

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting: RHGS 2026

Date: Sunday, 25th January 2026

Location: The Railway Inn, Cheam

Time: 10:30 AM

Chair: Howard Tonge (Society Secretary)

1. Opening and Apologies

The Secretary, Howard Tonge, opened the meeting by thanking the 40 members in attendance.

- **Present:** Adrian Blows, Alan Pooley, Annabel Faulkner, Bob Tisdall, Brian Lee, Carmel Lawlor, Caryn Stevenson, Colin Ballantyne, David Caddy, David Hiscocks, David Maltby, Howard Tonge, Jo Blows, John Quinlan, Josh Tonge, Julian Taylor, Keith Flower, Kevin Offer, Len Singh, Mal Chapman, Malcolm Ralston, Mandy Hiscocks, Marcus Foster, Matt Dawson, Matt Flack, Mike Pilfold, Nigel Worth, Norman Clarke, Pat O'Hagan, Paul Smith, Richard Ivory, Richard Whitehead, Roger Mercer, Roy Clare, Shaun Paget, Simon Shore, Steve Holland, Steve Russell, Tim Slater, Trevor Stevenson.
- **Apologies:** 43 apologies were received. 11 Members did not respond.
- **In Memoriam:** The room stood for a minute's silence to honour the passing of **David Yadoo, Steve Pepperell, and Mark Dix** during 2025.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the 2025 AGM, held on 26th January 2025, were formally approved. It was noted that the increase to £30 subscriptions and the revised Knockout format introduced last year were successfully implemented.

3. Captain's Address

Outgoing Captain Matt Flack reviewed a successful year:

- **Participation:** Average attendance rose to 32 players (up from 28).
- **Fixtures:** All matches were well-received. The Betchworth postponement is now rescheduled for 26th March 2025 as Marcus' Past Captains' Day.
- **Socials:** Successes included the Captain's Cheam Curry and the Summer Lunch at Cuddington.
- **Membership:** The roster stands at 86 members; six new members were officially welcomed.
- **Legacy:** Development is underway for a new "Family Affair" competition in 2026.
- **Thanks:** Matt thanked the Members and the Committee for the support throughout the year.

4. Treasurer's Report

Bob Tisdall presented the 2025 accounts:

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- **Financials:** Income of £20,563 against expenses of £17,033, resulting in a net contribution of **£3,529**.
- **Credits:** The Society currently holds £3,445 in member credits (primarily from the Betchworth postponement).
- **Resolution:** A proposal to maintain the annual subscription at **£30** for 2026 was **carried unanimously** by a show of hands.
- **Mrs Tonge:** The Treasurer said that he was indebted to Mrs Tonge for managing the Railway Hotel Golf Society accounts and proposed that the Society give her a £100 gift voucher. This was carried unanimously.
- **Accounts approval:** *"Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm pleased to report that the society is in its best financial shape for several years. Despite rising costs elsewhere, we managed to triple our surplus this year to over £3,000. This was driven by a healthy intake of new members and very tight control over event costs. We have over £6,000 in the bank and our 2026 bookings are already being secured. I move that the accounts be approved."* By a show of hands, the accounts were approved.

5. President's Address

Adrian Blows formally concluded his three-year term as President.

- **New President: Len Singh** was ratified as President (2026–2029). Len addressed the room, reflecting on his journey with the Society since joining in the 1980s.
- **New Role:** Adrian Blows continues in the role of Society Auditor and is currently researching a potential European Away Trip.

6. 2025 Presentations

Captain Matt Flack presented the following trophies:

- **Spring/Autumn Trophies & President's Trophy:** Brian Holden
- **Summer Trophy:** Steve Russell
- **Captain's Day:** Trevor Stevenson
- **Memorial Match:** Marcus Foster
- **Knockout Winner:** Matt Dawson (Runner-up: Roy Clare)
- **Triers' Trophy:** Matt Flack

7. Election of Committee

The following positions were ratified for 2026:

- **Captain:** Steve Russell
- **Vice-Captain:** Annabel Faulkner
- **Committee:** John Quinlan (Support), Matt Flack (Past Captain), Steve Chasty (Trophy Master), Bob Tisdall (Treasurer), Mrs. Tonge (Bookkeeper), David Maltby (Knockout), Brian Holden (45th Anniversary), Josh Tonge (Support), and Howard Tonge (Secretary).
- **Departures:** A formal vote of thanks was given to **Adrian Blows** and **Marcus Foster** as they stand down from their current committee roles.

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8. 2026 Events Schedule

Incoming Captain Steve Russell highlighted **Royal Ashdown Forest** as a premier addition to the calendar.

- **26 Mar:** Past Captain's Day (Betchworth)
- **17 Apr:** Spring Trophy (Copthorne)
- **14 May:** Summer Trophy (Westerham)
- **12 Jun:** Captain's Day (Royal Ashdown Forest)
- **09 Jul:** Autumn Trophy (Bramley)
- **18 Sep:** Winter Cup (Sweetwoods)
- **22 Oct:** Memorial Match (Banstead)

9. Any Other Business

- **Handicaps:** Howard Tonge explained the "5-shot cap" reduction rule and the start-of-season reset.
- **Knockout:** Now open to all members; non-entrants will grant a bye to opponents.
- **Future Milestones:** Brian Holden has begun planning for the **45th Anniversary (2027)** and a new **Ryder Cup** format.
- **Admin:** Members were reminded to respond promptly to emails (Yes/No/Maybe).

10. Vote of Thanks and Closing

The AGM closed at 11:35 and the Secretary thanked the staff at **The Railway Inn** for their hospitality.

The meeting closed with an invitation to **Cuddington Golf Club** for drinks (1:00 PM) and lunch (2:00 PM). Rounds are kindly provided by the Society, Captain Steve Russell, and President Len Singh.