

GILLING CASTLE GOLF CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT:- Keith Holloway (Chair), Bruce Baker, Andy Bucklee, Dale Clarke, John Chisholm, Ian Henley, Betty Gilbert, Keith Harrison, Steve Hustwick, Richard Jarvis, John Morris, Andy Kitchman, Rosemary Kitchman, Peter Simpson, Miles Skehan, Mike Skehan, Adrian Smith, Pat Thompson, Liz Ticehurst, Margaret Warriner, John Wilkinson, Mike Wilson,.

Guests:- Paul Digby & David Gardner, Stonehouse Projects, Simon Appleton Club Pro.

ITEM 1. Apologies

1. There were no apologies. The Chair welcomed our guests Paul Digby, Contracts Manager and Dave Gardiner, Head Greenkeeper from Stonehouse Projects.

ITEM 2. Minutes

2 The AGM minutes of the meeting held on 11st April 2023 were **agreed** as a true record and duly signed. There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3 Chair's report

3.1 With the new season underway the Chair confirmed that a full programme of events and matches against familiar rivals is programmed for the summer. The course has held up well during the wettest winter on record, and our playing conditions are a credit to Miles and his team so a big thank you to all of them.

- A full programme of events have been put together for the season in 2024, with 10 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.
- The club has nominations for both Captain and Vice Captain this time around and a future nomination awaiting for next year.
- Detailed planning applications have been lodged with North Yorkshire Council for the redevelopment of the castle by Timeless Dimensions/Stonehouse Projects, and the new grounds maintenance arrangements come into place at the end of April.

I would like to record the AGM's thanks to Andy for his successful year as Captain during 2023 and to Ian for his tireless work on keeping the club's finances and bookings in order.

ITEM 4 Course Report

4.1 Miles gave a verbal update about the condition of the course during the exceptional wet weather during the last 6 months, and his disappointment at having to close the course so frequently. Overall the greens and fairways have benefited from the

sanding and winter rest following the closures.

Miles made a personal statement about his connection with the course and club and thanked members for their kindness over the years and asked to recognise the effort and support of Mike and Adrian and the other members of his team, without whom the course would not be so well presented.

4.2 The Chair thanked Paul & Dave for attending the meeting. Paul reaffirmed the company's intention to continue the same standard of maintenance at the course, and an Assistant Greenkeeper had been appointed to the Team. He confirmed that plant and machinery had been acquired and thanked Miles for his support in sharing information and details about the course with his team. He was confident of a smooth transition at the end of April. Questions from the floor confirmed that to date there is no timescale for North Yorkshire Council to approve the planning application. The build period is 2/3 years with detailed plans included in the application to NYC. The Chair commented that members might like to look at the voluminous details within the many documents appended to the planning application lodged with NYC's planning section of the website.

Following a question from AB there was joint agreement that setting up a liaison group between the club and the GM Team would be helpful, and the Chair agreed to put in place suitable arrangements.

Dave Gardiner outlined his background in golf course maintenance and looked forward to working with club members and reiterated his thanks to Miles for sharing his knowledge and advice about the course.

The Chair thanked Paul and Dave for coming and invited them to join members in the Fairfax after the meeting, and they left the AGM.

The Course report and update about the transition to Stonehouse were noted

ITEM 5 ACCOUNTS – to approve the 2023/24 accounts, appoint J Chisholm as independent examiner and receive the financial report.

At the year end the general Fund was only £2532 down on last year, £1545 of which was the depreciation of the clubhouse and £547 the write off of old stock occasioned by the change from Ampleforth College Golf Club to Gilling Castle Golf Club. Appendix 1 included the detail of the income and expenditure account, balance sheet and payments/income return to be made to the Charity Commission.

This is a much better result than had been anticipated a few months ago. Nevertheless, our subscription income was £2584 less than had been hoped partially offset by an increase of £638 in green fees. The result would have been better had it not been for the bad weather in the last few months. We were greatly helped by the £722 in bank interest, which looks set to continue for a wee while yet.

Overall, apart from depreciation, our expenditure exceeded our income by about £2532. We decided to increase subs, competition and green fees by 10% at our last committee meeting and I hope that will enable us to maintain our reserves over the coming year.

KH

Presently, we have 107 members. Thirteen are not renewing, of whom 9 are country members.. Thus, it is vital, that we do all we can to attract new members. The main reasons given for not renewing varies from change of club, not playing enough to justify membership and moving away. As I reported earlier, a few failed to communicate or complete their monthly payments, which reflects badly on them. However, the vast majority of our members conduct their affairs properly and we remain a friendly and cohesive club, which I continue enjoy serving.

It was recommended that John Chisholm be appointed as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

The appointment of John Chisholm as Independent Examiner was moved by Andy Kitchman, seconded by Betty Gilbert and approved by the AGM.

IH

The AGM formally received and approved the accounts for 2023/24, noted the external examiners report, the 2023/24 balance sheet, payments and receipts schedule, and noted Ian's summary financial report. Approval was moved by Andy Kitchman, and seconded by Steve Hustwick and approved by the AGM.

IH

ITEM 6 Secretarial Matters

The Trustees of the club are required by the Charity Commission to report annually at the AGM and the 2023/24 report was discussed and approved. There are no other constitutional changes recommended to this AGM.

The Annual report of the Trustees was received by the AGM. Approval was moved by Andy Kitchman and seconded by Steve Hustwick.

KH/IH

ITEM 7 Captain's report

The following provides a summary of my time as Captain & Vice Captain of Ampleforth College Golf Club and GCGC. In April 2022 I assumed the position of Vice Captain. However, as there was no one in the Captain's position, much of what I undertook might be deemed the responsibilities of captain. As someone still relatively new to the world of golf I had much to learn regarding the background work and the day-to-day duties of a captain. I am indebted to all my committee colleagues for their help, support and guidance during my 2 year term.

Every year we deliver approximately 35 Sunday and Mid-Week Competitions and a further 8-10 matches with other local clubs. These events take a considerable amount of planning which includes catering and post-match socialising. In addition to the above, we as a club, have had to put matters in place with regard to new ownership (Stonehouse Project). This also involved determining a new name of Gilling Castle Golf Club. It has also seen the introduction of the "Gilling Cup" GCGC vs Stonehouse and a barbecue to follow.

We have developed a number of important policies this last couple of years including an EDI Policy. This has enabled us as a club to become more aware of our need to address

EDI issues and as a result we delivered an EDI Open Day with 25 applicants, 18 attendees and 2 new members. Furthermore an Open Day is planned for late June this year when we will focus on promotion and recruitment of more women and girls. We have been successful in our tender application to YUGC for funding to support these events. This has been achieved with help and direction from England Golf with whom we have a close working relationship.

We secured the service of a PGA Golf Pro – Simon Appleton, via a mutual friend. Simon has contributed to the club by helping at events and also providing one-to-one tuition for those seeking to improve their game. Unfortunately, the recent weather has curtailed some of the winter events we had planned. However we look forward to Simon's ongoing involvement and support this coming season. **Simon's No 07854 609 950.**

Overall we need to recognise that we need to focus our attention on recruitment and increase sponsorship if we as a club wish to continue to flourish and develop. Everyone can play a part in this by encouraging friends and family to play the game of golf. Finally I am once again so grateful to everyone who has helped and supported me this past 2 years. Perhaps the thing I have enjoyed the most is playing golf with as many different members as I could and in doing so have been able to meet a wide range of competitive and also social golfers and for that I have both grateful and happy.

Very finally. I wish Bruce and Keith Harrison every success this coming year and I'm here to help and support you as you wish.

ITEM 8 Handicap Secretary's report

Everything has run really smoothly this year, in spite of the change of club name which needed updating by England Golf and our software provider. There is a small update to the Rules of Handicapping this year - applicable 1st of April. The Course Handicap (CH) calculation now takes note of the difference between scratch rating and par, so the men lose 1.1 shots and the women lose 0.3 off Course Handicap, which will bring playing handicaps down by around a shot for the men in all competitions. This does not affect the way your handicap is calculated from your gross score.

In 4-ball matchplay the way you calculate the shots is simpler now - you take the lowest rounded CH and subtract that from everyone in the match, then multiply that number by the allowance (so 0.75 for our Pairs) and round up to get everyone's shots. Much easier than the old way which did the multiplication first, as you will be dealing with rather smaller numbers most of the time!

ITEM 9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2023/24

i) Captain and Vice-Captain:- to confirm Bruce Baker (Capt) & Keith Harrison (Vice)

ii) Handicap Secretary:- to confirm Adrian Smith

The AGM agreed the committee recommendation for Capt, Vice Capt, and Handicap Secretary

The Chair was taken by Ian Henley for the election of the Chairman

(iii) Chairman, Keith Holloway was nominated and approved by the AGM

Keith resumed the Chair for the remaining appointments

(iv) Secretary, there were no nominations, to be discussed at the July Committee

(v) Treasurer, Ian Henley was nominated and approved by the AGM.

(vi) Match Secretary, there were no nominations, although the Vice Capt. expressed an interest in returning the role into the Captain's role in 2025. To be discussed at the July Committee.

(vi) Social Committee Coordinator Pat Thompson was nominated and approved by the AGM.

Item 11 Election of Committee

Nominations were requested at the AGM, and the 2023 Chair Keith Holloway moved the return of the existing committee members en bloc, excluding the three named above item 9 (I)-(v), they are Andy Buckley, Betty Gilbert, Steve Hustwick, Andy Kitchman, Peter Simpson, Mike Skehan, Pat Thompson, Margaret Warriner.

There remains two vacancies, and there were no further nominations at the AGM.

Miles Skehan will not be standing as a Committee Member for the time being, and the Chair gave a vote of appreciation for both his contribution to the committee and service as the club's Greenkeeper/Grounds manager on behalf of Ampleforth Abbey Trustees, with whom Miles will remain as Head the Trustee's grounds team. **The Chair moved that Miles be given Honorary Membership of the Golf Club in perpetuity, which was unanimously approved by the AGM.** Andy Kitchman presented Miles with a token of the club's appreciation. The AGM gave Miles a standing ovation.

Item 12 A O B

Club member Dale Clarke asked if the practice mats in front of the netting could be replaced due their wear and tear. A commitment was given to replace the mats and agreed by the AGM.

There was no other business and the meeting closed.

The next AGM will be on Tuesday 15rd April 2025 at 6.30 PM

Note The provisional date for the next Committee meeting is to be Tuesday 2th July 6.30pm at the Club.

Keith Holloway Chair GCGC 13th April 2024.

All Ctee