

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE SOCIETY OF KENT GOLF CAPTAINS:

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th MAY 2019 AT WEST KENT GOLF CLUB,

DOWNE, KENT.

Prior to lunch the Captain Mike Lintonbon 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 11 members who are no longer with us.

Following lunch the Captain of West Kent Golf Club, Mr. Pat Donaghey 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 Mike Lintonbon 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 First AGM.
- Item 2) Apologies for absence were noted from some seven members.
- Item 3) The Minutes of the Fifty Annual General Meeting on the 16th May 2018 were approved unanimously and duly signed.

Matters Arising:

None were forthcoming.

Item 4) **Approve Amendments to the Constitution (See Attached)**

The Chairman/Captain Mike Lintonbon proposed the amendments to the Constitution copies of which were forwarded to all members along with the Agenda. (See attached).

A show of hands was required needing a 75% majority. The motion was carried and approved unanimously.

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 hard copy format

In Summary

2018 has been a steady year with a surplus of £2,700. This is down £1,526 on the profit of the previous year due to a number of factors which he highlighted:

Income

Overall, gross income has dropped by £12k. The two main factors being there were increased revenue in 2017 due to the Summer Ball to celebrate the 50th anniversary and lower revenue across all meetings in 2018.....

The increase in subs is **still** having an effect and a number of resignations have been received in the year. But the bottom line is an overall subscriptions figure of £11,320, slightly down (£530) when compared to 2017

Revenue for member's meetings was down this year by £6,298. The drop as mentioned is across all the meetings. However, as he indicated in the past, this figure for meetings is very dependent on venues.

For example:

2018 had 2 events where revenue generated £5.8k per meeting, Comparative figures for 2017 there were 4 events with revenue in excess of £6k. This included the one off event at St Georges to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. County matches revenue is up. This as a result of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee where Kent hosted the event in 2018.

Regarding the County fixtures, 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 2018, there were 3 away matches (2017 – this figure was 4)

2018 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 and available to the members.

Costs:

Meeting costs were down £5,796 in line with the reduction in revenue.

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

Costs in respect of administrative functions have increased slightly. In line with 2017 where there was a change to the accounting treatment, admin costs have again been directly attributed to events.

General Society expenses for 2018 were in line with expectations, coming in slightly higher than 2017

Printing and postage costs show a slight decrease, this as a result of obtaining additional e-mail addresses so avoiding postage.

NB, 2019, there are more away County matches (i.e 4 matches) so we expect to incur lower costs as a result.

The Balance Sheet

Net worth has increased by £2.7k to £39k (i.e. the effect of the 2018 surplus). This includes the value of the stock of trophies/salvers etc. already bought for the next year. We will be purchasing new stock soon for the next 4 years, we do this to secure the best possible rates.

Stock of clothing has slightly decreased.

Cash has increased by £4k largely due to the surplus for the year. We continue to monitor the situation and will take action when it is deemed necessary. We are mindful that it is not the purpose of the Society to accumulate funds!!

Prepayments have remained the same in 2018 this relates to venues requesting a deposit to secure the event. The deposit shown covers Cinq Ports (2017 it was Littlestone)

Charity Account

Balance held at the end of 2017 - £1.5k

Monies collected in 2018 were slightly less than we donated.

Balance at the end of 2018 now £0.5k

Looking Forward / Membership

As you know, the subscription increase came into effect January 2016. Some good news, you are **still** going in the right direction!!!! Whilst most 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.

Current / latest figures show:

In four months to April, 483 members (up by 57 from the initial reconciliation exercise) have paid £20 and 61 **people** have paid £10. Of the 61 we currently have 38 that are no longer members.

My database indicates we have 34 members who still require action. 14 of them have paid nothing so far and 20 have paid £10.

The fallout from the rate increase continues. Having chased again, several have decided to call it a day due to a number of reasons, illness / age / other factors. Chases however have taken place to collect the money from members who we believe are **still** members but at the moment have underpaid. That exercise will be on-going until we decide we cannot collect any more subscriptions.

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.

Having said last year that those that had resigned had been advised to cancel their SO and that he was merely going to take their money, he has relented!! He pulled off their details and has e-mailed them again requesting that they stop the SO going forward. He does not propose paying them back monies paid to us in error as they have been informed on numerous occasions.

In addition, from members who have resigned or indicated they intend to resign, we have received around £380 in subs.....

We have continued to get resignations this year. Current figures indicate a membership of around 534. New membership has picked up so there is not much movement in overall figures from last year. David and I compare records to ensure that we have the same membership numbers (subject to the odd one from timing)

One final observation is that the Society is in very a healthy cash position. As stated earlier, the committee will monitor the position and if felt necessary will take appropriate action.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report and asked if there were any questions for the Treasurer.

None were forthcoming.

Item 6) **Chairman's Report:**

It has been a great privilege to be Captain of this great Society of ours. I have said many times, this Society is more like a club you cannot pay to join. You have all earned your rights to be members.

Captain Pat our thanks to West Kent G.C. for allowing our Society to use your superb facilities as our home club. We appreciate the challenge falling on golf clubs today also your generosity over many years. Our thanks to your Green Staff and Catering Staff for looking after us so well.

I have to thank certain members for making my life so easy and enjoyable this last year:--first of all I'd like to thank all members of the committee who do a lot of unseen hard work, for example arranging the teams to play in the six county matches, making sure people have all the details etc.

My thanks to the President William and all the Past Presidents for their support, and especially my Vice -Captain Roger. I trust he will have as an enjoyable year as i have had.

Once again thanks to Phil Draper for all his hard work with the Charity Fund this year we donated cheques of £1,000 each to Bradfield Club and The Milestone Academy. And an additional cheque for £500 given to me to donate to a charity of my choice and this was presented to the R.N.L.I. at the Gravesend Life Boat Station. All of these donations were gratefully received.

Also a great thanks to Terry Ralph for all his hard work keeping the web site up to date.

Thanks from all of us to Mike Stephens our Treasurer. Mike does a lot of hard work keeping our accounts in the black. Last but not least our secretary.

David and his wife Brenda. It has been said many times before you only see part of the work they put in. Arranging venues for or days and county matches, the spring tour and many more things. David appears to be rather like a Swan swimming calmly and peacefully on the surface of the water, but underneath his legs are working tirelessly to keep up the momentum on behalf of all members and especially myself a big than you.

On finishing I thank you, the members for all the support you have given me making my year so enjoyable and memorable.

Item 7) **Secretary Report:**

Another year goes by and another year older, not only for us all but for the Society. However, 2018 as many a year before proved to be a successful and a well-supported year as our Society goes from strength to strength.

Our Members Meetings again proved to be popular with number averaging around 100 per meeting with West Kent – Littlestone and Sittingbourne receiving support in excess of this number.

In general our membership is still very strong with membership numbers in the region of 530 and we had 31 new members joining last year. We have already had 19 new members join us this year. Although we have lost a few in the region of 65 some who are playing golf up-stairs and some due to old age and giving up golf. We are still one of the largest supported Captains Society in the South East.

Our Pro/Guest Day held at Shooters Hill late September saw 30 teams participating from all over the County in this popular event. The eventual winners were Eltham Warren 'B' with a score of 128 – 10 under par along with 4 other teams, but they came home with a back 9 of 59 to win by one shot from Tunbridge Wells.

Our Inter County friendly matches finished with us Winning 3 – Halving 3 and losing 1. Our thanks go to all the Team Managers for their time and dedication in running these matches on our behalf. I would at this point just mention as I do most years these matches are friendly matches, open to all members regardless of handicap. I would liken these games to your own club friendly matches. All other Counties we play also have a variety of players with different handicaps, so if you would like to play in any of our matches please contact the Match Managers, details of which can be found on the website.

The 2018 – three County Diamond Jubilee competition played against Sussex and London consisting of Committee Members and Past Captains was won for the second year running by Kent at Bearsted. Next month we will be going for a hat trick of wins which has never been done before when we travel to Ealing Golf Club to be hosted by London.

The 7 County Queens Silver Jubilee Trophy was hosted last year by Sussex and played at the Nevill GC on a dreadful rainy day. For the second year running we came 2nd behind London. This year's match is being hosted by Hampshire and will be played at Stoneham GC and hopefully we can go one better and bring the Trophy back to Kent.

Our Annual Match against the Kent Ladies Captains was also rained off after just a few holes being played. The two Captains agreed on an honourable half which meant the Men's Team retained the Salver having won it the year before. This match is also open to one and all and is a mixed team event playing American Greensomes. Our Match Manager is Harry Wanless who selects the teams and does the draw which means you could be playing for either team with a partner from the Kent Ladies. If you would like to be considered for this match then please contact Harry, details can be found on the website.

Having mentioned the website I must also mention and acknowledge the input and work carried out by our Website administrator Terry Ralph, who has transformed our website over the past two years with great success. It is a source of information where one can find News, General Information – Start Sheets – results – history about the Society - clothing details and prices – I could go on but have a look at our site and I am sure you will be impressed with what you see.

Our Annual Dinner held last month at the Weald of Kent Hotel was sold out and proved again to be a successful and most enjoyable evening. Our Vice-Captain Roger proposed the Society in a dignified manner and was followed by our Captain Mike's popular speech which was short but to the point, but our Guest Speaker Barry Williams stole the evening with his very funny stories which had us all rolling with laughter all in all a great night to remember.

Our Overseas Tour saw us return last week from Belek in Turkey. We had a party of 60 supporting this year's tour, playing the Sultan and Pasha Golf Courses. The Ron Kunes Salver was won by Tony Negal from Sundridge Park beating your Secretary into second place who is still recovering from depression and suicidal tendencies. The Secretary's Plate was retained by Nic Morrison from Eltham Warren and the Ladies competition was won by Heather Baynes also from Eltham Warren whose husband Jim has never known his wife to be so happy and is still smiling today.

A full report and photos will be on the website in due course.

Our Charity Fund, raised during 2018 just over £3K and I would like to thank all members who kindly contributed to our Children's Fund. I know our Captain has already thanked Phil Draper who runs the Charity Fund on our behalf for all he does. I also know he is willing to hear from any member who may wish to promote a Children's Charity who would benefit from a donation from us.

Our Members Meetings this year have proved to be very popular and we have had to have a ballot for Royal Cinque Ports and Wilderness. All those who have been balloted out have been informed and if you would like to know the Committee Member who pulled your name our please let me know.

However, some of those balloted out have already been reinstated as cancelations are received and everyone is moving up the list. I do have a few places for Langley Park in July and Captains Day at Wrotham early August and also Presidents Day at Shooters Hill, early October. If you wish to play in any of these fixture please contact me in due course.

Our Pro/Guest Day at Wrotham on the 26th September is starting to fill up. If you would like to enter a team please let me know by the end of July.

Finally gentlemen, 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 2018. Peter Embleton and Pat Quadling. To 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.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for his report and asked if there were any matters arising.

None were forthcoming.

Item 8)

The Election Of Officers:

The following officers were approved by the Meeting:

Mr. M. Lintonbon President

Mr. R. Cruttenden	Captain
Mr. P. Skipper	Vice-Captain
Mr. M. Stephens	Honorary Treasurer
Mr. D. Honor	Honorary Secretary
Mr. P. Oldfield	Examiner

The Secretary then called upon the outgoing President Mr. William Albery to present the President's Chain of Office to our new President Mike Lintonbon.

He in return presented the incoming Captain Roger Cruttenden with the Captain's Chain of Office.

In taking the Chair the Captain went on to say:

May I say how proud and privileged I feel right now to have been elected as your Captain for the forthcoming year. I am deeply honoured to accept this position not only on my own behalf but also on behalf of my own club Wrotham Heath.

I follow in a long list of former Captains whose names are synonymous with the good reputation that our Society enjoys within the County and beyond. May I mention but two today. Your outgoing President William. Mike has already alluded to his achievements but can I add my own. William I thank you for all the support you have given me. I feel certain that your wisdom and guidance will stand me in good stead during my year in Office. To Mike again may I thank you for all your support in the last year. You have been an excellent Captain and a true ambassador for our Society. You have given freely of your time in representing the Society both on and off the golf course. You will be a hard act to follow and I wish you well in your Presidential year.

Mike has already thanked the Captain of West Kent Golf Club for all that they do for our Society. I do not propose to repeat those thanks but may I add my own. May I also welcome Simon Illife the newly appointed General Manager of West Kent Golf Club. Simon we wish you well in your new position and look forward to seeing and working with you in the years ahead.

In putting this small address together I naturally consulted you Secretary. As ever he gave me some pearls of wisdom but never once mentioned his own contribution to the smooth running that we experience whenever we meet. David your contribution to our Society is immense and I know that like many of my predecessors knowing that you are always available to offer support and guidance when necessary is so very comforting.

And so I finish where I started. Thank you for electing me as your Captain and I can do no more than say I will do my utmost to continue to uphold the finest traditions of our wonderful Society both on and off the golf course.

I also congratulate Peter on his appointment as Vice-Captain a well-deserved honour and I look forward to many happy times together in the forthcoming year.

The incoming Vice-Captain Peter Skipper 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 St. Augustine's 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:

Graham Hudson	Dartford
Peter McLean	Shooters Hill
Nigel Digweed	Ashford

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

Steve Grubb – Shooters Hill – Brian Hodgkinson – Sene Valley and David Eldridge – Ashford

Item 11) **Any Other Business:**

None was forthcoming

Item 12) The Vice-Captain called for a vote of thanks to the Chair which was followed by the Captain closing the 2019 AGM.

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