

Arcscott Golf Club
AGM
Tuesday 6th November 2018

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

The President, Nick Jones, welcomed all to the meeting, including Captains, past Captains, past Presidents and members - the first annual general meeting of the new members' Club, with the meeting to be asked to approve the Club's Constitution and to agree the appointment of Directors to the Club's Board, prior to the reports from Captains and introduction of the new Captain.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Chris Rudd, Yvonne and Tom Beaumont, Jenny Cowling, Graham Fox, Mike Hughes, Alan France, Margaret Cumming, Darren Davies, Jenny Brace, Brian and Cathy Cooke, Paula Ball, Sarah Cole, Ros and Paul Edwards, Owen Sadd and Laura Morris.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and it was proposed by Don Wallington, seconded by Stewart Cumming, and agreed by the meeting that these be approved as a correct record.

4. Arcscott Golf Club Ltd Constitution

The President explained that, although he had served two years as President, he had been asked to continue for another year in order to ensure continuity during the first year of the new Club. Paul Buckley explained that the Club's Constitution had required amendment to reflect the establishment of the new Club and this had been undertaken by the Interim Board, particularly Alan Tolhurst, Geoff Harding and John Simpson. The draft Constitution had been made available on the website, seeking comments by 30th October. Some comments had been received after that date and these would be considered by the Board, with any resulting changes to be brought back to a future General Meeting, reflecting that the Constitution was a living document which would be updated. In answer to a question, it was confirmed that the provisions for the individual sections had not changed to any great degree.

The meeting was asked to vote on the Constitution and, by a show of hands, all were in favour of accepting the new Constitution as drafted.

5. Introduction and Nominations for Board of Directors

The President thanked those who had helped with the Interim Board and expressed the hope that all would carry on through the Board or its Sub-Committees. Members had been invited to apply to come on to the new Board, but no new candidates had come forward so, as set out on the agenda, it was proposed that the directorships be taken up by the

members of the Interim Board who were currently leading on the various roles. Paul Buckley introduced each the member in turn and then asked for a show of hands to accept their nominations to the Board – all were in favour of the following appointments:

Finance & IT Director Trish Harding

Course Director Geoff Harding

Business Compliance Director John Simpson

Marketing & PR Director Claire Evans

House Director Chris Brace

Company Secretary Paul Buckley

Managing Director Nick Jones

The President, and now Managing Director, thanked all who had helped the Club to get established, including the volunteers who had been helping the Greenkeepers, and all the members. He drew attention to a survey of the members planned for the end of November which would seek members' views, and he asked anyone with useful skill sets to come forward as volunteers. Finally, he thanked the Captains and their Committees for their work in running the Club over the last year.

6. Reports from Captains

The President introduced the 2018/19 Captains to report on their years in office:

Past Seniors' Captain - Chris Brace

Chris Brace commented that there were two issues of real interest to the Seniors beyond the general requirement for excellent camaraderie. These were the general health and well being of the members and the financial viability of the Section. Despite loss of members through the inevitable ageing process, membership of the Section remained in the 90's, with a regular influx of new blood from other Clubs, and graduation from the Men's Section.

The Seniors played 20 friendly matches each year and almost half of the section members played in at least one match. Arscott GC continued to be seen by visiting clubs a great place to visit. The Senior Section's finances were in a healthy state, thanks to the two successful Senior Open competitions masterminded each year by Dave Rowson. Chris commented that more and more clubs were seeing Open competitions as a way of making money, so every year it becomes more challenging to get the number of entries up.

Chris then introduced the Seniors' Captain for the coming year: Keith Morris.

Past Ladies' Captain - Barbara Parnell

Barbara Parnell referred to the advice, given to her by her predecessors, that the biggest factor impacting on her year would be something that she couldn't control – the weather, and that there was always something to surprise you. She commented that the announcement by the owner of his intention to stand aside was certainly a surprise, while the weather had been bad over the winter, resulting in closures and affecting her away

days – but the ladies had played when they could and had still enjoyed their golf. She thanked all those who had played and those who had taken part in matches – she felt that it was a testament to the Club that they were able to field teams in those matches. She thanked Anne Hill and Yvonne Beaumont for the success of the Am Am, and to all on the Committee for their work, especially Liz Griffiths, the Secretary, who had continued despite health issues keeping her off the course for some months.

Barbara then introduced the new Ladies Captain – Jacqui Mullineux.

The new Captain thanked Barbara for the last 12 months. She explained that she had started playing at the Bulthy and had come to Arscott when that course had closed, with Arscott members being very welcoming. She had managed to reduce her handicap and have a hole-in-one and now she hoped to do her father and the Club proud as Ladies Captain, and to have a fun year. Her charity would be the Club itself. Her Vice-Captain was Sue Lane, who apologised for not being able to attend the meeting.

Men's Captain – Chris Gettings

The Captain said that it had been a great honour to serve as Captain, and the time had flown by. It had been a great year, starting with some 80 members at his drive-in, then bad weather in the winter, but a great summer. His Away Day had been at Oxley Park, enjoyed by all, and he had taken part in several County events.

The Captain thanked his Committee for their hard work over the year, with special thanks to Brian Barrow, County delegate, and to the five Committee members standing down – Paul Buckley, Nick Jones, Steve Travi, Mick Doster and Mick Morris. He also thanked Glyn, Max and Dave in the Pro-shop, and the Greenkeepers, Andrew, Jarrod and John. The Captain then expressed particular thanks to Martin Hamer, the owner, for all his efforts over the years in establishing and maintaining the Club and to Don Wallington for his work on the website and Hole-in-One Board, which he was now handing over to the Committee. The Captain announced that the proceeds from the joint efforts of the three sections charity fundraising was £5,573 for the YMCA, to be presented at a special event at the Club – he congratulated all of the sections on raising this amount.

The Captain then introduced the new Captain, Paul Owen, presenting him with the official blazer and wishing him well for the year ahead.

Paul said that he was honoured to have been selected as Captain for the 2019 season. He thanked Chris Gettings for his hard work and dedication, and presented him with a gift in thanks. He looked forward to his year as Captain, saying that with time, commitment and hard work, the new Members' Club could be made to be the best. To assist with this, the joint Captains' funds for the year would be the Arscott Club Development Fund.

The Captain then announced that the Vice-Captain for 2018/19 was Dave Wallace, and finished by saying that he looked forward to playing with all of the members and, hopefully, playing some inspiring golf.

Junior Section

The President asked Phil Sinclair, Junior Organiser, to say a few words on the success of the Junior Section. Phil reported that the Junior Club Nights continued to thrive and,

although numbers had reduced with the bad weather in the winter and the change of night, there was still a healthy cohort coming through. As set out in Kerry Roberts' report to the Ladies Section, four of the girls had featured in Club competitions and at County level, more than any other Club. As regards the boys, although the Club had lost two or three, the remaining five had achieved significantly, including being crowned Shropshire Star Team Champions, and would be strengthened by the girls and others coming through. Phil said that he remained passionate about the development of the juniors and was happy to continue as Junior Organiser. He thanked all of the sections for their support in contributing annually into the funds and allowing the juniors to be integrated into the Club. The President thanked Phil and his helpers for all of their work.

The Captain then presented the official jumper to the incoming Junior Captain – Ewan Purslow, wishing him a successful season.

7. Any Other Business

Although no formal questions had been received by 30th October, informal questions were then invited, which were wide ranging, and answered by the various Directors, including:

- the recent departure of Di Bothwell as catering manager and arrangements being made to address the situation (all in hand);
- plans to lock up the changing rooms earlier, linked to reduced hours of catering staff (there will be flexibility, but reflects numbers present after 3 p.m.);
- the signing of the lease for the Club (completed);
- current number of members (holding up and a membership drive to be made in the New Year, looking at introducing deals and appealing to members to bring new members in);
- staffing (finances tight but existing staff greatly appreciated and all staying on, with volunteers helping where appropriate);
- would there be a Greens Committee? (Geoff Harding now Director of Greens, going to have monthly meeting with Greenstaff. More money was spent on the greens this year – has helped to improve condition);
- future communications from the Board to members (monthly newsletters, Captains invited to Board meetings feeding back through the Section Committees, and Board meeting minutes to go on the website – area protected for members by password, and (in answer to a further question) on noticeboards);
- arrangements for Section Committees (no changes);
- is the Board doing something to honour Martin Hamer's role in the establishment of the Club? (new Board will be considering);
- need to counter perception of Arscott as a 'wet course' (yes, as part of greater promotion of Club). Suggestion of having a special day with players from other clubs invited to play to see how dry the course now is (England Golf Union is holding a Volunteers Seminar at Arscott on 21st November, with participants able to

play 9 holes, and the EGU is doing an article on Arscott GC as a new Members' Club and a good example of volunteering);

- Recognition of the considerable hard work by the President, Interim Board, new Board and other members – a big thank you from all the members to be noted.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM would be held on 5th November 2019.

Paul Buckley (Company Secretary) thanked all for their attendance and their approval of all matters, and closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m.