

AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE GOLF CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the clubhouse on Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT:- Keith Holloway (Chair), Bruce Baker, Andy Bucklee, John Chisholm, Ian Henley, Steve Hustwick, Andy Kitchman, Peter Simpson, Miles Skehan, Mike Skehan, Adrian Smith, Pat Thompson, Margaret Warriner, John Wilkinson, Howard Williams.

ITEM 1. Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Betty Gilbert & Richard Masefield

ITEM 2. Minutes

2 The AGM minutes of the meeting held on 31st May 2022 were **agreed** as a true record. There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3 Chair's report

3.1 The new season is finally underway with a full programme of events and matches against familiar rivals.

- A full programme of events have been put together for the season 2023, with 9 competitive matches. We have 18 squad members keen to do battle for the honour of the club.
- The compliments for the quality of our course and the friendliness of the club continue from our many fee paying visitors, which is providing a welcome boost to our cash flow.
- Despite having no Captain formally appointed for the last 12 months, the committee collectively managed to deliver the programme and I am delighted that we have nominations for both Captain and Vice Captain this time around.
- The sale of Gilling Castle was completed before Christmas and there has been one meeting with representatives of the new owners, whilst there is no real news to report, a start to some community consultation is anticipated sometime during the autumn. The Captain's report refers to ways we can build links to the people involved with the castle's development.

3.2 The AGM formally thanked Miles and his team for the excellent work throughout the winter which kept the course looking and playing well. It was noted that the club had received many favourable comments from the many visitors to the golf course.

Item 4 Course Report

4.1 Miles gave an update to the meeting, outlining the general maintenance of the course during the winter, which has achieved the usual high quality of playing surfaces, despite the wet recent months. In addition a number of trees have been reduced or removed due to Ash die-back. The course is back on summer tees, and ready for the new season. Miles added that shortly a programme of light sanding and deeper scarifying will commence to improve the greens and this should not affect the playing surface too much and will give a boost to the greens for the summer.

4.2 SH was thanked for undertaking repairs to the sheds which will be completed by a

finish coat to the exterior, and agreed to arrange for the repairs to the gable end of the clubhouse. Invoices to be forwarded to IH.

SH

4.3 It was noted that there were a number of brown highways signposts directing travellers to ACGC. The Chair to contact Highway's with a view to removing the signs or replacing with either GCGC or simply Golf Course. Costs to be reported to the Committee.

KH

Item 5 Financial report and accounts, and Trustee's Annual Report

5.1 The income and expenditure accounts for 2022/23 were discussed, and appendices referring to the detail of the Receipts and Payments, year-end balance sheet, Independent Examiner's Report and Trustee's annual report were all noted. Ian summarised the financial position and answered questions. An update was noted within the income and expenditure account as the money retained for Air Ambulance was £15 rather than the quoted £543 due to a prior payment.

5.2 Overall the clubs gross income increased by some £3700 and added to the less than budgeted out-turn expenditure resulted in a surplus for 2023 of £5958. The club is in a financially healthy position, as we enter the last 7 years of the lease, although on the horizon are repairs to the clubhouse and sheds, and the unresolved matter of the car park.

There was a discussion about the reserves held by the club and it was agreed that with the repairs needed, etc. and the uncertainty of inflation and retaining a competitive price point for member subscriptions and green fees the current prudent reserve should be retained.

5.3 The AGM approved the draft of the Trustee's report for the year which will be signed off by the Chair and Manager prior to the necessary submission to the Charity Commission.

The AGM approved the out-turn accounts for 2022/23, the payments and receipts schedule, Independent Examiners report and the Trustees Annual report for submission to the Charity Commission.

KH/IH

Item 6 Secretarial Matters

6.1 The Committee have undertaken a first review of the Constitution following the sale of the castle, and whilst some minimal tidying up changes are being recommended these have been kept to a minimum, and reflect the changes needed following a sale of the castle to commercial owners. There has been no formal documentation or lease amendments shared with the club, either by Ampleforth Abbey Trustees (AAT) or the new owners, and therefore no legal advice has been deemed necessary, although the committee has agreed to appoint Harrowell's as necessary.

6.2 The AGM noted the Committee recommended changes for formal AGM approval and submission to the regulators at Golf England, and the Charity Commission and to vary the Club's bank account. The approved changes were:-

6.2.1 Change of name to Gilling Castle Golf Club.

6.2.2 Reduce the Committee's membership from 17 to 15.

6.2.3 Reduce the minimum number of Committee meetings to 3 annually

6.2.4 An amendment to the Membership clause in section E to delete

"Members of the Community of Ampleforth Abbey, who are not playing members, are non playing Members of the club."

and add

“The Committee shall offer Members of the Community of Ampleforth Abbey access to play golf, subject to an annual premium paid by the Ampleforth Abbey Trustees to the club.

The AGM approved the variation to the constitution as referred to in 6.2.1/2/3/4 above KH/IH/AS

6.2 Currently signatories for the club include Ian, Keith and Richard York. As Richard is an Honorary Member and no longer active on the Committee **an additional signatory is sought for banking etc. Adrian Smith was nominated and approved.**

Item 7 Captain’s report by Vice-Captain

7.1 The Vice Captain, (later ratified as Captain Item 10), commented that he would circulate a Captain’s message to the Membership following the meeting. He outlined the programme for the year with special mention to the club’s 9 competitive matches and Prize Day on the 21st May. There are also plans for a match with the staff from Stonehouse Projects, who will be undertaking the delivery of the castle development. He discussed the planning for a “Taster Day” on 24th June and commented on the support offered by Golf England and the Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs. Members asked about including schools and this will be considered but noting the practicalities of handling too many attendees when there is already a publicity campaign focusing on the event. It is hoped that the event might attract a more diverse interest and promote membership. To this end Simon Appleton PGA professional is being consulted for assistance.

AK

ITEM 8 Handicap Secretary’s report

8.1 Adrian reported that the club had been very stable this past year with 87 members on the handicap list and a couple of new members pending. However some of these have not registered any qualifying scores since the move to WHS. These Member’s handicaps will run for one more year after which unless an agreed number of cards have been submitted the handicap will lapse and be removed. It was **agreed** to support the principle of this approach, the detail to be brought to the next Committee meeting for further discussion. It was suggested that a reminder to those who do not regularly compete on Sundays about posting a 9-hole General Play score for casual games would address the issue.

AS

8.2 The handicap Sec. commented that England golf are moving towards the American style where you can card a 'most likely' score if you pick up the ball in a match or social game, this will make it even easier to post cards!

8.3 The club already set up with Yorkshire Golf and HandicapMaster to change the club name to Gilling Castle GC and new signage is in progress for the gate and car park. The letterhead on competition reports will change automatically when we register the new club name. Other odds and ends (new flags and cards for example) will follow along as we need them. The Handicap Sec. Asked for the formal nomination of a Handicap Committee as now required by Golf England and Steve Hustwick and Andy Bucklee were duly nominated to the new committee.

AS

Item 9 Social Activities Update

Currently there are no events planned but the group would work with the Captain to

oversee the delivery of refreshments at the club's three main playing events. The Captain agreed to discuss further with Pat. AK/PT

Item 10 Election of Officers for 2023/24

(i) Keith Holloway was elected unopposed as Chair

(ii) Andy Kitchman & Bruce Baker were elected unopposed as Captain and Vice Captain respectively

(iii) Adrian Smith was elected unopposed as Handicap Secretary

(iv) Ian Henley was elected unopposed as Treasurer

There were no nominations for Secretary and the current arrangements will continue with the Chair overseeing Secretarial arrangements jointly with Ian Henley. KH/IH

Item 11 Election of Committee

The current committee were re-elected unanimously along with Bruce Baker. A further member is to consult the Chair about being nominated to the Committee. The Committee therefore stands at 13 and may increase to 14, leaving one place available. KH

Item 12 A O B

12.1 JW asked about the future of the Fairfax trophy, which was not used last year. It was noted that insufficient numbers entering the singles event, resulted in a lack of response at the repêchage event. However this year the programme includes a new 9 hole best scores competition, and possibly an eclectic series, which would be more suited to the trophy. Captain and Handicap Sec with Steve Hustwick to agree how best to address this request. AK/AS/S W

The next AGM will be on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 6.30 PM

Note The provisional date for the next Committee meeting is to be Tuesday 18th July 6.30pm at the Club.

Keith Holloway Chair ACGC