



## **MINUTES OF THE 112<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015 AT 8.15PM**

### **PRESENT**

The President (Mrs J Bradley) Chair of the Meeting, the Gentleman Captain (Mr K Lodge), the Lady Captain (Mrs T Day) and 114 other members. (Appendix 1 is the list of members who were present).

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that everyone had signed in.

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice of the meeting was taken as read on the proposition of Oliver Harris, seconded by John Moss. The proposition was passed unanimously by the meeting.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the members noted in Appendix 2.

The President suggested the list was taken as read and included in the minutes. This was approved by the meeting.

The President then asked those present to stand in silent memory of the following members who had passed away during the year.

Neil Hyde (Hon Life Member), David Hampson, Jean Wallwork, John Bramwell, Ray Murphy, John Bolton, Wendy Trounce, George Taylor, Olga Gibb and Willy Keunen.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

It was suggested that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 be approved by the meeting. This was proposed by Chris Wood and seconded by Jane Perks and the motion was carried.

The minutes of the meeting were duly signed by the President.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AGM OF 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014**

There were no matters arising.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Chris Adams, presented the following report for the financial year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014.

1. President, Captains, Ladies and gentlemen, despite some ups and downs I am pleased to report on a broadly financially successful year – we finish with a small surplus on our income and expenditure account and a healthy increase in our net assets on the balance sheet. I believe these accounts show you the hard work by your committees in 2014 despite the effect of the vagaries of the weather. Yet again my personal thanks go to Jay White, an extremely able Assistant Treasurer, who looks after the vital work of getting the staff and suppliers paid correctly and on time. Also thanks to Johnny Yates who does an excellent job in his duties collecting and processing the subscriptions.
2. After some years of savings in costs deferments have caught up with us this year and cost savings have been more difficult. Looking at page Income and Expenditure page 2: we see an increase in income over 2013 of £13.5k (of which £10k is in entrance fees) whereas costs have increased by over £21k to £386.6k. We set our budget and our subscription levels for a break-even position.
3. In the past I asked all members to continue supporting the bar, improving our green fees and introducing new lady members- let's look at the income schedules on page 3 that break that down.
4. In December 2013 we had a subscription increase of 2.1% for 2014 of £20 on playing subscriptions and we have kept the increase for 2015 to £25 (2.6%) for playing members. We remained a couple of members below budget in 2014 and we lost a few Country members (up to budget for 2015 as we speak).
5. However we cannot ignore the closures of Mobberley and Peover clubs and the reported fall in participation in golf, and so I believe we must continue to work hard to make HGC an attractive place for the next generation of members.
6. Green fees did better in 2013 but have fallen in 2014. Please help in 2015. We have a course in great condition – do bring your friends.
7. Bar sales show a small improvement over 2013. Volume is pretty static in real terms but margins have improved a little (well done Adam). Our thanks as ever to the TNC, Friday night club, nine and dine, bridge evenings, the Thursday dinners—and thanks to Ceri and Jan for running all the social functions so efficiently and thank all supporters of the events.
8. Sundry income includes income from buggy hire, and despite falling interest rates we managed another £3.0k interest in 2014 net of tax. We keep these funds spread for security with the first £85k in each bank/BS account guaranteed.

9. So going back to page 2 we can see income is up on 2013 and ahead of budget because of improvement in entrance fees.
10. Looking at our costs and starting with Course expenditure –in total we had a hefty rise from £161.6k in 2013 to £175.5k last year. I said last year the weather in November and December 2013 had delayed that year's winter programme and so the work on the new 5th/14th tees fell into 2014 - by contrast this year was mild and so we got most of the winter programme completed in 2014! So costs include 2 years winter programmes coupled with storm damage to trees, new flags, yardage markers, holes and scorecards (in sundry).
11. House costs have again done well. Savings have continued from both from re-negotiated certain contracts and also working methods. Utility costs remain under control on two year fixed contracts. Decorations and infrastructure continue to be maintained but any significant costs have been deferred pending decisions on future developments. Fees associated with the plans, professional costings and presentations for the development have been written off in 2014.
12. Turning to our Administrative costs, these have increased. We were charged a new additional £7k by UU for surface water and highways drainage, which we worked hard to get down to £4k, but that's still over £13 per playing member. We have spent £1,640 on advertising and professional fees for recruiting the new stewards. Subscriptions include new club website annual fee. Non-recoverable VAT has gone up due to higher costs and substantial capital expenditure.
13. So overall the income and expenditure account shows a surplus. Taking the surplus and adding back non-cash items (depreciation and the capital allocation) makes over £61k towards our capital requirements.
14. Moving on to our balance sheet page 4 and notes starting on page 5 we start with fixed assets. Greens finally made the purchase of the rough mower for £32k, one of our major plant purchases which we hope will last over 10 years like the last one. We have also purchased a drains clearance machine, a new dishwasher and office computer.
15. I have added some more notes to explain the nature of the Capital fund and note 4 covers movement on the legacy funds. The club received £6,000 in legacies and together with some small residual balances used this to largely fund the new course signage.
16. Our capital expenditure in total was £38.6k and our working capital is well under control, our effective cash surplus carried forward has increased by some £23k to £215k net assets. This forms the base for future developments– the 2020 vision that I mentioned before - the plans for this potential improvement are now firmly under discussion and the members have given a clear view following the presentations.
17. Final point on the accounts is note 7. HMRC have changed the VAT position for green fees from 1 January 2015, but the arrears position remains under discussion. Hopeful we may get some or all of our £13k back.
18. I finish by saying I hope you all feel these accounts show we remain in a strong financial position. Whilst some clubs have their troubles, thanks to the hard work of your Council

we have a solid position. Our target remains to keep our cost base under control but keep the quality of experience that members get. Future capital investments should enhance our enjoyment, but we need to keep subscriptions increases within control for both for the retention of existing members and to attract the next generation.

19. As before, please support me and bring your friends for a game, share a bottle of wine from our cellar and enjoy Jason's food. If your company is paying for however small a corporate event, please ask me for an invoice, as it may help our VAT recovery on course costs in future.
20. President, ladies and gentlemen thank you for listening and that concludes my report.

The President thanked the Treasurer for his report

“Again it is my pleasure to thank you on behalf of the club for the excellent manner in which you manage the Club's financial affairs. The very satisfactory results for 2014 that you have just presented are in no small way due to all the work that you do during the year in preparing budgets, managing costs and providing regular financial up-dates to Council. Hale Golf Club is certainly very fortunate to have you as our Treasurer.”

Robin Holden proposed that the meeting accept the Financial Accounts for 2014 and this was seconded by Janet Grant and the proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary, Cliff Wright, presented the following report:

“Madam President, Lady Captain, Gentleman Captain and fellow members.....

In sitting down to write this report and to consider items for inclusion, as ever, I have found it somewhat difficult to meet my target to be brief, simply because there seems to be so much information that I would like to impart having stood back and reviewed the past year.

Twelve months ago I was elected for another year and my sincere hope at that time was that it would be a “normal” Hale Golf Club year. Well, has it been a “normal” year? Perhaps I will let you be the judge of that but, for my part, shall we just say there has been much to occupy not only my time but that of all the Officers, Council and committee members of the Club.

For instance, completion of the review of the Club conventions and protocols, the Clubhouse Development, the announcement of the retirement of Anne and Mac and the subsequent recruitment of our new Stewards, Jason and Heather, updating the Club website and systems, plus the on-going, day to day duties of maintaining the course and clubhouse and membership matters, to name but a few.

### **Club Conventions and Protocols**

In the early part of the year, the review of the Club conventions and protocols, following the rule changes agreed to meet our obligations under the Equality Act, continued under the stewardship of Andrew Gething, who, by the way, was elected by Council to chair Council

meetings up to this Annual General Meeting. This review was concluded after much consultation, discussion and debate and agreed by Council.

However, it is fair to say that the time taken for the review proved to be much longer than originally anticipated and, even now, it is clear from conversations that the implications of the decisions taken in September 2013 relating to equality are still, unfortunately, not fully understood by some members.

### **Clubhouse Development**

You will be aware that Council has been looking at the long term development of the Clubhouse and its facilities. An outline plan for the refurbishment and an extension to the Clubhouse has been prepared and this was exhibited in the Clubhouse for several weeks. Two consultation meetings with members were held at the end of February and in early March and the proposals received the broad, in principle, approval of members.

The Development Committee has already met since the meetings with members and they are now working on a paper and costings to report back to Council for approval shortly. Their work will include the detailed design of the layout, the retention of professional architects and interior design consultants, detailed specifications and costings, planning when to do the work and considering plans for funding the financial shortfall. In addition, they will consider recruiting further members to assist in the process.

Once they have a definitive proposal, this will be presented to members. I do want to stress that no final decisions will be taken without the backing of members.

### **Stewards**

Last September, Anne and Mac announced that they wished to retire and, indeed, as you know, they have now done so after fourteen years at the Club. Their retirement party last Sunday was a splendid occasion.

The recruitment process for their successors commenced immediately. Whilst we hoped for a good number of applicants, we actually received 130 applications – more than we had ever dared hoped for.

You do know by now that Jason and Heather Moran have been appointed as their successors and we are delighted to welcome them to Hale. I am sure that I can rely on you to help and support them wherever you can in their endeavours.

One way we can all assist them is not to assume that they know what we require for any particular event. We tended to take it for granted that Ann & Mac knew what to do and when to do it. So, it would be very much appreciated if you would ensure that you talk matters through with Jason & Heather when organising events.

### **Website**

The new website went live just over twelve months ago now and during the year changes and modifications have been made which have enhanced the information that it provides.

Unfortunately, there have been several, annoying teething problems. Rosie Gerrard has taken the website modifications forward and resolved the problems as they occurred. These problems have not been of our making, but more of an issue between ClubV1 and Google. She has tackled these issues with great zeal and has dealt, shall we say, firmly, with the miscreants. You did not realise that we had a rottweiler in our midst, did you?

Rosie has taken over the mantle of our “technology guru” from Ken Hawes.

## **Membership**

It has been another full and interesting year for the Membership Committee with 34 new members, across the various categories of membership, having been elected during the year. Applications keep rolling in to add to the list of candidates who are progressing through the application process.

For the statisticians amongst you, you may care to know that around the turn of the year, 13 resignations were received, there were 10 transfers from Full Playing to Non Playing, 3 in the reverse direction and 1 transfer from Full Playing to Country membership.

You can therefore see that there was quite a turnaround in membership and this is typical for each year in which I have been Secretary. You can also see why approximately 50% of the Club membership has joined us since the turn of the century.

Applications from ladies have seen a welcome increase during the year, with eleven being elected to date, which was much needed to restore the number of Full Playing Lady members to previous levels. So well done to the Ladies who, it is said, hold the key to the future prosperity of the game of golf, given falling club membership numbers generally.

Richard Booth is, once again, to hold Taster Sessions for Ladies. These were well received last year and it is hoped that they will be as successful as last year.

It is obvious from various golfing magazines that I receive that golf club membership is a very serious issue, with many clubs actually closing or merging or offering membership “deals”. So it is pleasing to report that our membership numbers remain healthy, as I will outline shortly, that we have applicants on the way to election and new candidates continuing to apply. We must be doing something right, mustn’t we?

It is down to you members that we find ourselves in this position. You are the best source of membership introductions, although we would obviously not turn people away who, for example, were new to the area.

I think our reputation as a Club is first class – a good course, excellent facilities, a full social calendar and a friendly welcome given to visitors and newcomers alike. I would like to thank those of you who have introduced new members in the past and urge and remind you to continue to remain alert to potential membership candidates from your relatives, friends and colleagues.

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Male Full	209	212	209	216
Male Full <35	14	11	10	9

Lady Full	88	89	84	92
Lady Full<35	1	1	2	2
Hon Life	13	13	13	11
Country	40	42	40	39
Male Non Playing	51	52	50	44
Lady Non Playing	69	68	67	66
Junior	25	24	29	35
Total	510	512	504	514

### **Green Fees**

The Treasurer has mentioned the Green Fee income in his report.

All I would wish to add is that, whilst we continue to receive repeat bookings from our regular visitors, those visiting parties and societies seem to bring fewer players than in the past and this does, obviously, have an effect on our income in this category.

During the year, Council confirmed the policy of only allowing one visiting society on a Friday per calendar month.

### **Housekeeping Issues**

Two administrative matters for your information.

Firstly, the Liability Insurance and Third Party Property Damage cover we have in place for members through Golfguard Limited has been renewed from 1 April. The premium of £2.50 per member, including Insurance Premium Tax, is unchanged.

One important point to make to you is that, should you be in the unfortunate position whereby you suffer an incident which could result in having to make a claim, then the insurers need to be advised of the incident within fourteen days. Accordingly, do please advise the Club Secretary as soon as possible to ensure the terms of the insurance cover are met.

Secondly, the 2014 Cheshire Cards expire on 31 March. The replacements have yet to arrive, even though we have paid our dues to The Union of Cheshire Golf Clubs, and I would therefore ask you to watch out for details being circulated as to how the 2015 cards can be obtained.

### **The Future**

You will no doubt have read reports of doom and gloom about golf in general – falling membership levels, falling golfing participation levels due to time constraints, clubs closing or merging. On top of this, a while ago one politician even stated a view that golf courses should be built upon for new housing and with a leading sponsor of golf globally going into print saying that the game of golf is at a crossroads and must now change.

I do see some truth in some of these issues. I understand that there is a strong demand to play golf from the public but, the time taken to play a round of golf and the perceptions held regarding unwelcoming atmospheres at some golf clubs, deters the majority of people.

However, as I said earlier, I really do believe that we at Hale engender a warm welcome to visitors and are, in our time honoured way, moving steadily forward and in the correct manner. We are very lucky in that we are situated in the geographical area we are, but we must never become complacent on membership issues and simply bury our heads in the sand to change, as it becomes necessary. We must always retain our standards in everything we do.

We are well positioned, as a nine hole course, to cater for people with time pressures affecting their lives, we are applauded for our welcoming attitude, we have facilities and a course to be proud of and, very fortunately, still have members willing to give their time for the benefit of the Club.

Given what has occurred in the past twelve months and from personal experience as Secretary, I still do believe that some more members of Council should receive some acknowledgment from the Club for their efforts by way of subscription relief. In addition, I also strongly believe that we should look seriously at the question of a part time paid administrative assistant and not just support for the Secretary, but also for other Club Officers. Yes, there would be an expense involved, but the benefits we would derive would outweigh the cost.

### **Conclusion**

This is my fourth and final report to an Annual General Meeting.

There have been periods of very challenging circumstances during this four years but the Club has come through successfully and is, probably, stronger as a result.

There are several people who have given me steadfast support. Robert Spark in looking after the monitoring of Green Fees on top of his House Committee work, Johnny Yates for his meticulous work on membership matters which he has undertaken with a smile on his face as you would expect, Rosie Gerrard for the enormous amount of work she has accomplished on maintaining membership records, producing the Handbook, establishing the new website and dealing with the problems I mentioned earlier.

Thank you for all your hard work which has been greatly appreciated.

You may remember that it was said twelve months ago that Ken Hawes and I were joined at the hip. Well, there has been a development! It is now said that we are Siamese twins! Quite what is implied, I am unsure. However, we will let you know when the operation to separate us is to take place.

Anyway, I think you already know that I value Ken's contribution very highly indeed. We have been through thick and thin, discussed and debated issues for many a long hour. We might not have always agreed, but in the majority of cases, we always, I would like to think, came up with the right way to proceed. Ken, thank you for unfailing help and encouragement – you have been a tower of strength.

It would be wrong of me not to acknowledge and thank the President, the Lady Captain and Gentlemen Captain for their support in the work of the Secretariat. To my wife, Norma, the Secretary's secretary as she calls herself, I owe a great debt of gratitude for allowing me the time to devote to Club work. Finally, a thank you to you, the members, for your courtesy and



understanding towards me. I hope and trust that you will extend such courtesies to my successor, whoever that may be, although I am very relieved to see that he has returned from holiday, and to whom I say “Good luck”.

It has been an immense honour to have been Secretary of this great Club of ours for the last four years. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to do so.

Madam President, that concludes my report.”

It was proposed by Billy Kennedy that the Secretary’s Report was accepted and this was seconded by Sue Bryant. This was unanimously passed by the meeting.

The President thanked Cliff for his report: “Thank you Cliff for your report. Cliff has been our Secretary for the past 4 years and retires at this meeting, having kindly agreed to carry on for an extra year 12 months ago.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the club for all your hard work over those 4 years. You have carried out your duties in a thorough and conscientious way.

Whilst you have others to share some of the Secretarial duties the buck stops with you, and you have always been ready to deal with the challenges of the job in a capable manner, whilst also showing those admirable and essential qualities of being approachable and helpful.

Cliff, thank you again and we all hope you enjoy your ‘retirement’.”

## **THANKS TO DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The President then thanked the Development Committee. “Cliff has mentioned the Development Committee in his report so this is an appropriate opportunity for me to thank the members of that committee, Chris Adams, Ray Briggs, Ceri Hyde, Andrew Gething and Robert Spark. Also Jonty Fallows and Dave Smith for giving their expertise. They have worked extremely hard on our behalf over the past months on proposals for the new development to get to the point where they were able to make the very professional presentations to us at the meetings held in February. Thank you very much to each of you for your work so far and I know it will not be too long before members hear of the next stage in the process.”

## **THANKS TO CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

The President thanked the chair of Council. “I will also take the opportunity to thank Andrew Gething who was elected by the members of Council at the first meeting last May to be Chair of Council Meetings this year. He has worked hard to maintain the smooth running of the council meetings and made sure they finish at a reasonable time - not always easy when so many have so much to say! Andrew it has been a job well done, thank you.”

## **LADY CAPTAIN’S REPORT**

The Lady Captain, Tessa Day gave the following report

President, Gentlemen's Captain, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have now come to the end of my year as Lady Captain and I have thoroughly enjoyed myself and thank everyone for their support, kindness and smiles and I hope I have lived up to the expectations of the past lady captains, who put their faith in me.

We have had a successful season in the ladies section with the Handicap 'B' Team winning the prestigious East Cheshire shield – the first time in our history - and the Plate Team coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in their group.

There are various committees behind the scenes that contribute in making Hale such a sort after club and the membership committee plays a very active part in this so my thanks go to Al Kenney, Jane Perks, Cliff Wright, Judy Anderson, David Swale, Johnny Yates and John Moss. Since the last AGM, we have welcomed 11 new lady members, namely Helen Armstrong, Kerry Bailey, Jarna Brown, Karen Charles, Pat Cleary, Kath McNairney, Karen Stockton, Tracy Thompson, Vicky Wells, Judy Longworth and Sandra Mossop. We also have three new non-playing lady members, Christine da Forno, Kathleen Kennedy and Ann Mattocks and one new junior member, Tess Fallows.

I would also like to thank the House Committee, Ceri and Adam Hyde, Robert Spark, Jonny Gray and Jan Ravenscroft for their sterling work this year. In particular, my thanks go to Ceri, Adam and Cliff Wright for all their time and diligent hard work in finding our new stewards, Heather and Jason, who already seem part of the furniture. All good things have to come to an end and although it was sad to say farewell to Anne and Mac, I have no doubt they have made the right choice. Exciting times ahead.

Ceri is also responsible for the clubhouse development and I think you will all agree, the hours she has put in and the attention to detail are second to none. Her presentations have been exceptional and her eloquent voice on Council, positive and enthusiastic. Dear Ceri, thank you. A brilliant job, well done.

We cannot forget Anne and Mac and their team of Jackie, Anya, Ben and Sandy and many thanks to them for providing us with their usual delicious food throughout the year, always smiling, nothing too much trouble and excellent service.

Jan Ravenscroft and her team of Judy Pinnington, Gill Kay, Val Nelstrop, Freda Hunt and Pam Dixon, have organised some very successful social events this year. My very favourites being the Rio Carnival May Ball, the Jazz evening, Bluff my Wine, Halloween and of course, the Christmas Ball. My thanks to you all, for your organisation, time and imagination. I would also like to thank our President, Jennifer, for all her support during my year. Her sound advice and knowledge have been a great help to me.

Last, but by no means least, huge thanks to my partner in crime, Captain Ken, for all his support. Whenever we met on hallowed ground, he would always give me a hug and a smile. We have had a lot of fun together and I think we made a jolly good team not forgetting our peak performance in the Archie Preston!!! Thank you Ken for a brilliant year.

Finally, I would like to wish Barbara and Chris a very happy year as captains with plenty of sunshine and lots of good golf. Thank you for listening.

## **GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

The Gentleman Captain, Ken Lodge gave the following address:

President, Lady Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As for last year, my report is shared with the Lady Captain

The Club is in a strong and financially healthy position, and membership numbers have remained at our budget level.

Sadly we have had deaths of 7 Gentleman members this year.

I have had the pleasure of welcoming 13 new Gentlemen Members:

Gentlemen Full Playing: Lawrence Barnett, Chris Bluer, James Hales, Peter Hindle, Richard Jenkins, Ian Macklin, Tony Sampson, John Wright, Mark Halliwell, Alastair Imrie, Andrew Page, Neil Thompson, John Thorne

Non Playing - Martyn Bromley

Junior - Harry Christopher, Freddie Fallows, Alex Golding, Charlie Grieves, Alex Halliwell, Billy Offland.

Congratulations, I hope you enjoy your time at the Club

I have been very fortunate this year to have had an extremely experienced and competent Council to work with, and am delighted many of them will be working with Chris next year

Our thanks to the Greens committee: Ray Briggs, Helen Davies, Tiff Fielden, Mandy Gilbert, Phil Long, as well as Richard Booth and Russell Lewis.

I would like to make special mention of Paul Simpson who has managed all 30 of the men's competitions, with help from Glynn Isaac and Bill Dixon.

Thanks to the Dunham Forest Team led by Brian Greenbank and Tom Griffiths, Friendly Matches led by Jonny Gray, and the Inter Club 9-hole Competition, led by Mike Kirchin.

Thanks to the Conservation Group, Andy Gething, Mike Morgan, Bill Harvey, Ray Briggs, Andy Veitch, Jane Perks, and Robert Spark plus many supporters and helpers.

Our thanks to the Seniors Organizers, Barry Jefferies, Mike Massey, Alan Kemp, Drummond Sharp, David Swale. The Seniors Group numbers about 85 paid-up members, and they have played 29 matches against 10 clubs, plus weekday Stablefords and Social evenings.

One of my most enjoyable events of the year was the Captain's Day to the Ladies. We had perfect weather, and great turnout. I was made extremely welcome, and some would say that because there is no equivalent Lady Captain's Day, in the interest of equality, it should be discontinued. I think this would be a great pity, and I am not persuaded by the argument that equality means we should all do the same thing.

I have enjoyed the Captain-Pro Challenges. Because the Club decided to no longer play the Challenges on Sundays, we found it difficult to fit in the usual weekly routine. This, with some cancellations due to bad weather, resulted in a poor record of 10 challenges played. However, they were all very enjoyable and I would recommend every golfer should play at least once with the Pro-it is a great to experience golf as it should be played!

Thanks to Albert White for arranging TNC draws. He has collected and kept track of over 2000 attendance subscriptions, and provided prizes this year.

And thanks also to Jonny Gray and helpers who have created the Friday Night Club, which is open to all from about 5 to 7pm on Fridays. We have had up to 40 members attend in one evening, and the year is ended with a formal lunch with no particular end time.

As the first Gentleman Captain to be elected to that position following the rule changes, I would like to make a brief comment about the often contentious issue of Equality.

There is no question that golf clubs in general have been very much male dominated, possibly even more so than society as a whole.

But Hale Golf Club from its founding has had a vibrant and loyal Lady membership. Over the past 20 years, we have moved steadily towards full gender equality in the Club, often resisted by the ladies themselves who did not want the level of subs to be equalised!

It is interesting to note that it is only 13 years since the rules to allow this were adopted at the AGM in March 2002. This happened when Ian Goulty was Captain.

Ladies attended the 2003 AGM for the first time.

Since then we have gradually dealt with organizational anomalies, and with the Equality Act now in force, I think we can say with some conviction that our club provides equal opportunity for both gentlemen and ladies.

Dealing with these last organizational issues has been very challenging, and I would like to express appreciation to recent Councils, chaired in the past by the Club Captains, and recently by the elected chair, the first of whom is Andrew Gething.

I believe very strongly that our Club fully meets the regulatory and ethical expectations of gender equality. Whilst we will continue to have many separate events for Gentlemen and Ladies, there is a need to move on from the sometimes acrimonious debate over equality.

There is no greater demonstration of this than the example set by the 3 ladies who have served on Council in the past year. They were elected to their positions by all members, and have demonstrated by their competence that there is no need to consider gender in selecting people for Council and other positions. Commitment and competence should be the only criteria.

The challenge for the year has been to make the Club's adoption of gender equality during the previous year work on a practical basis, and we have worked hard to achieve this.

In this regard, I would like to extend my personal appreciation to our outgoing Lady Captain, Tessa Day. At the last AGM, Tessa said she looked forward to sunshine, and golf filled with "Fun and Friendship"

I have certainly enjoyed her company, and we have attempted to share the role which was previously played by the Gentleman Captain.

I hope we have lived up to the example set by our predecessors, Sue Fallows and Nigel Taylor.

Thanks too to the first lady to be elected by Council to the role of President, Jennifer Bradley. She has been an excellent source of wise council and has very ably chaired the AGM.

It has been an honour to serve HGC as Gentleman Captain this year. Despite having served on Council previously, I have been truly amazed at the range of activities available within the Club. As Captain, I have tried to participate in as many as possible, and have found the experience far more rewarding than I had anticipated. I have enjoyed every moment of it,

and would recommend that all members make the effort to join roll-ups, participate in social events, play with different people in competitions, and show your support for our juniors. I know this will enhance your enjoyment of the Club, and like me, will discover the great spirit which exists across this great Club.

Finally, I would like to wish Chris Davies all the best for the coming year as Captain, and I am sure he will receive your support and friendship throughout his year in office, just as I have done.

The President thanked the Captains: “Ken and Tessa, how quickly the year has passed. No sooner have you begun and the year has ended. You have both been conscientious and worked hard to fulfil your roles. You have always been there when required and always welcoming. We have enjoyed having you as our captains and hope you have both stored many happy memories of your year in office. Tessa and Ken on behalf of all our members thank you.”

## **ELECTION OF GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN AND LADY CAPTAIN**

The President then dealt with the election of the two new Captains.

Barbara Spark was elected unanimously by the membership as the Lady Captain.

Chris Davies was elected unanimously by the membership as the Gentleman Captain

This was followed by both the Lady Captain’s and the Gentleman Captain’s address

## **NEW LADY CAPTAIN’S ADDRESS**

Barbara Spark, the new Lady Captain spoke as follows:

President, Captain, past Captains, fellow members,  
My year in the wings is over. I have arrived.

Not known for public speaking, I shall make this acceptance short but sincere and liken it to a bikini.....brief but covering all the essential points.

I should firstly like to thank the past Lady Captains for considering me suitable for this auspicious position. It is a great honour and privilege to be appointed in any golf club, but I believe Hale to be very unique.

As Anne and Mac said at their leaving “Hale is a family”. It is a club where we find fellowship both on and off the golf course. My years here are full of happy times, a few sad and many very successful ones. Throughout them all the members have supported me in the teams and cheered on the victories. So thank you all for giving me this opportunity to repay your support by encouraging serious and fun golf and further promoting the very special Hale atmosphere.

I must also say well done Tessa for giving the ladies a very happy year. Your energy has been amazing and your enthusiasm infectious. You will appreciate some spare time now but I know that you will continue to give 100% to the teams.

I am looking forward to working with Chris on the year ahead. Together we hope to build on the numbers entering the mixed events. We hope to encourage both singles and couples, high and low handicappers, young and old, to join in these occasions and experience the fun and enjoyment of these events both on and off the course.

I particularly want to thank Robert for all his encouragement so far. It is a bonus to have his support and for him to be already very involved in the club. We shall see each other more here than at home.

Finally, both Chris and I wish success and happiness to our new stewards, Heather and Jason. We are travelling new paths together and with the support and patience of you all, we will all enjoy the future and make special memories.

My final thank you is to all of you, thank you for having me.

### **NEW GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS**

Chris Davies made the following address as the new Gentleman Captain

President, new Lady Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen of Hale

Can I first thank you, the members, for electing me as the new Gentleman Captain of Hale Golf Club. I feel very proud and honoured to be given this opportunity and I hope I can repay the faith that you have shown in me over the next 12 months!

I shall be the second Gentleman Captain of the club. Having been a member of council until last year, I am fully aware of the hard work that Council, the Secretariat, the president, Andy Gething as chair and in particular my immediate predecessors Nigel Taylor and Ken Lodge have done to define and develop the new role of Gentleman Captain and I should like to thank all concerned.

I should also like to congratulate Barbara as our new Lady Captain and I am looking forward to working with you during the year. We have both embraced the spirit of equality by entering this year's mixed foursomes knockout as a captain's partnership!

I am also pleased to inform the membership that I have been very conscientious with my preparation for the role. Not only have I retired from my busy job in General Practice, but I have also spent most of March re-energising the batteries on holiday with Helen in Sri Lanka.

My most important task today is to thank my predecessor Gentleman Captain Ken, apologies, now ex Gentleman Captain Ken! He leaves a unique legacy as the first Gentleman Captain of Hale Golf Club. He has embraced the role with dedication, commitment and good humour! He has taken a keen interest in the golfing aspect of the job having played in most of the men's competitions and men's friendly matches and has even got himself on the board in addition to his captain's role! He has also taken an active role in the social and administrative sides of the job both at council, TNC and also FNC. He has also been very supportive, as I have prepared for my new role!

I am aware that the roles of both gentleman and lady captain are enjoyable but also demanding and the support of one's partner is important. I should therefore like to thank Lynette and their family for supporting Ken during his year.

Ken, on your retirement from Captaincy, I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing time, no longer having to worry about the next speech, meetings and pressing emails from Hale Golf Club!

Ladies and Gentlemen. Lady Captain and I would like you to stand and show your appreciation for both our ex-Captains Tessa and Ken.

The President congratulated the two new Captains. "Congratulations to you both. I am sure you will both be excellent in these roles and I hope you will have a very happy year."

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW VICE PRESIDENT**

The President then announced the new Vice President. "Before divulging the name of our new VP I will tell you a little about that person. The gender is male who joined HGC in 1990, he is happily married to one of our past LCs, they have three children and 7 Grandchildren, he enjoys the finer things of life, especially holidays but is always happy to get home to his own bed, he is friendly, approachable and I am sure will be thought a popular choice. Ladies and Gentlemen that person is Bill Walsh. Congratulations Bill."

"I will take this opportunity to make another very special announcement. We have two very worthy members who have been awarded Honorary Life Membership. Honorary Life Membership is something that is very rarely given. To receive this honour requires exceptional service to the Club and usually long standing membership. The two members in question more than qualify. They joined the club in 1948, both past Captains and one a past President. They have both served many years in many different roles on Council, in addition one has been club Archivist and the other Team Captain but most notably they served as honorary legal advisers to the Club for some 30 years during which time the purchase of our golf course was made. Ladies and Gentlemen it gives me great pleasure in saying that these two special members who have been given Hon Life Membership are Ian Harris and Oliver Harris. Congratulations to you both.

Ian & Oliver would like to say a few words. Ian will speak first."

Ian remembered growing up in the Club. He had recently found a copy of the Club handbook for 1946 in which his mother was shown as Lady Captain and he and Oliver were listed as Junior members. He thanked the President for this recognition.

Oliver said that he had enjoyed a long and happy membership which represented more than half the life of the Club. This recognition was a great honour for Ian and him and they would like to buy everyone a drink.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The President then dealt with the election of the Officers of the Club and Council members.

None of the nominations for Officers were contested. By general approval of the meeting the following officers were elected by the Membership for 2015/16:

Officers:

Secretary	J H Moss
Assistant Secretary	A R Fishwick
Treasurer	C G Adams
Assistant Treasurer	J N White
Chair Green Committee	R T Briggs
Chair House Committee	C Adam Hyde
Chair Membership Committee	F J Perks

After the meeting's approval of the election of the Officers, The President confirmed the election of the officers for the year 2014/15 and added: "Before we carry on I would like to mention the 5 people who are leaving Council today. Al Kenney 12 years service on Council of which 1 as Captain 5 as Chair of Green and 2 as Chair of Membership. Ceri Hyde 5 years of which 3 as Chair of House. Cliff Wright our Hon Secretary and Ken Hawes our Assistant Hon Secretary who have both served for 4 years, and Paul Simpson for 5 years all on the Green Committee. Each one of these people has given in their own way a significant commitment of time and effort to carry out these important jobs which are essential to the smooth running of the club and have ensured its continued success. Our grateful thanks go to you all."

In the case of the election of Council members, there were four nominations for two places, each for a term of three years. The nominees were G Isaac, D Wainwright, Mrs PA Webster and J Yates

A vote was held with Barbara Grant, Peter Hardern and Alan Bradley acting as tellers.

Elected for three years were:                    Glynn Isaac  
   John Yates

**(During the count, a presentation was given by Chris Wood on his role as Club Archivist. His presentation is attached as an appendix.)**

The President congratulated those Officers and Council members elected for 2015/16 and added: "Commiserations to David and Ann. Thanks to you both for standing. I am sure everyone joins me in thanking you for showing your willingness to work on Council and I hope you will allow your names to go forward in the future."

## **APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINING ACCOUNTANTS**

The Treasurer recommended that Hanley's Accountants were appointed for another year and this was proposed by Peter Veitch and seconded by Andrew Pendleton. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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



The President then reminded members that the new Captains' drive-in would take place the next day at 12.45.

She asked everyone to join Ian and Oliver for a drink.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.55 pm.

Signed by the President

Andrew Pendleton

16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

## APPENDIX 1

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2015

#### ATTENDEES

Chris Adams	Mike Hauser	Andrew Pendleton
Tony Adamson	Ken Hawes	Jane Perks
Marianne Aitken	Win Heath	Roger Perks
Helen Allott	Paul Hilton	Chris Ravenscroft
Judy Anderson	Robin Holden	Jan Ravenscroft
Rosemary Bowden	Sue Holden	Craig Rea
Alan Bradley	John Hughes	Michelle Rea
Jennifer Bradley	Freda Hunt	Andrew Richards
Gwyneth Bramwell	Ian Hunt	Drummond Sharp
Martin Bramwell	Adam Hyde	Margaret Sharp
Ray Briggs	Ceri Hyde	Pat Shenton
Gillian Brogdon	Alastair Imrie	Paul Simpson
Chris Brown	Barry Jefferies	Dave Smith
Sue Bryant	Pat Jefferies	Peter Smith
Alan Cannell	Richard Jenkins	Barbara Spark
Iain Carstairs	Billy Kennedy	Robert Spark
Will Cochrane	Barbara Kennedy	Ray Stephen
Chris Davies	John T Kennedy	Judy Sutherland
Helen Davies	Al Kenney	Dave Swale
Tessa Day	Mike Kirchen	Audrey Taylor
Jonty Fallows	Stuart Lang	Cally Taylor
Sue Fallows	Ken Lodge	Malcolm Taylor
Andrew Fishwick	Lynette Lodge	Paul Taylor
Min Fishwick	Caroline Massey	Corinne Veitch
Rosie Gerrard	Mike Massey	Peter Veitch
Andrew Gething	Roger Mattocks	Vanessa Veitch
Margaret Gilman	Jim McNairney	Peter Vickerman
Sheila Gold	Kathleen McNairney	Della Von Arx
John Goodman	Rosemary Moorehead	David Wainwright
Jill Gower-Jones	Jim Mossop	Bill Walsh
John Gower-Jones	Sandra Mossop	Trina Walsh
Barbara Grant	Ann Murphy	DonWatson
Janet Grant	Conrad Nelstrop	Anne Webster
Jonny Gray	Val Nelstrop	Ian Williamson
Helen Hardern	Glyn Isaac	Chris Wood
Peter Hardern	Barbara O'Brien	Ashley Woodcock
Ian Harris	Roger O'Brien	Fiona Woodcock
Oliver Harris	Roy Offland	Cliff Wright
Peter Harris	Pamela Ogden	Johnny Yates

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2015**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Jez Allen  
JohnBacon  
Ken Bailey  
Vicky Chamberlain  
Karen Charles  
Bob Cooke  
Roger Cross  
Lesley Cuerden  
Roger Da Forno  
Emma Daynes  
Mark Daynes  
Alan Dewhurst  
Di Done  
Tiff Fielden  
Mandy Gilbert  
Paul Gilbert  
Adam Gladwyn  
Jonathan Grant  
Marianne Harding  
Roger Harrison  
Sue Harrison  
Bill Harvey  
Eric Healey  
Gillian Healey  
John Heathcock  
Terry Hope  
Jean Horrocks  
Terence Horrocks  
Margaret Hyde  
Colin Jacques  
John Kennedy  
Irene Kirk  
Ron Kirk  
Kit Lewtas  
Shirley Lewtas  
Ian Macklin  
JimMartin  
Alastair Mawson  
John Moorhouse  
Ray Morris  
John Munnery  
Matthew Nelstrop  
Jim Nicholson  
Martin Oldfield

Joan Pendleton  
Caroline Perkin  
Mike Perkin  
Nina Perkin  
Ian Pinnington  
Judy Pinnington  
Gail Sampson  
Tony Sampson  
Roger Sheen  
Quentin Smith  
Donald Sutherland  
Keith Thompson  
Andy Veitch  
Albert White  
Jay White  
Bernie Wilcox  
Jack Wilcox  
Sally Wright

### Appendix 3 PRESENTATION BY HGC ARCHIVIST, Chris Wood

Good Evening President, Captains and Members

#### THE CLUB ARCHIVE

Archives sound boring so why not appoint a retired academic (boring by definition) to be Club Archivist? I'm only the fourth holder of this post. The Club's first historian was C H Megson (Hon. Secretary 1903-1935), who wrote *Hale Golf Club: a Retrospect* in 1925. The founder archivist, elected in 1976, was Tony Timpson, a member for 69 years. He wrote *Hale Golf Club: Seventy-Five Years 1903-1978*. He was succeeded by Ian Harris, who in 1999 produced a booklet containing revealing and interesting excerpts from the archive (*Hale Golf Club: a History*) and a fascinating compilation of photographs (*Hale Golf Club: a Continuation of the History*). The Club is very fortunate that Neal Hyde made extensive use of the archive in writing his entertaining and informative *Hale Golf Club: a Celebration of the First Century*. Neal ensured that the Club's records to 2003 were preserved for posterity and that they are available for members (and others) to see at the Manchester Central Library. Ian Goulty took over from Ian Harris in 2010 and handed the reins over to me last year.

The Central Library holds many Hale Golf Club documents and Rosie Gerrard (who is looking after the Ladies' archive) and I intend to deposit many more this year. Instructions for accessing them are on the Club web-site and the Secretariat notice-board. There are also extracts from the archive for the first quarter of 1915, 1965 and 1995. Rosie and I hope to update these each quarter. Rosie has also placed Gwen Kirkness's diary of her year as Lady Captain on the Club web-site. It's fascinating, not least because she seems to have been such an improbably **nice** lady.

Rosie and I are always very pleased to hear of additional old photographs, hand-books, accounts, dinner menus, minutes of meetings and so forth. So if you hold Hale Golf Club records that you think should be archived, please let one of us know.

Perhaps I could give you a taste of what will be in the second quarter extract?

**Council Minutes 3 May 1915** The Council agreed to grant the use of the links to the Hale platoon of the Cheshire Volunteer Regiment for drill on Sunday afternoons.

**Council Minutes 14 June 1965** It was reported by Mr. [J. T.] Ogden that the Fruit Machine had been stolen the previous week-end although the Machine and contents were recovered by the Police within hours of the robbery. The Hon. Secretary was asked to write to the Chief Superintendent of the Police, expressing the Council's appreciation of the prompt way in which the miscreants had been apprehended.

**Ladies Committee Minutes 25 May 1995** Lady Captain [Mrs. J. Bradley] reported that she and the Secretary [Mrs. J. Guest] had recently discussed with Mr Captain and Mr Secretary the voting system which would be adopted at the forthcoming meeting to discuss progress on the Clubhouse Development Scheme. It was already agreed that a vote must be taken which would include all present, i.e. the gentlemen and the ladies. However, the Club's existing rules are such that the decision as to whether or not to go ahead with a particular development scheme, must be made by 'Members' only, i.e. Lady Members do not have this right. The Ladies Committee regard this as totally unsatisfactory and a source of considerable discontent.

Finally, I'd like to talk about Martin Schunck, who played off plus 5 and won the Galloway 11 times, the first time as a newly-joined junior in 1907. Neal Hyde says that his background and occupation are unknown. However, he is almost certainly the grandson of Henry Edward

Schunck, himself the son of Martin Schunck - a textile merchant. Edward Schunck was expected to join the family firm but he pursued a life-long interest in chemistry, gaining a PhD in Geissen (the Schuncks were prominent members of the very important German community in 19<sup>th</sup> century Manchester). Edward briefly managed a factory in Rochdale (where I believe Martin was born in 1889) but he gave it up after a few years and the family fortune enabled him to live the life of the gentleman-scientist and philanthropist. He won numerous honours and was elected to a fellowship of the Royal Society for his work on natural fibres, dyes and pigments. On his death, his private laboratory was dismantled and reconstructed at the University of Manchester (the Schunck Building is Grade II listed but no longer a laboratory) and his substantial library was also donated to the University. Martin's occupation remains unknown but his grandfather, like his golf, was very distinguished!



## **MINUTES OF THE 113<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016 AT 8PM**

### **PRESENT**

The President (Mr A Pendleton) Chair of the Meeting, the Gentleman Captain (Mr C Davies), the Lady Captain (Mrs B Spark) and 112 other members. (Appendix 1 is the list of members who were present).

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that everyone had signed in. He then announced the happy news that Heather Moran, wife of the Club's steward Jason Moran, had given birth that day to a baby boy weighing 4lb 13oz.

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice of the meeting was taken as read on the proposition of Vicky Chamberlain, seconded by Alan Bradley. The proposition was passed unanimously by the meeting.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the members noted in Appendix 2.

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

This was approved by the meeting.

The President then asked those present to stand in silent memory of the following members who had passed away during the year.

Roger Cross, Maureen Harris, Margaret Harris, Frank Wynn, Lesley Freeman, Vivienne Morris, Bill Walker and Desmond Dare.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

It was suggested that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015 be approved by the meeting. This was proposed by Peter Hardern and seconded by Chris Wood and the motion was carried.

The minutes of the meeting were duly signed by the President.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AGM OF 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

There were no matters arising.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Chris Adams, presented the following report for the financial year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.

21. "President, Captains, Ladies and gentlemen, I shall start as ever:
  - a. with thanks to those that have given me special help throughout the year,
  - b. make a few valedictory comments on 5 years in the job if I may
  - c. review the overall position of the accounts for 2015
  - d. finally, go through on a page by page basis the details when I'd ask you to make any questions you may have as we go through.
22. My personal thanks go to Jay White, an extremely able Assistant Treasurer, who gets the staff and suppliers paid correctly and on time. Thanks to Johnny Yates who does an excellent job in his duties collecting and processing the subscriptions. I must also mention your Chair of Council Andy Gething with whom it has been a pleasure to work this last three years. He has a sound financial appreciation of my work and tolerance of my over-lively performance in Council. I believe he has served us all very well in this new post and the figures will demonstrate the effective management of all your committees in 2015.
23. Two major points after five years in this job (5360 emails later). Firstly, I believe it is a great strength of Hale that we are run by member volunteers. I hope we can keep it that way for many years to come and I would urge any of you with time, experience and enthusiasm for our great club to put your name forward. Secondly, yes we are a recreational 9 hole course, and we should not take ourselves too seriously, but we must not forget for Heather, Jason, Ben, Richard, Russell and the Dave's - HGC is their career and livelihood. We must manage them in a decent and consistent manner.
24. Turning to 2015 I have enjoyed working closely with the various committee chairs and Secretary. We have secured a strong financial position whilst investing wisely in new course equipment and finally a new shed. The course has never been better – neither has the bank balance. We have achieved some stability in managing the club after the upheaval of the Equalities Act. Our 2020 vision for the clubhouse is taking shape - but inevitably the size of the investment may cause some to worry. We have striven to keep our running costs down without sacrificing any quality – so Audit fees are half of 2010 costs – electricity & gas £2000 down, waste collection and cleaning £4000 down, and so on. We may even get some VAT back on green fees one day.
25. Let's take ourselves back to the Autumn of 2014 when we were formulating our budgets for 2015. Local golf clubs had closed and some feared golf itself was under threat. At Hale we were recovering from the Mac's bombshell announcement of their retirement. Council wisely felt, in view of the unknowns that we should budget on a prudent basis. What was the market like for new stewards, where do you advertise, what would candidates make of the accommodation and business prospects at a nine hole course? What would be the contractual issues? Would we get any decent applicants? Financially what would be the effect on our bar turnover, green fees and room hire fees. We just had not recruited stewards for 14 years.

26. So how did we get on? Firstly we now know about recruitment and contractual issues with new stewards. I am pleased to report that your elected officers and crew have steered our ship through these stormy seas, and these accounts show we have come through pretty well financially, with an almost embarrassing surplus for 2015. I own up that when I finally pressed the button on my computer and took a look at the final result I was a bit shocked myself given we set off to break even!

27. So let's start on detailed pages and begin with Page 3 - the Income. Happy to take any questions as we go through each page:

In December 2014 we had a **subscription** increase of 2.6% for 2015 of £25 on playing subscriptions, and our budget for subscriptions was £328k so we finish with effectively 2 more lady members than budget.

**Green fees** did not attract VAT in 2015 so in real terms fell a little. Please help in 2016. We have a course in great condition – do bring your friends.

**Bar sales** show a fall over 2014. But careful examination shows the entire variance is accounted for by extremely high sales in June 2014 – world cup month! The remaining months are pretty stable and margins have improved a little (well done Adam). So our worst case scenario did not happen.

**Sundry income** includes income from franchise fee (introduced to secure the legal independence of the catering business). Despite falling interest rates we managed another £2.7k interest in 2015 net of tax. We keep these funds spread for security.

To help our VAT position we have brought the Pro-Am into our accounts this year.

28. So going back to page 2 we can see overall income is up on 2014 and ahead of budget because of improvement in entrance fees. Our thanks here go to you, all the proposers, seconders and the hard work of the Membership Committee to process 20 new members to keep us up to budget.

29. Looking at our costs and starting with **Course expenditure** –in total we had a fall to £173.6k from £175.5k last year. R&M machinery included significant repairs to the new buggy. Bad weather in December delayed work on the winter programme. Fuel costs benefitted from lower prices.

30. **House costs** have again done well. We see savings from Salaries from our new arrangements, we have continued to reduce Utility costs. Our new gas contract is 20% below 2015 prices. Repairs and maintenance are back to normal levels, with decorations made to the cottage and various costs to the kitchen and cellars for H&S ratings. As the development presentations went well, Council have deemed further expenses on this to be part of a major capital project. 2014 included initial plans, costings and presentations for the development. Sundry expenses were exceptionally low in 2014. Depreciation increases due to change in policy approved by Council. It has the effect of writing off all our 1995 expenses by the end of 2017.

31. Turning to our **Administrative** costs, these have increased slightly. We had a full year of surface water and highways drainage. We have spent £2,000 on relocation fees for the new stewards. Non-recoverable VAT has gone up due to substantial capital expenditure.

32. So **overall** the income and expenditure account shows a surplus. Taking the surplus and adding back non-cash items (£65.3k depreciation and the capital allocation) makes over £88.5k towards our capital requirements.



33. Moving on to our **balance sheet** page 4 and notes starting on page 5 we start with fixed assets which showed a big increase. Overall we spent £77.7k on capital, including £10k on design costing and planning for the development, and £4k building extension for the cold-room. We have spent £17k on the kitchen, cold-room equipment, and cottage. A new tumble drier, alarm system, competition computer, and a sewage pump. The Greens shed finally arrived (£26k) and we made the purchase of a new utility vehicle for £9k and a new buggy for £3.5k.
34. The club received £5,000 in legacies towards the development.
35. Our effective net cash position carried forward has increased by some £13k to **£227k net assets**. There remains £8k capital approved by Council in 2015 that will be spent in early 2016. This forms the base for future developments.
36. Final point on the accounts is **note 7**. Whilst HMRC changed the VAT position for green fees from 1 January 2015, the arrears position remains outstanding. The Tribunal Judge awarded the clubs 90% of their arrears and HMRC have not appealed that decision.
37. I finish by saying I hope you all agree these accounts show we remain in a strong financial position. Whilst some clubs have their troubles, thanks to the hard work of your elected members on Council, and your support, we have a solid business model. Our target remains to keep our cost base under control and keep the quality of experience that members enjoy. Future capital investments need to enhance our enjoyment, but we need to keep subscriptions increases under control both for the retention of existing members and to attract the next generation. As always, please support your club by bringing your friends for a game, share a bottle of wine from our cellar and enjoy Jason's food.
38. President, ladies and gentlemen thank you for listening and that concludes my report."

The President thanked the Treasurer for his report

"Chris, on behalf of the Club I would like to thank you for presenting another excellent set of accounts. You have been a dedicated and diligent Treasurer for the last 5 years ensuring we have maintained the Club's strong financial position, something which is very much the envy of other clubs in the area. Thank you for all your hard work it has been very much appreciated."

Paul Gilbert proposed that the meeting accept the Financial Accounts for 2015 and this was seconded by Ian Goulty and the proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary, John Moss, presented the following report:

"President, Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen. My first reaction on being asked to be your Secretary was "what big shoes to fill". I follow in the wake of 3 J's and 2 C's in John Hughes, John Goodman, John Savin, Chris Wood and Cliff Wright. They have been of enormous help and support to me this year. The role of Secretary is an all-embracing one and you never know what will come up next. Like me, all my predecessors and all your other Officers are volunteers (or maybe we were press ganged) and it says a lot for the Club that we still manage to run without any paid management or office staff. We are very lucky to have such a large pool of members willing to play their part in the running of the Club and all its activities. Chris Adams (our Treasurer for the last 6 years), Ray Briggs and Adam Hyde as Chairmen of

Greens and House respectively are all retiring this year and we are very grateful to each of them for all that they have done for the Club. The role of Treasurer possibly attracts more attention at this meeting (and deservedly so in the light of the day to day work and expertise that Chris has put in—I'm not trying to dissuade Paul Gilbert from taking over) but like so much else the running of the course and the Clubhouse can pass unnoticed unless something has gone wrong. I'm pleased to say that everything on the course and in the Clubhouse seems to be going well.

People sometimes say that playing at Hale is like millionaires golf, the course is immaculate and seems so underused, they must either get up late or sleep through the afternoons. It is a privilege to be able to play virtually whenever you want to. We hear so often of other clubs where members are unhappy because of the number of outside events that are allowed. Council has maintained its policy of only allowing one outside group to have the use of the course on one Friday a month.

We are a very active Club. When I am asked to put events on the calendar, it is often a case of finding an available slot. Not only do we have a plethora of Roll-ups on a Tuesday and sometimes on a Saturday for the men, but the Ladies have the Bell Cup, inter-club matches, Ladies Friendly, Ladies B team, and Ladies Plate matches as well as their Thursday competitions. I apologise, Ladies, if I have missed out any of your other golfing activities.

The Men have 19 matches during the summer months of which 12 are at home this year. And then there are the Seniors, 37 matches between March and October. Yet despite all this activity, the course has been kept, weather permitting, in immaculate condition by Russell and the 2 Dave's, a fact which is often commented on by visitors.

Jan Ravenscroft and her team on the Social Committee arranged some 30 social events last year and the same number are in the calendar for this year. All are very well supported and they do vary from year to year. You will have seen that Jan is arranging a Barn Dance and BBQ in June as part of a family day. Other activities in the Clubhouse have included the fortnightly Club Bridge evenings throughout the winter run by Robin and Sue Holden which contribute greatly to the sense of being members of the Club, something that differentiates us from those clubs who make offers of short term or restricted membership.

The Ladies have their bridge matches through the winter and a group of men play bridge every Monday. All these activities are open to any member. Several of the bridge players are now non-playing members and all play a part in making the Club a happy and inclusive place.

We wouldn't be in the real world if some members did not have grumbles or moans from time to time. I would ask that you are constructive and positive. If there is a problem then please let me or the relevant Chairman know so that we can resolve it.

I believe that you will agree with me when I say that we are a thriving club and are not hampered by only having 9 holes.

Membership numbers have grown slightly this year in contrast to other clubs across the country. Council agreed to increase the number of Male Full Players to 220 and this has enabled us to offer membership to 10 men this year. There are 94 Lady Playing Members which is the same as last year. We have 32 Junior members and 38 Country members which together with 110 Non-Playing members gives a total of 504 members. Richard Booth continues to enthuse the Juniors who come for coaching but the number has dropped by 6 this year. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to give golf a go. They are the future of the game. Whilst membership numbers are good we should not rest on our laurels.

During 2015 Jennifer Bradley's term in office as our President came to an end and Council elected Andrew Pendleton as her successor and Bill Walsh as the new Vice President. We

thank Jennifer for serving as President and it was through her initiative, with the Captains, that the first joint announcement of the coming year's Captains took place. It was held on a Thursday evening and I believe worked well. This year we will follow that pattern and the announcement will be made on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Again it will be followed by an informal meal.

Talking of food brings me to Jason and Heather who were one week in post at the AGM last year. They have responded well to the welcome they have been given and I am sure that everyone finds them cheerful and helpful and enjoys their food. We wish them well for the impending birth of their first child.

We are lucky to have such a stable and cheerful group of people behind the bar, waiting on and also the 2 Dave's on the course. Again I think this is another effect of being a relatively small Club in that nearly everyone is known to and acknowledged by the membership.

My thanks go to everyone who has helped me in any way this year. I could not have done the job without the help of many people. Cliff Wright and Ken Hawes have ever been available to Andrew Fishwick and myself and been willing to act as sounding boards when I have not been sure of something. Andrew carries much of the load of filtering out incoming post and emails as well as taking the Minutes at Council and being an ever present support to me. He now accepts that my computer skills are pretty limited and configures my reports without being asked. You probably won't know how much goes on behind the scenes with regards to establishing and maintaining membership records but I can tell you that barely a week goes by without something being done. We are indebted to Johnny Yates and Rosie Gerrard for the work which they do. The same goes also for the amount of time which Glyn Isaac, Johnny Gray and Mike Kirchin put into organising the men's matches. Glyn has had an especially torrid time of it over the last 3 months of bad weather.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report."

It was proposed by Chris Brown that the Secretary's Report was accepted and this was seconded by Rosie Gerrard. This was unanimously passed by the meeting.

The President thanked John for his report: "John, thank you for your very thorough report and the way you have managed the Club's affairs in your first year as Secretary. You commit a significant amount of time and effort to the Club for which we are very grateful."

## **THANKS TO CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

The President then thanked Andrew Gething, the Chair of Council. "I would like to thank Andrew Gething for chairing Council in the last 12 months. Andrew, you have worked closely with the Club's various officers to ensure the smooth running of Council in addition to coordinating the Development committee. Thank you for all your work in moving the Club forward."

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

On the subject of the Development, the President then commented as follows.

"I would like to give a brief update on the current status of the project.

Following the presentations made in February and March last year when the members gave their overwhelming support for a clubhouse development project to proceed, progress has been a little slower than anticipated. This has mainly been due to the time it has taken to find and appoint suitable professional advisers for the interior design and fit out of any scheme. Following a detailed search, Council approved the appointment of CMJ Bar Fitting for this work at the October council meeting. I can also confirm that we have been granted full

planning permission for a development which would allow us to undertake any of the schemes under consideration.

The Development committee is aware that there are differing views from the membership on the type of scheme that should be undertaken and also the level of financial commitment we should make, so they are preparing detailed plans and costings for 2 schemes which can be put to the members for consideration. They are currently working with several contractors on the costings for these schemes in order that they can first present firm proposals to Council and then to the members. Both schemes will meet the general requirements agreed following the survey but in slightly differing ways and level of cost.

I hope you will appreciate it is very important that we have the best possible schemes to consider and also that we have accurate costings to go with them. This is taking some time and is not yet complete, however work is now well advanced and we hope to complete this stage of the project in the next couple of months. Once the plans and costs have been presented and approved by Council, there will be further presentations for the members, an opportunity to offer views and opinions before voting on how to proceed.

There has been a tremendous amount of work put in on the Development committee and I would like to thank all of those involved for their time and commitment in order that we can achieve the best result for Hale Golf Club in the future.

If in the meantime you have any specific questions about the Development, please address them directly to Andrew Gething or Ceri Hyde.”

## **LADY CAPTAIN’S REPORT**

The Lady Captain, Barbara Spark, gave the following report:

“President, Gentleman Captain, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have now completed my year as Lady Captain. How it has flown. It has been a very enjoyable time and I hold a store of happy memories. Thank you everyone for your kindness, encouragement and support. At this point I want to thank Robert, he has been a star throughout!

We are a very thriving Ladies section that are able to field three teams in the East Cheshire League and then have an enthusiastic friendly team too. We are fortunate in having a Cheshire County player, Tiff Fielden, and we wish her continued success in her selection. Sadly no trophies this year, but all enjoyed the competition.

It has been a revelation to spend time on Council. I have been so impressed at the amount of time given to Club matters and the commitment of every committee member. I thank all the Council for all your hard work. The membership committee (Jane Perks, Judy Anderson, John Moss, David Swale and Johnny Yates) have this year welcomed to the Ladies: Bernadette Robinson as a full playing member, Amy and Katie Ponter as junior girls, and as non-playing members Elizabeth Hawes and Jane Bacon, and returning non-players Mary Pendleton and Margaret Drake.

The House Committee has worked tirelessly for the smooth running of the clubhouse and the settling-in of our new stewards. The Committee of Adam Hyde, Jonny Gray, Robert Spark, Gill Kay and Jan Ravenscroft have done a wonderful job. Jason and Heather have proved an excellent addition and will continue adding in their new role as parents. I am sure we all wish them every happiness in their family life.

The social side has never looked better; Jan Ravenscroft with her committee (Gill Kay, Gail Sampson, Sandra Mossop, Emma Daynes) has organised a packed programme of delights and I'm sure most of you will have memories of a GOOD Night at the Club and will smile.

Finally, a huge thank you to Captain Chris for his invaluable support and his generous words at the Ladies Meeting. Chris, it has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside you although our partnership in the Foursomes was not our finest hour!

Last, but not least, I wish the future Captains Val and David a very happy year with good weather, enjoyable golf and sparkling wine! Thank you."

## **GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

The Gentleman Captain, Chris Davies, gave the following address:

"President, Lady Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen of Hale Golf Club.

Both the Treasurer's and the Secretary's reports demonstrate that the Club remains in a strong and financially healthy position. The Gentlemen section of the club remains popular and numbers have risen to 220 whilst still maintaining a waiting list of prospective members.

We have welcomed the following new Gentlemen and Junior members who have joined during the last year:

### **Gentlemen Full Playing:**

Colin Bamford  
Martyn Bromley  
Patrick Brown  
Laurence Cleary  
Ewan Drake  
Andrew Hay  
Andrew Kay  
Iain Shaw  
Simon Wallwork  
Ben Wilcox

### **Junior (boys):**

Thomas Grant and William Grant

Finally I should like to welcome our steward, Jason Moran, who has joined as a Gentleman Full Playing, non-voting member, under a special membership approved by council.

Congratulations to them all and I hope you enjoy your time at the Club as much as I do!

As we all know, Hale is a very special Club and Lady Captain Barbara and I have been very fortunate to have an excellent set of officers and council members who work to support us.

Membership and House have already been thanked, but I should particularly like to mention the Greens Committee led by Ray Briggs. He has worked assiduously on both the course and the upgraded shed area with Russell and his team. Together with our 4<sup>th</sup> green keeper and assistant Pro, Bill Harvey, the course continues to improve and evolve and I think the Greens are as good this winter as I have seen them, despite the inclement weather. They should be congratulated. Competitions are a fundamental part of the club and the job of organising them is onerous. Both Lady Captain and I are particularly grateful for the efforts of Mandy Gilbert for the Ladies, Helen Davies for Mixed competitions and Glyn Isaac for Men's competitions with help from Bill Dixon, Paul Simpson and friends! Finally, I should like to thank the co-

opted members on greens, Tiff Fielden, Phil Long in addition to Russell Lewis and Richard Booth in their advisory roles.

I should particularly like to thank Richard Booth for providing his professional services over the last year, leading our Ryder Cup tour to Portugal and enduring one of the wettest, golfless winters on record.

Andrew Gething has not only chaired council this year but continues to lead the club's Conservation Group along with Mike Morgan, Jane Perks, Bill Harvey, and a willing band of volunteers who continue to work hard on projects such as the 3rd Augusta Bank, clearing invasive species and other course projects. You all have my admiration for all the hard work you do in enhancing our excellent Golf Course and I would like to encourage members to get involved, it is very rewarding and good exercise!

Thanks to Albert White and his deputy Ray Briggs for organising TNC and the draws. I should also like to extend our thanks to Paul Bramwell for his stewardship of the 200-club and its generous support of club projects. FNC continues to go from strength to strength under the combined administration of Jonny Gray and Jonny Yates.

I have enjoyed representing Hale in our official men's club matches against our traditional foes! I should like to thank Jonny Gray for his organisation and fellow players for their endeavours; undefeated at home in 7 matches, including Ringway and Stockport! Mike Kirchin has continued to organise our team in the 9-hole league and Tommy Griffiths led the Dunham Forest team albeit for another brief sojourn!

This year I was able to play Gentleman Captain/Pro challenges on a Friday and also re-introduce Sunday morning challenges by playing with Russell Lewis, our head green keeper. These proved popular, particularly those on a Sunday when we had to be careful not to be derailed by offers of champagne after 9 holes.

Inclusivity has been important for me during my year. I therefore took the opportunity to join the Seniors and paid my life membership fee of £10. They are a very active part of the club, ably run by Barry Jefferies and his team. I did contribute by playing and winning my only match against Ringway!

Inclusivity also includes the Ladies section. I was made very welcome at my Gentleman Captains Day to the Ladies on a very pleasant sunny day in June and also made a brief appearance at their annual meeting last week to express my thanks to Lady Captain. This is the second year of joint captain's of the club. It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with Lady Captain Barbara at formal, golfing and social events. A particular highlight was the joint presentation of the new captains elect in October.

I would like to thank the Presidents for their help, namely Jennifer Bradley followed by Andrew Pendleton. They have given me support and wise advice about the traditions and protocols that accompany the Gentleman Captain role.

There are many other members who contribute to this Club in a small way and I appreciate that I may have missed you out. But my thanks go to all.

I can't miss the next person out! I should especially like to thank Helen for her great support during my captain's year. She is looking forward to having me back and arranging some holidays without competition from the Hale Golf Club calendar!

It has been an honour to serve as your Gentleman Captain over the last year. I have particularly enjoyed the camaraderie at a Thursday night and your support from my TNC Gentleman Captain's Dinners! But, my endearing memory of the year will be the support I have received from all sections of the club! Thank you!

Finally, I would like to wish David Swale, our Gentleman Captain Elect all the very best for the following year as your Gentleman Captain and I am sure he will enjoy your support and friendship throughout his year in office just as I have done. Thank you.”

## **ELECTION OF GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN AND LADY CAPTAIN**

The President then dealt with the election of the two new Captains.

Val Nelstrop was elected unanimously by the membership as the Lady Captain.

David Swale was elected unanimously by the membership as the Gentleman Captain

This was followed by both the Lady Captain’s and the Gentleman Captain’s address

## **NEW GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN’S ADDRESS**

David Swale made the following address as the new Gentleman Captain;

“President, new Lady Captain, retiring and past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen of Hale.

Many thanks to the Past Captains for their confidence in me when they asked me to be Captain. When I was approached I foresaw I would have a problem to address, as on most Thursday evenings, winter and summer, I am normally to be found playing tennis at Brooklands. Thus, I couldn’t commit to attending TNC regularly. However, the Past Captains assured me they would be able to cover for my frequent absence from TNC, and the way was cleared for me to accept their invitation.

There are two people that I specifically want to thank too, Paul Bramwell and John Gower-Jones, who supported me in my application for membership of the Club some twenty years ago.

I’m looking forward to being Captain alongside Lady Captain Val, and I give final thanks to Chris Davies, who’s been very kind and helpful over the last few months.”

## **NEW LADY CAPTAIN’S ADDRESS**

Val Nelstrop, the new Lady Captain spoke as follows:

“President, Gentleman Captain, retiring and past Captains, fellow members,

I am honoured to be given the position of Lady Captain by the past Captains. I look forward to my year in office and I want to thank Barbara for her enthusiasm and leadership during the past year.”

The President congratulated the two new Captains. “Congratulations to you both. I am sure you will both be excellent in these roles and I hope you will have a very happy year.”

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The President then dealt with the election of the Officers of the Club and Council members.

None of the nominations for Officers were contested. By general approval of the meeting the following officers were elected by the Membership for 2016/17:

Officers:

Secretary	J H Moss
Assistant Secretary	A R Fishwick
Treasurer	PJT Gilbert
Assistant Treasurer	J N White

Chair Green Committee	WA Veitch
Chair House Committee	MJ Kirchin
Chair Membership Committee	F J Perks

After the meeting's approval of the election of the Officers, The President confirmed the election of the Officers for the year 2016/17.

In the case of the election of Council members, there were two nominations for two places, each for a term of three years. The nominees were A Gething and D Wainwright. By general approval of the meeting they were elected to Council.

The President congratulated the Officers and Council members elected: "Congratulations to all those Officers and Council members elected for 2016/17. I would also ask that any members interested in getting involved with the running of the club to speak with either of the Captains or myself as, not for the first time this evening, I can confirm we are always looking for willing volunteers."

### **APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINING ACCOUNTANTS**

The Treasurer recommended that Hanley's Accountants were appointed for another year and this was proposed by Paul Gilbert and seconded by Janet Grant. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

The President then reminded members that the Captain's Drive in would be held on Easter Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March followed by an informal lunch at which all members were very welcome. After lunch a 9 hole match would be played between the Gentleman Captain's and the Lady Captain's teams for the Victory Cup. Members were asked to support the new Captains and sign the list for golf if they would like to play in the match.

The President asked everyone to join him in having a drink 'on the Club'.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed by the President

Andrew Pendleton

24<sup>th</sup> March 2017



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016**

#### **ATTENDEES**

John Acratopulo	Don Grice	Roger Perks
Chris Adams	Humphrey Grundy	Judy Pinnington
Helen Allott	Peter Hardern	Chris Ravenscroft
Judy Anderson	Ian Harris	Jan Ravenscroft
John Bacon	Sue Harrison	Michelle Rea
Matt Barr	Bill Harvey	Andrew Richards
Rosemary Bowden	Mike Hauser	Drummond Sharp
Alan Bradley	John Hughes	Margaret Sharp
Jennifer Bradley	Freda Hunt	Roger Sheen
Martin Bramwell	Ian Hunt	Paul Simpson
Paul Bramwell	Adam Hyde	Dave Smith
Christine Brierley	Ceri Hyde	Peter Smith
Ray Briggs	Alastair Imrie	Anne Smyth
Gillian Brogdon	Glyn Isaac	Barbara Spark
Sue Bromley	Colin Jacques	Robert Spark
Martyn Bromley	Barry Jefferies	Ray Stephen
Chris Brown	Pat Jefferies	Karen Stockton
Iain Carstairs	Richard Jenkins	Neil Stockton
Vicky Chamberlain	Alan Kemp	Donald Sutherland
Bob Cooke	Mike Kirchin	Judy Sutherland
Ann Davies	Stuart Lang	Dave Swale
Chris Davies	Ken Lodge	Louise Swale
Helen Davies	Lynette Lodge	Cally Taylor
Mike Davis	Philip Long	Nigel Taylor
Tessa Day	Caroline Massey	Paul Taylor
Sue Fallows	Mike Massey	Andy Veitch
Tiff Fielden	Mike Morgan	Corinne Veitch
Andrew Fishwick	Jim Mossop	Vanessa Veitch
Min Fishwick	Sandra Mossop	Della Von Arx
Paul Galvin	John Moss	David Wainwright
Rosie Gerrard	Conrad Nelstrop	Bill Walsh
Andrew Gething	Val Nelstrop	Trina Walsh
Mandy Gilbert	Pip Nichols	Don Watson
Paul Gilbert	Glyn Isaac	Albert White
Margaret Gilman	Roger O'Brien	Jay White
Ian Goulty	Roy Offland	Chris Wood
Jill Gower-Jones	Andrew Pendleton	Cliff Wright
John Gower-Jones	Joan Pendleton	
Janet Grant	Jane Perks	

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Tony Adamson  
Ken Bailey  
Colin Bamford  
Sue Bryant  
George Buchan  
Lesley Cuerden  
Roger Da Forno  
Emma Daynes  
Lucy Daynes  
Mark Daynes  
Alan Dewhurst  
Di Done  
Ewan Drake  
Eamonn Dwyer  
Jonty Fallows  
Peter Frank  
Joe Freeman  
Jonathan Grant  
Jonny Gray  
Helen Hardern  
Oliver Harris  
Ken Hawes  
John Heathcock  
Geoff Hill  
Terence Horrocks  
Penny Hughes  
Wendy Jenkins  
Alex Jones

Barbara Kennedy  
Bill Kennedy  
Rody Keunun  
Kit Lewtas  
Shirley Lewtas  
Ian Macklin  
Alastair Mawson  
Chris Mawson  
Rosemary Moorehead  
Barbara O'Brien  
Martin Oldfield  
Ian Pinnington  
Cynthia Sunderland  
Audrey Taylor  
Malcolm Taylor  
Keith Thompson  
Tracy Thompson  
Peter Veitch  
Val Watson  
Ann Webster  
Vicky Wells  
Ben Wilcox  
Bernie Wilcox  
Jack Wilcox  
Ashley Woodcock  
Fiona Woodcock  
Johnny Yates



## **Minutes of the Special General Meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Attendees      See appendix 1

Apologies      See Appendix 2

The President opened the meeting and welcomed the Members attending.

He asked if the Apologies could be taken as read. This was approved by the Members.

He confirmed the purpose of the meeting was to vote on the resolution stated in the Notice of the Meeting, namely...

“That the Council be empowered to proceed with the redevelopment of the Clubhouse in accordance with the Plan A scheme, details of which were presented to Members in July subject to:-

- a) the cost (“the Cost”) not exceeding the total sum (including irrecoverable VAT) of £500,000 (of which the Club has accrued £250,000 over the years)
- b) all the Cost having been covered by the said accrued funds, donations and/or loans before the contracts are placed
- c) such amendments to the scheme as may be agreed by Council provided that such amendments do not increase the Cost
- d) there being no borrowings other than by way of the Members' loans not exceeding £200,000.”

The President summarised the situation. Two meetings had been held in July to outline the proposed development options to Members and recommend a way forward. A survey at these meetings showed clear support for the Plan A Scheme. Proposals for funding, through Members’ loans and donations, had been circulated by the Treasurer who would shortly give an update on the situation. This meeting was to formally vote on whether to proceed or not. There would be opportunity in the meeting for questions but it was not intended to have a debate as there had been many opportunities for Members to express their views already. The President confirmed the situation with regard to voting rights. Only Full Members, Non-playing Members who were formerly Full Members or Lady Members (as that category existed prior to 2002) for at least 10 years, and Honorary Life Members would be entitled to vote (in accordance with Rule 15 (a) of the Club Rules)

The Treasurer then summarised the situation with regard to funding. £298,000 had already been pledged by way of loans and donations from Members. The target was £300,000 of which £250,000 was needed for the project and £50,000 would be held as a contingency buffer. Money from Members’ loans would be capped at £200,000 and these would be accepted on a “first-come” basis.

The monies pledged should be paid to the Club by the end of October, after which, if fully funded, the project would formally commence and contracts would be signed for the work. So far, only one development bank account had been set up for loans and donations but it would seem a good idea to have an account for each and the Treasurer would notify Members of the account numbers.

Members would be kept up to date with the latest information on the Club notice board, on the Web site and by email.

So far, only a draft loan note had been prepared but a final one would be issued when Council were able to give the go-ahead once the project was fully funded. The Trustees would issue loan notes in November.

Questions were invited from the Members.

There was only one question. How would over-funding be handled? This would be dealt with on a “first-come first-served” basis and loans received after the £200,000 capping level had been reached would be returned.

The President then read out the resolution and asked for approval to appoint Jennifer Bradley, Peter Hardern and Peter Veitch as tellers. This was approved. It was confirmed that all voting slips would be destroyed after the vote and no record kept of how Members voted.

A further question arose. Could the decision not be made by a show of hands? The President explained that this was not possible because it was necessary to check that people were entitled to vote.

After the voting slips were collected and counted, the President announced the results. 123 Members were in favour of the proposal and 11 against. The motion was carried.

It was explained that the timing of the work could not be precise until the funds had been collected and contractors appointed but it was hoped to commence in 1 Q 2017. A Building Committee would be set up and the President asked that if anyone felt they could contribute they should speak to the Captains, the President or Andrew Gething.

The tellers were thanked for their help and the meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

Signed by the President

Andrew Pendleton

24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## APPENDIX 1

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2016

#### ATTENDEES

John Acratopulo	Don Grice	Pamela Ogden
John Adams	Humphrey Grundy	Martin Oldfield
Jez Allen	Helen Hardern	Andrew Pendleton
Helen Allott	Peter Hardern	Caroline Perkin
John Appleby	Ian Harris	Ian Pinnington
John Bacon	Ken Hawes	Judy Pinnington
Colin Bamford	Gillian Healey	Chris Ravenscroft
Matt Barr	Jim Heaton	Jan Ravenscroft
David Beattie	Peter Hindle	Michelle Rea
Rosemary Bowden	Robin Holden	Andrew Richards
Alan Bradley	Sue Holden	Gail Sampson
Jennifer Bradley	John Hughes	Tony Sampson
Paul Bramwell	Penny Hughes	Margaret Sharp
Christine Brierley	John Hulbert	Roger Sheen
Ray Briggs	Freda Hunt	Paul Simpson
Colin Broadbent	Ian Hunt	Dave Smith
Martyn Bromley	Adam Hyde	Barbara Spark
Sue Bromley	Ceri Hyde	Robert Spark
Chris Brown	Glyn Isaac	Ray Stephen
Sue Bryant	Barry Jefferies	Vic Stratta
Alan Cannell	Pat Jefferies	Cynthia Sunderland
Iain Carstairs	Richard Jenkins	Donald Sutherland
Vicky Chamberlain	Alex Jones	Judy Sutherland
Will Cochrane	Andrew Kay	Dave Swale
Mary Cockbain	Gill Kay	Cally Taylor
Ann Davies	Alan Kemp	Paul Taylor
Chris Davies	Mike Kirchin	Tracey Thompson
Helen Davies	Ron Kirk	Andy Veitch
Roger Dawson Smith	Ken Lodge	Corinne Veitch
Emma Daynes	Philip Long	Peter Veitch
Alan Dewhurst	Judy Longworth	Vanessa Veitch
Ewan Drake	Clare Makin	Della Von Arx
Jonty Fallows	Rob Manley	David Wainwright
Sue Fallows	Jim Martin	Bill Walsh
Roger Fielding	Caroline Massey	Trina Walsh
Min Fishwick	Mike Massey	Don Watson
Rosie Gerrard	Jim McNairney	John Webb
Andrew Gething	John Moss	Anne Webster
Mandy Gilbert	Jim Mossop	Michael Wells
Paul Gilbert	Sandra Mossop	Philip Whewell
Margaret Gilman	John Munnery	Clare Withey
John Gower-Jones	Ann Murphy	Guy Withey
Barbara Grant	Conrad Nelstrop	Chris Wood
Janet Grant	Matthew Nelstrop	John Wright
Jonathan Grant	Val Nelstrop	Bill Wrigley
Jonny Gray	Pip Nichols	Johnny Yates
Jean Green	Roger O'Brien	

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2016**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Tony Adamson  
Chris Adams  
Ken Bailey  
Iris Bailey  
Andrew Fishwick  
David Gandy  
John Goodman  
Oliver Harris  
Roger Mattocks  
Chris Mawson  
Kathleen McNairney  
Barbara O'Brien  
Jane Perks  
Roger Perks  
Vicky Wells  
Cliff Wright



## **MINUTES OF THE 114<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 2017 AT 8PM**

### **PRESENT**

The President (Mr A Pendleton) Chair of the Meeting, the Gentleman Captain (Mr D Swale), the Lady Captain (Mrs V Nelstrop) and 83 other members. (Appendix 1 is the list of members who were present).

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that everyone had signed in.

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice of the meeting was taken as read on the proposition of Andrew Gething, seconded by Barbara Grant. The proposition was passed unanimously by the meeting.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the members noted in Appendix 2.

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

This was approved by the meeting.

The President then asked those present to stand in silent memory of the following members who had passed away during the year.

Terry Ogden, Joan Pendleton, Jack Fillingham, Michael Perkin, Malcolm Taylor, Terry Wild.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

It was suggested that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 be approved by the meeting. This was proposed by Jane Perks and seconded by Peter Hardern and the motion was carried.

The minutes of the meeting were duly signed by the President.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AGM OF 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

There were no matters arising.

## **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

It was suggested that the minutes of the SGM held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be approved by the meeting. This was proposed by Vicky Chamberlain and seconded by David Wainwright and the motion was carried.

The minutes of the meeting were duly signed by the President.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SGM OF 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

There were no matters arising.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Paul Gilbert, presented the following report for the financial year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016.

“President, Captains, Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give specific thanks to:

- My predecessor, Chris Adams, for leaving me a tidy set of books and a healthy bank balance.
- The Development Committee; we are very fortunate to have had the project so well-managed.
- Jay White, the Assistant Treasurer, for so many years of support, always paying the staff and suppliers accurately and on time, you will be a hard act to follow.

During the year ended 31 December 2016, the Club's Net Assets increased by £36,471 and now exceed £1 million for the first time. This increase results from a surplus for the year transferred to the General Reserve of £13,421 and a transfer to the Capital Fund of £23,050.

The Balance Sheet is dominated by closing cash balances of £765,684 helped by £443,322 of cash generated during the year. Our cash balances were not only strengthened by Members donations and loans received totalling £315,500, but also by cash generated from the Club's activities of £127,822. The latter result was positively impacted by the earlier collection of 2017 membership subscriptions.

Fixed Asset additions totalled £61,828 and largely related to completing Green's equipment replacement and upgrade programme. Looking forward, capital expenditure is going to be dominated by the Clubhouse Development in 2017.

Elsewhere on the balance sheet, the increase in Creditors due <1 year is largely due to earlier collection of 2017 subscriptions. This will continue to receive attention given the due date for subscriptions is the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

Overall, Subscriptions showed a modest increase in the year with increases in full playing subscriptions more than off-setting reductions in non-playing and junior subscriptions. Entrance fees reflected lower joiners compared to 2015.

Bar income continued the recent downward trend reducing by 11% to £55,866. Gross margins and other costs are flat so our challenge is the volume of product sold.

Total income reduced by £14,908 (3.3%) to £428,066, largely the result of lower Joining Fees and Bar Income.

Wage inflation, higher course upkeep expenditure and depreciation charges relating to new Green's equipment drove an increase in Course Expenditure to £187,037. House expenditure was managed tightly given the pending Clubhouse Development, whilst several assets



reached the end of their depreciation lives during the year. Overall House costs reduced to £140,047. Administration costs increased slightly during the year to £51,801, with no one single factor driving the increase.

In total Controllable Expenditure increased by <2% to £378,885.

Non-recoverable VAT includes the receipt of c.£11k of Vat refunds related to the Bridport case. Credit must go to my predecessor for his preparatory work that preceded the collection of these monies. In the absence of these receipts the total cost would have been marginally higher than the prior year, indicating that the ratio of VATable to nonVATable income has moved unfavourably.

The Club generated a surplus for the year, before transfers to Capital and General funds, of £36,471, a reduction of £12,753 on 2015.

The transfer to Capital Fund is a function of both the number of joiners and full playing members, with the biggest impact compared to 2015 being the lower number of joiners. In 2017, I intend to review the way the Capital Fund is funded and used. The transfer to the General Fund is simply the balance remaining on the Income & Expenditure account.

The Club is in a very strong financial position and very well placed to fund the Clubhouse Development. We can look forward to 2017 with continued confidence.

The President thanked the Treasurer for his report: “Paul, on behalf of the Club I would like to thank you for presenting another excellent set of accounts. You have had a steep learning curve since taking over as Treasurer, particularly with the fund raising for the Development. Despite this you have guided us through the last 12 months with consummate ease and I would like to thank you and Jay for all your hard work, it has been very much appreciated.” Robin Holden proposed that the meeting accept the Financial Accounts for 2016, this was seconded by Peter Veitch and the proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

## **SECRETARY’S REPORT**

The Secretary, John Moss, presented the following report:

“President, Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen. The proposals for the development of the Club House have taken up much of the Council’s time this year. Two presentation meetings were held in July which were very well attended and demonstrated the interest of the membership in the idea. They were followed by the Special General Meeting on 29th September, attended by 140 members and which voted overwhelmingly (by 123 votes for the proposal and 17 against) in favour of proceeding provided that the total cost including irrecoverable VAT did not exceed £500,000 and provided further that the whole of that sum was fully secured by way of accumulated reserves, donations and loans by 31st October. The Treasurer and Development Finance committee did a fantastic job in bringing the financial aspects to fruition in only 4 weeks. They could not have done so however without the support of you, the members, who rose to the challenge superbly. He would like to thank those members who pay their subscriptions on time. It not only helps with cashflow but saves a lot of checking and chasing.

Members can now see that the development is progressing well and should be completed by the agreed date of 6th June. I would remind members that the Club House will be totally closed from 15th May for 3 weeks to allow for the completion of the fitting out and decorative works. You will then be able to admire and use the new locker rooms and extended bar area complete with the new large wine glasses that have recently appeared, the cynics say that it is to encourage greater turnover in the bar but I am assured by the Chairman

of House that it is to enable members to fully appreciate the refreshed wine list in their new surroundings as well as enjoying Jason and Heather's culinary offerings.

The very attractive board in the foyer displaying the photographs of the President and Captains was kindly donated by Margaret Hyde in memory of Neal Hyde and it will continue to have pride of place in the future.

Your Greens Committee has been very busy around the course, we look forward to using the remodelled putting green and new paths, I cannot say that I am looking forward to using the new bunkers! Our Professional, Richard Booth, continues to do a lot of coaching and this year the number of Junior members has increased. He is arranging to hold Junior Golf games on some Sunday afternoons during the summer assisted by Janet Grant and Peter Hindle. We are starting taster sessions for new golfers, so that they can see if golf appeals to them. If after the first series of lessons they wish to join the Club they will have to apply in the normal way. It is proposed that any potential members should be provided with a buddy to teach them the etiquette of golf both on and off the course. So far 20 ladies have signed up for these sessions. I am sure that both groups of potential players will come to appreciate the course which is so well looked after by Russell and the 2 Dave's. Visitors often remark on the condition of the course and especially the greens. We hosted the Cheshire Boys versus Lancashire Boys match in August and again received many compliments. Whilst on the subject of the course I should mention that Council agreed to an amendment to Regulation 11(a) so as to permit Gentlemen to wear white socks of any length, this would include anklets. I saw a copy of the 1890 dress code for the Sene Valley Golf Club in Kent recently. "Men are to appear on the course attired in gaiters, heavy woollen socks, knee breeches, red coat with brass buttons and a deer stalker. Ladies were to wear a red hip length coat with white lapels, long black dress and a straw boater with a band in club colours". That club has obviously changed its dress code since then and was reporting that membership had grown to such an extent that they were abandoning 5 day membership and reducing their 7 day membership subscriptions. So maybe our own alteration to the dress code is not so dramatic after all!

Whilst on the subject of dress code I have been asked to remind members that the dress code in the Clubhouse and on the terrace require jacket and tie to be worn in the dining room after 7 pm and at formal events before that time. In hot weather this may be suspended on a particular day if so decided by the President, a Captain, the Secretary, the Chair of House or, in the case of a special event, the organiser of that event.

I have also received a request to clarify the number of times that a non-member may use the Clubhouse and/or attend events. Rule 36 restricts such usage to 6 times in any calendar year. Spouses or partners of Full-Playing Members are entitled to apply to join the Club as Non-Playing Members and the Treasurer will be delighted to receive their sub.

The social side of the Club continues to be the envy of many other clubs. I reported last year on the very considerable number of events which I am asked to put on the calendar. These are varied both from year to year and also as to the functions themselves. We are indebted to the work of the House and Social committee whose hard work helps to make Hale such an inclusive club. The presence of a cheerful, settled and very good staff adds to our enjoyment.

We have currently 212 full male playing members over 35 and 13 aged between 18- 35 with 18 under 18. There are 81 Lady Full-Playing members and 2 aged between 18 & 35 and 5 under 18's. We have 113 Non- Playing members, 43 men and 70 ladies. We do have a waiting list for men and the Membership Committee chaired by Jane Perks, constantly keep it under review and bring new members in just as soon as there is a space.

I have received marvellous support from Andrew Fishwick, Jonny Yates and Rosie Gerrard during the year. Andrew is an assiduous Assistant Secretary never frightened to tell me if, or

rather when, I am in error but also quietly discharging the numerous other duties of his role. Jonny has had an especially heavy workload this year with the subscription run needing very careful preparation and analysis to take account of those members who were entitled to the benefit of frozen subscription following the fund- raising exercise in October. Someone else told me that Jonny had spent 9 hours on that aspect of his role alone. He is always cheerful and full of helpful thoughts. Rosie has produced remarkable quantities of information and looked after the website despite frequent difficulties with the system. We have endeavoured to keep her interested during her enforced absence from the Club. The website was set up in 2013, there are 328 members registered and since that date there have been 224,006 hits – 6654 in the last month; of these 177 have been looking at green fees, 151 looking at membership, 126 about the clubhouse and 132 on food and drink. Rosie would like to hand over the running of the website before long and in any event I feel we should have at least one other person au fait with the running of it, so if anyone is interested perhaps they would speak to her.

I believe that the Club is in good heart and ready for the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report.”

It was proposed by Chris Brown that the Secretary’s Report was accepted, this was seconded by John Hughes and was unanimously passed by the meeting.

The President thanked John for his report: “John, thank you again for your very thorough report even more impressive since you are currently sharing a desk in a portacabin with the Professional! Yourself, Andrew and the rest of your team commit a significant amount of time and effort to the Club for which we are very grateful.”

## **THANKS TO CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

The President then thanked Andrew Gething, the Chair of Council. “At this point I would also like to thank Andrew Gething for chairing Council in the last 12 months. Andrew is standing down after 5 years on Council but will continue to coordinate the Development committee through to completion of the project. Andrew thank you for all your hard work on behalf of the Club it is much appreciated.”

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The President then commented as follows.

“On the subject of the Development, you will have been able to see the significant progress which has already been made and there will be a more detailed update on the Development project during the break when the votes for Council members are being counted.

There has been a tremendous amount of work put in by all those on the Development committee and I would like to thank everyone involved for their time and commitment. I would also like to thank all those members, not directly involved, who have rolled their sleeves up to help with the major task of preparing the clubhouse for the contractors to start work.”

## **LADY CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

The Lady Captain, Val Nelstrop, gave the following report:

“President, Gentleman Captain, Captains Elect, Past Presidents and Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I can't believe its twelve months since I was standing here accepting the position of Lady Captain. I've had a lovely year with much support from everyone.

The Gentleman Captain and I would like to thank Heather, Jason and all their staff for looking after us all so well this year. We've had some amazing meals and lovely events to jolly us along. The St Patrick's Night was a very traditional Irish menu and was beautifully served. Thank you all once again from both of us.

The Membership Committee have been very busy with Richard trying to encourage new golfers to start our new scheme and hopefully become Club members. I believe they have quite a few in the pipeline. Thank you all for your hard work.

I also must thank my husband Conrad for all his help and support throughout the year, coming to all the social events and even providing cake for the Lady Captain's Day. Thank you.

David and I have had a very happy year and I want to thank him for all his Yorkshire gifts and also his Yorkshire humour. Thank you, David, for your advice and support during the year.

I hope that all members can give 100% support to Cliff and Pat in what will be a difficult few months at the beginning of their year with the new building work.

It's with great pleasure I now present the new Ladies Captain Pat Jefferies and I wish her all the best.”

## **GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

The Gentleman Captain, David Swale, gave the following address:

“President, Lady Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen of Hale Golf Club

Whilst as per the Treasurer's report the Club remains in a healthy position, our membership numbers in the Gentlemen's section are down somewhat to 212 from 220 at this time last year and I believe the Ladies section have experienced a similar reduction. Fortunately, on the Gentlemen's side we have around 7 potential new members working their way through our system. This said, I would ask all members to be cognisant of the fact that we all need to play as active a part as possible in continuing to attract new members. Needless to say we are hopeful our extended and refurbished clubhouse will significantly help us in this matter.

As regards new Gentleman members, during the past year I would like to formally welcome the following Gentlemen full playing

Angus Brown  
Michael Bullock  
Roger Fielding  
Ron Jones  
Guy Levers  
Robert Manley  
Richard Robinson  
James Tully

**Junior Boys:**

Lucas Aldcroft  
Elliott Aldcroft  
Alex Cowan  
James Cowan  
Charles Hindle  
Oliver Murphy

Val has already expressed our thanks to House and Membership and so it falls to me to thank on our behalf the Green Committee and the Head Greenkeeper and staff, the Conservation group, the Professional and others whose contribution has been very important during the last year.

The Green Committee, Helen Allott, Helen Davies and Glyn Isaac, under the leadership of Andy Veitch, have done a first-class job, latterly under very difficult weather conditions. Andy is full of ideas for a programme of continuous improvement and I appreciate that he has always discussed things in detail with me during the year and, as such, we have had a very good working arrangement.

Russell and the two Daves continue to give us the highest level of service and the quality and presentation of the course is a testament to their abilities and dedication to do a first-class job. As Gentleman Captain I would like to offer special thanks to Glyn Isaac and Helen Davies, Helen for her organisation of the mixed competitions and Glyn for his work on all the Men's competitions and particularly the calm way he has re-organised the events during the last few months, when the weather has proved difficult to say the least. I should also mention the contribution of his assistant, Andy, who has bravely left the comfort of the course for the less comfortable environment of the office to help with competition results and try to master the printer.

Andy Gething, as well as being the Chair of the Development Group and chairing the Council, has continued to organise the Conservation Group and our thanks go to him and all the volunteers who continue with this work.

Richard, our Professional, continues to play a significant role with the juniors, as witnessed by our 6 new junior boy members. He is also working hard with the initiative to introduce new Lady members and he also produces the weekly newsletter. Our thanks to him for his continuing contribution to Club life.

A mention also to James Scott for helping out in the Professional's shop and of course to our Man Friday, Bill Harvey, for his contribution, be it on the course or in the shop.

Thanks to Albert White for organising TNC and of course to the various past Captains who have frequently had to stand in for me when I have been playing tennis.,

Thanks to Paul Bramwell for his continuing organisation of the 200 club.

Thanks to Jonny Gray and Jonny Yates for organising FNC which is now an established part of our social scene.

I owe particular thanks to Jonny Gray for helping with the organisation of Dinner to the Captain and the Captain's Dinner, particularly in respect of the formal seating arrangements on which he is now the accepted Club expert.

Coming onto our match performances, Jonny, helped by Dave Wainwright, also features strongly in the organisation of the 11 Club matches played over the summer and of which we won 5, lost 5 and drew 1. I played in 8 of the matches and all were most enjoyable.

Once again Mike Kirchin organised our involvement in the 9 hole Club league and again we finished mid table in what is a good early evening midsummer format.

Jonny Gray and Gill Kay were in charge of our team in the Manchester & District Golf Alliance Mixed Knockout for the Archie Preston trophy. We had a great run, winning 4 matches before losing away to a strong Pike Fold team in the quarter finals.

The Men's Senior section with 27 midweek daytime matches remains very strong with around 80 members, about 60 of whom play in the matches. Again, thanks to the Seniors Committee of Alan Kemp, Robin Holden, Drummond Sharp and Mike Massey under the leadership of Barry Jefferies.

As a regular attendee at the fortnightly bridge evenings, I need to thank Robin and Sue Holden for their great organisation. I was able to hold a special Captain's Bridge evening on one of the Wednesdays which I greatly enjoyed. Thanks also to Jane and Roger Perks for their organisation of the two Bridge Suppers.

I have enjoyed being a member of Council again for the year and would like to thank my fellow Council members for their work for the Club. I should make note of the very good working relationship I have had with our President, Andrew Pendleton. He has always been at pains to involve Val and I in any discussions and this is greatly appreciated.

Now, three special thanks. Firstly, to Val, it has been a delight to have had Val as my opposite number this year – we get on really well and I feel that this has been essential in creating a unity within the whole Club.

Secondly to Louise – anyone taking on the role of Captain who has a spouse or partner knows that their support is essential if one is to have a happy time. Louise's support has been unwavering and I owe her a big public thank you, despite the fact that she will find it rather embarrassing.

Thirdly, and not least, to fellow members. I have had great and very warm support from both the Gentlemen's section and the Ladies' section and I thank you all for your kindness in making the experience a happy and memorable one. It has been a real honour to be Hale Golf Club Gentleman Captain 2016-2017.

Finally, looking to the very near future, I would like to wish Cliff (subject of course to his election) the very best for the coming year. We have been friends for 20 years and I can promise him support of the kind given to me by Chris when I took office. Thank you again."

## **ELECTION OF GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN AND LADY CAPTAIN**

The President then dealt with the election of the two new Captains.

Pat Jefferies was elected unanimously by the membership as the Lady Captain.

Cliff Wright was elected unanimously by the membership as the Gentleman Captain

This was followed by both the Gentleman Captain's and the Lady Captain's address.

## **NEW GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS**

Cliff Wright made the following address as the new Gentleman Captain;

"Mr President, new Lady Captain, Past Captains fellow members of Hale Golf Club.

Since my nomination was announced last October, you will probably know that I have been addressed in several ways from Nommo to Captain Nommo, not Captain Nemo thankfully, to

Mr Nearly, Mr Very Nearly and Mr Soon To Be. However, after all this time, the President has done me the courtesy of saying Gentleman Captain! It does have a certain ring to it, I trust you will agree!

I hope you all know by now that I regard this appointment as a great honour and I feel very proud indeed. I must thank the Past Captains for nominating me and you, the members, for actually electing me this evening. I hope that I can justify your faith in me.

I would like to congratulate Pat as our new Lady Captain and look forward to working alongside her during the coming twelve months. Indeed, we have discussed many issues already and I know that we will make a good team!

Obviously, the next few weeks will be somewhat different at the Club, given the development work, but we are already some six weeks or just under 40%, into the contract. Can I thank you all again for your continued patience and forbearance during the work, but I know it will be all worthwhile as we will have a wonderful Clubhouse, of which we can be justly proud, at the conclusion of the contract.

It would be entirely wrong for me not to mention my good friend and predecessor as Gentleman Captain, Dave Swale. He has been of great assistance in helping me prepare for my year in office. He will be a very difficult act to follow. I am not sure that the culinary delights of the Wirral Peninsula, my birth place, could quite match those of the County of Yorkshire! Anyway, if anyone is interested in a plate of Scouse, then please let me know! Dave, or should I say Mr Ex, thank you for all your hard work and commitment in the past year. It has been a job very well done.

For my part, I look forward to an enjoyable year, not only for myself, but for everyone. I fervently hope that members will be seen playing more golf, at a decent pace, and that you will encourage those members, that we do not see all that often, to both play golf and enjoy the Clubhouse facilities, including the first-class catering and service provided by Jason, Heather and the team, who deserve our full support.

So, on that note, thank you again for electing me as Gentleman Captain of the Club for the next twelve months.”

## **NEW LADY CAPTAIN’S ADDRESS**

Pat Jefferies, the new Lady Captain, spoke as follows:

“President, Gentleman Captain, past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I should like to start by congratulating Cliff and say how much I am looking forward to working alongside you for the next twelve months

I feel honoured and privileged to be entrusted with the role of Lady Captain and I should like to thank the past Lady Captains for supporting my nomination and all of you here tonight for endorsing it. I will do my best to ensure that your confidence in me to represent the Ladies Section is justified.

The redevelopment will make for an exciting and challenging start to the year and I feel privileged to be able to play a part in this in my role as Lady Captain. It will only impinge on 10 weeks of our year and at the end of that time our now rather sad looking ugly duckling of a Clubhouse will be transformed into a beautiful swan.

Our new Gentleman Captain and I are committed to working together to ensure that there is minimum disruption to both our golf and social calendars during the next few weeks and to furthering the good relationship which exists within all sections of the club

I should like to thank you Dave for your leadership and humour and you Val for your hard work, and commitment to the Ladies Section, and your help and invaluable advice over the last five months and of course for the regular Fizz on Thursdays. I hope that the two of you and Louise and Con can now enjoy a well-earned rest.

Thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve as the Captain of the Ladies Section. I am looking forward to the forthcoming year and it will be nice to be known as someone other than the lady member whose demise on the 6th green brought about the orange steps.”

The President congratulated the two new Captains. “Congratulations to you both. I am sure you will both be excellent in these roles and I hope you will have a very happy year.”

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The President then dealt with the election of the Officers of the Club and Council members.

None of the nominations for Officers were contested. By general approval of the meeting the following officers were elected by the Membership for 2017/18:

Officers:

Secretary	J H Moss
Assistant Secretary	A R Fishwick
Treasurer	PJT Gilbert
Assistant Treasurer	AV Wells
Chair Green Committee	WA Veitch
Chair House Committee	MJ Kirchin
Chair Membership Committee	F J Perks

After the meeting’s approval of the election of the Officers, The President confirmed the election of the Officers for the year 2017/18.

In the case of the election of Council members, there were five nominations for three places: two for a 3-year term and one for a 2-year term. The nominees were Gillian Brogdon, Ken Hawes, Gill Kay, Jim McNairney and Chris Ravenscroft.

A vote was held with Jennifer Bradley, Peter Hardern and Peter Veitch acting as tellers.

Elected for 3-year terms were: Gill Kay  
Ken Hawes

Elected for 2-year term was: Chris Ravenscroft

(During the count presentations were given by Andrew Gething on the ongoing position of the Clubhouse Development works and by Mike Kirchin on the interim social, bar and catering arrangements during the remainder of the building programme.)

The President congratulated the Officers and Council members elected: “Congratulations to all those Officers and Council members elected for 2017/18. I would also particularly like to thank those who have stood for election this evening but not been successful, I believe that it is very important that we have members who are prepared to stand for Council and hope that you will not be deterred from standing again.”



## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW VICE PRESIDENT**

The President then said: “It gives me great pleasure to announce that Council has approved the appointment of a new Vice President. Our new VP has been a member since 1974 and has three generations of their family who are active members of the club. They live close enough to walk to the Club in 5 minutes, enough clues ladies and gentlemen our new VP is Barbara Grant.”

## **APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINING ACCOUNTANTS**

The Treasurer recommended that Hanley’s Accountants were appointed for another year and this was proposed by Andrew Gething and seconded by Janet Grant. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Corinne Veitch asked, in view of the Club Rule (Rule 36) that no visitor should use the Clubhouse or course more than six times in a year, what process was in place to monitor such attendances. The Secretary observed that the Club depended on the good nature of members themselves not to abuse the Rule, and the Council could only respond to feedback from Members. Mike Kirchin noted the House Committee would review the use of the Visitors’ Book.

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

The President then reminded members that the Captain’s Drive in would be held on the following day, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, followed by an informal lunch at which all members were very welcome. After lunch a 9 hole match would be played between the Gentleman Captain’s and the Lady Captain’s teams for the Victory Cup. Members were asked to support the new Captains and sign the list for golf if they would like to play in the match.

The President asked everyone to join him in having a drink ‘on the Club’.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed by the President

Bill Walsh

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 2017**

#### **ATTENDEES**

John Acratopulo	Peter Hardern	Roger Perks
Tony Adamson	Ken Hawes	Chris Ravenscroft
Judy Anderson	Peter Hindle	Jan Ravenscroft
John Bacon	Robin Holden	Drummond Sharp
Colin Bamford	Sue Holden	Margaret Sharp
Alan Bradley	John Hughes	Dave Smith
Jennifer Bradley	Freda Hunt	Barbara Spark
Ray Briggs	Ian Hunt	Robert Spark
Gillian Brogdon	Adam Hyde	Dave Swale
Chris Brown	Ceri Hyde	Louise Swale
Sue Bryant	Glyn Isaac	Audrey Taylor
Alan Cannell	Barry Jefferies	Paul Taylor
Vicky Chamberlain	Pat Jefferies	Andy Veitch
Bob Cooke	Andrew Kay	Corinne Veitch
Ann Davies	Gill Kay	Peter Veitch
Roger Dawson Smith	Mike Kirchin	Vanessa Veitch
Ewan Drake	Ken Lodge	David Wainwright
Jonty Fallows	Lynette Lodge	Bill Walsh
Sue Fallows	Rob Manley	Trina Walsh
Tiff Fielden	Jim McNairney	Michael Wells
Andrew Fishwick	Jim Mossop	Jay White
Min Fishwick	Sandra Mossop	Clare Withey
Andrew Gething	John Moss	Guy Withey
Mandy Gilbert	John Munnery	Cliff Wright
Paul Gilbert	Conrad Nelstrop	Norma Wright
Ian Goulty	Val Nelstrop	Jonny Yates
Jill Gower-Jones	Pip Nichols	
John Gower-Jones	Roger O'Brien	
Barbara Grant	Andrew Pendleton	
Jonathan Gray	Jane Perks	

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 2017**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Chris Adams	Bill Harvey	Helen Matthew
Jez Allen	Mike Hauser	Kathleen McNairney
Craig Barton	Ian Harris	Janice Moss
Rosemary Bowden	Oliver Harris	Ann Murphy
Martin Bramwell	Eric Healey	Richard Murray
Debbie Bramwell	Gillian Healey	Matthew Nelstrop
Christine Brierley	John Heathcock	Jim Nicholson
Angus Brogdon	Penny Hughes	Barbara O'Brien
Sue Bromley	Alastair Imrie	Roy Offland
Martyn Bromley	Colin Jacques	Martin Oldfield
George Buchan	Wendy Jenkins	Roger Sheen
Chris Da Forno	Barbara Kennedy	Anne Smyth
Roger Da Forno	Bill Kennedy	Cynthia Sunderland
Chris Davies	Sally-Ann Kurton	Keith Thompson
Helen Davies	Kit Lewtas	Tracy Thompson
Tessa Day	Shirley Lewtas	Della Von Arx
Emma Daynes	Philip Long	Don Watson
Alan Dewhurst	Judy Longworth	Ann Webster
Roger Fielding	Ian Macklin	Vicky Wells
Jonathan Foster	Caroline Massey	Albert White
Sarah Foster	Moya Malthouse	Chris Wood
Peter Frank	Robin Malthouse	Ashley Woodcock
Paul Galvin	Roger Mattocks	Fiona Woodcock
Mabel Gandy	Alastair Mawson	Sally Wright
Sheila Gold	Chris Mawson	Bill Wrigley
Ralfe Graveley	Mike Massey	
Sue Harrison	Jim Martin	



## **MINUTES OF THE 115<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY, 23 MARCH 2018 AT 7.30PM**

### **PRESENT**

The President (Mr B Walsh) Chair of the Meeting, the Gentleman Captain (Mr C Wright), the Lady Captain (Mrs P Jefferies) and 93 other members. (Appendix 1 is the list of members who were present).

### **IN MEMORIAM**

The President advised the meeting of the death of Mrs Nina Perkin earlier in the day. All attending the meeting stood in honour of her memory.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that everyone had signed in.

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice of the meeting was taken as read on the proposition of Mike Kirchin, seconded by Barbara Grant. The proposition was passed unanimously by the meeting.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the members noted in Appendix 2.

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

This was approved by the meeting.

The President then asked those present to stand in silent memory of the following members who had passed away during the year.

Ken Bailey, Michael Morton, Yvonne Turner, Doreen Vickerman.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

It was suggested that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 be approved by the meeting. This was proposed by Andrew Gething, seconded by Paul Simpson and the motion was carried.

The minutes of the meeting were duly signed by the President.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AGM OF 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

There were no matters arising.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Paul Gilbert, presented the following report for the financial year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.

“President, Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to start by thanking those members who have been a special help to me in what was a rather busy year.

Not in any order of priority:

- a. The Development Committee
- b. Fellow Council members, particularly our chair of Council Ken Hawes, who has developed the role in a positive manner
- c. And finally, our Assistant-Treasurer, Vicki Wells
- d. Let us not forget, in an environment where opinions are so freely given but expertise and time less so, we really are very fortunate to be able to draw on such very capable people.

I know you will already have studied my Treasurer's report and the 2017 Accounts in depth. I will not be going through the Accounts in too much detail, but please feel free to ask questions at the end.

The overall result for the year, before the transfer to Capital Fund, was a surplus of just over £13k, leading to a modest deficit for the year of just over £4k. Given the disruption we might have anticipated from the Development, this really was a positive result. The whole of the Hale Team worked tirelessly across all our activities to ensure that any impact was minimised. As a not for profit for organisation the fact that we recorded a modest deficit is not cause for alarm, particularly given the one-off nature of events of last year. Whilst the comparison to 2016 might not be particularly flattering, please let's not forget that the Club had a very, very positive run in the years leading up to the Development, what might be fondly remembered as the Goldilocks years! Indeed, had that not been the case then the Development may have been less affordable!

So, what can we learn from our Income Statement?

Total revenue was down about 2% from £428k to £421k. However, much of this reduction can in fact be related to the Development.

Overall, Subscriptions remained strong after taking into account the cost of frozen membership at just over £3k. We do of course need to continue to recruit new members into all sections of the Club, and you are the biggest source of Joiners. The Club is very much open to and continues to welcome new members. Given their nature, it was understandable that other sources of income showed year-on-year reductions. Encouragingly, bar income reversed their decline immediately post Development. As has been previously noted, our challenge with bar profits is a volume one, so the solution is in our hands! We would surely all agree that with the benefit of such modern and attractive facilities we should be looking for ways to get more members to use, more frequently, the Club's facilities, on and off the course?

Looking forward, Subscriptions remain healthy for 2018, and with the help that we can all bring either by introducing new joiners or by spending more time and money in the bar then I am confident that 2018 will report an improving position.

Controllable Costs were well managed across all activities. There is little of note apart from in House. Here we reported an increased depreciation charge as a result of the new Clubhouse fixtures and fittings – you will note that I have given these a longer useful life of 15 years, reflecting the high quality of what we have bought. As things settle down post the Development I am confident that the House Committee will look more closely at the effectiveness of our staffing and laundry costs. Although our utility costs benefit from fixed tariffs, we do of course now have a bigger building, so consumption will be higher unless we find ways to consume less. I should remind Members that the costs of workplace pensions increase from 1% to 2% in April 2018, and by a further 1% to 3% in April 2019. Each 1% adds about £2k to our staff costs. This is effectively a tax on employment and as such unavoidable.

Our Balance Sheet highlights the more material financial effects of the Development, namely

- the increase in Fixed Assets to nearly £1m – this was a function of a number of things
- the Development came in just under budget at £497k – this included irrecoverable VAT of about £60k
- you will see in note 2 that the transfer of Legacy balances and the Capital Reserve, just over £240k in total, have been netted off the movement in costs of Buildings additions – I believe that this best reflects the substance of what those particular sources of funds helped us achieve
- consequently, one can also see an equal and opposite reduction in both the Capital Reserve and Legacy balances
- I also retired some largely fully depreciated assets
- a £512k reduction in cash balances to close the year at just over £250,000

I have also revised the basis upon which the Capital Reserve is funded. It is now funded by Joining Fees, which is appropriate given this less predictable source of income.

We could expect Subscriptions paid in advance would reduce given fewer members had the incentive to pay early to enjoy frozen subscriptions. I am of course grateful to all members who pay on or before the due date, which indeed a lot of members chose to do. However, it was still necessary for Council to remind late paying Members on more than one occasion. Delay in paying subscriptions is not only disrespectful to the Club's rules but to those members who chose to pay on time. It is also extremely inconsiderate to colleagues in the membership team who have to chase up stragglers. This is very time consuming and unrewarding work, so, if you are a laggard, kindly be more considerate. This will continue to receive Council's attention and I ask that all members kindly pay 2019's subscriptions by the due date.

Where did all this leave us from a cash perspective? Our closing cash position was just over £250k. This was made up of £38k from our Capital Fund and remaining Legacy balances. After taking account of £138k from 2018 subscriptions that leaves a cash buffer of nearly £75k.

So, we continue to be in a strong position.

What are my areas of focus going forward? Clearly, we need to generate cash surpluses of £20k a year on average over the 10-year term of the Loan Notes in order to repay them in full in 2026, so a year in we are slightly ahead of where we need to be if we wish to preserve our "rainy day" buffer of £50k.

Equally, Council have to balance that strong position with the need to maintain our facilities, ensuring we continue to offer an exceptional experience to both members and visitors alike. We therefore have to be selective about when and where we prioritise discretionary spend. I feel confident that members will both understand and support this approach. This combination of careful management of expenditure together with a focus on improving income from all sources, will ensure that our Club does indeed continue to prosper through and beyond 2018."

The President thanked the Treasurer for his report: "Paul, on behalf of the Club I would like to thank you for presenting another excellent set of accounts. I've been listening to accountants all my working life. Believe me Paul is very special. He brings insight, panache and an overall perspective that I have rarely come across. We are very lucky to have him as Treasurer."

Glyn Isaac proposed that the meeting accept the Financial Accounts for 2017, this was seconded by Phil Long and the proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary, John Moss, presented the following report:

"President, Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is hard to remember that it is only 10 months ago that we were occupying the marquee for Ladies tea, TNC and presentations. The development of the Clubhouse went pretty much to plan and it was fitting that as one of his final acts as President, Andrew Pendleton presided over the celebrations marking the opening, the ribbon being cut by Sheila Gold and Ian Harris, 2 of our longest serving members. In the words of the reporter of the 1903 opening "it was a grand affair".

Andrew handed over the Presidency to Bill Walsh on 27<sup>th</sup> July at another of the events that are both typical of all that is good about our Club and are so well supported. His final act was to announce the election of Margaret Gilman and Chris Mawson as Honorary Life Members in recognition of all that they have done for the Club over many years. We thank Andrew for all that he did during his term in office and for his part in steering us through the inevitable upheaval that the Clubhouse works involved. We wish him well in his new home in North Berwick.

The President will thank the people chiefly involved in the development but the Club is so lucky to have many members who keep it running (and solvent!) who day in and day out work on the Club's behalf, not a day goes by without something coming up that does not require input from the Treasurer or Andy Veitch and Mike Kirchin as the Chairmen of Greens and House. We owe a huge debt to all of them. The Manchester and District Ladies Golf Association held a competition here in September and afterwards we received a glowing letter of thanks praising the course, Professional's help and the hospitality, noting that Heather had been around for 12 hours and nothing was too much trouble for her or the Club. I am pleased to say that this year Cheshire Golf has asked us to host only its second 9 hole Open competition. That will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August and is open to all Cheshire affiliated members, juniors, ladies and men. I hope that the Club will support this new venture.

Jonny Yates and Glyn Isaac are both retiring from Council this time, I am pleased to say that Jonny is standing again. Both of them do a great amount mostly under the radar, Jonny ensuring that Council gets the correct membership information and you get a demand for the correct subs, and Glyn as Men's Competitions Secretary has run the competitions and also battled with England Golf to have handicaps transferred from other clubs. Helen Allott has done the same job for the Ladies. Jane Perks's term as Chairman of Membership also comes to an end tonight and we thank her for a job well done.

A few words now on regulatory and governance matters. The extension of the Clubhouse necessitated us in varying the extent of the premises covered by our Club Premises Certificate, a somewhat tortuous business in which Andrew Fishwick helped a lot. Eventually I told Trafford that they were deemed to have approved the application and they agreed. We have had a very welcome increase in the number of Junior members, thanks to the efforts of Richard Booth, Janet Grant and Peter Hindle; several Junior and Adult/Junior competitions have been played and more are on the calendar for the coming months. Richard, with Jane Perks and Vicky Chamberlain, organised and ran Ladies into Golf taster sessions last year, some of the people taking part have joined the Club or expressed interest in doing so. Richard is running them again this year. We have been chosen by Cheshire Golf to be one of the 8 Clubs in Cheshire to run Girls Golf Rocks classes. We are finalising a Child Protection policy and, subject to Council's approval, Anne Webster has agreed to be our Child Protection Officer. New (enhanced) Data Protection Regulations are coming in in May. The application for membership forms have for several years included a consent to member's addresses, contact details and dates of birth being held by the Club in a secure site and for some of those details being published in the Handbook, no action is required of you unless you wish us not to hold that information securely. Council has also begun a look at the governance of the Club. Currently we are each liable for any claim brought against the Club; we are considering whether we should limit that individual liability and if so in which way.

Membership has increased on the Men's side, the previous cap of 220 was raised to 235 and we have 235 men in that category at the moment. There are 86 Lady members and 31 Junior members. Council set up a group to look at the long-term view of membership. It has produced an initial paper for further consideration. It notes that the age profile of the Club is increasing but that is as a result of members living longer - who says golf is not good for you? I was interested in the replies which I got from asking two new members what they had thought of the application process. They independently said that they had been a little surprised to have had to come to TNC etc but had then realised that they were joining a club and not a golfing facility. They felt much more integrated in the Club as a result. I am sure the same applies to new Lady members. Council gave detailed consideration to the use of the spare room next to Richard's shop. It was agreed that for a year it would be available generally for use by members. I am informed that it has only been used as a swing room, no-one else has requested to use it for any other use. Council also considered the dress code and the current code was approved by a substantial majority, it will be kept under review.

I would like to record on behalf of Council the gift by an anonymous donor of the magnificent Trophy cabinet in the locker rooms entrance lobby. It has already been admired both by members and visiting players, one of whom asked me for details of the craftsman who had designed and built it as he would like to have something similar at his club.

The social side of the Club has as always been very active. Our thanks must go to Jan Ravenscroft who is standing down from coordinating that part of our club life. Every October she has presented me with something like 30 dates of social events to go into the calendar and that takes some organising on the part of herself and her committee.

As you will have seen, work has now taken place to rectify the drainage problems which we have had from the car park to the players entrance door. A new handrail is to be put up leading to the patio and the main entrance to the Clubhouse. Additionally, more lighting is to be provided to the car park. Our thanks go to Andy Veitch and Mike Kirchin for undertaking this in addition to all their other work.

Almost finally, we have been blessed in our two Captains. They have tried several new initiatives and given complete dedication to the Club and it's wellbeing whilst at the same



time respecting the traditions. They have worked tirelessly and with imagination. They will be a hard but not impossible act to follow.

My thanks to Rosie Gerrard who has maintained the website and updated the records even from the confines of her home whilst recovering from her ankle reconstruction, she is keen to hand over to someone else so if you are prepared to even consider it please speak to her without delay. Finally, lovely word is it not, I give grateful thanks to the Assistant Secretary Andrew Fishwick who has kept me going and chided me, ever so nicely, when my lack of keyboard knowledge was exposed or when I omitted to do that which ought to have been done. Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report.”

It was proposed by Jane Perks that the Secretary’s Report was accepted, this was seconded by Chris Wood and was unanimously passed by the meeting.

The President thanked John for his report: “John, thank you for your comprehensive report. You are the rock on which the Club is built. You are the first responder in any crisis, real or imagined at the Golf Club and you dealt with them with wit, judgement, diligence and a wry sense of humour. To have performed your duties throughout the upheaval of the development only underlines the significant contribution you have made. It has been a pleasure working with you, and of course Andrew, who will now succeed you.”

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The President then commented as follows.

“The development is complete. Whilst there is still a little tinkering to be done it has been an outstanding success and I am sure 99.9% of us are very proud of what has been achieved in our name. These things don’t just happen. There is a lot of voluntary work going on behind the scenes. I asked Andrew Gething for a list of those concerned. Please bear with me as I read out all the names involved. I am sure you will be surprised at the number, as I was, and they deserve our recognition and appreciation.

The backbone of the Development Committee who started and finished this project were:

Andrew Gething  
Ceri Hyde  
Jonty Fallows  
Dave Smith  
Robert Spark

Others who were also considerable contributors were, in alphabetical order:

Chris Adams  
Ray Briggs  
Roger Dawson Smith  
Alan Dewhurst  
Paul Gilbert  
Janet Grant  
Mike Kirchin  
Ian Pinnington  
Jan Ravenscroft  
Johnny Yates

Thank you to you all.”

## LADY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The Lady Captain, Pat Jefferies, gave the following report:

“Gentleman Captain, President, Past Captains, Honorary Life Members, fellow members.

This last year has held a wealth of memories for me of which some have been recorded on disc by Sue Bryant for me to relive at my leisure and some as a photographic collage showing various aspects of my year and of the club, which was a gift from our eldest grandson. Before I continue I should like to thank Barry for his encouragement and support throughout the year. He has quietly been keeping things ticking over on the domestic front, give advice when requested but most importantly he has booked our next 3 holidays. Thank you Barry.

I should like to say a little about the Ladies Section. Although our numbers are small in comparison to those of the Gentlemen, we are a very active section, fielding three teams in the East Cheshire League plus a friendly team, a scratch team and also enter the Liz Wilson Shield. I enjoyed playing for the plate, friendly and even had the privilege of being part of the Bell Cup and the Archie Preston Mixed Trophy teams. Unfortunately, we only reached the 2nd round of each competition. Our Cheshire lady member Tiff Fielden was this year awarded her Cheshire colours. Congratulations Tiff. It is Tiff we have to thank for the printing of the new 9 Hole cards.

The weather gods were on our side during the summer months but winter has been a different story. However, Richard readily agreed to run a few of our competitions in the practice room. These were useful and enjoyable and prizes awarded for the longest drive, nearest the pin and the putting competition. We also run an inter club Bridge team.

This year the key word for the Gentleman Captain and myself has been inclusivity and to this end we introduced the mixed winter 9 Hole Stableford and a mixed Captain's dinner, a light-hearted informal event. I'm not sure about the success of the first but the Dinner was a howling success. Thank you to Bill Dixon for providing the light entertainment.

There has been a more relaxed attitude towards the use of the course. There was a time when the sight of a gentleman on the course on a Thursday would have provoked the same reaction as if an alien had landed but more recently the occasional GC 's Challenge, a gentleman's match and steak and six when there have been ladies late tee times, have taken place without difficulty, just good communication. When we hosted a ladies open day on behalf of the Manchester and District Golf Alliance, several gentleman, including the GC, readily agreed to act as ball spotters and starters. It was good to have them involved. The Gentleman Captain and Chairman of Greens were very supportive of our request for two tee times, on a Saturday morning where these are not taken up by the gentlemen, to be allocated to those ladies not able to play in the Thursday competition. This will be on a one-year trial basis.

I should like to reiterate the President's thanks to the redevelopment team and add that I felt really appreciative that the afternoon tea on my Lady Captain's day was the first event to be held in the refurbished club room just 4 days after the reopening.

Having attended Council Meetings I was amazed by the amount of work and responsibility that is undertaken by members of Council on our behalf. They all employ their diverse skills and experience in carrying out their different roles and I think it is good to remind ourselves that all this is done voluntarily. We are fortunate to have so many talented members willing to give their time. Thank you to all members of Council past and present.

I should like to thank both Presidents, Andrew Pendleton and Bill Walsh for their advice, guidance and support. When Bill took over as President he said that part of his job was to

make sure that the GC and I enjoyed our year and he has been true to his word. Thanks to you both.

Our Membership Committee, under the Chairmanship of Jane Perks, is a hard working but very effective group with a variety of responsibilities, the most obvious being the processing of membership applications. Many thanks to Jane Perks, Vicky Chamberlain, Peter Hindle, John Moss, Paul Taylor and John Yates. Falling under the mantle of membership was the organisation of practice sessions for the ladies who took up temporary membership, following two courses of lessons with Richard. This was taken on by Vicky Chamberlain and Jane Perks. The Ladies who took up this option were full of praise for Richard, Vicky and Jane, the course and the Club in general. Two of these ladies Sue Imrie and Nichola Kitching have now been welcomed as full members along with Marijke Mazure and Claudia Carr, and non-playing members Kate Manley and Anne Leyland and our junior member Erin Withy.

The House committee chaired by Mike Kirchin has done an excellent job in managing our catering team and supporting our catering staff during the redevelopment process, particularly when they were expelled from the kitchen to spend those tedious five weeks manning the marquee. However, one man's poison is another man's meat and it was a master stroke on Mike Kirchin's part to arrange for us to have the marquee. This was instrumental in maintaining the continuity of Thursday Tea, TNC and the Saturday presentation. Thank you to Mike, Chris and Jan Ravenscroft, and David Wainwright.

A more glamorous section of the House Committee is the social committee headed by Jan Ravenscroft and ably supported by Sandra Mossop, Tracey Thompson, Gail Sampson, Jean Green and Roger Sheen. They have provided us with a varied programme of social events all of which have given us that feel good factor which we associate with HGC. Testament to their success is the fact that the tables are filled as soon as the lists are posted. Many thanks to you all. Jan will now hand over the running of the Social Committee to the talented duo of Tracey Thompson and Sandra Mossop.

Of course, no event either formal or informal can take place without the input of our stewards and catering staff. Jason and Heather have been with us for three years now and although they have had many changes in their lives, not least the welcome arrival of their son Dara, they are well and truly settled in Hale. We have to thank them and the catering staff not only for all the lovely food that they have provided and served but also for their reliability, flexibility and organisational ability and service with a smile. They are a very effective team. Thank you Jason, Heather, Danny, Sandy, Annya, Mark and Lizzie.

The next person I wish to mention is one for whom I have the highest regard and respect and that is, of course, our Gentleman Captain Cliff. We have enjoyed an excellent working relationship and share the same values and aspirations for the club. As you will all agree Cliff has put so much energy, thought and effort into his role and it has been a pleasure to observe the warmth that members feel towards him. The Gentleman Captain's Day to the ladies was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Cliff spoke about the Ladies in his family and the influence they had had on him. He provided us with a delicious afternoon tea including a lovely variety of cakes, all made by Norma and beautiful prizes. I very much appreciated the lovely flowers he presented to me. Most unexpected.

I have very much enjoyed Cliff's support and friendship and one of the nice things about getting to know him better has been to also get to know his wife Norma, or St Norma as I call her. She is good company and has been an admirable support to our GC.

I have truly enjoyed a very memorable year as your Lady Captain and I cannot finish without thanking my very efficient, well organised and willing committee who have made my role much easier and have also helped to raise over £3.000 for my Charity, Parkinson's UK. As

with any role either voluntary or in the work place what you see is always the tip of the iceberg, so much more goes on behind the scenes so thank you all once again.

Thank you to the past Lady Captains for selecting me and I hope I have been able to justify your confidence in me and that I have given something back in return for the enjoyment and friendship I have received from Hale Golf Club.

I have thanked a lot of people this evening but my year would not have been as enjoyable without the loyalty, help and kind words of encouragement I have received from all of you.

I am now looking forward to returning to the back benches and I wish Caroline and Paul all the best for the year ahead. You may be assured of my loyalty and support. It will be my great pleasure to hand over to Caroline (when elected). The Captaincy of the Ladies Section will be in very good hands."

### **GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

The Gentleman Captain, Cliff Wright, gave the following address:

"Mr President, Lady Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen of Hale Golf Club

Well, to paraphrase a television programme of many years ago, that was the year that was! I have had a most enjoyable year as your Gentleman Captain and have a store of splendid memories. A lot has happened in the last twelve months, several of which have been mentioned already, but I feel that it would be totally wrong not to add my own personal thanks to all those involved in the Clubhouse Development, the results of which have been greatly admired by all. TNC outside, albeit in the smaller confines of a marquee, was a different experience for us all and created a good sense of camaraderie.

During the year the following Gentleman members have been elected to membership:

Michael Innes	Richard Bevan
Douglas Jones	David Beddy
Bernard Leyland	Paul Tipton
Mike Wasinski	Roger Lamb
Richard Dyson	Jonathan Haigh
Graham Jones	Danny Fox – re-joining the Club
Peter McAndrew	

In addition, the following Junior Boys have been elected to membership:

Alex Mills	Sebastian Butt
Daniel Turkington	Edward Ordman
Marcos Thompson	Charles Hayton
Kylan Boyce	Tom Hayton
Lucian Page	Will Davison
Max Hilton	Alex Jones

A formal, but warm, welcome to them all and I hope and trust that they enjoy their membership to the full.

Members of Council work tirelessly on behalf of us all. Twelve months ago a new Chair of Council was elected, namely Ken Hawes. The role, on the face of it, would appear to be relatively straightforward. However, as we know from past experience, that is not necessarily the case. Ken has not only conducted the Council meetings with great efficiency to ensure meaningful, but concise, debate ensues, but at the same time has dealt with the other matters

that have come his way in a fair minded and business-like manner. Congratulations Ken and thank you.

The Lady Captain has expressed our thanks to the House and Membership Committees and it is now my pleasure to thank the Green Committee for all their hard work. The committee has once again been very ably led by Andy Veitch who has put an enormous amount of time and effort into the role. There never seems to have been a time when I did not see him down at the Club or on the course working on some aspect of the work required. More recently, the drainage work in the car park and the Club entrance has been planned through the diligence and supervision of Andy. Andy, thank you very much for what you have done.

Other members of the Green Committee, Helen Allott, Glyn Isaac and Gill Kay have all had their specific roles to perform which they have done with distinction. My personal thanks to Gill for her organisation of the mixed competitions and the Alliance Archie Preston matches. Glyn has acted as Competitions Secretary for the Gentlemen and has continued to undertake those duties with absolute aplomb.

The course has once again attracted much praise from visitors and members alike and this is down to the efforts of our Head Green Keeper, Russell Lewis, assisted by Dave Taylor and Dave Bligh. They have ensured that the course has been presented in a first-class manner despite difficult weather conditions at times. Improvements have been made to the course including much needed drainage works and the clearance of brushwood in certain wooded areas to enhance the visual appearance. So, congratulations to the three of them. We must not, of course, forget Bill Harvey for his work on the course.

Richard Booth, our Professional, has once again played an important role in the life of the Club, whether that be in his temporary home in the portakabin or in the important work of coaching the juniors and organising their competitions. I must also thank him for playing with me in Captain's challenges and at Enville Golf Club in the PGA ProCaptains Challenge.

There are several members who have worked behind the scenes:-

Albert White for his organisation at TNC and arranging the monthly draws.

Paul Bramwell for continuing to look after the 200 Club.

Robert Spark for his hard work in organising the Dodson Trophy at Bromborough Golf Club.

Mike Kirchin has been the lynch pin in organising us in the 9 Hole Club League.

Jonny Gray has been a tower of strength in various capacities - for organising FNC, now an integral part of the Club, for his organisation of the Dinner to the Captain and the Captain's Dinner, including the unenviable task of preparing the seating plan, and for acting as Match Secretary for Men's matches. In that regard, 10 matches were played, with 4 wins, 4 losses and 2 halves.

Thank you to you all.

As you know, the Men's Seniors Section is a very active section of the Club playing over 25 fixtures throughout the year, not forgetting the monthly Stableford competitions. The committee of Alan Kemp, Robin Holden, Mike Massey and Dave Swale under the leadership of Barry Jefferies are to be applauded for their splendid continued efforts.

It has been a real pleasure to have worked with Pat as Lady Captain this year. She has been kind, thoughtful and has offered encouragement at important moments. I think that we have inspired each other. We have simply got on with the job in hand and, even though I say it myself, I think and, indeed know, that we have made a good team by sharing the responsibilities of Captaincy as the Equality Act intended.

I have been lucky to work with two Presidents – Andrew Pendleton and Bill Walsh. Both have been of enormous assistance and sources of encouragement and wisdom. Thank you both.

To Norma, my long suffering and loving wife, I cannot speak highly enough of her support. Without her understanding and patience I could not have undertaken or achieved what I have and, whilst I know that the past twelve months will probably cost me dearly in recompense, I have no hesitation in thanking her for her truly wonderful support. It was Norma who told me that when I was asked if I was prepared to be considered for the role of Gentleman Captain, that if I said “no”, then I would regret it for the rest of my life. How wise those words were!

As I said at the outset, I have had a most enjoyable year and that is down to the support, consideration and kindness that I have received from all sections of the Club. Finally, I hope that my successor, Paul, has a great year and I wish him every success.

Thank you all once again..”

## **ELECTION OF GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN AND LADY CAPTAIN**

The President then dealt with the election of the two new Captains.

Caroline Perkin was elected unanimously by the membership as the Lady Captain.

Paul Simpson was elected unanimously by the membership as the Gentleman Captain

Following their elections, both the Lady and the Gentleman Captains addressed the meeting.

## **NEW LADY CAPTAIN’S ADDRESS**

Caroline Perkin, the new Lady Captain, spoke as follows:

“President, Mr Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen, Cheshire President.

I would like to thank the past lady captains for putting their faith and trust in me and to assure them I will uphold all our Ladies quaint traditions at Hale.

I would especially like to thank Pat for her help, support and advice, all the emails and phone calls have been very much appreciated. She has been an inspiring 365 days Lady Captain and I am sure Barry is now looking forward to having his wife back.

Finally, I am also looking forward to not working on Thursdays and playing golf and hoping to improve for the mixed competitions with Paul. Let’s hope the sun shines. Thank you.”

## **NEW GENTLEMAN CAPTAIN’S ADDRESS**

Paul Simpson made the following address as the new Gentleman Captain;

“Personal thanks will wait until tomorrow, but I would like to thank all members for that rousing vote of confidence. I know there was no alternative - at least I can now appreciate what Kim Jong Un must feel like.

Thank you all the same and for all the good wishes I have received in the run up to this evening. I certainly hope I can repay your trust.

Most important though is for me to thank Cliff for all his work throughout the year. I thanked him on behalf of the Gentlemen at his dinner but I would like to do so now on behalf of all the members. We have been very lucky to have you as Gentleman Captain this year, Cliff, and everyone here truly appreciates your efforts. So thank you.

I promised the President I would not exceed four sentences, otherwise I said he could shoot me, so I will sit down but again, thank you so much.”

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The President then dealt with the election of the Officers of the Club and Council members.

None of the nominations for Officers were contested. By general approval of the meeting the following officers were elected by the Membership for 2018/19:

Officers:

Secretary	AR Fishwick
Assistant Secretary	PA Webster
Treasurer	PJT Gilbert
Assistant Treasurer	AV Wells
Chair Green Committee	WA Veitch
Chair House Committee	MJ Kirchin
Chair Membership Committee	CEJ Wright

After the meeting’s approval of the election of the Officers, The President confirmed the election of the Officers for the year 2018/19.

In the case of the election of Council members, there were three nominations for two places: both for a 3-year term. The nominees were Tracey Thompson, John Yates and Ian Hunt.

A vote was held with Peter Veitch, Peter Hardern and Jennifer Bradley acting as tellers.

Elected for 3-year terms were:           Tracey Thompson  
  John Yates

(During the count Chris Woods, Club Archivist, entertained the members with interesting extracts from the Club’s archives.)

The President congratulated the Officers and Council members elected: “Congratulations to all those Officers and Council members elected for 2018/19. I would also particularly like to thank Ian Hunt who has stood for election this evening but not been successful, I believe that it is very important that we have members who are prepared to stand for Council and hope that you will not be deterred from standing again.”

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW VICE PRESIDENT**

The President then said: “It gives me great pleasure to announce that Council has approved the appointment of a new Vice President. Our new Vice President needs absolutely no introduction. His contribution to the Club over the years is legendary. He is of course Barry Jefferies.”

## **APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINING ACCOUNTANTS**

The Treasurer recommended that Hanley’s Accountants were appointed for another year and this was proposed by Pat Jefferies and seconded by Alan Bradley. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Corinne Veitch asked, in view of the Club Rule (Rule 36) that no visitor should use the Clubhouse or course more than six times in a year, what process was in place to monitor such attendances. The Secretary observed that the Club depended on the good nature of members themselves not to abuse the Rule, and the Council could only respond to feedback from

Members. Mike Kirchin noted the House Committee would review the use of the Visitors' Book.

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

The President then reminded members: "The Captain's Drive in will be held tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> March at 12:45 followed by an informal lunch at which all members are very welcome. After lunch a 9-hole match between the Gentleman Captain's and the Lady Captain's teams will be played for the Victory Cup. Please do support your new Captains and sign the list for golf if you would like to play in the match."

The President asked everyone to join him in having a drink 'on the Club'.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed by the President

Bill Walsh  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2019



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY, 23 MARCH 2018**

#### **ATTENDEES**

John Acratopulo	Gillian Healey	Margaret Sharp
Jez Allen	Robin Holden	Roger Sheen
Helen Allott	Sue Holden	Paul Simpson
Judy Anderson	Freda Hunt	Barbara Spark
John Bacon	Ian Hunt	Robert Spark
Colin Bamford	Adam Hyde	Ray Stephen
Rosemary Bowden	Ceri Hyde	Dave Swale
Alan Bradley	Glyn Isaac	Nigel Taylor
Jennifer Bradley	Barry Jefferies	Paul Taylor
Gwynneth Bramwell	Pat Jefferies	Keith Thompson
Martin Bramwell	Wendy Jenkins	Tracy Thompson
Gillian Brogdon	Andrew Kay	Andy Veitch
Sue Bryant	Gill Kay	Peter Veitch
Bob Cooke	Al Kenney	Corinne Veitch
Ann Davies	Fiona Kenney	Vanessa Veitch
Tessa Day	Lizzie Kenney	Della Von Arx
Tiff Fielden	Alan Kemp	David Wainwright
Andrew Fishwick	Mike Kirchin	Judith Wainwright
Min Fishwick	Mike Massey	Bill Walsh
Andrew Gething	Caroline Massey	Trina Walsh
Paul Gilbert	Roger Mattocks	Anne Webster
Margaret Gilman	Jim McNairney	Albert White
John Goodman	John Moss	Jay White
Jill Gower-Jones	Jim Mossop	Clare Withey
John Gower-Jones	Sandra Mossop	Chris Wood
Barbara Grant	Ann Murphy	Cliff Wright
Jonathan Gray	Phillippa Nichols	Norma Wright
Helen Hardern	Roger O'Brien	Jonny Yates
Peter Hardern	Caroline Perkin	
Ian Harris	Jane Perks	
Bill Harvey	Roger Perks	
Ken Hawes	Craig Rea	
Andrew Hay	Michelle Rea	
Eric Healey	Drummond Sharp	

## APPENDIX 2

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY, 23 MARCH 2018

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chris Adams	Alastair Imrie	Roy Offland
John Adams	Susan Imrie	Martin Oldfield
Craig Barton	Colin Jacques	Pamela Ogden
Christine Brierley	Barbara Kennedy	Ian Pinnington
Ray Briggs	Bill Kennedy	Judy Pinnington
Chris Brown	John T Kennedy	Chris Ravenscroft
George Buchan	Rody Keunen	Jan Ravenscroft
Ian Carstairs	John Kinder	George Rowland
Vicky Chamberlain	Roger Laitt	Sue Scambler
Lesley Cuerden	Kit Lewtas	Kath Sharp
Chris Davies	Shirley Lewtas	Dave Smith
Helen Davies	Ann Leyland	Anne Smyth
Bill Dixon	Bernard Leyland	Cynthia Sunderland
Pam Dixon	Ken Lodge	Donald Sutherland
Di Done	Lynette Lodge	Judy Sutherland
Richard Dyson	Judy Longworth	David Schofield
Roger Fielding	Ian Macklin	David Smith
Jonathan Foster	Moya Malthouse	Louise Swale
Peter Frank	Robin Malthouse	Audrey Taylor
Rosie Gerrard	Jim Martin	Don Watson
Mandy Gilbert	Alastair Mawson	Val Watson
Sheila Gold	Chris Mawson	Vicky Wells
Ralfe Graveley	Marijke Mazure	Ben Wilcox
Oliver Harris	Kathleen McNairney	Bernie Wilcox
Sue Harrison	Rosemary Moorehead	Jack Wilcox
Mike Hauser	Janice Moss	Guy Withey
John Heathcock	John Munnery	Ashley Woodcock
Geoff Hill	Richard Murray	Fiona Woodcock
Sheila Hill	Conrad Nelstrop	
Peter Hindle	Val Nelstrop	
John Hughes	Jim Nicholson	
Penny Hughes	Barbara O'Brien	