

RHGS 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes

27th January 2019 10:30 am
Railway Hotel, Cheam

Opening

Howard Tonge, the Society Secretary, opened the meeting and said that with 26 people, this was the largest attendance we had ever had at an AGM.

Members Present

Adrian Blows, Alan Pooley, Bob Tisdall, Brian Holden, Brian Joy, Brian Williams, Charlie Foster, David Hiscocks, David Horwill, David Maltby, Graham Powell, Howard Tonge, Jo Blows, Josh Tonge, Keith Flower, Ken Gardiner, Kevin Offer, Mandy Hiscocks, Mike Cullen, Mike Keane, Mike Pilfold, Norman Clarke, Pat O'Hagan, Steve Bradley, Steve Holland and Steve Pepperell.

Apologies for Absence

Adrian Pursey, Alan Bradbrook, Alan Rodwell, Andy Cane, Bob Livingston, Carl Cavallo, David Blows, David Caddy, David Glennie, David Hesketh, David Nurser, David Yadoo, Glen Locke, Graham Hill, Graham Ridout, Ian McGraw, Jason Bird, Julian Taylor, Kyle Symonds, Len Singh, Marcus Foster, Martin Cox, Matt Flack, Mike Cutts, Roy George, David Perrett, Dick Ivory, Nick Barton, Nick Blake, Pat Conboy, Pat Huggins, Paul Murphy, Simon Shore, Steve Chasty, Steve Polkey, Stuart Hiscocks and Terry Freeman.

No response was received from Brian Potter, David Cox or Nick Barry

Minutes of Previous AGM

Howard read the salient points from last year's AGM "Any Other Business". This included:

- We are also pleased to announce that we have new Members joining the Society, which includes ladies joining the RHGS for the first time. The ladies will compete for Society trophies and prizes i.e. there will not separate trophies or prizes. The Handicaps Manager will advise on any handicap adjustments that might be needed to accommodate men and women into one competition whilst playing from different tees and SSS.
- The Committee had decided that the CONGU handicap changes that could see a maximum playing of handicap of 54 would not be applied to the Society handicaps. This has the effect of restricting the maximum Society handicaps to 28 for men and 36 for ladies. This will be monitored throughout the year.
- We will continue to present winners with the engraved glassware as prizes
- Nearest the Pin - It was agreed to add a bottle of wine to the Nearest the Pin prize
- Wooden spoon -At the Captain's discretion on the day, it was agreed to offer a golf lesson for the winner of the Wooden Spoon
- The Red Lion Inter-Society match to be arranged by Steve Chasty for 2018. Handicap limits will need to be agreed.

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- Steve Chasty has arranged for a replacement Captains' Board to be installed in the Railway by the trophy cases.
- Josh said that logoed clothes, jumpers and golf shirts, are available.
- Howard advised that an updated web site would shortly be launched.

The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted by a show of hands. There were no questions or clarifications called for.

Captain's Address

Alan Pooley, the Society Captain, addressed the meeting thanking all for the turnout today which at 26 was the largest attendance at an AGM. Alan went on to say how all the events were well attended with over 140 Members and guests turning out. The Away Day at Lingfield, combining golf and horseracing also saw a record attendance of 19, as did the Memorial Match with 15 brave soles braving the cold and the wind.

On the Social front, the Caribbean Party Night in August was well attended, and today's lunch looks promising with 67 down to eat.

Alan thanked the Committee and Society Members for their unwavering support and trusted that Steve Holland, the incoming Captain, would enjoy his year as much as he had his.

Treasurer's Report 2017

Adrian Blows, Society Treasurer, addressed the meeting.

2018 was another good year for the Society. We started the year in a strong financial situation and, with continued sound control over expenditure, we ended the year in a similar vein.

In 2017 we determined to maintain a balance of around £2000 as a contingency but still managed to make a profit and end the year with £2544 in the bank!

To more closely balance the books, we:

- 1. Continued the policy, introduced in 2017 of subsidising the Captain's Day.*
- 2. Memorial - paid green fees for non-BDGC Members and sandwiches for all players.*
- 3. Increased the raffle prizes*

Subs were up by £135 due to 7 net new members, 65 in total.

- *Golfing events - income down £160, but expenditure up £60 (more people but lower cost/player)*
- *Raffles - income down £365 (2017 PC lunch - £500) Expense down £250 (PC lunch £360)*

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- *Social events - income up £160, (incl. £540 for AGM lunch) and expenses down £270 (PC Sunday Lunch versus Caribbean Party)*
- *Clothing - £561 spent to buy stock in order to promote RHGS shirts and sweaters.*
- *So, bottom line is entered 2018 with £2544. We now have £3111. After netting off what we owe and lunch receipts for today gives us nett cash in the bank of £2418 down £146 versus 2017.*
- *In addition, the Society owns clothing stock costing £461*
- *With regard to Committee expenses, these included drinks at the Railway during Committee meetings as well as a £20 subsidy per head for a Committee Christmas meal and final Committee meeting of the year.*
- *The member's subscriptions were held at £20.*

President's address

Brian Joy, the outgoing Society President, addressed the meeting. Brian who had joined the Society over 23 years ago reminisced over how the Society had grown and some of the changes that he had seen over the years.

Brian had enjoyed his time as President and wished the incoming President well.

The AGM thanked Brian for his input over the past 3½ years.

Presentations

The Captain made the following presentations

- President's Trophy – Josh Tonge with 106 points (best 3 out of 4)
- President's Trophy Runner-Up – Charlie Foster with 104 points
- Knockout – Josh Tonge Runner-Up – Alan Pooley
- Trier's Trophy – Brian Williams with an Aggregate score of 135 points from all 4 events

The winners of the four events were

- Spring Trophy, Malden – Jason Bird 35 points
- Summer Trophy, Reigate Heath – Graham Powell 38 points
- Autumn Trophy, Cophthorne - Josh Tonge 37 points
- Captain's Day Trophy, Effingham – Steve Pepperell 40 points

The Memorial Day at Banstead Downs was won by Alan Bradbrook with 35 points

Election of Committee Members

As there are no duplicate candidates for any of the Committee roles, it is proposed that the election of the 2019 Committee is taken en masse.

- Steve Holland has been nominated as Captain.
- Alan Pooley will stand down as Captain and become a Past Captain.
- Adrian Blows has said that he will stand-down from the Committee. The Committee thanked him for his contribution to date.
- Martin Cox has said that he will stand for Treasurer

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- Len Singh has said that he will stand-down from the Committee. The Committee thanked him for his contribution to date.
- Steve Chasty has said that he is available as Trophy Master.
- Mike Cullen as Event Manager
- Brian Joy has completed his term as President and David Maltby has been asked to become the President of the Society for the next three years.

There were no objections to the above and the 2019 Committee was elected.

The 2019 RHGS Committee

- The Captain for 2019 is Steve Holland
- Alan Pooley will become a Past Captain
- The Vice-Captain for 2019 is Brian Williams
- Martin Cox will become the Society Treasurer
- Secretary will be Howard Tonge
- Steve Chasty will become the Trophy Master,
- Graham Powell will run the Knockout
- Josh Tonge will be responsible for Handicaps
- Bob Tisdall is responsible for auditing the accounts
- Mike Cullen as Event Manager

The appointment of the Society's President is made by Committee and late last year David Maltby was asked if he would become President. I am pleased to say that David accepted and will be the Society President for the next for 3-years.

Events for 2019

The incoming Captain, Steve Holland, presented the courses he had selected for 2019

- Spring Trophy, Guildford Golf Club 5th April
- Summer Trophy, Army Golf Club 13th June
- Autumn Trophy, Drift Golf Club 8th August
- Captain's Day, Shirley Park Golf Club 10th September
- Away Day at Dorset Resort 3 & 4 October
- Past Captains' Day TBA
- Memorial Match TBA
- Summer Social - Steve outlined the Summer Social as a themed Spanish night to be held a BDGC on a Friday evening with a 9-hole competition beforehand, details to follow.
- Knockout to be run throughout the year

Details of the courses along with the calendar, handicaps, results and blog are on the Society's website www.rhgs.net

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Any Other Business

Howard had asked those that had sent their apologies if there were any points or comments they wanted raised at the AGM. The following Members comments were read out.

- Only to congratulate the officers of the Society on a job well done!
- The standard of golf is good, so my priority is on the quality of courses played and the speed of play (focus on 2 start points or shotgun).
- Nothing of any note, although I would like to say well done to Alan on a successful captaincy, and congratulations to you for your part in another successful year.
- I think on the whole the current arrangement works very well and whilst I can't do justice to the post-match Railway drinks the actual golf is very enjoyable.
- The raffle set up works well, the food provided by the various golf clubs is as diverse as the courses themselves but on the whole more than satisfactory.
- My only comments are that on those days in attendance have been most enjoyable and not plagued with silly fines etc. So, carry on the good work.
- The only thing I might like to ask is are the Society intending to change their handicaps in line with CONGU?

Handicaps

Following on from last year's AOB, whereby the Society restricted the maximum handicap, it was decided to revisit this.

"The Committee had decided that the CONGU handicap changes that could see a maximum playing of handicap of 54 would not be applied to the Society handicaps. This has the effect of restricting the maximum Society handicaps to 28 for men and 36 for ladies. This will be monitored throughout the year." 4th February 2018

The discussion at the AGM focused on the effects of an aging golfing population and changes to club handicaps along with next year's impact of "slope rating". The AGM was asked if we should look at changing the maximum handicap and if so what to and how would this be calculated.

The consensus was that for 2019 the Society would

- Increase the maximum handicap to 36 for both ladies and men
- Those Members of the Society belonging to a golf club would have their handicaps adjusted via existing CONGU rules.
- Those Members of the Society who do not belong to a golf club would have their handicaps reviewed based on their 2018 performance.
- The Committee would monitor the impact of these changes and act accordingly
- The Committee would consider "Alternative Arrangements" to the proposed EU Backstop Agreement
- The Society's handicapping system would be reviewed next year

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Winter Golf Day

In November 2017, the Society played Adrian Blows' Captain's Day at Hankley Common. The event was thought by many to be one of the best events that the Society had played.

In years gone by, the Society would play an Inter-Society Day at Princes Golf Club at Sandwich in January and it was proposed that the Committee look at bringing back a "top" winter course and play this as a stand-alone day, i.e. not part of the President's Trophy.

The consensus was that the Committee would look at setting up such a day for 2019.

Logoed Clothes

The Society had bought a small stock of RHGS logoed shirts and jumpers. These would be available for sale after the AGM where orders could also be placed.

Vote of Thanks:

The outgoing Captain thanked the staff of The Railway for their hospitality, the Members for their support and the Committee for their hard work.

Close

The AGM closed at 11.30 am with a round of drinks bought by Steve Holland as the incoming Captain. A second round was bought by the Society.

Howard Tonge
RHGS Secretary

31st January 2019