

# RHGS 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

29<sup>th</sup> January 10:30 am  
Railway Hotel, Cheam

## **Opening**

Howard Tonge, the Society Secretary, thanked the 27 members and 1 guest that were in attendance and opened the Railway Hotel Golf Society AGM of 2022. The last AGM was the 2021 AGM held in the Railway on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

## **Moment of Reflection**

David Maltby asked the assembled to take a moment to remember Brian Williams, Brian Armstrong and Alan Fryer who passed away last year. The AGM observed a minute's silence.

## **Members Present**

Adrian Blows, Alan Pooley, Bob Tisdall, Brian Joy, David Caddy, David Horwill, David Maltby, Graham Powell, Howard Tonge, John Quinlan, Josh Tonge, Keith Flower, Kevin Offer, Len Singh, Mike Pilfold, Nigel Worth, Norman Clarke, Pat O'Hagan, Paul Murphy, Richard Ivory, Richard Whitehead, Simon Shore, Steve Holland, Steve Pepperell, Mandy Hiscocks, Jo Blows, Julian Taylor and John Thomas (Guest).

## **Apologies for Absence**

A total of 49 apologies were received from Aaron Langley, Alan Bradbrook, Alan Rodwell, Alex Walters, Annabel Faulkner, Ben Cairns, Bob Livingston, Brad Collings, Brett Barratt, Brian Holden, Carl Cavallo, Chris Douglas, Clive Chasty, Darren Sutton, David Blows, David Cox, David Glennie, David Hiscocks, David Nurser, David Perrett, David Yadoo, Graham Hill, Graham Ridout, Ian Dias, Ian McGraw, Jack Chasty, Jason Bird, John Faulkner, Kyle Symonds, Malcolm Ralston, Marcus Foster, Mark Pollard, Martin Cox, Matt Flack, Mike Cutts, Mike Keane, Nick Barton, Nick Blake, Pat Conboy, Pat Huggins, Paul Smith, Peter Linch, Richard Ogle, Roger Mercer, Shaun Paget, Steve Chasty, Steve Polkey, Steve Russell.

## **Minutes of Previous AGM 2021**

Howard read the salient points from the 2021 AGM minutes, this included:

- **Membership movement**
  - *7 new members have joined the Society in 2021, most of whom have already played as a guest.*
  - *It looks likely that we will be losing 5 Members this year. This includes Adrian Pursey, Glen Locke, Steve Bradley, Terry Freeman and Nick Barry.*
  - *The current Membership for 2022 is projected to be 69 Members*
  - *That said, Membership is still open.*

## **RHGS 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

- **Match format** – “twos” will be reintroduced.
- **RHGS Financial Guidelines and Management**

*At the last Committee meeting, it was suggested that the financial guidelines should be included within the Society’s rules and regulations. The suggested wording is;*

- *Minimum bank balance of £2000*
  - *Ordinarily guests will pay an additional £5 per golfing event over and above the Members’ golfing fees. This reflects the Member’s annual subscription of £20.*
  - *Members’ and Guests’ fee uplift will contribute to the fixed costs of glassware and golf balls given as prizes (£105 per event in 2021)*
  - *Raffle monies raised will be used for*
    - *Event cash prizes*
    - *Shortfall on event costs*
    - *Pay raffle winners*
    - *Surplus into RHGS bank account.*
    - *Two’s*
    - *Captain’s drive-in*
  - *Surpluses generated will be used to subsidise Members’ golfing events*
  - *Reasonable Committee meeting drinks will be paid out of Society funds. David Hiscocks asked how many drinks would be consumed. Bob replied that it was two-per attending Committee member. Howard also said that there were generally four Committee meetings each year.*
  - *Annual Committee meeting meal will be subsidised by £20 per head*
  - *All clothing to be sold at cost or cost plus i.e. not subsidised*
  - *Annual budget to be agreed at the AGM*
  - *Expenditure to be agreed with Treasurer and one other Committee Member*
  - *Away Days will not be subsidised*
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- **Ladies playing handicap** – *Mandy had asked that the playing handicaps from the red-tees be amended at the various events to reflect the fact that men’s handicaps can be more advantageous at some courses and as such amending the playing handicap can “level the field”. There were no objections to Mandy applying this.*
  - **HCI updates** - *Keith said that given that the HCI’s move quite frequently when should these be updated to the Society. Howard said, that if needs be, changes to the HCI and subsequent playing handicap can be made on the day.*
  - **Survey** – *Howard said that the response to the survey was very high, 64 in total. This gives a projected 248 golf days during 2022. This figure does not include guests or “maybes.”*

*Howard went on to say that on some courses we might be limited to the number of attendees and as such registration will be on a “first-come” basis.*

## **RHGS 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

There were no questions or clarifications called for. The minutes of the 2021 AGM were accepted.

### **Captain's Address**

Graham Powell, the 2022 Society Captain, addressed the meeting thanking all for the turnout today.

He went on to say that with over 250 golf days played in 2022 the Society was very well supported.

Graham thanked the Committee and Society Members for their unwavering support and trusted that Bob Tisdall, the incoming Captain, would enjoy his year as much as he had his. Graham also said that he would be presenting Howard with a bottle of brandy. Howard thanked Graham.

### **Treasurer's Report 2022**

Bob Tisdall, Society Treasurer, addressed the meeting.

- Bob said that he was indebted to Mrs Tonge who provides the bookkeeping and account presentation.
- 2022 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.
- At the end of the year the Society's reserves stood at £3,601, 16% up on 2021
- Kevin Offer asked if the surplus would be used to subsidise golfing events. Bob said that this was the intention and that the Committee were looking at a possible subsidy for the Winter Golf Day. Bob also said that the Away Day would not be subsidised.
- Howard added that the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logoed drinks bottle, score card holder and ball markers that were given to all Members last year cost about £16 per Member and were paid out of the Society's surpluses.
- The Member's subscriptions were held at £20 for 2023.
- The final accounts will be audited by Adrian Blows. There were no further questions from the floor.

### **President's address**

David Maltby, the current Society President, addressed the meeting.

David echoed Graham's sentiment on a year-well-run and well supported. David said that given the impact of covid the last comparable full year was 2019 when 7 golf events were played with some 203 participants, but last year's participants had grown to almost 300.

## **RHGS 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

David said that the two events held at Banstead Downs and Cuddington to mark the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary were well attended and enjoyed by all.

David, who has been President for the past 5 years, trusted that Adrian Blows, the incoming President would enjoy his time as much as he had.

David also asked all Members to respond to emails and survey requests from Howard in a timely manner.

David said that he would be presenting Howard with a bottle of single malt. Howard thanked David for his generosity.

### **Presentations**

The winners of the four events were

- Spring Trophy, Chartham Park – Brian Holden 37 points
- Summer Trophy, Pyrford – Josh Tonge 38 points
- Captain's Day, Sunningdale Heath – David Maltby 43 points
- Autumn Trophy, Woking – David Blows 36 points
- First leg of 40<sup>th</sup> at Banstead – Howard Tonge 38 points
- Second leg of 40<sup>th</sup> at Cuddington - Jo Blows 42 points
- Overall 40<sup>th</sup> Winner – Graham Powell 76

The Past Captain's was played within the Autumn Trophy and won by Steve Holland.

The Memorial Match was played over 9 holes and won by Steve Holland.

The Captain made the following presentations

- President's Trophy – David Maltby 107 points (best 3 out of 4).
- President's Trophy Runner-Up – Steve Holland with 102 points
- The Trier's Trophy was won by Keith Flower with an Aggregate score of 119 points from all 4 events. The Trier's Trophy is for the best aggregate score over all 4 trophy events, where the "Trier" does not win an event.
- Knockout – the 2022 knockout has yet to be concluded. It was decided that Graham would expedite this and if needed, a coin would be tossed to determine who is playing in the final.

## **RHGS 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

### **Nomination of President:**

#### **President**

The Committee will nominate a President of the Society. The office of President will be offered to a Society Member for a period of up to three years.

The office of President is purely honorary and confers no rights or liabilities except the right to participate in the sporting or social activities of the Society without payment of an annual subscription charge.

The President's role is to provide continuity and guidance to the Committee during their tenure. However, as the role is advisory, the President will not have voting rights on the Committee.

David Maltby will be standing down as the RHGS President after 5 years in the post. Adrian Blows was asked if he would stand as President, he accepted, and the Committee supported his nomination. Adrian will be the Railway Hotel Golf Society President for the next three years.

#### **Election of Committee Members**

As there are no duplicate candidates for any of the Committee roles, it is proposed that the election of the 2022 Committee is taken en masse.

- Bob Tisdall has been nominated as Captain and continue as Treasurer.
- Graham Powell will stand down as Captain and become a Past Captain
- Marcus Foster will become Vice Captain
- Mrs Tonge continues to as the bookkeeper
- Steve Chasty has said that he is available as Trophy Master
- Josh Tonge will remain as Event Managers
- David Maltby will be stepping down as President of the Society
- Howard will remain as Secretary
- In addition to being the Society President, Adrian will remain as auditor
- Mike Cullen has decided to stand down from the Committee. The assembled thanked Mike for his contribution and continued support of the Society.

There were no objections to the above and the 2023 Committee was duly elected.

#### **Events for 2022**

The incoming Captain, Bob Tisdall, presented the courses that had been selected for 2023

- Chobham - Thursday 13th April 2023
- Mitcham – Friday 19th May 2023
- Westerham – Friday 21st July 2023
- Purley Downs – Friday 25th August 2023
- Past Captains' Day TBA
- Memorial Day TBA
- Winter Golf Day TBA
- Away Day TBA
- Knockout to be arranged

## RHGS 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Details of the courses along with handicaps and results are on the Society's website at [www.rhgs.net](http://www.rhgs.net)

### Any Other Business

Prior to the meeting, Howard had asked all including those that had sent their apologies if there were any points or comments they wanted raised at the AGM. There were none. However

### Future Venues

- Additional venues for 2023 – Josh and Bob were looking at a more prestigious courses as well as an Away Day.
  - Currently courses are becoming harder to book. A number of clubs have stopped taking any new society bookings so as to have more tee times for their members.
  - It was thought that this is a legacy of covid when club membership increased and clubs started to have waiting lists for new members.
  - However, the general rise in the cost of living could lead to clubs having to rely on more society generated revenue, but at higher society fees.
  - It was agreed that Josh and Bob would make recommendations to the Committee for both a prestigious course to be played in better weather i.e. not the winter.
  - Josh had said that society prices were around the £150 level. Howard added that the Society would look to subsidise this.
  - Future course selection – Adrian would look at potential courses for 2024 and beyond. The idea being to build a “stock” of pre-booked courses that the incoming Vice-Captains could choose from.
  - It was also agreed to poll the Membership as to the type and costs they were likely to want.
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- **Membership movement**
    - 10 members have joined the Society in 2022, most of whom have already played as a guest. The new Members are Alex Walter, Brad Collings, Brett Barratt, John Quinlan, Mark Pollard, Richard Ogle, Roger Mercer, Shaun Paget and Steve Russell
    - The current Membership for 2023 is projected to be 80, up 69 Members at the beginning of 2022
    - That said, Membership is still open.
  - **Survey** – Howard said that the response to the survey was getting there. We have had 52 replies so far 68% of the membership. The results of projected attendance excluding guests are
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- Chobham - Thursday 13th April 2023 **40**
  - Mitcham – Friday 19th May 2023 **39**
  - Westerham – Friday 21st July 2023 **40**

## **RHGS 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

- Purley Downs – Friday 25th August 2023 **40**
- Away Day **28**
- Winter Golf Day **29**
  
- Knockout 14 entrants

This gives a projected 216 golf days during 2023. Last year we projected 248 golf days, 251 were played!

Howard went on to say that on some courses we might be limited to the number of attendees and as such registration will be on a "first-come" basis.

### **Comments**

- Two comments from the survey echoed the desire for more prestigious courses.
- Other comments thanked the Committee for their input and to continue what the Committee had done throughout last year.

### **Vote of Thanks:**

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

### **Close**

The AGM closed at 11:25 am with a round of drinks bought by the Society. A second round was bought by Bob Tisdall.

**Howard Tonge**  
**RHGS Secretary**  
29<sup>th</sup> January 2023