

RHGS 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

28th January 2024 10:30 am
Railway Hotel, Cheam

Opening

Howard Tonge, the Society Secretary, thanked the 32 Members that attended this AGM. The previous AGM was held in the Railway on 29th January 2023.

Howard outlined the 2023 AGM Agenda

- Apologies for Absence
- Minutes of Previous AGM
- Captain's Address
- Treasurer's Report for 2023
- President's Address
- Presentations for 2023
- Election of Committee Members
- Events for 2024
- Any Other Business
- Vote of Thanks

Moment of Reflection

Adrian Blows asked the assembled to take a moment to remember David Horwill and Andy Kane who passed away last year.

Members Present

A total of 32 members attended the AGM; Adrian Blows, Alan Bradbrook, Bob Tisdall, Brian Joy, Charles Foster, David Caddy, David Glennie, David Hiscocks, David Maltby, Howard Tonge, John Quinlan, Josh Tonge, Kevin Simmons, Len Singh, Marcus Foster, Mandy Hiscocks, Matt Flack, Mike Keane, Mike Pilfold, Nigel Worth, Norman Clarke, Pat O'Hagan, Paul Smith, Richard Whitehead, Shaun Paget, Simon Shore, Steve Chasty, Steve Holland, Steve Pepperell, Steve Polkey, Steve Russell, Julian Taylor.

Apologies for Absence

A total of 46 apologies were received from Aaron Langley, Alan Pooley, Alan Rodwell, Alex Walter, Annabel Faulkner, Ben Cairns, Bob Livingston, Brad Collings, Brett Barratt, Brian Holden, Carl Cavallo, Caryn Stevenson, Chris Douglas, Clive Chasty, Darren Sutton, David Blows, David Nurser, David Perrett, David Yadoo, Graham Powell, Graham Ridout, Ian Dias, Ian McGraw, Jack Chasty, Jason Bird, Jo Blows, John Faulkner, Ken Gardiner, Kyle Symonds, Mal Chapman, Malcolm Ralston, Mark Pollard, Martin Cox, Nick Barton, Nick Blake, Pat Huggins, Paul Murphy, Peter Linch, Richard Ivory, Richard Ogle, Roy Clare, Trevor Stevenson, Trevor Wickins, Pat Conboy, Kevin Offer, Graham Hill, John Thomas, Keith Flower and Roger Mercer.

2023

Howard said that he was not sure if only having one Committee meeting last year was a stroke of genius or just bad management. Anyway, the year passed without too many shenanigans; one Prime Minister, one postponement, one cancellation and one hole-in-one; congratulations to Carl Cavallo!

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Minutes of Previous AGM 2023

Howard read the salient points from the 2023 AGM minutes, this included:

Future Venues

- *Additional venues for 2023 – Josh and Bob were looking at 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. - This has not been done.*

Membership movement

- o *9 members joined the Society in 2023, 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*
- o *The current Membership for 2023 was projected to be 80, up from 69 Members at the beginning of 2022*
- o *That said, Membership is still open - that was then.*

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

Membership movement in 2023

- o 2 new members joined the Society last year, Kevin Simmons and Roy Clare.
- o The current Membership for 2024 is projected to be 80 Members
- o That said, Membership is NOW restricted. We are not actively recruiting.

Captain's Address

Bob Tisdall, the Society Captain for 2023, expressed his gratitude to everyone for attending the meeting. He extended his thanks to the Committee for their unwavering support and took the opportunity to present Howard with a litre of esteemed Turkish olive oil as a token of appreciation.

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Treasurer's Report 2023

Bob Tisdall, Society Treasurer, addressed the meeting.

- Bob said that he was indebted to Mrs Tonge who provides the bookkeeping and account presentation.
- 2023 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.
- The Society's reserves stood at £3,804, up 6% on last year
- The Member's subscriptions were held at £20 for 2024.
- The final accounts have been audited and signed off by Adrian Blows. There were no questions from the floor.

President's address

Adrian Blows, the current Society President, addressed the meeting.

Adrian, the President of the RHGS, echoed Bob's sentiment, praising the successful execution of the year's activities.

Presentations

The winners of the four events were

- Chobham – won by Graham Powell with 36 points
- Mitcham Common – won by Caryn Stevenson with 43 points
- Westerham – won by Steve Russell with 45 points
- Purley Downs – won by Brian Holden with 43 points
- Past Captains' Day, Memorial Day were postponed to this year
- Winter Golf Day was played at Sundridge Park and won by Trevor Wickens with 41 points
- There was no Away Day

The Captain made the following presentations

- The Trier's Trophy was won by David Maltby with an Aggregate score of 139 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 2023 knockout was won by Steve Holland, David Maltby was runner up.
- President's Trophy Runner-Up – David Maltby 109 points
- President's Trophy – Steve Polkey 111 (best 3 out of 4).

The Members handicaps will be adjusted accordingly

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- Steve Polkey cut 2 shots
- Steve Holland cut 2 shots
- David Maltby cut by 3 shots!
 - 1 for President's Trophy RU
 - 1 for Knockout RU
 - 1 for the Triers trophy

Days played

Howard said that we had an average of 80 Members last year

Total of 175 golf days played of which

- Members played 156 times
- Guests played 19 times
- 7 members played all 5 days
- 7 members played 4 days
- 12 members played 3 days
- 20 members played 2 days
- 20 members only played 1 day
- 15 members did not play last year

Election of Committee Members

As there are no duplicate candidates for any of the Committee roles, it is proposed that the election of the 2024 Committee is taken en masse.

- Marcus Foster has been nominated as Captain
- Bob Tisdall will stand down as Captain and become a Past Captain and continue as Treasurer.
- Matt Flack will become Vice Captain
- Mrs Tonge continues as the Society's bookkeeper
- Steve Chasty has said that he is available as Trophy Master
- Josh Tonge will be joined by David Maltby and Brian Holden (in his absence) as Committee members
- Adrain remains the President of the Society
- Howard will remain as Secretary
- Adrian will remain as auditor

There were no objections to the above and the 2024 Committee was duly elected.

Events for 2024

The incoming Captain, Marcus Foster, presented the courses that had been selected for 2024

- Spring - Hampton Court Friday 19th April
- Summer - North Downs Friday 10th May
- Captains Day - Hindhead Wednesday 5th June
- Autumn - Farleigh Court Friday 30th August
- Winter Cup - Windlesham Friday 11th October

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- Past Captains' Day TBA
- Memorial Day TBA
- Away Day TBA

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

Any Other Business

Prior to the meeting, Howard had asked all Members including those that had sent their apologies if there were any points or comments they wanted raised at the AGM.

- Josh
 - Charity support for Air Ambulance; this would be added to the website
 - Past Captains' flags to be given to all Past Captains acknowledging their contribution over the years.
 - Clothing – this would be added to the website
 - Non Society additional golf days to be added to the website. Such as the Golf Pairs <https://golfpairs.com/>
- Marcus
 - Away day to be agreed
- Adrian
 - 2022 and last year's account to be signed off
- Howard
 - 40th Anniversary Crystal Bowl in a display cabinet in the Railway
 - Video on TV at the Railway
- Bob
 - Proposed that, in acknowledgement of Howard's role as the Society Secretary that the Society picks up his RHGS golfing fees. This was unanimously approved by the Society attendees.

Vote of Thanks:

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

Close

The AGM closed at 11.29 am with a round of drinks bought by the Society. A second round was bought by Marcus, the Captain for 2024.

Howard Tonge

RHGS Secretary

28th January 2024