secretaries. I fear for the workload of my successor unless some amelioration is achieved. I believe that the time has come to reallocate the activities undertaken by the Secretariat and to employ some part-time clerical assistance, in the same way that, for example, Knutsford Golf Club does. Changes will need to be carefully managed as there is a risk of withdrawal of the voluntary labour on which Hale Golf Club has relied so successfully for so long. I will endeavour to come forward with acceptable proposals.

I hope to give you an insight into how the Secretariat has spent its time during the last year.

Membership

Maintaining membership records, writing e-mails and letters about existing and prospective members and servicing Membership Committee consumes about half my time. It also takes about half a day a week of Chris Adams', the Membership Officer's, time. The membership figures at the 2008, 2009 and 2010 AGMs are as follows:

Membership category	2008	2009	2010
Male Full	208	204	202
Lady Full	90	98	97
Honorary/ Life	13	15	17
Country	32	38	36
Student	10	12	12
Male Non-playing	57	65	64
Lady Non-playing	57	66	67
Junior	20	13	22
TOTAL	487	511	517

Hale Golf Club is very fortunate that, unlike the vast majority of clubs, the Club is close to its optimum playing membership. However, full membership decreased marginally over the last year and Membership Committee is not complacent about the future. Although there are a few applicants currently in the process of fulfilling the criteria for membership, our age profile means that there is a need for suitable candidates to replace those who transfer to non-playing membership each year.

It is perhaps not surprising, given the march of time, that the number of non-playing members has increased by 15% over the past two years. The number of junior members has increased since last year and Membership Committee is optimistic that, under Richard Booth's leadership, more juniors can be recruited. The challenge is to retain juniors as members when they become adults, hence the changes to the

subscriptions and entrance fees for the under 35s introduced this year and the consequent rule changes that you have just approved.

Subscriptions

I continue to feel very strongly that the Secretary should not collect subscriptions. I therefore remain indebted to Chris Adams, who devotes a great deal of ability and enthusiasm to this. More members have made electronic transfers into the Club's dedicated subscription account this year, saving the Club time and money. Arrears currently stand at about £900, less than 0.4% of the Club's subscription income.

We introduced the Fairway Credit instalment facility for those who wished to pay their 2010 Full membership subscriptions over the year and several members availed themselves of this. We expect more to do so in the future. While it took considerable time (and some expense) to set this facility up, we expect it to save administrative time in the long run, not least because it enabled us to replace some cumbersome internal arrangements.

We hope to streamline subscription collection procedures further by offering direct debit facilities to all members later this year.

Insurance

When John Savin handed over the Secretariat to me, he told me that updating the Club's insurance was unfinished business. I am very grateful to Cliff Wright who has, in his typically rigorous manner, reviewed the Club's insurance needs and recommended numerous changes that have now been implemented. In effect, the insurance values of our Greens fabric and equipment have been increased and the insurance values of the Clubhouse building and contents have been reduced. The amount for which our officers are indemnified has been increased. The net cost of these changes was only a very small proportion of our substantial premium.

Relationship between Council and Management Committee

Last year I mentioned that the new arrangements necessitated by the rule changes were generally working well but that some issues about the relationship between Council and Management Committee remained to be clarified. These have now been resolved. This year the timing of Management Committee meetings was changed and they were held only if there was sufficient business. They were focussed on a limited number of topics on which papers had been circulated previously and their recommendations were fed to Council in a timely manner.

Publication of reports of Council

Council has agreed that a summary of its decisions should be made available to members to improve communications within the Club. The first report, from the Council Meeting of 4 January 2010, is available on the Secretariat notice board and on the Club web-site. Others will follow.

Main room charge policy

The Club has had a room charge policy for about two years. It was introduced to try to recoup some of the cost of making good the wear and tear on the room occasioned by non-members. In association with Ken Lodge, the main room charge policy has been refined, reviewed and revised over the last year. It has been agreed that no wedding receptions, charity or commercial events will be held at the Club. A number of details about timing, party numbers and charges have been clarified. Robert Spark has assiduously kept a record of the room charges levied – these came to about £2000 in 2009.

Green fees

The Secretariat seems to be responsible for green fee records. There have been some anomalies in the green fees charged to guests playing with members in larger groups. Council approved a proposal by Al Kenney and myself that events with more than 12 players are to be treated as golf societies and non-members are to be charged the visitor rate. The Professional recommended the introduction of a nine-hole green fee and changes to junior green fees, which had not been increased for many years. The nine-hole rate has been introduced and set at £20 and junior green fees are now half the adult rates. Robert Spark has kept scrupulous accounts of the green fees received. In 2009 these came to nearly £18000, £10000 more than the figure recorded in 2008. This is simply the result of better record keeping, not a significant increase in the number of visitors.

Buggies

During the year Council decided that the Club needed to re-examine its ban on the use of buggies which was in contravention of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. Cliff Wright reviewed the situation with his customary thoroughness and produced a policy paper with detailed supporting documentation derived from that produced by the National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association. In essence, it recommended that the Club accept the use of buggies by members or visitors with a medical certificate and appropriate insurance cover. The issue, which has numerous nuances, is being taken forward by Green Committee. In the short term, the Club now allows the use of medically certificated, player-owned and insured buggies but has banned their use on the peninsula pending further investigation.

Web-site and e-mail

The web-site has continued to develop over the last year in an on-going effort to improve communications with members. For example, 'News from House' can now be viewed and subscription instalment forms can be downloaded. The minutes of this AGM will again be posted on the web-site within a fortnight and the Secretariat will make copies available to those without internet access on request. I would like to thank Ken Hawes for his invaluable help with computing hardware and applications and with the web-site.

As I explained at the last AGM, details for the whole membership are now updated five or six times a year, for the handbook and the website. I am delighted to report that all members now allow their full details to appear on the website. This means that the website and handbook are no longer different, removing the need for special editing and thus saving a good deal of time.

Using e-mail for Club business saves both time and money. Virtually every new member uses e-mail and many of those that the Club loses do not. This means that the proportion of members reached by e-mail is gradually increasing. There are, however, still one or two members who have not given me their addresses and one who refuses to allow me to use his address. This year Chris Adams and I were able to send out individual subscription bills by e-mail for the first time, making processing easier. The Vice-Presidents' Dinner in February had an unprecedented turn-out because it was advertised by e-mail as well as by notice.

Calendar

After an intermission of a year, a fixtures and events card was once again produced in January using the method of derivation from the website calendar first employed in producing last year's handbook. The take up has been disappointing but copies continue to be available behind the bar. The calendar in the handbook will supplant the card but the handbook may be a little late appearing this year, as one important item of information is not yet available.

To make it easier for members to see course and clubhouse bookings in as much detail as possible, the website calendar presents more information than has been the case in the past. It is updated as needed (roughly weekly, the revision date being noted). While both course and clubhouse usage have gradually increased over the last few years, changes in the way bookings are recorded give a misleadingly exaggerated

impression. It is, however, time for a fundamental review of the course calendar. With Al Kenney, the Secretariat will look at all course bookings and make recommendations to Council. It is inevitable that we will have to provide more detail about tee times so that members can see when the course is unavailable.

Other matters

During the last year the Secretariat has also:

- Serviced Council, Management Committee and Membership Committee meetings;
- Endeavoured to ensure that all correspondence, e-mails and telephone messages are answered (or acknowledged) within four days. I am indebted to Barbara Grant for her help in dealing with the mail and phone calls;
- Arranged and organised the Council Frolic (Robert Spark does this superbly);
- Maintained locker usage and collected payments;
- Virtually eliminated cash from the Secretary's office;
- Updated the Club honours boards;
- Maintained the lost property arrangement (top drawer of corridor filing cabinet for items less than two months old, second drawer for items three-four months old);
- Maintained a watching brief over the health and safety portfolio. I am very grateful to Ken Lodge for continuing to take the major responsibility for this in his final year as Chair of House Committee.
- Placed invitations to play in men's golf competitions at local clubs, sorted by month, in a folder by the competition terminal in the far bar room; and
- Placed copies of current golfing magazines in the racks in the far bar room;

As I know many secretaries must have said previously, much remains to be done! In particular, over the next 12 months, apart from those matters mentioned above, I hope to:

- Send out subscription bills with the Captain's letter to reduce costs and, hopefully, to speed up collection;
- Assist in installing footpath horse excluders;
- Establish a diary of Secretarial activities for my successor; and
- Hand over the job of Secretary in good order to my successor.

I hope that I can count on your continued support during my final year. Thank you.

Christopher Wood
Honorary Secretary

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Janet Grant proposed a continuation of Hallidays Limited of Portland St, Manchester as Auditors. This proposal, seconded by Drummond Sharp, was carried unanimously

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Mr President, Lady Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen – it has been an immense privilege to have been Captain of this marvellous Club. As I have frequently said, my job has been an easy one as all the real work has been done for me. I cannot overstate how fortunate I have been to have had a superb team during my year of office. I hope they will all forgive me if I do not name them all individually but they are Chris Wood and his team as Secretary, Paul Hilton as Treasurer and his team – now managing the finances of an enterprise turning over not far short of £400,000, the Greens Committee chaired by Al Kenney, the House Committee and Social Sub Committee led by Ken Lodge, the Membership Committee chaired by Ian Goulty, and the Ladies Section, captained by Margaret Sharp during nearly all of my year but now of course captained by

Jane Perks. The Ladies again did the Club proud reaching the semi-finals of the Bell Cup, where they were defeated, in atrocious playing conditions, by the eventual winners.

We sometimes need to remind ourselves that the members of all the committees are unpaid volunteers who give up serious amounts of times. Let me assure you that there are no passengers; what has been most striking for me during my year is that all these committees do not just keep things ticking over. They are all looking to improve and innovate, and so we have seen increased use of e-mail, which has saved the Club a considerable amount of money; the introduction of instalment payment for subscriptions; continuing improvements to the course – and I must mention Russell Lewis and his assistants Dave Blythe and Dave Taylor – their avowed aim has been to make Hale the best 9 hole golf course on the country and in my view they are a considerable way on in the achievement of that aim with new practice nets generously given in memory of Max Sunderland, and a new covered teaching area provided by a generous anonymous donation. Richard Booth has been an outstanding addition to the Club, as our new professional. I have greatly enjoyed our Captain's Challenge Matches – Richard has, as I said at my dinner, learned a great deal. He never knew before he played with me that you could turn up at 8:57, and be ready to tee-off at 8:59, and we have won a good deal more matches than we have lost. He has been overwhelmed by the sales of plus twos, which he had not allowed for in his business plan. He has settled in marvellously and I hope he will be with us for many years to come. I did ask Dave Smith, organiser for the Men's Club Matches, for his analysis of my results as Captain over the year. Unusually tactful in his response, he evasively replied that he hadn't kept detailed records but he thought we may well have won three out of the ten we played. He awarded us a win against Mere (a match he forgot to put in the diary and which, consequently, wasn't played) and he has nominated me for the Nobel Peace Prize for sorting out the resultant diplomatic fracas.

We have had a marvellous series of social events; I have really enjoyed them all. This Club would not be the happy and sociable place it is without the wonderful service we receive from Anne and Mac, and their staff, especially Dariusz, Anya, and Liz. I sometimes think that members honestly believe that all golf clubs are like Hale, with wonderful food, and impeccable service, on tap. Let me assure you that this really isn't the case – and let me assure Anne, Mac and their excellent staff that we do appreciate all they do for us. We are all sorry that Dariusz is leaving us – we will bid him a formal farewell next Thursday at around 6:15 – and we welcome Ben Wettings as his replacement.

Our membership rules have been rationalised, and there has been a continuing drive to obtain new members, not just to keep the numbers up, but to take in new members who will contribute to the life of the Club. Never forget that an organisation that stands still, and only ever looks backwards to "how we always used to do it" will fade away. The vibrancy and the continuing success of this Club is a testament to the enthusiasm, effort, and drive put in by all those that have served the Club on its various committees. I congratulate all those who have been elected this evening, and commiserate with those who have not been successful; it is a true sign of the health of the Club that we have had a contested election, and I hope that anyone who has been disappointed this time will not be deterred from standing again.

Ken Lodge has retired as Chairman of House, to be replaced by Alan Dewhurst who has already served with distinction on the House Committee. I want formally to record the thanks of the Club for all that Ken has done, in particular in bringing the Club's Health & Safety Policy into good order. He has especially encouraged the Friday night mixed competitions which I know are very dear to his heart. Ian Goulty has retired as Membership Chairman and I congratulate John Munnery on his election as successor. Ian has done a great job in clearing out our list of applicants so as to ensure that we only have applicants who are really likely to become members of the Club in some capacity, in securing a continuing flow of new members, and in rationalising our previously complicated subscription system. I welcome all our new members, and hope that they will play a full part in the ongoing life of the Club. When I see advertisements in the paper offering "pay as you play" membership, I realise how fortunate we are to have a full complement of members and a healthy list of applicants. Ian has agreed to take over the role as Club Archivist from Ian Harris and I want to thank Ian Harris for all the work he has done during his period of office.

I want to pay tribute to Margaret Sharp, now ex-Lady Captain. She has been a wonderful Lady Captain and I could not have wished for a better colleague to work with during my year. I wish Jane Perks every good wish during her year – we are all delighted that Roger has recovered well from his illness and I understand he is now well rehearsed in walking two paces behind Jane at all times. Margaret's co-operation and support have meant a great deal to me, and in the same vein I would want to thank ex Captain Barry Jefferies; whatever he may have thought privately about my efforts as Captain he has kept to himself, but has always been available when needed and has given very sound advice when asked. He has been a great source of support to me.

Andy Veitch needs a mention – he is retired from his role as Junior Organiser, having been involved (I am assured) for over 20 years. I believe he was in short trousers when he started. Andy has given a huge amount of time to the role which is so important in encouraging what we hope will be a source of future Hale members and we owe him a big thank you. My thanks to Brian Greenbank for agreeing to act as the link now between the Juniors and the Club.

I want to thank Robert Spark, for organising the Council Frolic, and a number of away days over the winter; Paul Bramwell for running the 200 Club; Andrew Richards- on his own admission, the best putter in the Club – for all his help with my Captain's lunches (although we always seem to drink more wine when he is in charge); Lord Lee of Trafford for the spectacularly successful Investors' Dinner; Robin and Sue Holden for organising the winter bridge evenings, which are such an important social event for so many of our older non-playing members, and Val Watson and Vanessa Veitch for organising the Bridge Suppers.

I also congratulate those who have won Club competitions this last year – your names will be inscribed on the boards for all eternity – and I thank all those who have worked behind the scenes in organising men's, ladies' and mixed competitions and frolics; they have dealt, very patiently for most of the time, with eccentricities of members' score cards, their scoring, and their inability to deal with the technology we now use to record our scores.

I have been fortunate indeed to have served with two presidents; Alan Bradley made sure, as far as he could, that I stayed on the relatively straight and narrow in my early days and he was succeeded in August by our current President Roger Cross. We are all aware of the problems we have had recently with Robin's withdrawal of his nomination as Captain-Elect. I want to pay a real tribute this evening to our President, who has done a huge amount of work, in very difficult circumstances, to deal with this issue, which could have been extremely divisive. His commitment and dedication have been unsurpassable, and as a result the matter has been settled in a civilised and dignified way. It is now closed. Hale Golf Club owes you a huge debt Mr President, and I want to thank you, not only for dealing with that most unexpected and potentially damaging matter in a timely and effective manner, but for all the help and support you have given me during your term of office. I trust that the remainder of your term will be calm and uneventful.

I want to close by mentioning the one person without whose unstinting help and support I would not have been able to undertake the role of Captain. She won't thank me for this, because, unlike me, she isn't at heart a show off; I refer of course to Jill. She has been an absolute rock of support to me; her advice has been unfailingly right; she has accepted my disappearing round the room at social events at the Club and leaving her to fend for herself; she has even laughed at some of my stories, even though she must have heard most of them before; she has put up with my being out of the house and she has put up with my being in the house but somewhat distracted by Golf Club matters. I thank you with all my heart for all you have done over the year and I could not have done this job without you.

I apologise for the length of these remarks; we will soon have someone else as Captain and, whoever he may be, I know you will give him the same support, friendship, and kindness as you have all, without exception, given me and for which I thank you all.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business from the floor of the meeting.

The President thanked the Captain for his marvellous work for the Club during his captaincy year and thanked him for agreeing to a short extension of office until a new Captain is elected.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.41 pm.

HALE GOLF CLUB

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Explanation

In his letter of November 2009 the Captain stated that Council had decided to bring forward a proposal to the 2010 AGM to simplify the categories of membership, in order to assist in achieving the EGU's goal of encouraging more young golfers to play, and to retain those junior members we already have. The proposal is to abolish the category of student membership, and to restrict junior membership to those under 18 years old as at January 1st.

The reasons for Council's decision are:

- There is currently insufficient incentive for those ceasing full-time education to transfer to full playing membership. In addition, it is becoming increasingly difficult to define a 'full-time student'.
- 18 years of age is a more recognisable, and commonly utilised, age limit for junior membership than the 20 years and 6 months specified in the current rules. It does not seem right for a 19 or 20 year old to be paying the same as an 11 or 12 year old.

Because Council has already implemented the subscription changes specified in the Captain's letter under delegated authority there are no financial implications to the proposed alterations to the Rules.

Proposal

1. 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. Unless due notice of resignation is given Junior members shall on reaching the age of 18 years at 1st January in any year be considered on application for Full or Country membership."

2. That Rule 22 (student members) be rescinded.

CMW/IOG
18 March 2010

Appendix 2

LIST OF ATTENDEES

President (R R
Cross)
Captain (J R Gower-
Jones)
Acratopulo J A
Adams C G
Allott H
Anderson Mrs J
Barlow J P
Bradley A
Bradley Mrs J
Bramwell Mrs G
Bramwell M N
Brierley C
Brogden Mrs G S
Brown C J
Bryant Mrs S D
Buchan G A
Buchan Mrs S E
Cannell A R
Chamberlain Ms V
Cockbain D
Dare D W F
Da Forno R A
Davies Mrs C A
Davies C J
Davies Mrs H
Dewhurst A G
Dixon J J
Done Mrs D
Dryden D A
Fish Mrs S
Fishwick A R
Fishwick Mrs M

Fisher Mrs J M R
Foster J R
Frank P I
Gerrard Ms R
Gilbert Mrs M
Gillan F
Gilman Dr M
Grant Mrs J
Graveley R
Greenbank B
Gold Mrs S
Goulty I O
Gower-Jones Mrs J
Harris G O
Harvey W M
Hauser P M
Hawes K R
Healey Mrs G M
Heath Miss A W
Hellowell Mrs A
Hill G
Hilton P E
Hinds F X
Holden R J
Holden Mrs S
Hope T L
Hughes J W
Hughes Mrs P J
Hunt Mrs F
Hunt I D
Hyde A N G
Hyde C A
Hyde Mrs C A
Hyde Mrs M A

Jackson J S
Jacques C
Jefferies B S
Jefferies Mrs P
Jenkins Ms W
Kemp A R
Kennedy Mrs B
Kennedy W W
Kenney A F
Kirchin M J
Lee J R L
Lever BD
Lever Mrs L
Lodge K E
Lodge Mrs L
Massey M F
Massey Mrs C
McNairney J
Moorehead Mrs R
Morris R
Moss J H
Moss Mrs J I
Munnery J C
Nelstrop M B
O'Brien Mrs B
O'Brien R W
Ogden J T
Oldfield A M
Pendleton A G
Pendleton Mrs J
Perks Mrs F J
Perks R M E
Rashid T
Richards A

Sankey W A
Savin J R
Seymour Mrs A
Sharp W D
Sharp Mrs M I
Shenton Ms P A
Simpson P
Skidmore D R
Smith D M
Smith A P
Smyth Mrs A
Soper B F
Spark R
Spark Mrs B M
Swale D W
Taylor G N C
Twiss B
Veitch Mrs C
Veitch P F
Veitch Mrs V
Veitch W A
Von Arx Mrs D
Walsh W E
Watson D M
White J N
Withey G
Wood C M
Woodcock A
Woodcock Mrs F
Wright C E J
Yates J

Appendix 3

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Adamson A C
Allen J H
Atherton P
Bailey K
Barr M
Beal G A
Bolton J C F
Bramwell J D
Bramwell P B
Brown P
Carey C R
Carstairs I C M
Craig R D P
Davies R P
Day T R
Dixon P
Dixon W
Fallows J T

Fallows Mrs S
Fielden Ms T J E
Fillingham J A
Frank T L
Gething A
Gill H
Goodman J T
Gourley Ms E
Grant Mrs F B
Grant J A
Griffiths T D
Harris Mrs E M
Harris Mrs M C
Harris J L
Heathcock J E
Isaac G
Johnston J H
Kenyon T
Keunen R C
Keunen W H J W
Laitt R D
Lewtas C J
Lewtas Mrs S B

Logan S H M
Malthouse Mrs M
Malthouse C R
Marshall D
Mawson A D
Mawson C J
McBride J A
Murphy Mrs A
Murphy R V
Nelstrop C J
Nelstrop Mrs V R
Nichols J N
Nichols Mrs P
Pendleton A G
Pinnington I
Pinnington Mrs JA
Rea C R
Ritchie I A
Russell-Fisher R
Savill M A
Skilling R
Smith B G
Stratta P V

Ravenscroft C A
Rea Mrs M
Sturrock J
Sunderland Mrs C
Sutherland D A
Sutherland Mrs J
Taylor Mrs A
Taylor
Taylor Mrs C M
Taylor M G A
Taylor M T
Vickerman P T C
Walsh E J
Walsh Mrs P M
Whewell P
Whitehead Mrs C
White A J
Wilcox B A
Wynn F

HALE GOLF CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 108TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY 25TH MARCH 2011 AT 8.15PM

PRESENT

The Captain (Mr J T Goodman), the Lady Captain (Prof P A Shenton), President (Mr R R Cross) and 114 members (Appendix 1 is the list of members who signed themselves present).

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of the meeting was taken as read on the proposition of Mr O Harris, seconded by Mr R J Holden. The proposition was passed unanimously by the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the members noted in Appendix 2.

The Captain suggested the list was taken as read and included in the minutes.

The Captain then asked the meeting to stand in silent memory of the following members who had passed away during the year.

Cyril Conroy
Chris Hyde
John Ireland
John Nichols
Alan Pendleton
Elaine Rocca
Ruth Wood

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

It was proposed by Mr K E Lodge, seconded by Mrs F J Perks , that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 26th March 2010 be approved and this motion was passed by the meeting.

The minutes of this meeting were duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer presented his report for the financial year ending December 31st 2010 making the following points:

Income and Expenditure Account

Course Expenditure

Wages	Are up by around 5% due to a review of greens staff remuneration approved by Council during the year.
Repairs & Maintenance	No single reason for this increase, so this is an area which the greens team is monitoring closely during 2011.

Pro Retainer	£15k reflects a full year, whereas Richard was only employed for 8 months of 2009.
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Clubhouse

Wages	Clubhouse wages are being contained well.
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General

Water	£5,046 includes an additional invoice for £1,300 for excess water lost as a result of a leak. The initial bill was for over £30,000 and it was only due to the hard work of Alan Dewhurst and Cliff Wright that we were able to negotiate this down to £1,300.
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Health & Safety	The underlying cost here is £2,000 per annum, the discrepancy between 2009 and 2010 being caused by the late delivery of an advisor's invoice in 2009.
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Donations	£1,318 from 200 Club for canteen cabinet; £1,549 from 200 Club for PA system; £2,048 from Max Sunderland's legacy to pay for the relocation and enlargement of the 13 th tee; £5,000 from an anonymous donor for the practice shed.
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Schedule 3 – House Committee

Bar Sales	Are unchanged during the year, and a margin of 49% is being dutifully maintained by Roger O'Brien.
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Stocktaking	This increase is due to timing of the stocktaker's invoices.
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Schedule 4 – Sundry Income

Room Hire	This welcome increase is due to a more rigid collection process being driven by the Secretary and Robert Spark.
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Balance Sheet

Cash	Total cash of £179k is £38k higher than in Dec 09. This is due to the fact that substantially more subscriptions were received in advance than in 2009.
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Net Current Assets	Remain at around the £100k mark, leading me to report that the Club remains in very good financial shape.
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Most of you will know that I am standing down from office at this meeting – something to do with the management of a career and a young family not mixing well with disappearing to my study for long periods at the weekends. I should take this final opportunity to express thanks to the various captains and Council members I have had the pleasure of working with and in particular Roger da Forno who has been tireless in his role as Assistant Treasurer and to Chris Adams whose work as Subscriptions Officer has made my role much easier to fulfil.

So if there is nothing else Mr Captain that concludes my report.

The Captain thanked the Treasurer for his concise and accurate work

Mr R M E Perks proposed that the meeting accepted the accounts and this was seconded by Mr W W Kennedy and the proposal unanimously approved by the meeting

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Hon. Secretary presented the following report:

Introduction

“Mr Captain, Mr Captain-nominate, Mr President, Lady Captain and fellow members....

This is my third and last report.

As you know, I have attempted to discharge the role of Hon. Secretary with the support not only of an Hon. Assistant Secretary but of a co-opted team. I gratefully acknowledge the help this year, not just of the redoubtable David Swale, but of Chris Adams, Cliff Wright, Robert Spark, Ken Hawes and Barbara Grant. I am both delighted and proud to say that all six are to continue to serve the Club in the coming year. Together we have tried to professionalise the way the Secretariat operates while improving, or at least maintaining, the quality of the services offered.

Membership

The membership figures at the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 AGMs are as follows:

Membership category	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male Full	208	204	202	205
Male Full <35	-	-	-	16
Lady Full	90	98	97	97
Honorary/ Life	13	15	17	15
Country	32	38	36	40
Student	10	12	12	-
Male Non-playing	57	65	64	57
Lady Non-playing	57	66	67	64
Junior	20	13	22	22
TOTAL	487	511	517	516

Hale Golf Club is very fortunate that, unlike the vast majority of clubs, it is close to its optimum playing membership. However, in the three years that I have been Secretary we have assimilated 50 new playing members - at nearly 20% of the total this is a significant turnover. Membership Committee is not complacent about the future. There are a few applicants currently in the process of fulfilling the criteria for membership but our age profile means that there remains a need for suitable candidates to replace those who transfer to non-playing membership every year.

Subscriptions

I continue to feel strongly that the Secretary should not collect subscriptions and I am delighted that Chris Adams, who has devoted a great deal of ability and enthusiasm to this as part of the Secretariat, is to take

subscription collection with him to the Treasury. The Secretariat and the Treasury will, of course, need to co-operate closely, not least over the use of the HGC membership database, Club 2000. I am very pleased that Johnny Yates has agreed to undertake the duties that Chris Adams is vacating. Sending out subscription bills with the Captain's letter was a useful change, not only reducing time and costs but resulting in prompter payments. Arrears currently stand at about 1% of the Club's subscription income.

I had hoped to streamline subscription collection procedures further by offering direct debit facilities to all members by now but this has not proved possible. This is now a matter for the new Treasurer.

Green fees

Robert Spark has kept scrupulous accounts of the green fees received. In 2010 these came to nearly £16500, £1300 less than the figure recorded in 2009. Our income from visiting societies was down by £2500 but the new 9 hole rate (£20) suggested by Richard Booth, the Professional, and introduced last year, proved to be attractive, with nearly £1000 being taken. Robert will take green fee accounts, and the Council Frolic, which he has organised superbly, with him to Green Committee.

Main room charges

The Club has had a room charge policy for about three years. It was introduced to try to recoup some of the cost of making good the wear and tear on the room occasioned by non-members. This year the Club asked for the charges to be paid to the Secretary in advance to convert a provisional room booking to a confirmed booking. This has worked well and Robert Spark has assiduously kept a record of the room charges levied – these came to about £2500 in 2010. Robert has kindly agreed to continue to monitor room charges while serving on Green Committee.

Calendar

This year a number of changes have been made to the course calendar. In particular, seniors' competitions have been arranged for Friday mornings to allow most visiting societies to be scheduled on Wednesday afternoons. This keeps most Friday evenings free for general play. In addition, more detail about tee times has been provided in the calendar so that members can see when the course is unavailable. Richard Booth has been enlisted to ensure that societies adhere to the published tee times.

Insurance and Health and Safety

The Club has been visited by insurance risk assessors and been forced to make a number of changes to its security arrangements to meet insurance requirements. In addition, on-going risk assessments are being undertaken at the behest of Citation, our health and safety advisors. The Club is now in good heart in both these areas and I am extremely grateful to Cliff Wright for all his help on these issues and to Russell Lewis for undertaking so many risk assessments.

Web-site and e-mail

I would like to thank Ken Hawes for his invaluable help with computing hardware and applications and with the web-site. Increasing numbers of members are using the Club website to find out about competition results, to check on updated course and clubhouse bookings and to ascertain members' latest details. Using e-mail for Club business saves time and money and increases participation at social events. The proportion of members reached by e-mail is now over 80%.

Publication of reports of Council

Council agreed that a summary of its decisions should be made available to members to improve communications within the Club since the beginning of 2010. These reports from Council Meetings are

available on the Secretariat notice board, next to the Bar and on the Club web-site. I know from attendance at meetings of Club secretaries that most clubs publish the full minutes of their Council meetings, and this is confirmed by a recent survey showing that over 80% of clubs in the Northwest do so. I would like to think that Hale will soon join the majority.

Equality Act

The Equality Act 2010 (EQA) came into effect on 1 October 2010. Hale Golf Club is in a very fortunate position in relation to many other golf clubs because the rule changes that were implemented under Ian Goulty's leadership ensured that the major inequalities in play and pay have already been addressed. However, advice from the English Golf Union and the National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association indicates that the Club ought to address the remaining minor issues of access to the course, elections of male and female Club officers and the gender of the Club Captain/ President. These matters will, I am sure, soon be resolved, allowing the Club to be fully compliant with the EQA.

Secretarial assistance

You may recall that last year I reluctantly came to the conclusion that the amount of time consumed by secretarial activities could not be significantly reduced without diminishing the standard of service provided. In 2009, I kept a record of the hours I spent being Secretary – it came to 20 hours per week on average. In 2010, it came to a similar number. As I said last year, I think that this is too much.

Despite the number of hours spent, it has been rare to see me in the Secretary's Office because the only way I could keep my hours from escalating further was to work at home. I regret not being able to be in the office more and am very grateful to Barbara Grant for all the work she has done on the Club post. However, I believe that the Club's office interface both with its members and with the public (which includes potential members) is inadequate.

The playing members of this Club are paying a subscription of £885 per annum, and this money is used to employ highly competent greens and house staff. At one time, before bar staff were recruited, members of House Committee were expected to help behind the bar when necessary. For many years, the Club managed with two green-keepers. Hale Golf Club is rightly proud that the standard of the course and the quality of the food and bar service in the Clubhouse have never been higher. Neither have the expectations of members. I suggest that the members of this Club have the right to expect someone from the Secretariat to be in the office for certain periods each week to respond to queries or requests. For example, a member should expect to be able to ring up during these periods to check whether his or her name has been entered for a competition or event, and if not, to have it entered for them. It pains me to know that communication difficulties mean that some telephone calls are unreturned. It would be impracticable to provide this service by using volunteers.

I find it astonishing, given the improvements in the service offered by House and Greens as a result of better staffing, that commensurate support has not been forthcoming to help the Secretariat undertake its more mundane tasks. I hope that our goal of matching professionalism in the delivery of most secretarial services through delegation has been achieved, despite the increase in Secretarial workload as the Club has become busier and busier, but the limits of this approach are being reached. As long as Hale continues to do without some paid secretarial assistance it is inevitable that the standard of face-to-face secretarial service will be lacking unless compromises are made elsewhere.

I said last year that Hale has been exceptionally fortunate to have had a succession of unpaid secretaries. The latest EGU survey reveals that 92% of golf clubs employ a full- or part-time secretary or manager. In other words, Hale is one of only 8% of golf clubs that do not employ some secretarial assistance. This is not because the Club cannot afford or does not need part-time clerical assistance (of the same kind that, for example, Knutsford Golf Club employs to undertake many routine secretarial duties) but because I have

signally failed to convince Council that it is necessary. I trust that my successor, Cliff Wright, will be able to persuade the new Council of the necessity to employ part-time help.

If you agree that there is room for improvement in the face-to-face and telephone service offered to members, and that it is unreasonable to expect Cliff to work even longer hours than I did, I hope that you will make your views clear to the members of the new Council.

Conclusion

It has been a privilege to serve as Secretary. No Club can stand still and, as I have tried to demonstrate in my last three AGM reports, many Secretarial modernising changes have been made at Hale without controversy. However, as Tuck Clagett, the American Manager of St Enodoc, said in the Golf Club Manager magazine: "Brits don't rush into relationships. Introducing change successfully is a kind of dance of little steps."

Introducing change in a traditional club like Hale can be controversial and time-consuming because some members decide that even little steps go too far. But, in the end, the Club usually makes the right decision even if the dance becomes elaborate. Had I been a better dancer, the Secretariat might have managed a little more change during my tenure. However, I am very proud of all that has been achieved and believe that Cliff Wright and Ken Hawes have a firm foundation on which to build. I hope that they can count on your support during their tenure. I will, of course, be offering mine should it be needed, as I know Dave Swale will. Thank you for your support for our endeavours.

Christopher Wood
Honorary Secretary
March 2011

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The Captain thanked the Secretary for his work but felt that, prior to delivering his own report to the AGM, he had to state that on the issue of paid secretarial help he strongly disagreed with the Secretary.

He then presented his report:

Mr President, Lady Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me open by extending a warm welcome to those members who have joined in the last year, for whom this is their first AGM at the Club. I hope you enjoy your time in the Club and urge you to participate fully in the activities and events on offer.

A question I have been asked by members and others on many occasions is "Have you enjoyed your year?"

Let me tell you now – I have enjoyed every minute the privilege of being Captain of Hale. This is because of the enormous support I've received and the tireless efforts of the officers and their teams to ensure the smooth running of the Club. It may seem to many members that, like a swan, it moves serenely along with little apparent effort, but make no mistake, beneath the surface there is a great deal of paddling.

So, I make no apologies or excuses for my list of 'thank you's'.

Chris Wood, in his three years at the helm of the Secretariat, has done great work in keeping pace with the ever changing and increasing demands on club procedures through legislation and social and cultural progression. He and his team of David Swale, Chris Adams, Barbara Grant, Ken Hawes and Cliff Wright have ensured the smooth administration of the Club. I thank you.

The Treasurer of the Club is seldom in the limelight but let me assure you that the husbandry of your Club's money has been brilliantly executed, resulting in a very healthy financial position. To Paul Hilton, Roger Da Forno and Robert Spark, thank you.

Chris and Paul retire from their positions this evening after three years of highly successful and dedicated work for us, the members, and I wish to formally record the Club's debt of gratitude for all they have achieved.

The Green Committee, led so enthusiastically by Al Kenney, has directed maintenance and changes to produce a truly magnificent golf course of which we and they should be justly proud. They organise and control the men's competitions, often in the face of many problems and much confusion caused by competitors. To Al, Sue Bryant, Chris Davies, Tessa Day, Jonathan Foster, Paul Simpson, Dave Smith, Brian Greenbank and also the head green keeper Russell Lewis and his team, I say thank you. Jonathan, who steps off Council this evening, has recently taken a very nasty fall and is suffering from multiple injuries. On your behalf I wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

The House Committee, chaired by Alan Dewhurst, has maintained a great clubhouse, and has produced for us a year of splendid social events. Mike Kirchin has stepped into the breach when required, due to Alan's enforced absence in what has been a desperately sad year for him. So to Alan, Mike, Ceri Hyde, Roger O'Brien, Jane Perks and Pat Shenton, thank you.

Thanks to John and Barbara Savin for the hugely successful quiz nights which continue to be great fun, to Lord Lee for entertaining us, and embarrassing us with impossible to answer questions at the investors dinner and to Ceri for her imaginative and beautifully produced special events which are always over subscribed, leaving members who are not quick enough with the pen very disappointed.

Mac and Anne continue look after us fantastically well, always with enthusiasm, charm and wonderful culinary ability. Thanks to them and their staff of Ben, Anya and Sue.

Richard, our professional, now has his feet well and truly under the table, and has proved a great asset. His emporium, as he calls it, is well stocked and he is worthy of your support in that direction. Many have benefited from Richard's coaching, and I am hoping he can improve my rather pitiful ability later in the year. We have won more challenge matches than we have lost, and Richard has generously attributed to me success at one or two holes.

Our membership stands at full complement and I pay tribute to John Munnery and his Membership Committee for such a fine effort, particularly in the present economic climate, and in consideration of the burgeoning number of vacancies in many local clubs.

The Men's Seniors organiser, Barry Jefferies, ably assisted by Roger Cross, Drummond Sharp, Alan Kemp and Mike Massey, does a wonderful job of sorting 27 fixtures with in excess of 70 members wishing to play. Well done.

Ian Goulty has taken on the responsibility for the Club archives and is accumulating much memorabilia of the Club. I know he will welcome any historical documents and photographs for his collection. Thank you Ian.

Thanks to Paul Bramwell for running the '200' club, I understand there are one or two slots for anyone wishing to participate.

Andrew Richards has been invaluable to me at Saturday lunches, collecting the money from those who lunch, and then going on a number of cruises.

Similarly, Albert White volunteered to take on the job of TNC moneymen and has done a great job looking after the TNC funds. Thanks Albert - I hope you enjoyed your skiing holidays. Thanks also to Tom Kenyon for standing-in when Albert is away.

Robin and Sue Holden have organised the bridge events with great success. Bridge is, and has been for some time, a very significant part of our Club life. Thanks to you both.

Dave Smith masterminded a very successful season of team matches, with 7 matches won out of 10 played. The highlight was a 6-1 victory over a very near neighbour. Well done, Dave, and well done all those members who contested the matches.

Well done also to all who have won competitions this year. Their names have been published on the website and will soon be indelibly inscribed on the men's and ladies' prize boards.

Ex-Captain, John Gower-Jones, has always been available with his erudite advice when asked, but has never sought to influence me with his more liberal views. Thank you John.

Indeed a thank you to all those past Captains from whom I may have sought information or advice.

Win Heath is elected as Ladies Captain of Cheshire County, and we all wish her success and much enjoyment in that role.

Congratulations to Jane Perks for her very successful year as Lady Captain, and many thanks for giving me an easy time. Jane, it has been my great pleasure to work with you and I will always cherish the goodwill between us during this year of Captaincy.

Thanks to Ladies Secretary, Janice Moss, for her help and co-operation and on occasions guiding me safely through the distaff minefield.

Congratulations also to Pat Shenton who has been Lady Captain now for nine days, during which time we have not had a single cross word. Pat, I wish you joy in your year. We should note the Club's pleasure and admiration for Pat's services to education which have been recognised with the honour of OBE.

On a domestic note I must publicly express my great regard and appreciation to Janet for her tolerance, patience and understanding during my time as Captain, and in fact at any other time, but particularly as she has given up her winter sun to be with me in fulfilling my duties and commitments.

Now, to end my address, the President. Roger, I could heap compliments galore on you for all you have done for the Club during your term as President, and indeed long before that in other capacities, but I will be succinct and confine my praise to my year in office. You have been a pillar of support and I treasure the fine relationship we have engendered. You have been there to inform, advise, sometimes to cajole but always calm and sage and thoughtful. My warmest thanks, Roger, for playing such a big part in a year I have enjoyed so much.

Alasdair Kenney joined Hale G C in 1995 and has served on House and Green Committees. As Chairman of Green he has been enthusiastic, diligent, innovative and, as you all can attest, highly successful. It is now my great pleasure to propose Alasdair Kenney to be the Captain of Hale Golf Club. The proposal was seconded "with great pleasure" by the President and put to the meeting.

Alasdair Kenney was unanimously elected as the Captain of the club for the year 2011-12. He then took over the chair for the remainder of the meeting

NEW CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS

Mr President, Lady Captain, ladies and gentlemen,

It says on my instructions here: “new Captain, standing and responding with a very brief acceptance speech”. Well I shall try.

I firstly want to thank you all for doing me the honour of electing me to be your Captain. Of course, that would not have happened without the ex-captains inviting me first to accept the nomination. I hope that I can repay their and your confidence in me.

I am in the fortunate position of being elected as Captain immediately following my time on Council. This puts me in a great position to tell you that our Club is in fine order. I will do my upmost to maintain this and if possible improve on it whilst making sure the family-based, friendly atmosphere and broad traditions of the club are kept in focus.

Being brief does not exclude me from paying tribute to John Goodman. We all know that John, since retiring as Club Secretary has spent a good part of the year in Spain. When the call came to him regarding the Captaincy he had to decide to give up that lifestyle for a year to fulfil the duties that would be required of him. I know we have Janet to thank for backing John’s decision to stand as our Captain and we should all be extremely grateful to Janet for that support.

In his own inimitable style John was a natural Captain, large in stature, larger than life and steeped in the traditions of the club. There are too many reasons to list now that Hale Golf Club should be thankful to John. From my perspective, it is important to say that as he has finished his year as Captain he can look back in the certain knowledge that the Club is in better order than he found it at the start of his year.

There has been much banter about how quickly John would be getting a flight to Spain. He is staying to play golf on Sunday and is then off to the sunshine - none of us would deny him that pleasure. Once again I would ask him to convey our thanks to Janet, and I would ask that you all to stand and show your appreciation for John.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Captain then dealt with the election of officers and Council members. None of the nominations for Officers were contested. In the case of the election of Council members, there were three nominations for three places, two of which were for three years and one for two years. Normally a vote would be necessary but one of the nominees had volunteered just to stand for two years.

By general approval of the meeting the following officers and Council members were elected:

Officers:

Hon Secretary	C E J Wright
Assistant Hon Secretary	K R Hawes
Hon Treasurer	C G Adams
Assistant Hon Treasurer	R A da Forno
Hon Chair Green Committee	C J Davies
Hon Chair House Committee	A G Dewhurst
Hon Chair Membership Committee	J C Munnery

Council members:

Elected for three years	M Gilbert
	R Spark

Elected for two years

M J Kirchin

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINING ACCOUNTANTS

Mr R A da Forno proposed a continuation of Hallidays Limited of Stockport as Examining Accountants. This proposal, seconded by Mr M J Kirchin, was carried unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business from the floor of the meeting. The new Captain then reminded members that he and the new Lady Captain would be driving in on Saturday 26 March at 12.45 and invited the members present to join him for a drink.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.00 pm.

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Captain (J T Goodman)	Fielden T J E	Jackson J S	Perks R M E
Lady Captain (P A Shenton)	Fishwick A R	Jackson M	Ponter I M
President (R R Cross)	Fisher J M R	Jefferies B S	Ravenscroft C A
Acratopulo J A	Gerrard R	Kemp A R	Richards A
Adams C G	Gilbert M	Kennedy B	Savill M A
Adams J	Gilbert P J T	Kennedy W W	Savin J R
Bowdon R	Gilman M	Kenney A F	Sharp W D
Bradley J	Grant J	Kirchin M J	Simpson P
Briggs R T	Gold S	Lang S	Smith D M
Brodden G S	Goulty I O	Lever BD	Smith A P
Brown C J	Gray J D	Lever L	Spark R
Cannell A R	Harris G O	Lodge K E	Spark M
Carey C R	Hardern H M	Marsh C	Swale D W
Carstairs I C M	Hardern P K	Massey M F	Taylor A
Cooke R M O	Hauser P M	Mattocks R E	Taylor C M
Da Forno R A	Hawes K R	McNairney J	Taylor C P R
Davies Mrs C A	Heath A W	Morris R	Taylor G N C
Davies C J	Hilton P E	Moss J H	Taylor M T
Davies H	Hinds F X	Moss J I	Veitch C
Dewhurst A G	Hogben D H	Mossop J	Vickerman P T C
Dixon J J	Hogben P R	Munnery J C	Watson D M
Dixon W	Holden R J	Murphy A	White A J
Done D	Holden S	Murphy R V	White J N
Dwyer E	Hope T L	Nichols P M	Withey G
Fallows J T	Hughes J W	O'Brien B	Wood C M
Fallows S	Hughes P J	O'Brien R W	Wright C E J
Fish S	Hyde A N G	Pendleton A G	Yates J
	Hyde C A	Pendleton J	
	Hyde C A (Mrs)	Perkin L C	
	Isaac G	Perks F J	

APPENDIX 2

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Adamson A C	Foster J R	Jefferies P	Perkin N G
Allen J H	Foster S	Kenyon T	Pinnington I
Allot H	Galvin P	Keunen R C	Sankey W A
Anderson J	Gething A	Keunen W H J W	Sunderland C
Atherton P	Gladwin A	Lee J R L	Sutherland D A
Bailey K	Gower-Jones J	Leggett K A	Pinnington I
Bannister J F	Gower-Jones J R	Lewtas C J	Pinnington J A
Beattie D	Gracie J M	Lewtas S B	Skilling R
Bolton J C F	Grant F B	Logan S H M	Stratta P V
Bradley A	Harris M C	Malthouse M	Sharp M I
Bramwell G	Harris J L	Malthouse C R	Taylor M G A
Bramwell J D	Harrison A R	Massey C	Veitch P F
Bramwell M N	Harrison P J	Mawson A D	Veitch V
Brown P	Harrison S C	Mawson C J	Walker A H J
Buchan G A	Harvey W M	McBride J A	Walsh P M
Buchan S E	Hickson P	Moorehead R	Walsh W E
Daynes E	Higgins B A	Munnery J R	Webster A
Daynes M N	Holt D M	Murray C H H	Wilcox B A
Day T R	Horrocks J	Nelstrop C J	Woodcock A
Dixon P	Horrocks J T	Nelstrop V R	
Dryden D A	Hunt F	Ogden J T	
Fillingham J A	Hunt I D	Oliver M R	
Flint R D	Hyde M A	Perkin M J B	

HALE GOLF CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 109TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY 30TH MARCH 2012 AT 8.15PM

PRESENT

The Captain (Mr A F Kenney), the Lady Captain (Mrs P A Walsh), the President (Mr C J Brown) and 102 members (Noted in Appendix 1 is the list of members who were present).

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of the meeting was taken as read on the proposition of Mr G O Harris, seconded by Mr W W Kennedy. The proposition was passed unanimously by the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from 80 members noted in Appendix 2.

The Captain suggested the list was taken as read and included in the minutes.

The Captain then asked the meeting to stand in silent memory of the following members who had passed away during the year.

Bob Davies, Jimmy Fitzpatrick, John Wood, James Ogden, Sylvia Fish, Anne Hellawell and Pat Brown.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

It was proposed by Mrs V Nelstrop, seconded by Mr A Bradley, that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 26th March 2011 be approved and this motion was passed by the meeting.

The minutes of this meeting were duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer presented the following report for the financial year ending December 31st 2011.

“Firstly thanks to Paul Hilton for not only handing over a solid financial position but also very tidy books and procedures.

Income and Expenditure

Overall our operating deficiency of £6019 was spot on budget – non-recurring items mainly riverbank repairs to 5th green took that up to a disappointing £11k.

In the figures are £49k of non-cash items – depreciation and capital transfer – giving £38k cash surplus to fund our capital expenditure. This was £43k and with a generous donation of £5k leaves us cash neutral on the year. I'll deal in detail with these items later.

Income was down a little mainly due to entrance fees – victim of our own success?
We had 16 new full playing members in 2010 only 9 in 2011.

Page 2 Detailed Items of Expenditure

Each major sub heading of expenses – Course, House and General went down.
This is a testament to the management efforts of your Council members, and we expect more reductions to controllable costs in 2012 as a result.

Course costs were down. Wages were up due to well deserved awards to Russell and additional pension costs. R&M machinery- H&S demanded servicing was done externally- but these will be further down in 2012 as Russell has been on a course to save external costs. New ironing machine will save top dressing. Terraspike machine purchased at the end of 2010 saves external course costs. Despite these savings the course is in great condition. Fuel costs reflect price increases. Profit on disposal arose from insurance proceeds on the theft of the Kubota exceeding the net book value.

House costs were down overall. Wages remain high compared to bar turnover (71%) – new tills will help scheduling. Benefit of milder November than 2010 in energy costs. Laundry costs were high – the washing machine broke down in spring. We have now changed external laundry contractor. Waste collection costs are too high, but contract expires in the spring and a new contract is lined up at considerable saving.

Turning to energy costs we use over 180k kwh of gas and 100k kwh of electricity p.a. Our costs have gone up 145% in the last 10 years (inflation was around 35%). In 2012 we will review contracts and I believe we need to seriously invest in, for example, low energy lights and better insulated re-fridgeration equipment.

General expenses were down on 2010. The Hon Secretary re-negotiated the insurance and continued expansion of electronic communication keeps our printing and postage costs down. Sundry includes prize notice boards which are not updated every year.

We did well to get the riverbank repaired for less than the original quotes of up to £20k.

Schedules on page 3.

Playing Subscriptions were up 3.5% from £855 in 2010 to £885 in 2011.

Temporary members – green fees showed a good improvement. We try to give good value to members’ visitors. Local societies do provide a source of new potential recruits, so we try to balance price and usage to disrupt members as little as possible.

Bar – was perhaps a little disappointing – but VAT increase and general economy remain difficult. Please help us drink our way out of the recession!

Interest on deposit accounts – should be better in 2012 as I have found bank accounts paying around 2% with a local building society in Stockport and Scottish Widows Bank (part of Lloyds TSB). New room hire rates can take a while to activate as bookings can be up to 12 months in advance.

Page 4 Balance sheet.

We purchased £43k of new equipment – new greens’ mower and accessories - £26k, tills - £6k. Wrote off Kubota- £5k and got s/hand replacement for around £4k. We bought new grill, vacuum and blowers. Depreciation was £27k and so finished with £10k more value in fixed assets.

Very small debtors –mostly prepayments of annual subscription for things starting in autumn for 12 months. Donation of £5k and advanced subscriptions explains the increase in cash.

Page 5 and 6 . Accounting policies – fixed assets

I have added a new comment to the note regarding FRS15. I believe we should review our current policy in line with accounting standards. We increased subs around 10 years ago by £60 to allow more expenditure on plant and machinery, which had become run down.

This forms the basis of the “capital transfer” £60 per playing member.

The need to upgrade plant and equipment has now been largely redressed.

But we have not depreciated our buildings. Other than putting the £400 element of the joining fee to the capital reserve no other charge has been made.

During 2012 I want to look at our policies with some past Treasurers and members who are current accountants during the summer with a view to making things more appropriate. (so I hope to rid us of page 6!).

Page 7

I have expanded to the creditor note to show we are up to date paying creditors and taxes. Accruals are lower due to Bookers invoicing being up to date.

Note 6

This arises from current case which make take some years to settle.

Mrs J Grant proposed that the meeting accepted the accounts and this was seconded by Mrs H Davies and the proposal unanimously approved by the meeting.”

HON. SECRETARY’S REPORT

The Hon. Secretary presented the following report:

Introduction

“In preparing this, my first report as Hon Secretary, it has given me the opportunity to reflect on what has occurred during the past year and to assess what more can be achieved and what can be improved.

Although I had been a Club member for well over twenty years and had undertaken a few projects for my predecessor and therefore thought that I had a good general knowledge as to what the Club Secretary has to deal with, it came as quite a shock on taking over the reins from Chris Wood. Chris had done much to modernise the Club systems and had done all he could to enable an effective handover to be achieved. However, rather than have a learning curve to climb, I found a vertical line before me.

However, with much assistance and understanding from many people, and I include my wife Norma who has given herself the title of “the Secretary’s Secretary”, I have survived. Nevertheless, it would be of benefit all round to have a few extra people within the Secretariat for either one off tasks or regular involvement. If anyone feels that they have the capacity and time to assist, then do please have a word with me.

Membership

It is customary for the Hon Secretary to provide you with membership statistics at the AGM and I would certainly not wish to break this tradition.

However, before giving you the figures, you may care to know that the EGU has reported that golf club membership numbers fell again in 2011, with an estimated forty six thousand golfers failing to renew their memberships.

I am, therefore, pleased to be able to report that we at Hale have not experienced such a situation. The Club may have lost playing members due to a house or job move away from the area and to a change to non playing membership, but, with newly elected members, we are now at more or less the same membership numbers we have enjoyed for the last three years or so.

The membership figures at the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 AGMs are as follows:

Membership Category	2009	2010	2011	2012
Male Full	204	202	205	209
Male Full <35	-	-	16	14
Lady Full	98	97	97	88
Lady Full <35	-	-	-	1
Hon Life	15	17	15	13
Country	38	36	40	40
Student	12	12	-	-
Male Non Play	65	64	57	51
Lady Non Play	66	67	64	69
Junior	13	22	22	25
Total	511	517	516	510

The Membership Committee has had a busy twelve months dealing with membership category changes, whilst overseeing the process towards election for twenty four new members.

The Committee is far from complacent about the future, even though there are candidates in the pipeline who are fulfilling the necessary membership criteria. It is also mindful and well aware of the optimum playing membership numbers.

That is not to say that we do not encourage new applications, far from it. Virtually all applicants are introduced by our members, so please continue to be alive to good membership material amongst your relatives, friends and colleagues and do please contact me if you require any help or guidance.

Johnny Yates has worked tirelessly as our Membership Officer and I would like to extend my grateful thanks to him for all he has done.

President

Last summer, Roger Cross came to the end of his two year term as our President. Council duly confirmed the election of Chris Brown, as his successor, and Ian Goulty as Vice President.

Green Fees

Meticulous records have, once again, been maintained by Robert Spark. Thank you Robert. Green Fee income totalled £20,400 for 2011 against £16,500 for 2010, with income from visiting societies up by £1000. Modest increases were introduced last May for rounds played with a member and green fees are currently being reviewed again by the Green Committee in the light of liability insurance costs. I will speak more on this later in my report.

Equality Act

This is one topic which I suspect has had more time spent on it than any other over recent months and especially on how we at Hale should deal with the ramifications. I know the Captain wishes to cover this within his report on what changes are necessary and I will, therefore, say nothing further.

Liability Insurance

Many of you will have read about an award made in a Scottish Court to a golfer who was badly injured when hit in the eye by a ball played by another golfer on an adjacent fairway. The award totalled £397,000 of which seventy per cent had to be paid by the golfer who played the errant shot and the remaining thirty per cent by the club where the incident occurred.

This led me to investigate the possibility of the Club taking out Liability Insurance and Third Party Property Damage cover on behalf of members. The cost proved to be remarkably cheap at £2 per head, including insurance premium tax.

Accordingly, Council has agreed that, with effect from 1 April 2012, Full Playing, Junior and Country members will be covered for up to £10million for personal liability and up to £15,000 for third party property damage through Golf Care. Cover is provided for play at Hale and any other golf course within the United Kingdom.

For 2012, the Club will pay the premium from existing income, but, in future years, these will be included within the budgetary planning exercise and therefore will be reflected within future subscriptions.

I realise many of you may well have private arrangements in force and you may wish to review your own requirements when the next renewal is due. However, please remember that golfing equipment is not covered within these arrangements.

I mentioned green fees earlier and that the Green Committee are looking at possible increases. Visitors paying a green fee will enjoy similar insurance cover on payment of a small premium to be added to the green fee, hence the need for the current review.

Costs

Through the Club's membership of the Golf Management Group and in conjunction with the Treasurer, I have been looking at some of the costs we incur. Savings of £1100 were achieved at the last Club insurance renewal and a thirty per cent reduction in our waste management costs will take effect later this year. I am also awaiting a decision on a claim for a business rates rebate. If successful, this will be backdated to 2010 and run through to 2015 and could possible amount to circa £3000.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I must thank members for their courtesy and consideration towards me and I have to say that it is a singular honour to serve as Hon Secretary of this great Club of ours.

However, it is a team effort and, in addition to the thanks already expressed to Johnny Yates and Robert Spark, I must not forget the sterling work undertaken by Barbara Grant in the office.

The Captain has been very supportive of the endeavours of the Secretariat, for which I am most grateful. It has been said that he has conducted himself with humour, aplomb and tact. Humour - most definitely, aplomb – well, possibly, tact – I could not possibly comment!

Ken Hawes has been a tower of strength as Asst Secretary. He has been my technology expert, dragging me kicking and screaming into the twenty first century, as well as keeping me calm when I was about to explode and fully supporting all aspects of the work we undertake. Thank you very much indeed Ken for your efforts and I am delighted that you have agreed to your name going forward for another year."

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

"My time is limited and really all that remains for me is to give you a brief report on where the club stands and that is a simple matter, you have heard from the Treasurer and the

Secretary and you have seen the house and greens reports, we are in a very healthy state and set to remain so for the foreseeable future.

A few moments ago we stood in memory of our friends deceased, and I would now like to acknowledge the new members who have joined during the last year.

They include as Full Playing members --- Di Barnet, Joe Bluer, Tony Bray, Ross Cairns, Will Cochrane, Roger Dawson Smith, Christine Harrison, Michael Jefferies, John Kandle, Philip Long, Oliver Simons, Quentin Smith, Ray Stephen, David Swarbrick, Peter Turkington, Ian Williamson and Jason Wright.

Junior members --- Ben Bedell, Ben Martin, Alex Morfitt, Sam Morfitt, James Scott, Sadie Tully

Non Playing --- Sandra Mossop

The only outstanding matter as I leave office is the on going discussion around the Equality Act.

Issues relating to the Equality Act have caused great anguish in golf clubs up and down the land, however, due to previous Councils' foresight here at Hale, we already are equal. This includes what we pay and all positions on Council are open to all with the exception of the Captain, Lady Captain, Lady Secretary and President. It is even possible, within the rules, if not by custom and practice, that the Captain or the President could be a Lady.

The really urgent issues that we felt had to be tackled were the specific gender based regulations that related to access to the course, and how removing these regulations might affect the playing life of the club. We have removed these regulations and so Ladies can now play at anytime on a Saturday, and men can now play at anytime on a Thursday, subject of course to competition tee times.

The removal of these regulations has so far had little effect, probably because we have not advertised the changes widely. However it should be noted that in the extensive discussions around this issue, it is plain that there are competing interests on access to the course that will have to be managed, and that over time, changes to playing patterns will need to be adjusted to maximise the use of the course for all members.

Just as we made the correct decision to go to equal playing subs 10 years ago, albeit with some trepidation at the time, so we must look ahead another ten years and imagine what the playing membership will require if the club is to continue to be as successful in the medium to long term.

I have no doubt that our membership will adjust --- after all we are all golfers.

The less urgent but potentially much more difficult issue that comes out of the Equality Act is that of the positions of the Captain, Lady Captain, Lady Secretary and President.

The positions of Lady Captain and Lady Secretary are elected by the Ladies AGM. While Ladies have been full members of the club since 2002 we have retained the structure of the Ladies Section that existed prior to this date. The Lady Captain heads the Ladies Committee

which is responsible for ladies competitions and matches. The constitution of the Ladies Section remains outside the rules of the club as a whole and the Lady Captain and Lady Secretary sit on Council by virtue of the rules.

If you are a student of the Club Rules, which I was not but now am, you will know that the Captain is nominated and elected at the AGM, it is with some interest that a number of members have not understood that this is the case. I was proposed by John Goodman seconded by Roger Cross and elected unopposed by the AGM last year. The same process I hope will occur shortly for Mike. The fact that, as the preferred candidate, I am a man nominated by the ex Captains who are also all men, means that, although the rules do not directly discriminate against women, the case that we are indirectly discriminating is a strong one.

A similar situation arises in relation to the President, who is elected by Council, to a position that is open to all. However, the nomination process is by custom and practice male orientated.

It is immediately obvious that although there may not be a great appetite for change, it would seem sensible to look at what we do in relation not only to the EQA but also if we are to make changes we might consider a wider remit of looking into the overall management structure of the Club and Council.

To this end, Council have agreed to appoint a sub-committee consisting of a past Captain, a Past Lady Captain, two general members of the club and one current member of Council.

It is not for me to pre-judge in any way what may come out of this process, however I think it is important that we all understand the nature of the problem and allow this sub-committee a chance to report to Council and for Council to take forward any recommendations after further general consultation with all members. This process will inevitably take some time and I expect Mike will have something to say about it when he stands here next year; however, I urge any member who does not understand the issues to discuss this subject with others in the club in order that myths and rumour do not disguise the truth.

It remains for me to thank all who have helped me this year, and I promise not to burst into song.

I must start with Pat, what promised to be an awesome pairing on the golf course got off to a bad start when she out drove me at our “drive in”. Suffice to say we enjoyed our golf together but somehow could not get our best golf performances on the same day. More importantly with the very tricky discussions and negotiations around the equality issues, Pat was a true Captain in that she rolled with the punches and came back smiling. Her determination that we should move things forward did not waver. A one-year term for any Captain means that there are things that you cannot finish and certainly that was always going to be the case for Pat and I with regard to equality. However, I thank her for her help and good humour at all times. I was honoured to share my year with Pat and I am sure she will look back on her year with pride as it was a tremendously successful year. Thank you Pat.

Alan Dewhurst is standing down as Chairman of house after 3 years. I always think that the house job is a thankless task. The Chairman of Greens gets the glory however, if House gets it right everyone takes it for granted. Well Alan I hope we did not take you for granted as a club

and I certainly did not personally, having sat on the Management Committee with you for the last three years, I know how much work got done. During this time you endured a personal tragedy yet managed to keep your club commitment going. I admire you for that and thank you sincerely on behalf of the club. Thank you Alan

Roger DaForno is standing down as assistant treasurer after doing perhaps one of the most important jobs in the club in a quiet unassuming manner with no fuss or pretence. What job is this you might ask? Well Roger made sure the green staff and indeed all the club's employees were paid the correct amount each month ON TIME. Roger also ensured that invoices were reconciled and suppliers paid the correct amounts. These types of job are fundamental to the smooth running of any business. They require organisation, trust and diligence, all of which Roger has in abundance. Thank you Roger

We are also losing the other Roger from Council, Roger O'Brien. If paying the wages and bills on time is important, I guess making sure we have booze behind the bar is also quite high on the lists of tasks that need to be completed. Roger O'Brien has managed the bar for three years and as with his name sake he has been organised, diligent and unassuming. This Roger has also been a strong voice on Council and with his legal background and sense of fairness he has not been afraid to raise difficult points or argue his corner. Thank you Roger.

Roger Cross finished his term as President in August. Another Roger deserting Council!! I have been blessed to have both Roger Cross and Chris Brown to steady my hand at vital moments during my year. The Past President helped steer the club through a couple of sticky moments with his usual wit and aplomb. I have often thought he should apply to be manager of his beloved football club.

The remainder of the Council are staying on albeit with Ceri and Mike elevated and Chris looking over his shoulder in case there is any trouble from the old guard.

I cannot thank you all enough for the kindness and consideration you have shown me this year. I know I can be annoying sometimes and I have tried not to interfere too much. The club is truly fortunate to have such capable and committed individuals as Chris Adams, Chris Davies and Cliff Wright who are willing and able to continue on heading up their respective committees and I have no doubt they will welcome Ceri into the fold as an Officer of the Club.

I must just add my personal thanks to Cliff who has been a delight to work with. Captains and Hon Secs don't always get on for some reason. I know occasionally Cliff has disagreed with me but he has been the model diplomat in his reaction and we managed a whole year without a cross word.

To everyone else on Council I thank you for your forbearance, if meetings have gone on longer than it seemed necessary, and for all your hard work, lastly I wish to add my thanks to Robert Spark for organising the Council frolic and for the other thing. Sorry again Robert.

The last thank you is to all of the membership who have been so kind and thoughtful not just this year but at other times during my membership of Hale and for that I thank you all very much.

It just remains for me to propose Mike Kirchin as the next Captain of HGC. I have known Mike for 18 or so years both through hockey and golf, good times and bad, I am delighted the ex Captains choose to nominate him and I trust he will have as fun a time as I did.”

The proposal was seconded “with great pleasure” by the President and put to the meeting.

Mike Kirchin was unanimously elected as the Captain of the club for the year 2012-13. He then took over the chair for the remainder of the meeting

NEW CAPTAIN’ADDRESS

“Mr President, Lady Captain, Past Captains and Members of Hale Golf Club.

I would like to thank the past Captains again for having the faith to nominate me and thank you for your support tonight. I will repay that over the next 51 weeks (Easter is early next year!!!).

Some of you will know that I have been working in London for the past 10 weeks. Cheryl and I have been living in the capital and making the most of what it has to offer. Some of you will be relieved to know that my work down there finished last night – my new job starts from now!

Like Al, I am lucky to have been elected Captain immediately following a period on Council. This club is in great shape and is very well managed. We have had and will have a strong council to maintain this position and I will play my part to ensure that our various sections work in a coherent and integrated manner.

The first task I have to do as captain is not difficult. I have to thank Al. There is no question that you have dedicated your life to Hale Golf Club over the last 12 months. Your approach has been one of total dedication and commitment. It has at times been everything from amusing to extremely forthright and we are a better place for it. Your legacy can be seen and felt all around us.

Al has paid tribute to Fiona. I would like to add the clubs thanks to Fiona for her support throughout his year as Captain. There is a very strong bond between them that is evident for all to see.

Over my years as a member of Hale Golf Clubs, I have seen Captains treat their retirement in various ways. Some are happy to return to civilian life as quickly as possible, some are relieved that the pressure of office is removed and others celebrate the fact that it is all over. I am going to dare to suggest that we have not heard the last from Mr Kenney – I know that you have lots more to offer this great club and I look forward to seeing the results of that in the coming years.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please stand and show your appreciation for Alistair Kenney.”

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Captain then dealt with the election of officers and Council members. Alan Bradley, Barbara Grant and Peter Veitch kindly acted as scrutineers. None of the nominations for

Officers were contested. In the case of the election of Council members, there were four nominations for four places, two of which were for three years and two for two years. A vote was held and Adam Hyde and Paul Simpson were elected for 3 years. Andy Gething and Jan Ravenscroft were elected for 2 years

During the recess, whilst the votes were being counted, a presentation was made by Andy Gething and Ron Skilling on the work that was being undertaken by the Conservation Team. This was enthusiastically received by the members.

By general approval of the meeting the following officers and Council members were elected:

Officers:

Hon Secretary	C E J Wright
Assistant Hon Secretary	K R Hawes
Hon Treasurer	C G Adams
Assistant Hon Treasurer	J N White
Hon Chair Green Committee	C J Davies
Hon Chair House Committee	Ceri Hyde
Hon Chair Membership Committee	J C Munnery

Council members:

Elected for three years	C A Hyde P Simpson
Elected for two years	A Gething J M Ravenscroft

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINING ACCOUNTANTS

The Treasurer proposed a delay to consider alternative quotations before appointing Hallidays Limited of Stockport as Examining Accountants. This proposal, seconded by Mr G O Harris, was carried unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business from the floor of the meeting. The new Captain then reminded members that he would be driving in on Saturday 31st March at 12.45 and invited the members present to join him for a drink.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed

M J Kirchin
Captain, Hale Golf Club 2012-13
22 March 2013

APPENDIX 1 **LIST OF ATTENDEES**

ACRATOPUL					
O	J A	GRANT	F B	PERKIN	L C
ADAMS	C G	GRANT	J	PERKS	F J
ADAMS	J	GRANT	J A	RASHID	T
				RAVENSCROF	
ALLOTT	H	HARRIS	G O	T	C A
				RAVENSCROF	
BARLOW	J P	HAUSER	P M	T	J M
BRADLEY	A	HAWES	K R	RICHARDS	A
				RUSSEL-	
BRAMWELL	P B	HEATH	A W	FISHER	R J
BRAMWELL	P J	HICKSON	P J	SANKEY	W A
BRAY	A G D	HOLDEN	R J	SHARP	M I
BRIGGS	R T	HOLDEN	S	SHARP	W D
BROGDON	G S	HOPE	T L	SHEEN	R
BROWN	C J	HUGHES	J W	SHENTON	P A
CAIRNS	R	HUGHES	P J	SIMPSON	P
CANNELL	A R	HUNT	F	SKILLING	R J
CAREY	C R	HUNT	I D	SMITH	A P
CARSTAIRS	I C M	HYDE	A N G	SMITH	D M
COCHRANE	W A	HYDE	C A	SOPER	B F
COOKE	R M O	JACQUES	C	SPARK	B M
CROSS	R R	JEFFERIES	B S	SPARK	R
DA FORNO	R A	JEFFERIES	M I	STEPHEN	R W
DAVIES	C J	JEFFERIES	P	TAYLOR	G N C
DAVIES	H	KEMP	A R	TAYLOR	M T
DIXON	J J	KENNEDY	W W	VEITCH	C
DONE	D	KENNEY	A F	VEITCH	P F
EDWARDS	J A	KIRCHIN	M J	VEITCH	V
FIELDEN	T J E	LAITT	R D	VICKERMAN	P T C
FISHER	J M R	LODGE	K E	WALSH	P M
FOSTER	J R	MASSEY	C	WALSH	W E
FRANK	P I	MASSEY	M F	WATSON	D M
		MATTOCK			
GANDY	D S	S	R E	WEBSTER	P A
GERRARD	R	MORGAN	M J	WHITE	A J
GETHING	A	MOSS	J I	WOOD	C M
GILBERT	M	MOSSOP	J	WOODCOCK	F M
GILBERT	P J T	NELSTROP	V R	WRIGHT	C E J
GOULTY	I O	O'BRIEN	R W	YATES	J

APPENDIX 2
LIST OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following members:

J H Allen
K Bailey
J F Bannister
D L Beattie
G A Beal
J Bradley
G Bramwell
J D Bramwell
M N Bramwell
G A Buchan
S E Buchan
V A Chamberlain
D Cranmer
E Daynes
M N Daynes
A G Dewhurst
W Dixon
J T Fallows
S Fallows
J A Fillingham
A R Fishwick
M Fishwick
T L Frank
M Furness
M Gilman
A Gladwin
J Gower-Jones
J R Gower-Jones
R Graveley
J Gray
J T Goodman
H M Hardern
P K Hardern
J L Harris
M C Harris
K A Harrison
S C Harrison
W M Harvey
J E Heathcock
B A Higgins
G Hill
S L L Hill
F X Hinds
D M Holt
J T Horrocks
J G Kennedy

T Kenyon
R C Keunen
W H J W Keunen
C J Lewtas
S B Lewtas
P J Long
M H Malthouse
C R Malthouse
C Marsh
A D Mawson
C J Mawson
D Moffett
J Moffett
J C Munnery
J R Munnery
A Murphy
R V Murphy
B J O'Brien
J T Ogden
A M Oldfield
A G Pendleton
J Pendleton
Q P G Smith
P V Stratta
D W Swale
C Sunderland
D A Sutherland
J Sutherland
A Taylor
J R Taylor
M G A Taylor
J N White
B A Wilcox
F Wyn