

HALE GOLF CLUB

Minutes of Council Meeting of 9th Jan 2012

PRESENT

A.F.Kenney (Captain/Chairman), C.J.Brown (President), P.A.Shenton (Lady Captain), R.R.Cross (Past President), I.O.Goulty (Vice President), C.E.J.Wright (Hon. Secretary), K.R.Hawes (Assistant Hon. Secretary), R.A. Da Forno (Assistant Hon Treasurer), C.J.Davies (Hon. Chairman of Green Committee), A.G.Dewhurst (Hon Chairman of House Committee), J. Munnery (Hon Chairman of Membership Committee), J.I. Moss (Hon. Lady Secretary), R. W. O'Brien, R. Spark, P. Simpson, M Gilbert.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
J Goodman, Ceri Hyde, C.G. Adams, M. J. Kirchin

NON-ATTENDING VICE PRESIDENTS

A. Bradley, P.K. Hardern, G.O. Harris, A.N.G. Hyde, W.W. Kennedy, C.J. Mawson, P.F. Veitch.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Captain asked if he could sign the minutes of the meeting of the 17th October as a correct record. An amendment was made to show that the refurbishment costs of the patio were not scheduled to come out of the 2012 House Budget, but funded by the Club as a special project. The Minutes were then accepted by Council and duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary advised that research was still being undertaken by him and A. McBride to find a suitable club for a men's Exchange Day.

CAPTAIN'S REMARKS

The Captain noted that he had submitted a paper to Council Members on Equality Matters and that discussion on this would be the last main topic.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Captain reported that the work being done by Andy Gething and Ron Skilling on Conservation matters was proceeding very well. Because members are involved in working parties it is essential to have a risk assessment form for them to use. A draft has been prepared and has been sent to Citation for their comments.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

John Munnery presented the Membership Report.

Christine Harrison's election to Full Member was approved
Alex and Sam Morfitt were elected as Temporary Juniors.

The full list of membership movements is attached to the Council Papers, however JM summarised the situation by showing the comparison of the current situation with that at the same time in 2011 as follows:

In Jan 2011 we had	207 MFP plus 18 under 35s	TOTAL	225
	99 LFP plus none under 35	TOTAL	99
		AGGREGATE	324

In Jan 2012 we have	200 MFP plus 14 under 35s	TOTAL	214
	91 LFP plus 1 under 35	TOTAL	92
		AGGREGATE	306

However, at present we have 7MFP pending election plus 1 LFP (exc juniors)
With a further 6MFP and 3 LFP in transit

AGGREGATE 323

JM summarised by saying that we had lost 19 Full Members since last year but that we have a healthy recruitment situation and there is no need for any further action.

The Captain asked the Ladies to ensure that new Lady members are coming through the system. The Lady Secretary said that this was in hand and several ladies who were having tuition with the Professional were coming through to membership.

IG asked that we not be complacent about the situation but continue to actively seek new members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer was away on holiday but his report highlighted a reduction of £9,000 in the deficit forecast in October (from £19,000 to £10,000). This was partly due to good cost control and also because of the way the budget is allocated on a quarterly basis.

The Treasurer had also sent a note expressing some concern about loss of members and the impact it would have on income (potentially £6-7K down)

GREENS COMMITTEE REPORT

CJD highlighted the following points from his report

- 1) New storage for buggies had been provided under budget. It was agreed that it had improved the visual appearance of the area near the waste bins.
- 2) Water collection within the Greenkeeper's Compound was going to be uneconomical. Insufficient volume could be obtained to make it viable.
- 3) The purchase of the Ironing Machine was approved by Council
- 4) Ken Moodie had been retained as course consultant to provide a report on the course. His remit is to give us his views on and ideas for the course including Green Committee's plans, use of bunkers and the possibility for an additional hole.
- 5) It is proposed to make Finals Day in 2012 a more inclusive event with a fun competition in the morning followed by lunch before the Finals in the afternoon. This was supported by all present.
- 6) There was much closer working between Greens Committee and the Ladies Section with Richard taking a more active role in the organising and running of Ladies competitions.
- 7) The conservation work on the course is going well and it may be possible to get some financial support in the form of a grant from the Red Rose Community Forest.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

AD highlighted the following points:-

- 1) The salary increases to members of staff had been well received.
- 2) The small bar and committee room and the bar itself are to be re-decorated shortly. The redecoration will take 10 days and during this period, there will be no access from the main dining room through to the locker rooms. There are two functions that may be affected: An external function on 21 January and then the Seniors Dinner to Ladies on 27 January.

LADIES' SECTION REPORT

The Lady Captain highlighted that Win Heath has now completed a very successful year as Cheshire Captain and is now Immediate Past Captain, which still entails a great deal of work. She also continues her role as Chair of the Cheshire Academy Partnership.

Hale Golf Club Ladies Choir had been very successful, however, it is not restricted to just ladies and gentlemen would also be welcome to join.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The matter of Player Liability Insurance was discussed. It was felt that the proposal was very good value and should be taken up.

There would be no opt out. It is for all members or no members. The Secretary was asked to get a firm quotation.

On the matter of Daylight Savings, the Secretary was advised not to respond to the survey.

The Secretary advised on the date of the Cheshire Golf Association AGM and this has been posted on the Notice Board

CAPTAIN'S PAPER ON EQUALITY ISSUES

The Captain said that there were three main issues and these were discussed in turn.

1) Changes to the Regulations.

It was proposed that a new regulation should replace current regulations 7) and 8) in the Hale Golf Club Rules. The new regulation was discussed and was approved with some minor amendments. The new regulation will read as follows:

"Full members and Country members may play at any time except when the tee is reserved for competitions, matches, societies, Junior members or visitors."

The Captain pointed out that whilst this addressed the issue of the regulations from a legal perspective, it did not in itself resolve the imbalance between use of the course on Saturdays and use of the course on Thursdays.

In reply to a question from IOG, Lady Captain ran through a list of actions that the Ladies Section were pursuing to find ways of improving the usage of the course on Thursdays and to make it more accessible to gentlemen and others not playing in the competitions.

"Bearing in mind that Ladies have a strong playing tradition of providing Competitions on all Thursdays throughout each golfing season the Ladies Committee have considered the issues relating to 2010EQA. With regard to Thursdays a number of experiments are taking place in readiness for the 2012/13 season.

For instance we are:

- *Currently finishing competitions from Dec 2011 to Jan 2012 by 1pm; and during Feb by 1.30pm*
- *Taking stock on an earlier start time and reviewing finishing times during the period March to September bearing in mind a much larger field of players, including a well represented formal group of 9 Hole Competitions provided throughout this period on Thursday afternoons*

- *Identifying for the Calendar/Handbook (published in March/April 2012) all Major Competitions that cover all day and early evening times for Business Ladies; morning or afternoon only Competitions*
- *Reviewing times for October and November 2012. We will continue with times established for Dec 2011 and Jan 2013 as experimented with during 2011/2012 season*
- *Identifying 2 full day Thursdays where Ladies will not be using the course for formal Competitions*
- *Using the Professional to support signing in of all Competitions (experiment currently taking place Jan – March 2012.) All members will be able to contact the Professional for information.*

In the meantime the information regarding finishing times on Thursdays is indicated on the Ladies Individual Competition Sheets and the Professional has full knowledge of each Competition until the end of March in the first instance.”

It was concluded that 2012 will be an experimental year and that we will have to wait to see the effect that these actions have on actual course usage.

2) Establish a Sub-Committee to consider the issues relating to the Equality Act.

The Captain’s paper, earlier papers from the Captain and Lady Captain and papers from Ian Goulty make it clear that there are many issues arising out of the Equality Act that need detailed consideration and action. Rather than try and discuss and resolve these issues at Council, the Captain proposed that a Sub-Committee be set up to review these issues and to report back to Council with proposals.

CJD pointed out that the issues are actually not just about equality but rather pertain to the whole issue of how the Club and its governing bodies are organised. Equality is merely the trigger that has brought this question to the fore.

This view was supported by those present.

It was decided that a Sub-Committee will be set up and the Captain and the President will produce proposed Terms of Reference for this Committee which they will bring back to the next Council Meeting. They will also have proposals for the number of members on the Committee, how it should be made up and some suggestions of names.

3) Election and position of the Lady Captain

The Captain proposed that the Lady Captain should be elected at the AGM in the same way as the Captain, Officers and other Council Members rather than being elected by the Ladies and later invited to join Council.

There was much discussion on this subject, the gist of it being that many see the current situation as somewhat demeaning and treating the Lady Captain’s position as somewhat of an afterthought.

It was broadly agreed that this needed to change, however it was also felt that it would be wrong to make a decision now, ahead of the Sub-Committee being formed to consider this topic amongst the wider issues of organisation.

The Lady Captain asked that some greater recognition be paid to the next Lady Captain at the AGM, in the way of an endorsement of her election to office. There was some discussion about the fact that this is what already happens at the AGM and therefore it would be no change.

It was agreed that a way would be sought to place more emphasis at the AGM on the Election and role of the next Lady Captain as an indication of the direction in which things are moving at the Club. The Captain, the Lady Captain and Ian Goulty will meet to discuss and agree how this should happen.

SUGGESTION BOOK

Don Watson asked that Remembrance Day not be forgotten in the future and that poppies be available for sale on the bar. Apparently in 2011 this had not happened. It was agreed that this was an oversight and Don Watson is to be asked to coordinate this in future.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

Date of the next meeting: Monday 27th February 2012

Signed

A.F. Kenney

(Captain, Hale Golf Club, 2011-12)
27th February 2012

HALE GOLF CLUB

Minutes of Council Meeting of 27 February 2012

PRESENT

A.F. Kenney (Captain/Chairman), C. J. Brown (President), P.A.Shenton (Lady Captain),
R.R.Cross (Past President), I.O.Goulty (Vice President), C.E.J.Wright (Hon. Secretary),
C.G.Adams (Hon. Treasurer), A.G. Dewhurst (Hon. Chairman of House Committee),
J.C.Munnery (Hon. Chairman of Membership Committee), R.W.O'Brien, Ceri Hyde,
P.Simpson, R.Spark, M.Gilbert, P.M.Walsh (Lady Captain elect).

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

C.J.Davies, K.R.Hawes, R.A.Da Forno, M.J.Kirchin, J.I.Moss, J. Goodman

NON-ATTENDING VICE PRESIDENTS

A.Bradley, P.K.Hardern, G.O.Harris, A.N.G.Hyde, W.W.Kennedy, C.J.Mawson,
P.F.Veitch

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

An amendment was made as follows:

On page 5, the final paragraph to be deleted and, on page 6, the wording of the first sentence to be deleted up to the word "however", together with the subsequent word "also". The amended paragraph is, therefore, to read "It was felt that it would be wrong to make a decision now, ahead of the Sub- Committee being formed to consider this topic amongst the wider issues of organisation".

The Minutes were then accepted by Council and duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary reported that Don Watson had contacted the British Legion regarding the lack of a collection for the Poppy Appeal at the Club in 2011 and was prepared to ensure that there was no repeat in 2012.

CAPTAIN'S REMARKS/REPORT

The Captain provided a resume of his report submitted with the agenda papers, commenting that the Management Committee had discussed the composition of the Sub-Committee that will look at the management structure of the Club, which will include equality issues. He had received several emails expressing various views on

the composition of the Sub- Committee and its remit. However, the consensus of opinion was to form a Sub-Committee of four people, made up of members who are not currently on Council, plus a Council member from the Secretariat.

This was agreed and accepted by Council.

The Captain recommended that the members of the Sub-Committee should be John Gower-Jones, Margaret Sharp, Janet Grant, Paul Gilbert and Ken Hawes.

Council fully supported the recommendation and the Captain is now to approach the individuals concerned.

Discussion then centred on the remit of the Sub-Committee. It was agreed that the current management structure of the Club should be looked at as a whole with recommendations to be submitted to Council for change/improvement, with particular reference being made to:

1. Continuity of management and strategic planning.
2. The role and selection/election of the Captain in relation to the Equality Act.
3. The role and selection/election of the President in relation to the Equality Act.

It was felt that it was essential to allow sufficient time for the Sub-Committee to undertake its remit, for its recommendations to be fully considered and for the appropriate preparatory work to be undertaken prior to any proposals being put forward to the members at a General Meeting. Accordingly, Council expressed the wish that any recommendations are to be made to Council by September/October 2012, with a special Council meeting being called to consider them, if it is deemed necessary.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The House Committee had nothing to report. One matter was raised within the Green Committee report – see later comment.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer had submitted the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011 prior to the meeting. A loss of £11,214 had been incurred, whereas the budget had forecast a loss of £20K. Expenditure in the three main headings of Course, House and General and Administration had all been controlled well and showed reductions.

The Treasurer stated that, whilst income in some areas had seen modest reductions, the general financial health of the Club is good, with a strong balance sheet and a net asset value of £100K maintained.

Council adopted the Accounts, as submitted, and they were duly signed by the Captain and Hon Treasurer.

The Treasurer presented a paper on the comparative costs between 2001 and 2011 and a brief discussion ensued.

GREEN COMMITTEE REPORT

Paul Simpson submitted the report in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Chris Davies.

Three areas were highlighted:

(1) A Health & Safety issue had arisen regarding the disposal of green waste on the course. Council was advised that this was to be looked at urgently to ensure that the Club was compliant with regulations.

(2) Green Fee increases were discussed with various options suggested. It was generally felt that they should be increased, but the Green Committee was charged with investigation and to return to Council with firm recommendations, but bearing in mind the need to cover the public liability premium element (see Secretary's Report).

(3) It was stressed that funding for many of the environmental initiatives would need to come from voluntary member contributions.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Alan Dewhurst advised Council that the main room charging policy had been revisited in the light of experience of the practicalities of implementing the changes made in October 2011.

The following charges were agreed by Council with immediate effect:

Members' Private Parties (events hosted by and paid for by a member) –

£150 for 50 guests or more, £100 for less than 50 guests.

Visiting Parties (e.g. Bridge Clubs) where no green fees paid –

£250 for 50 guests or more, £150 for less than 50 guests.

The Captain advised that he had received an email regarding non members attending Sunday lunches as guests of members on a regular basis, suggesting that an additional (cover?) charge should be applied. A discussion followed on what would appear to have far reaching implications in the light of current Club rules. The matter was passed to the House Committee for consideration/investigation and to report back to Council.

Alan Dewhurst reported that much of the patio furniture was in a poor state of repair and required replacement. It was proposed that new plastic "rattan" style furniture could be obtained at a cost of c£750 per set (table, four chairs and parasol).

Council agreed that the legacy from John Nichols could be utilised for this purpose.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

John Munnery presented the Membership Report.

Ten Full Playing members were elected, as follows:-

Joe Bluer – proposed by David Cranmer and seconded by Bernie Wilcox
Ross Cairns – proposed by Ron Kirk and seconded by James Munnery
Will Cochrane – proposed by Chris Wood and seconded by Vic Stratta
Roger Dawson Smith – proposed by Jonathan Gray and seconded by Andy Veitch
Philip Long – proposed by Albert White and seconded by Peter Barlow
Quentin Smith – proposed by Ian Goulty and seconded by Peter Atherton
Ray Stephen – proposed by Donald Sutherland and seconded by Judy Sutherland
David Swarbrick – proposed by Jonathan Grant and seconded by Nigel Reeves
Ian Williamson – proposed by John Webb and seconded by Paul Bramwell
Jason Wright – proposed by Gareth Williams and seconded by Ian Ponter

Council confirmed the following:-

Transfers – T Pathak – Lady Full Playing to Lady Non Playing
F Flint – Lady Full Playing to Lady Non Playing
G Hill – Male Non Playing to Male Full Playing
M Harding – Lady Full Playing to Country

Resignations – J J Bolton – Male Full Playing
C Harwood – Male Non Playing
S Rea – Male Full Playing (under 35)
S Roden – Male Non Playing

For the record, three new members were elected at the Council Meeting held on 9 January 2012, namely, Christine Harrison (proposed by Ann Seymour, seconded by Lesley Freeman) as Full Playing, Alex Morfitt and Sam Morfitt (proposed by Richard Duerr, seconded by Drummond Sharp) both Temporary Juniors.

Further candidates are moving through the membership process and it is hoped that their names will appear in the Book of Candidates shortly with a view to a recommendation to Council for election as the year progresses.

A golf event for new members is to be held on Saturday, 5 May followed by lunch.

The Membership Committee was asked to reconsider whether former junior members, who resign and then wish to re-join the Club a few years later, should pay a joining fee.

LADIES' SECTION REPORT

The Lady Captain was delighted to advise Council that the Ladies “Daily Mail” team had beaten Ringway GC in their first round match. The Captain asked that they be congratulated warmly.

The Lady Captain concluded by thanking everyone on Council for their support and encouragement during her term of office which she had thoroughly enjoyed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Council agreed to the Club taking out Liability Insurance and Third Party Property Damage cover for members and visitors with Golf Care with effect from 1 April 2012. The 2012 premium for members would be paid from existing funds, but, thereafter, would be an element to consider in budgeting for future years. The cost for visitors would be added to the green fee (see comment within Green Report).

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from solicitors acting for Mr & Mrs Kilroe of Brackenhurst, Rappax Road, Hale, the property opposite the Club driveway.

Reference is made to restrictive covenants regarding the planting of trees. It is felt that several trees have been planted which could be in breach of the covenants.

The matter has been considered by Ian Goulty, a Trustee of the Club, and, for the sake of good neighbour relations, it is recommended that we move the three, newly planted oak trees. Council approved this course of action and the solicitors are to be advised accordingly.

SUGGESTION BOOK

No new entries had been recorded.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Captain had had a note from the Captain elect detailing some plans he had for his year.

The Captain expressed thanks to the retiring Club Officers and members of Council for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication during their terms of office – Alan Dewhurst, Roger Da Forno and Roger O'Brien. He also thanked members of Council for their support and professionalism during his Captaincy.

The Captain also congratulated the Lady Captain, Pat Shenton, for a successful year which she had carried out with distinction.

The President praised the Captain for the way in which he had conducted Council meetings with his usual aplomb, tact and humour.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 8 May 2012

Signed

M J Kirchin

Captain, Hale Golf Club, 2012-13
8 May 2012

HALE GOLF CLUB

Minutes of Council Meeting of 8th May 2012

PRESENT

M. J. Kirchin (Captain/Chairman), C.J.Brown (President), P.M. Walsh (Lady Captain), A.F.Kenney (Past Captain), R.R.Cross (Past President), I.O.Goulty (Vice President), C.G. Adams (Hon Treasurer), C.E.J.Wright (Hon. Secretary), K.R.Hawes (Assistant Hon. Secretary), C.J.Davies (Hon. Chairman of Green Committee), Ceri Hyde (Hon Chairman of House Committee), J. Munnery (Hon Chairman of Membership Committee), J.I. Moss (Hon. Lady Secretary), A Gething, M Gilbert, Adam Hyde, J.A.Ravenscroft, P. Simpson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
J. N.White, R. Spark

NON-ATTENDING VICE PRESIDENTS

A. Bradley, P.K. Hardern, G.O. Harris, A.N.G. Hyde, W.W. Kennedy, C.J. Mawson, P.F. Veitch.

MINUTE'S SILENCE

Council stood for a minute's silence in memory of Pat Brown.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Captain asked if he could sign the minutes of the meeting of the 27th February as a correct record. The Minutes were accepted by Council and duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CAPTAIN'S REMARKS

The Captain had no opening remarks.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Ceri Hyde reported that a report from Citation was due. An audit by Trafford Borough Council had found shortcomings in the kitchen. Ceri and Cliff Wright are to meet and report back. (see House Report)

TREASURY REPORT

The Treasurer had sought alternative proposals from 3 potential accountancy firms to act as auditors of the Club Accounts for 2012. Instead of reappointing Hallidays, it was proposed that Hanleys Chartered Accountants of Sale be appointed. This was seconded by the President and passed by Council.

Council was asked by the Treasurer to think about the future use of sponsorship in the Club (for example in the Handbook and on the course).

The Treasurer had found a more economic contract for electricity with Scottish Power which should result in a saving of around £2,000. The Treasurer was authorised by Council to accept this contract at our renewal date of 23rd August.

The President asked about the policy for pursuing arrears of subscriptions. The Treasurer assured Council that the team pursue all arrears and would, as a final resort, terminate a defaulter's membership. But this would not happen without Council's notification.

GREENS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chris Davies asked Council for their views on the circulation of the Course Architect's Report. Should the full report (60 pages) be circulated to all members? Should a shortened report (37 pages) be circulated? Should it be emailed, put on the Website, or on the Club notice board. After some discussion, it was agreed that an email would be sent to all playing members advising them that the "shortened version" of the Report was on the Club website and the notice board and that the full report was available from the Greens Chairman for those interested in seeing it.

The idea of an evening event at the Club to present and answer questions on the Report was also discussed. No decision was made at this stage.

Greens Committee's recommendation for an increase in Green Fees for visitors was approved by Council and should be implemented with immediate effect. This would not apply to Societies who had pre-booked for this year.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ceri Hyde highlighted the following points from her report:-

- 1) The Garland Double Oven in the kitchen fails to comply with current Health and Safety regulations and will need to be replaced within 1 year at a cost of between £5,000 and £10,000.
- 2) Work had been carried out on provision for screening in the alcove of the main dining room and also the changing of two of the wall lights to make space for Honours Boards.
- 3) A proposal was made to bring some of the laundry in-house. This had been discussed and agreed with the Stewards. It would entail the purchase of

smaller cover cloths for tables at a cost of £500, but would quickly result in savings. This was approved by Council.

- 4) A proposal was made to introduce a cover charge for non-members when dining at the Club, in order to cover the additional costs of laundry and catering that they incur. This would not be applied to situations where a room charge was paid. Council approved the introduction of a £2 per head cover charge. Members will be informed in a newsletter (to be discussed later.)
- 5) The Stewards' cottage is in need of attention as the external woodwork and rendering is in poor condition. Nigel Taylor had agreed to provide an informal report and recommendations on how to proceed to get professional opinions. Ian Goulty pointed out the importance of having professional liability/insurance cover.
- 6) A long term plan was needed for the Clubhouse especially to improve the conditions of the Ladies Locker Room.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

John Munnery presented the Membership Report.

The Membership Committee recommended 2 transfers and the election of 8 full playing members:-

Vicky Bell
Gail Sampson
Lesley Cuerden
Caroline Smith
Catherine Masterson
Richard Flint
Robert Leggett
(both former junior members)
David Gill

This brings the total membership in May 2012 to 517 (513 May 2011), MFP 224 (218 May 2011) and LFP 94 (96 May 2011). There are only 2 further prospective members who may be elected this year.

There was some discussion, following correspondence from a member, about whether we now had too many members. As the above figures show, the Club is in a healthy position and Paul Simpson felt that the competitions would be able to cope with this number of playing members.

The recommendation regarding Junior member joining fees was accepted.

LADIES' COMMITTEE REPORT

The Lady Captain allowed her report to speak for itself. She looked forward to a successful attempt on the Bell Cup on the 3rd try (after 2 matches had been cancelled due to bad weather.)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was proposed to reschedule the Turkey Trot from the 8th December to the 15th December in order to better space the Xmas activities. This was agreed by Council.

It was noted that a full inventory of the Club's trophies, with a replacement insurance valuation, ought to take place. In the first instance, Paul Simpson has agreed to conduct the inventory and to make a photographic record.

SUGGESTION BOOK

There were no suggestions

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Al Kenney had been asked by the Captain to prepare a report to Council to update Council on the "Use of the Course" and how things were working out since the rule changes.

This was discussed at length, especially with regard to the Ladies wishing to organise some of their matches on Saturdays. It was apparent that there was some confusion about what was and was not allowable. The conclusion of these discussions was that no matches (Ladies or otherwise) are to be organised on Saturdays and these are to be left clear for General Play when there are no Men's competitions organised. All arrangements for competitions and matches can only be made with the agreement of the Greens Committee, who have single and absolute control of the course.

There was some discussion about the details shown on the Calendar. It is important that all events are shown with times, so that members can see clearly when the course is available for General Play. There is only one Club Calendar which, at present, is maintained by the Secretariat. This is displayed on the Club Website and the current two months are posted on the Notice Board. This is supplemented by the Professional's Board which shows the current week. It is only possible for the Secretariat to maintain the Calendar if they are notified by Greens when matches, competitions and events are agreed. The Secretariat will make every effort to update the Calendar on the Website more frequently.

The Captain stated that he was very keen to see the Club moving to a situation where competition sheets and timings all follow a standard format and he asked Greens to investigate the implications of this.

Greens were asked to prepare a schedule of events for 2013 and to have this available for discussion at the October Council Meeting.

The Captain asked if the date of the next meeting could be changed from July 23rd to: Monday 6th August 2012. This was agreed.

Signed

M J Kirchin

(Captain, Hale Golf Club, 2012-13)
6th August 2012

HALE GOLF CLUB

Minutes of Council Meeting of 6th August 2012

PRESENT

M. J. Kirchin (Captain/Chairman), C.J.Brown (President), P.M. Walsh (Lady Captain), I.O.Goulty (Vice President), C.E.J.Wright (Hon. Secretary), K.R.Hawes (Assistant Hon. Secretary), Ceri Hyde (Hon Chairman of House Committee), J. N.White (Assistant Hon Treasurer), A Gething, Adam Hyde, J.A.Ravenscroft, R. Spark, P. Simpson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

R.R.Cross, C.G. Adams, C.J.Davies, J. Munnery, J.I.Moss, M Gilbert, A Kenney

NON-ATTENDING VICE PRESIDENTS

A. Bradley, P.K. Hardern, G.O. Harris, A.N.G. Hyde, W.W. Kennedy, C.J. Mawson, P.F. Veitch.

MINUTE'S SILENCE

Council stood for a minute's silence in memory of EL Gourlay.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Captain asked if he could sign the minutes of the meeting of the 8th May as a correct record. The Minutes were accepted by Council and duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

- 1) The Secretary reported that the trophies had now been valued by Marshalls of Knutsford and their value had increased from £18,100 to £20,190. An increase in the insurance would be organised to cover the new value
- 2) There are still inconsistencies and absences of timings in the various calendars. This gives rise to confusion for people looking to organise a tee time. Greens, the Secretariat and the Professional are asked to liaise more carefully and to show correct timings where possible. A new calendar system is being considered but there are several issues to be resolved before it can be implemented.

CAPTAIN'S REMARKS

The Captain explained that his time away from the Club due to work commitments at the Olympics had not been anticipated at his nomination and apologised for his absence over the summer. There will be a further 4-5 weeks when he is working in London and then he will be back in Hale full-time.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Secretary reported that a recent review had found issues in several areas (Electrical, Fire, Legionella, First Aid and Documentation) Liaison was taking place with the appropriate bodies to address these issues and a Risk Assessment was now scheduled for 4th September.

TREASURY REPORT

The Assistant Treasurer reported that things were on budget but in the light of there being no fresh intake of members likely this year and green fees being lower than planned, he cautioned that everyone be careful with regard to expenditure.

Council was asked about the future use of sponsorship in the Club (for example in the Handbook and on the course). There was some discussion with little support for advertising on the course or in the handbook. The matter was shelved for the time being.

GREENS COMMITTEE REPORT

Paul Simpson explained that Greens were moving forward with some of the recommendations from the Course Architect's Report particularly with regard to work on bunkers, but any expenditure would be from budget. Council emphasised that there was no further money available for un-budgeted items at present. A tree spade will be purchased (out of budget) and this is needed for removing and re-planting the trees near the Club entrance that we are legally required to move.

Some signage is needed on the 2nd fairway to indicate the course of the public footpath. It was suggested that some further warning signs about the pond behind the 9th tee were also needed.

A new Rough Mower will be needed and this will be at a cost of £35,000 less trade in.

Greens recommendations on Course Usage will be discussed in October.

With regard to the course boundaries on Rossmill Lane, (see Greens Report) no further action is needed.

Lady Captain made a request to Greens that the length of the carry to the fairways especially on the 6th and 8th be looked at. Many Lady Members are struggling to reach the fairways. This request was enthusiastically supported by the higher handicap players present. Greens were actioned to correct this situation.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ceri Hyde highlighted the following points from her report:-

- 7) A structural survey of the Stewards' cottage had been carried out and many faults especially to windows gutters and woodwork were in need of attention. Photographs of the cracks in the building have been taken and these will be monitored over the forthcoming months to see if serious repair work is needed. Expenditure of £4,222 has already been approved.
- 8) The oven in the kitchen, which fails to comply with current Health and Safety regulations will be replaced in October when the Stewards are away. The ventilation system will also need to be improved at the same time. The total cost for these changes are £13,157.
- 9) The purchase of smaller cover cloths for dining room tables has resulted in savings of around £250 per month.
- 10) Urgent repairs to the Clubhouse roof are required and this will incur costs of £1,500
- 11) A disabled parking space is needed to meet current legislation and it was suggested that this could be the first space in the row where the Professional currently parks.
- 12) A longer term plan with a budgeted expenditure for items (such as the above) is urgently needed and House Committee is working on this. Council agreed that it was important that with a planned budget of expenditure it would be unnecessary for Chairman of House to have to seek approval for each item in future. Ceri was commended for having resolved so many difficult issues since coming to office.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

John Munnery had submitted a Membership Report which the Secretary presented. The Membership Committee recommended 2 nominations:-

- 1) Kate Rodwell to Full Playing membership. This was accepted by Council
- 2) Daniel Broadbent to Temporary Junior Membership. With no reflection on Daniel, it was agreed that the Club needed a clearer policy on Junior Membership and the support and encouragement that they need if they are to participate fully. Until this was resolved, it was suggested that Daniel remain on his Junior Season Ticket.

Ian Goulty asked that all Council Members take an interest in new candidates and form a view on whether they are appropriate members or not. The joining procedures are designed to allow this to happen.

The Captain expressed some concern about the low entry list and felt that this needed attention. It was pointed out that Council and Officers of the Club often send conflicting messages to the membership about whether we are recruiting new members or not. If we want members to bring appropriate, new candidates to the Club, we must make it clear that this is the case.

LADIES' COMMITTEE REPORT

The Lady Captain reported that the Ladies had reached the quarter-finals of the Bell Cup and this would be played on the 13th August against Withington. Hale had also reached the quarter-finals of the Business Ladies Competition.

The Ladies Section has donated £500 towards the conservation efforts at the Club

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The fencing work at 7 Lynwood (facing the 1st Tee) has now been completed.

The decision to accept the Cheshire County Ladies Association booking for 13th September 2013 was ratified by Council.

It was reported that the Exchange Day with Knutsford had been successful, with 26 members from Hale visiting Knutsford and 21 members of Knutsford coming to Hale. It was proposed to repeat the event in 2013 but to look at the exchange taking place on a Saturday.

Bowdon Club has asked for a reservation in April 2013 for 80 to 90 golfers. Council asked the Green Committee to give this further consideration within their comprehensive review of course usage, as the proposed number of players would potentially result in members not being able to play until the late afternoon.

It was decided that golf bag tags serve no purpose that justifies their cost and so these will not be reordered.

SUGGESTION BOOK

There was a suggestion from Jonty Fallows that tee reservations from the Business Ladies and others (some of which are not taken up or cancelled) were taking up much of the weekend availability and that a robust scheme to manage course usage is needed. This was noted. However, there are already several initiatives under way addressing this issue. No further action is needed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ceri Hyde questioned the enforcement of Rule 38, whereby no guest or visitor is allowed to use the Clubhouse or course more than 6 times in a calendar year. She felt

that this was being abused and knew of people who are breaking this rule. Ian Goulty stated that he did not feel that this was a serious problem.

Ken Hawes asked if a date could be agreed for the Sub-Committee reviewing equality and Club management structure to report back to Council. It was agreed that as the October 15th Council Meeting already had a full agenda, an additional Council Meeting should be scheduled for the 29th October.

The meeting was closed at 9.28pm

The next meeting will be on 15th October

Signed

M J Kirchin

(Captain, Hale Golf Club, 2012-13)
15th October 2012

HALE GOLF CLUB

Minutes of Council Meeting of 15th October 2012

PRESENT

M. J. Kirchin (Captain/Chairman), C.J.Brown (President), P.M. Walsh (Lady Captain), R.R.Cross (Past President), A.F. Kenney (Past Captain), C.G. Adams (Hon Treasurer), J. N.White (Assistant Hon Treasurer), C.E.J.Wright (Hon. Secretary), K.R.Hawes (Assistant Hon. Secretary), C.J.Davies (Hon Chairman of Green Committee), Ceri Hyde (Hon Chairman of House Committee), J. C.Munnery (Hon Chairman of Membership Committee), J.I.Moss (Hon Lady Secretary), A Gething, M Gilbert, Adam Hyde, J.A.Ravenscroft, R. Spark, P. Simpson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
I.O.Goult

NON-ATTENDING VICE PRESIDENTS

A. Bradley, P.K. Hardern, G.O. Harris, A.N.G. Hyde, W.W. Kennedy, C.J. Mawson, P.F. Veitch.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Assistant Secretary had already circulated two changes to the minutes. Paul Simpson pointed out that Greens were hiring a tree spade and not purchasing one. The Captain asked if he could sign the minutes of the meeting of the 6th August as a correct record subject to these changes. The Minutes were accepted by Council and duly signed by the Captain.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

CAPTAIN'S REMARKS

The Captain had received several letters complaining that Rule 38 (Re: the number of times that non-members may use the Club) was being abused. The Captain asked that Rule 37 (requiring that non-members sign the Visitors Book) be re-introduced and Chairman of House was asked to come up with a plan to ensure that this is enforced. Following this, it will be possible to ensure that Rule 38 is being complied with.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Secretary had circulated a note with the Council Papers and this was noted by Council. Issues about Fire Safety are further documented in the House Report.

TREASURY REPORT

The Treasurer presented his paper and spreadsheets showing forecast results for 2012 and proposed budgets for 2013. This is fully documented in his paper, however, the general summary was that, despite green fees and other revenues being below budget in 2012, various economies and cost savings, coupled with above-forecast new entrance fees, had ensured that the year would end with an operating surplus of £4,300 opposed to the budgeted deficit of £5,600.

Looking forward to 2013, and with an eye to what is happening in the economy at large, and in other Golf Clubs, the Treasurer emphasised the need for caution in our expenditure and planning in the year ahead. He recommended a small increase in the subscription fees and his budget reflected an overall objective of being “cash-neutral” to ensure that we did not need to draw on the Club’s reserves.

There was some discussion during which the following points were made.

- The Captain asked Chairman of Greens to give some thought to the capital requirements of the Club during the period 2014-16.
- Chris Davies reported that Greens had done this and it was clear that in 2012 and 2013 the Club was enjoying a brief hiatus when less expenditure had been required. This could not be expected to last and further capital expenditure would be required when older equipment needed replacement.
- Andy Gething emphasised the need for longer term financial planning. He also raised the question of whether we should be marketing the Club more aggressively to ensure that revenue from Green Fees was obtained as needed.
- The Secretary highlighted that it is difficult to operate an overall green-fees budget with regard to fees from visiting societies. A few years ago the Club had decided to restrict visiting societies to one Friday per month and he was adhering to this.
- Al Kenney confirmed that this was the policy. He mentioned that the Professional had been told that he would receive no incentive for greens revenue when he joined the Club. Yet visiting societies were the biggest opportunity presented.
- John Munnery pointed out that we are an “expenditure-led” club. Perhaps we should try and focus more on the projection of income and then take the necessary actions to meet our target.
- The Treasurer confirmed that he wanted Greens to work to a target of £16,000 for Green Fees in 2013.
- Adam Hyde felt that there was no long term vision for where the Club wanted to be in a 5 year timescale. The Club needed a long term plan and a rationale

for the future. (The Captain explained that we would be hearing more about long term planning from the “EQA” Committee at the next meeting.)

- The Treasurer reminded everyone that there is a very strong correlation between “food and booze”. Ie when people come to eat at the Club the bar-takings go up. We should not listen to those who want to discourage visiting (playing and eating) societies

In conclusion to this discussion, the Captain proposed that the budget for 2013 with its increase to the subscription fee be accepted and this was seconded by the President and duly agreed by Council.

The Captain thanked the Treasurer for his very comprehensive report and budget and commended everyone for the hard work that had achieved the cost savings during the current year.

The Treasurer asked that it be noted that he is introducing a new category of short term assets (electrical and computers etc) which will be depreciated over a more sensible period of 5 years.

GREENS REPORT

Chris Davies stated that the winter programme had now started. However the first item in the programme (the tree spade) had been postponed due to the weather and so the removal of the three trees would be delayed. The Secretary was asked to ensure that the local residents were kept up to date with the situation.

The Munnery Memorial Drinking Fountain which was proposed for the 5th / 7th Tee was approved by Council, subject to the appropriate legal caveats regarding long term supply of water from the Hogben property.

The £2,500 of expenditure for the concrete foundations of the new composting bay was approved.

It was noted that Greens Staff are unable to devote any time to further eradication of Himalyan Balsalm without this having an effect on the work or expense of course maintenance.

£1,000 of expenditure was approved for the purchase of a hedge trimmer and long-reach chain saw (stolen in 2010.)

Greens were asked to continue their research on the acquisition of a new rough mower (budgeted for 2013) and bring proposals to Council.

A paper on Course Usage has been prepared by Greens and will be circulated and discussed at the next meeting.

An updated paper on the Strategy for Greens Development had not been attached to the Council Papers (in error). However discussion on the subject is scheduled for the next meeting. A copy will be circulated in plenty of time for this meeting.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ceri Hyde highlighted the following points from her report:-

- Additional and essential work was needed in the kitchens at a cost of £986. This was approved.
- Some additional decoration of the cottage was now needed at a (revised) cost of £1,300. This was approved.
- The cottage boiler is in need of replacement at an estimated cost of £2,500. This was felt to be too high and a lower cost quotation is to be sought.
- A shed to provide extra storage for both the Stewards and the Club is to be built at the rear of the cottage. Expenditure of £1,500 was approved.
- The Club is required to undertake a formal risk assessment of our fire precautions by November 15th. This will now take place on 30th October at a cost of £385. This is likely to result in recommendations that we make further changes to our fire precautions especially the installation of a new fire alarm system. The Secretary endorsed the recommendations that Chairman of House was making and reminded Council of our joint responsibilities as officers of the Club. Council agreed that whatever steps necessary for the Club to comply with Safety Standards should be carried out.
- Congratulations were offered to the Social Committee for a very full and successful calendar of events.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Chairman of Membership restated the procedures of the Club for the election of junior members (attached to Council Papers) and confirmed that the policy of the Club was to be “open and inclusive”. He recommended that the procedures and policy should continue and this was agreed and approved by Council.

At present there are 8 MFP, 1 LFP and 2 junior applicants in process and these should be elected in first quarter of 2013.

He re-emphasised that it is the responsibility of every member to ensure that they encourage suitable candidates to apply for membership and thus keep a healthy flow of new prospective members to the Club.

LADIES' COMMITTEE REPORT

The Lady Captain reported that the Ladies Open had attracted 45 teams playing 9 holes and had been a very successful day despite the poor weather.

The same event for next year is already fully subscribed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs had called an EGM on 10th September which the Assistant Secretary attended. The resolution was passed to change the Union to a Limited body.

A new on-line Club Calendar will be implemented very shortly. This will be based on the Google Calendar (already used in the more sophisticated and more expensive versions of Club 2000). The Calendar will be accessible in the Member's Section of the Club website and will contain more detail on timings of events than the current calendar. The Calendar will also be posted on the notice board as at present.

A bulletin will be circulated to members to advise them of the change.

SUGGESTION BOOK

There were no suggestions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Roger Cross congratulated all those submitting reports for their excellent work.

Ken Hawes explained that the EQA Sub-Committee was unable to report back to Council by the 29th October and needed additional time. The meeting was rearranged for the 27th November.

The Committee's report will be circulated in good time for this meeting.

The Secretary asked that the Captain sign a new Health and Safety Policy Statement which is displayed on the notice board and must be updated every 3 years.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm

The next Council Meeting will take place on 27th November

Signed

M J Kirchin

(Captain, Hale Golf Club, 2012-13)

27th November 2012

HALE GOLF CLUB

Minutes of Council Meeting of 27th November 2012

PRESENT

M. J. Kirchin (Captain/Chairman), C.J.Brown (President), P.M. Walsh (Lady Captain), R.R.Cross (Past President), A.F. Kenney (Past Captain), C.G. Adams (Hon Treasurer), C.E.J.Wright (Hon. Secretary), K.R.Hawes (Assistant Hon. Secretary), C.J.Davies (Hon Chairman of Green Committee), Ceri Hyde (Hon Chairman of House Committee), J. C.Munnery (Hon Chairman of Membership Committee), J.I.Moss (Hon Lady Secretary), A Gething, M Gilbert, Adam Hyde, J.A.Ravenscroft, R. Spark, P. Simpson.

BY INVITATION

J. Gower-Jones, J. Grant, M. Sharp

VICE PRESIDENTS (By invitation)

A. Bradley, G.O. Harris, P.F. Veitch.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

J. N.White (Assistant Hon Treasurer), P.K. Hardern, A.N.G. Hyde, W.W. Kennedy, C.J. Mawson, P. Gilbert

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Hon Treasurer requested that the final paragraph summarising his report be changed to show that Council had “approved” the change to the way fixed assets are dealt with rather than merely “noting” it. Subject the above amendment Council authorised the Captain to sign the minutes.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

CAPTAIN’S REMARKS

The Captain thanked the Greens Committee and the EQA committee for the work that had gone into preparing the various reports that were to be discussed tonight. He recognised that there were some significant changes needed to the Rules of the Club to comply with legislation but hoped that Council would not make any decisions that changed the character and spirit of the Club.

REPORT OF THE EQA SUB-COMMITTEE

Three Members of the EQA Sub-Committee were invited to the Council Meeting to answer questions on their report and recommendations. Paul Gilbert sent his apologies. Ken Hawes the fifth member of the Sub-Committee was present as Assistant Secretary.

Council were invited to ask questions and make comments. (answers shown in italics)

Chris Brown: How will the way in which the Ladies Section runs change as a result of the recommendations? *It was not foreseen that there would be any material change. The Ladies would continue to run their own affairs and make their own appointments as they do at present. The question of a Lady President was still open for the Ladies to decide. However, it was not envisaged that she would be on the Ladies Committee nor get involved in the day-to-day running of the Ladies affairs.*

Chris Brown: Was it not possible for the Ladies Committee to disappear and their affairs to be integrated into the other Committees such as Greens and House? *The integration is happening anyway with Ladies Competitions Secretary sitting on the Greens Committee and a strong representation of Ladies on House Committee. The Sub Committee could see no reason why the Ladies should not have their own Committee to plan their own activities as for example the Seniors do.*

Adam Hyde: Would the new role of Chair of Council detract from the role of the Captain. How was it envisaged the two would work? *The Chair of Council would have 2 main roles... to run Council Meetings and to increase the focus on longer term planning for the Club. It was not a position of status or ceremony, but a working role. (No photos, no parking space, No Honours Board etc etc). Not all Captains enjoyed running Council Meetings and indeed it may have deterred some prospective candidates from accepting the position. There was also a clear lack of long term planning that needed to be addressed.*

Andrew Gething: What is the distinction between an officer of the Club and an ex-officio Council Member (as the new Men's and Lady Captains would be?) *Officers of the Club must be elected by the membership in an open election at a full meeting of members. It was felt better for the tradition and character of HGC to retain the current method of selecting and appointing Captains and for them therefore to be ex-officio. The change of terminology in no way detracts from the importance and power of the roles.*

Roger Cross: Would we be able to find a suitable candidate to be Chair of Council? Could not the existing Committees work together to handle the longer term planning? *It was felt that there were suitable candidates who could do the job but until we sought to appoint one we would not know for sure. There has been a marked lack of longer-term planning until recently. The current chairs of Greens and House have worked with the Treasurer and Secretary to try and address this. However, there is no mechanism to ensure that this continues. The job specification for the new Chair would include the responsibility for pulling this effort together into a continuous and integrated planning exercise.*

Peter Veitch: Peter referenced the earlier sub-committee and report that had been produced some years ago which had contained the mechanism for having long-term planning and budgeting for the Club.

Paul Simpson: Will the Captain have “legitimacy” if he is not elected at the AGM? Why cannot the Chair of Council be in office for more than 3 years? This was addressed by Al Kenney. *There is no reason why the Captain’s position could not continue to be endorsed at an AGM and then this would provide “legitimacy”. There was much discussion about the term of the Chair’s appointment. The conclusion was generally in favour of 3 years to give some continuity and possibly more if the Chair wanted to stand for another term. John Munnery suggested a rolling contract with a minimum of 3 years.*

Ian Goulty: Ian is sceptical about the role of the Chair. He is concerned that it could be divisive. Ian was also very strongly in favour of having just one President. He would be very happy to see a lady elected to that position. He sees no reason why this could not happen with the current method of selecting a President (without infringement of any equality rules.) He thought that the Club should be moving towards integration rather than segregation and thought that 2 presidents helped to keep the Ladies’ and the Men’s sections of the Club apart. *There was much discussion during the meeting about whether the Club could do this and be compliant with the Equality Act. Al Kenney pointed out that the Guidelines from the English Union of Golf say specifically not but Ian believes that this is not correct. (This point was returned to several times during the meeting.)*

Alan Bradley: Said that in his term as President he had enjoyed a lot of dialogue with the Ladies Section. He asked if we have talked to any other Clubs who have a Chair of Council in order to benefit from their experience. *John G-J said that he had discussed her role with Judith Wainwright who had been Chair of Council at Ringway GC. She thought the role had worked well with no difficulties.*

Chris Brown: What exactly should be the role of the President? Can this be defined more precisely or does the Club not really need a President? *John Gower-Jones explained that the main benefit was to provide a supporting role to the Captain and he cited two examples recently where the Captain had found it necessary for the President to intervene. He doubted if a Lady President of the Club would have been able to deal with those two situations. Similarly he doubted if a male President would be able to advise the Lady Captain! It was agreed however that there was room for a clearer definition of the role of all Club officers.*

Peter Veitch: The appointment of the Chair would inevitably cause a diminution in the role of the Captain. Ian Goulty also thought that the positions of the President and Captain were being downgraded. *This was certainly not the intention because the two roles (in both cases) were different but complementary. The largest part of the Captain’s job at present is to do with the Men of the Club and so having a Men’s Captain and a Ladies’ Captain would really change the status quo very little.*

Peter Veitch: Was not sure about abolishing the Management Committee. It was introduced to address a particular requirement and seemed to have worked well. This was confirmed by Ceri Hyde who said she found the forum it provided invaluable.

Peter was also opposed to reducing the involvement of the Past Presidents. They were the voice of experience which was needed to ensure that younger and less experienced persons did not steer the Club away from its established character and traditions. *John Gower-Jones thought that there were many on Council who would be flattered to be thought of as young!*

Ceri Hyde: Ceri re-visited the question of the President. Should this be thought of as an honorary position (a bit like an award) rather than have any real function? She thought that there were many in the Club who might deserve the position but would be put off because they did not like public speaking.

Al Kenney: The role of President is currently a male role. If we continue with one President then with the current job description it has to be a man. Therefore, we either adopt the recommendation of the Report (which he felt we should) or else there would need to be a huge change in what is expected of the role

Al Kenney: Recommendations for Council constituency and frequency a good idea. A Council Meeting once per month with a smaller number can then be a decision making meeting. Sub-committees are the talking shop for discussion and with their plans and budget will only need to come to Council for exceptional items. The balance of senior people and ladies will be broadly as it is at present so there should be good representation. The question of a Lady President is a matter for debate by the Ladies.

Robert Spark: Robert thought that the Sub-Committee had done a thorough job in preparing a set of recommendations that the Club could move forward with. The recommendations may not be perfect and some may need change in future but at least we had a plan to work to. He thought it unlikely that any plan would get it 100% right first time.

Adam Hyde: Adam was in favour of a “two chamber” type system where a full Council Meeting is more infrequent and only used to ratify decisions. The debate, planning and decision making should take place in a smaller more regular meeting. *John Gower-Jones thought this was over-elaborate for a small club like ours and the current Management Meetings had proved themselves not to work well. Al Kenney thought that if there was a need for more detailed discussion on a specific topic at a Council Meeting, then there was no reason why a non-Council member couldn't be invited to attend the meeting.*

Chris Adams: There is an urgent need for a co-ordinated strategy for the Club and for some action to rectify the lack of a process for planning in the current system. Before the efforts of this year, there was no long term plan for Greens, no plan for House developments, no plan to maintain the membership levels, no long term budget planning. Some progress has been made this year but the Club urgently needs a 5 year plan if it is to meet the current economic and social climate. We need some decisions now. The recommendations of the Sub Committee, if put in place tonight, are not set in stone. They can be adapted and modified as need arises. They are a neat solution to the current situation and could be adopted easily.

Because of the lateness of the hour, the Captain brought the discussion to a close at this point. Al Kenney proposed a vote of thanks to John Gower-Jones and the Sub-Committee and congratulated them on producing the Report and recommendations. The Sub-Committee received a round of applause from Council members and then left the meeting.

There was some further debate to decide how to move forwards. Council agreed that more work needed to be carried out on specific details before the recommendations could be implemented. It was also clear that it would not be possible to achieve this and have rule changes agreed by the membership in time to have any effect on the 2013 AGM and the election of officers there. However, the general feeling was that a decision by Council was necessary to accept the recommendations of the Report in principle and move forward with them.

A motion was proposed by John Munnery and seconded by Al Kenney as follows:-

Council agree in principle to the proposals of the EQA Sub-Committee of HGC and ask the Management Committee as a matter of urgency to define actions proposed , provide an implementation time frame and return to Council with recommendations early in 2013.

There was a show of hands and the motion was passed with all members in favour and one abstention. No one voted against.

John Gower-Jones and Janet Grant will now attend the 10th December Management Meeting where the recommendations will be discussed further.

GREENS DISCUSSION

The Captain apologised to the Chairman of Greens and advised that a full discussion of Greens matters would have to wait till the next meeting.

Chris Davis pointed out that there were 3 premier competitions that might be played on Saturdays with Greens/Council agreement as follows: Dunham Forest, Bell Cup and Liz Wilson.

HGC had been invited to participate in a new 9 hole league to be played between the 9 hole courses in the area. It was agreed we should join.

Course usage will be discussed at the next meeting.

SUGGESTIONS

There were no suggestions in the Suggestion Book

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

The next Council Meeting will take place on 14th January 2013

Signed

M J Kirchin

(Captain, Hale Golf Club, 2012-13)
14th January 2013