



Minute of Annual General Meeting of the Kirkcudbright Golf Club



Thursday 5th December, 2024 at 7 PM.

(1) Present and Apologies

Present: C. Jones (Chair), C. MacLaine, D. Harris, C. Kennedy, I. McCartney, M. Halliday (President), J. Richardson, K. Morrison, D. McLachlan, J. Roff, N. Macintosh, A. A. McGowan, W. McCartney, I. Senior, D. Craven, P. Watson, N. Watson, M. Locke, B. Adams, R. Watson, A. Millar, K. Shamash, M. Stryjewski, P. Roberts, A. Houston, W. Watson, S. King, C. Kennedy, W. Davidson, D. Davidson, J. Gibbs-Smith. (31)

Apologies: J. Thomson, S. Richardson, M. Dawe, R. Mack, A. McMinn, S. McKean, C. Greig, A. Greig, G. McAdam, R. McAllister, J. Judge, S. Southall, G. Rowlinson, G. Kelly, B. Stryjewski. (15)

(2) Minutes Of Last Meeting

Approved as recorded.

Proposed by : I. Senior

Seconded by : P. Roberts

(3) Matters Arising

P. Roberts asked if the "Social Membership" discussed at last year's AGM had been resolved. The Captain replied that the Committee had agreed that the £5 annual fee had been waived for previous long-term members but would still apply for casual visitors to the clubhouse.

(4) Captain's Report

Although this had already been distributed, Chris gave an additional verbal report, as follows:

He thanked the Greenkeeper team and acknowledged the efforts of Clare before she moved further north to be nearer to her family.

He reminded those present that after the EGM in April, the Committee had applied to OSCR for Charitable Status and had been successful. He then asked all members to bring to the attention of any Trustee and/or Committee member any details of possible sources of funding, of which they may become aware.

He noted that club funds gained over the summer were down on last year due mostly to the weather, cancelling the Veterans Open and putting off more visitors.

He reminded the membership that the office is staffed by volunteers and that we are always in need of more volunteers to cover various absences. He also thanked all current volunteers and those who will be stepping down from current positions.

He asked that members support the "social" events (like the Silver Divot Power Play) and to try to come up with some of their own ideas along these lines.

(5 - 11) Main Reports

The Chair asked that all reports, having been previously circulated to all members (or made available in a printed version on the night), be accepted. This was agreed by a large majority. P. Watson asked who the new Trustees were - the Captain replied that this will be announced later in the agenda.

(12) Finance Report

Colin read out his report giving more details as appropriate, no questions were asked.

(13) Election of Office Bearers

The Captain read out the details previously provided and proposed that the Office Bearers be accepted, as published.

He also named the Trustees, as voted for by the membership, adding that they will serve from AGM to AGM, and will be allowed to stand for re-election each year.

Proposed by : K. Shamash Seconded by : W. McCartney
For : Everybody Against : None.

(5) Notices of Motion

Eric Guthrie Putter

P. Watson proposed (Seconded by A. Houston) that the Eric Guthrie Putter event (not being well-attended) should be amalgamated into the Winnie Wallace (with the approval of the family). D. McL stated that it wasn't the only competition that was not well-attended and that it did attract some visitors.

A vote was taken and the vast majority of those present were for the motion with 4 persons against it.

The Maitland Medal

R. McAllister proposed (Seconded by J. Thomson) that the Maitland Medal competition be restored to its original format of a 2-round Gross Strokeplay competition (with a prize for best Nett, too).

A vote was taken and the vast majority of those present were for the motion with no persons voting against it.

(6) Subscriptions for 2025

The Captain explained that the Committee looked at this in September when the Annual Rate of Inflation was 1.7% but since then, the increase in National Insurance contributions and the National Living Wage has caused a 7% hike in our biggest outlay, salaries.

He also stated that the main reason for the increases in subscriptions were to build resilience into our bank accounts for the purchase and/or emergency maintenance of our

machinery, without which, we wouldn't have a course that matched the memberships expectations and therefore we wouldn't have a golf club.

Regarding "Distance Memberships", the Captain appreciated the rise in fees but compared them favourably with other clubs in the region.

A. A. McGowan proposed the fees be raised to only £500 reminding the members that this may keep more players playing golf and paying their competition fees each week. A bigger increase may lose us this extra income. "Acky" also proposed that a raffle or other fund-raising action be implemented on the days when a competition is being played.

P. Watson asked about the appointment of a replacement Greenkeeper. The Captain replied that this would depend on the agreed subscriptions, quoting an increase of 46% in the National Living Wage between April 2021 and April 2025. This will be reviewed at the end of January 2025 when most of the members' subscriptions will have been paid and the Committee can see how much income they have to "play" with.

P. Watson asked how the Committee would raise funds as a SCIO and suggested a Fund-Raising sub-Committee be appointed. The Captain agreed with this and will email all members about it soon.

W. Davidson reminded the members that any grants received would NOT be for the day-to-day running of the club so this needs to come from memberships and visitors fees.

JGS proposed that for the "Distance Memberships", the club raise the fees by 67% (the average increase throughout Dumfries & Galloway).

(7) AOCB

1. JGS seconded the proposal that a fund-raising sub-Committee be appointed.
2. Jon also asked if the club had an official limit on the number of times a member could sign in a guest (and the same guest) suggesting a maximum of 6 and requesting that it be formalised. Maurice replied that there was a codicil in the Constitution and that 12 was currently the approved number for the same guest. Acky suggested that doing this would lose the club some income and the Captain agreed that it was a "balancing act".
3. K Morrison asked if the vacant Greenkeeper position could be filled by a Modern Apprentice.
4. A. Houston asked if the Small Business Allowance available from the UK Government had been given any consideration - the Captain and the Treasurer assured her that it had.
5. I. McCartney agreed that the proposed subscriptions were too high but reminded us that the Golf Club had to "stand on its own two feet", not relying too much on income from visitors. Ian suggested that if subscriptions are not increased as proposed, even at the risk of losing a few members, the club risked not being able to meet its financial means for 2025 and/or not being able to employ another Greenkeeper.
6. P. Watson asked about the price of buggies. The Captain replied that buggy prices were comparable with other clubs in the region but agreed to reconsider the fee for visitors buggies.
7. P. Roberts suggested going with the £500 limit but having a review at the end of January and if required, then add a little more.
8. JGS asked if last year's increase couldn't be matched this year.

9. Common Good - A. Millar asked if we could “get rid” of the Ground Rent by asking the Council to donate the ground to the club, as they have done in the past for the Tennis Club.
10. I. Senior asked what was happening with the course volunteers. Acky explained that it was in hand but was still at the planning stage. He noted that certain jobs needed certification. The Captain will keep everybody apprised via email and posters in changing rooms, as and when required. Billy McCartney asked how Gatehouse of Fleet was run - P. Roberts replied that they have 1 part-time Greenkeeper and they are helped by a group of volunteers (and that the course is in “fantastic condition”). An “occasional” appointment (for seasonal work) may be the answer.
11. M. Halliday asked if the signage forbidding use of a Driver on the first tees be removed as it dis-advantaged players who would never reach the marker post, even with a Driver. This was agreed.
12. P. Watson asked that the club provide more information via email regarding things that would affect members, e.g. changes of staffing. The Captain agreed to send these out more often via email.

After the AOCB, the Captain asked for a show of hands to accept the proposed subscriptions for 2025 - the majority of members voted against this.

He then asked for a show of hands to accept the amended proposed subscriptions for 2025 of £505 for full members, 67% of Full Membership for Distance Membership (£338) and the buggy fee for visitors to be raised to £30. The majority of members voted for this.

(8) Golf-A-Lotto Draw

In the absence of C. Marriott, D. Harris thanked Colin and Lizzie Shamash for their efforts in organising and running this fund-raising scheme.

The December draw was made by the Captain and the winner was number 64, Margaret Locke winning £60.

The Annual draw was made by Margaret and the winner was number 110, Graham Campbell winning £900.

David then thanked all members who had purchased one or more tickets but encouraged more to do so.

He then presented the club with a cheque for £2,160, equating to 50% of the second year's profits.

The Captain thanked everyone for their attendance and support.

At that point, the meeting officially closed at 20:05.