

In MINUTES OF THE FIFTY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE SOCIETY OF KENT GOLF CAPTAINS:
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2018 AT WEST KENT GOLF CLUB,
DOWNE, KENT.

Prior to lunch the Captain William Albery called for a few moments of silence after announcing members of The Society who had passed away, to reflect in their memory.

It is with great sadness that there were 14 members who are no longer with us.

Following lunch the Captain of West Kent Golf Club, Mr. Brian Seymour-Vallance welcomed the Society to his home club. He then went on and wished the incoming Captain and members of the Society a successful golfing year.

Our Captain William Albery responded to the welcome and thanked West Kent GC for allowing us to hold our AGM at the home of the Society and asked the West Kent Captain to pass on our thanks to all those concerned, expressing that we have been extremely well looked after.

The Captain then announced the opening of the AGM.

Item 1) The Secretary read the notice convening the Fifty AGM.

Item 2) Apologies for absence were noted from some eight members.

Item 3) The Minutes of the Forty Ninth Annual General Meeting on the 17th May 2017 were approved unanimously and duly signed.

Item 4) **Matters Arising:**

None were forthcoming.

Item 5) **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer opened his report by saying everyone should have received a set of the Accounts either by e-mail or in hardcopy format

In Summary

2017 has been a steady year with the surplus of £4,227. This is down £5,516 on the profit of the previous year due to a number of factors which he went on to highlight:

Income

2017, being our 50th anniversary had a couple of special events to celebrate the year. There was the summer ball, held in June and for the Christmas Fayre, we went to Royal St Georges. These events generated revenue however, resulted in a small net cost to the Society. But, I am sure you will agree that 50 years is worth celebrating.

The increase in subs has still had an effect and a number of resignations have been received in the year, but the bottom line is an overall subscriptions figure of £11,850, flat when compared to 2016

Revenue for member's meetings was up this year by £4,000. The majority of this from the Christmas Fayre (£3,3k). However, this figure for meetings is very dependent on venues.

For example, excluding the Pro day:

- 2017 held 4 events with revenue in excess of £6k per event,
- Comparative figures for 2016 had 2 events with revenue in excess of £6k.
- So, normal meetings revenue was up by £840

Like for like County matches revenue is slightly down. This as a result of fewer players in the teams for a couple of matches.

It should be remembered the number of home or away matches affects the revenue. So, figures for these matches should always be looked at over the two year cycle. In 2017, there were 4 away matches (2016 – this figure was 3)

The 2017 revenue figure included The Queens Diamond Jubilee, where we took part but only as guests. We host the event once every 3 years so 2018 will be our turn to host.

2017 clothing sales continue at a satisfactory rate after the initial introduction of the new stock and revised badges etc. There have been one or two additional items introduced available to the members.

Costs

Meeting costs were up £6,179, of which £3,454 was directly attributable to the Christmas Fayre.

Costs associated with the County matches were in line with expectations due to the home / away mix and the Jubilee match costs.

There was a cost of just over £2,000 in respect of gifts purchased for the 50th anniversary, given out to the members as mementos

Costs in respect of administrative functions have increased slightly. There has also been a change to the accounting treatment where these costs have been directly attributed to events.

NB, 2018, there are fewer away matches (i.e.3 matches) so we expect to incur higher costs due to extra home matches.

General Society expenses for 2017 were in line with expectations, coming in slightly higher than 2016

Printing and postage costs show a slight increase but still within reasonable levels.

The Balance Sheet

Net worth has increased by £4.2k to £36.4k (i.e. the effect of the 2017 surplus). This includes the value of the trophies/salvers etc. for the next 2 years, which have already been purchased. I mentioned this last year and we do this to secure the best possible rates. You will see a movement in stock of prizes as a result.

Cash has increased by £6.7k largely due to the surplus for the year.

Stock of clothing has slightly increased.

The stock items of prizes are now secured until 2019.

Prepayments have reduced in 2017 with only one venue requesting a deposit to cover future events

Charity Account

Balance held at the end of 2016 - £2.0k

Monies collected in 2017 were slightly less than we donated.

Balance at the end of 2017 now £1.5k

Looking Forward / Membership

As you know, the subscription increase came into effect January 2016. Some good news, you are getting better!!!! Whilst a number of members took action to increase their payment, there are still some amongst you who have still not increased their subs. Work is still ongoing to collect outstanding monies.

The first cut of subs for 2018 showed that out of the membership:

412 paid £20, there were a further 113 members who paid £10. The nice thing with this is that of the 113, 47 had resigned but STILL sent the cash!! Most of others who are members have been chased. Additionally we had one member who has paid £15, since rectified.

Current / latest figures show:

In four months to April, 478 have now paid £20, 82 have paid £10. Of the 82, 50 have submitted their resignation. The remainder are WIP to establish the situation regarding their status. He has spoken to a number of them but still no outcome as yet....He will continue to chase!!

He said it last year, if anyone is wondering why it is taking so long to rectify... you pay by SO, not DD, ...we (The Society) cannot alter or cancel a SO, members must do that themselves, hence the protracted process.

We have continued to get resignations this year. Current figures indicate a membership of around 532.

In addition, from members who have resigned or indicated they intend to resign, we have received around £500 in subs.....

One final observation is that the Society is in a healthy cash position. People paying for meetings used to pay in two halves. There are more now paying for the whole year.

Item 6)

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman opened his report with a short tribute to our late president Reg Taylor. My first memory of Reg was on a Spring Tour. As many of you will know the Spring Tour often coincides with St George's Day and I was sitting in the dining room at breakfast time when Reg entered dressed as St George with helmet, sword

and of course waving the St Georges flag. This was an annual occurrence until the tour went to Turkey when Reg thought it better not to provoke an international incident. The other memories I have of Reg were his mustard yellow trousers although there was an occasion when they had to be changed to another colour and of course his wonderful display of stamps both on his Captain's day and President's day. A lovely gentleman sadly missed but not forgotten.

Reg said last year that he preferred to use the word exciting rather than enjoyable to describe his year. I would like to say that my year has been both exciting and enjoyable and I have a number of people to thank because my year could not have been so exciting and enjoyable without their contribution.

Firstly I would like to thank the members of the committee. One of the main functions for the committee members is to act as match managers for the County matches. The County matches have been a most enjoyable part of my year and if there are any members who have not played in a match and would like to do so I would urge them to contact the match managers who are shown on the website. Although many of the teams have already been selected the managers are always faced with a number of withdrawals for various reasons and the policy of the Society is to ensure that as many members as possible can participate in these matches.

There are two officers that I would particularly like to thank. One of them has a peculiar accent, drinks cider and recently gave up trying to grow a ponytail. In case you do not know who I am talking about it is of course our treasurer. Although he keeps a low profile you will probably have realised from his report that his contribution to the Society is substantial. Many thanks Mike.

The other officer is of course our secretary. At the end of the Spring Tour I compared David's contribution to an iceberg. Before I became captain I was aware that David did a huge amount of work to ensure that this society runs smoothly. However in the past year I have realised that what I had previously seen was only the tip of the iceberg. On behalf of the members and on my own behalf I would like to thank David and Brenda for all that they do for this Society.

I would like to thank the past Presidents for the support that they have given me and in particular two past presidents.

Phil Draper for all the hard work he has done in relation to the charity fund. We have been to Birtley House School and Riverside School and handed over cheques for £2000 and in addition there was a donation of £500 to the Kent Air Ambulance. We have received letters of thanks and gratitude for these donations.

Terry Ralph for the huge amount of work he has undertaken in running and updating the website. In recognition of his contribution Terry has been nominated a life member of the Society and in the past year there are two other past presidents Stuart Knott and Mike Odd who have been nominated life members in recognition of all that they have done for the Society.

Last but not least I would like to thank you the members for all the support that you have given me in the past year and for helping to make this such an exciting and enjoyable year

Item 7)

Secretary Report:

2017 was our 50th year, a year of many happy memories and some sad memories. As has been mentioned before me, it was so sad that our President Reg Taylor past away during his term in office. I do not wish to repeat what has already been said about Reg BUT he will be missed not only by our Society, but I am sure those who knew him here at West Kent.

Sadly we also lost another Past Captain of our Society in November 'Edwin Roberts' a man who also gave much to the Society and he too will be sadly missed. As will all those members who departed this world during the past year.

As I said at the beginning we also had many happy memories of our 50th year –

Our Summer Ball took place late May and those of us who attended this Celebration Ball danced the night away to excellent band called 'The Intruders' and enjoyed a glass of wine or two.

All our Members Meetings were well supported last year although many were over-subscribed everyone who was balloted out did have the opportunity to play, as cancellations were received.

Our season finished at St. Georges GC a day to remember. Although more expensive than our normal meetings, we still had a full field of 90 players. We were richly entertained by the club and their staff who made us all feel so welcome. As the Captain has said within his report a day to remember.

Our Pro/Guest day held in September at Faversham saw 32 teams taking part from all over the County. One of the early starters was Walmer & Kingsdown 'A' who recorded a score of 126 (14 under par). Their score looked good for a number of hours as others teams came close but not close enough. Until the last few groups with 3 of them also recoding 126 (14 under). But their patients was rewarded having stayed all day they eventually won with a score on the back 9 of 60 one better than Cherry Lodge, 2 better than Woodlands C and 4 better than Wrotham Heath 'B'.

Our Inter County friendly matches during 2017 ending with us winning 3 and losing 4. Our thanks goes to all the Team Managers for their time and running these matches. If you would like to play in any of our friendly matches, regardless of your handicap then please contact the Match Managers direct, details of which can be found on our website. These matches ARE NOT a closed shop. We are always looking for new players and at times we have had to ring around to obtain a player or two.

Having mentioned our Website It is a source of information about the Society with Results – News – Clothing information and many photos of winners and events. If you have not visited the site recently then please do so. It has been completely up-graded and has a much more professional look about it, and as the Captain has said earlier this is due to our website administrator Terry Ralph.

In June last year we played in a 3 County Diamond Jubilee competition. The Teams of which consist of Committee members and Past Captains. It was played at Cooden Beach G.C. and hosted by Sussex Captains. The other team is London Captains. I am pleased to report that your Committee lifted the trophy and will be defending it at Bearsted next month.

The 7 County Queen's Jubilee Trophy was hosted by Bedfordshire in August at John O'Gaunt GC. We came so close again to winning this prestige competition coming 2nd behind London Captains whose last player recorded the best score of the day which piped us to the trophy.

Our Annual Match against the Kent Ladies Captains held here last August saw a new Match Manager take over from Ian Dunlop – Harry Wanless. This is a mixed team competition playing American Greensomes and you are selected to play for either the Ladies Team OR the Men's Team with a partner from the Kent Ladies. Our Captain led the Men's Team to victory. Our new Team Manager was selected to play for the Ladies Team which came 2nd!!!

Our Annual Dinner held at the Weald of Kent Hotel in April proved again to be a very enjoyable evening. We were entertained by our speakers with our Vice Captain Mike proposing the Toast to the Society in a dignified manner. He was followed by our Captain who again proved to be an excellent After Dinner Speaker with funny stories and quips and even commented about our Guest Speaker Roger Dakin someone William has known for a number of years...A BIG MISTAKE!! Roger got his own back twice over as you can imagine and had us rolling with laughter... All in all a very successful evening.

Many of you will not know this BUT William was asked to speak at a number of other County Dinners this year as his reputation when before him and I must say with great success.

Our Overseas Tour this year saw us visit Lagos in Portugal with a party of 62 supporting the tour. We played at Alamos and Palmaris golf courses. The main competition for the Ron Kunes Salver was won for the 2nd time in a row by Brad Smith from Sittingbourne who won on the last green with the last putt from Keith Fuller from Shortlands. The Secretaries Plate which is held for the more senior players amongst us was won by Nic Morrison from Eltham Warren.

A full report and photos are available on the website.

Our Charity Fund during 2017 raised in excess of £3400 and I would like to thank all members who have contributed to our Charity during the past year. Our thanks also goes to Phil Draper who organises payments to selected charities and I know Phil is always looking for Children Charities to donate to especially from members who may have an involvement with them. If you know of a Charity who would benefit from a donation please contact Phil direct.

All our Members Meetings for the year still has vacancies, although Littlestone is very nearly full. If you would like to play in any of our meetings please contact me after this meeting OR by email.

Our Pro/Guest Day at Shooters Hill on 25th September is starting to fill up. If you would like to enter a team then please let me have your application form before the end of July.

I have mentioned over the past two year's within my report about raising costs for golf bookings which is understandable as wages, catering and general running cost at our golf clubs are increasing. Again we have held our prices for this year but I am afraid that next year our prices will have to rise in line with the cost golf clubs are going to charge us.

This will mean as from 2019 each meeting will have a different price and that price will be decided by the costs we will be charged. We may be able to sponsor some of the meetings whist we have a surplus which would help to keep the entrance costs to a minimum.

He finished his report by saying, it would be re-miss of me if I did not thank all those members who have helped on the desk at our members meetings during 2017. To all of you personally I would like to thank you for your help which is very much appreciated not only by me but by those members attending our meetings. AND to you the members --- thank you for your support shown to me during the past year.

Item 8) **The Election Of Officers:**

The following officers were approved by the Meeting:

Mr. W. Albery	President
Mr. M. Lintonbon	Captain
Mr. R. Cruttenden	Vice-Captain
Mr. M. Stephens	Honorary Treasurer
Mr. D. Honnor	Honorary Secretary
Mr. D. Stoker	Examiner

The Secretary then called upon Mr. Ron Cox, the most senior Past President present to present the outgoing Captain William Albery with the President's Chain of Office.

He in return present the incoming Captain Mike Lintonbon with the Captain's Chain of Office

In taking the Chair the incoming Captain thanked the outgoing Captain William Albery and West Kent GC for all they have done for the Society. He went on to thank his home Club Shooters Hill for all the support he has received from the Past Captains and thanked the Society for allowing him to become our Captain for 2018 and he is looking forward to his year ahead.

The incoming Vice-Captain Roger Cruttenden also thanked the Society for allowing him to become their Vice-Captain. He went on to say it is not only a honour for him but also for his club Wrotham Heath and then committed his support to our new Captain and the Society in the year ahead

Item 9) **New Committee Members:**

The following members were elected to the Committee for a three year period:

Jim Baynes	Eltham Warren
Mike Muro	Mid-Kent
Brad Smith	Sittingbourne

Item 10) A vote of thanks were given to the retiring Committee Members:

Chris Jennings – Eltham Warren – Steve Mansfield - Sittingbourne and Michael Whitehead – Bearsted.

Item 11) **Any Other Business:**

David Donovan (Shooters Hill) – asked 'What was the average green fee we were paying the golf clubs to take us for our members meetings following on from the comments made by the Secretary that our meetings for 2019 will increase'

The Secretary replied that most clubs now want a joint fee for catering and a green fee i.e. a Society package. Although we are able to negotiate a discount occasionally because of the numbers we bring, costs in general are raising which we are all aware of at our own clubs. If we want to go to some of the more popular courses in Kent than we have to pay more than we have in years gone by and the £50.00 we are charging at present will not cover the costs for these clubs.

Item 12) The Vice-Captain called for a vote of thanks to the Chair which was followed by the Captain closing the 2018 AGM.

The Captain together with the Secretary proceeded to announce the day's winners and conducted the ball sweep.