

# **FRESHWATER BAY GOLF CLUB**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The Club House, Afton Down, Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight**

**Thursday 16th January 2014**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting began at 7pm with a minute's silence for those members no longer with us. Seventy Four members were present and the President, R A Leppard took the Chair. He thanked all the volunteers who help out through the year for the time and effort that they give to the Club.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from:

T Black, G Brown, D Clark, C Clark, A Coke, P Coke, S Francis, S Hockin, R Hockin, A Keen, A Keen, S Keen, L Rawling, M Rawling, G Ruck, G Thomson, K Wright,

#### **2. Acceptance of Previous Minutes.**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 17th January 2013 had been circulated and were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by G Carter and seconded by R Couse.

**CARRIED**

#### **3. Report by Retiring Club Captain .**

Geoff Smith thanked all those members that had helped to make his year of captaincy a successful one. Special thanks went to the players in his teams, of not one whom let him down with a late withdrawal. He highlighted some of the successes that FBGC achieved during his Captaincy year. The juniors in particular had a very successful year, winning the Island League, plus 2 of the other 3 events run through the season. From our small group of juniors, Ryan Harmer and Lucy Burke were both selected to represent Hampshire at Youth level, and they are also our current Club Champions.

Geoff thanked Steve Orchard for his stewardship of the juniors.

One disappointing aspect of Geoff's year as captain was the cancellation due to a lack of support of a few of the social events that the Captain's Committee had organised.

Geoff thanked all the support he had received in raising money for his nominated Charity, the HIOW Air Ambulance. This included the Bridge Club for holding a Bridge Day at Northcourt House, Steve Orchard for a Charity Run, and Barclays Bank for a sizeable donation on Charity Day. Due to all this, and more, £6370.75 was raised through the year.

Geoff concluded by wishing his successor his very best wishes for 2014.

#### **4. Report by Retiring Captain of the Ladies Section.**

Shirley Clarke reported that the Ladies section had another very successful golfing year. She highlighted the many successes that FBGC Lady Golfers had achieved in Island events in 2013. Special mention was made of the IWLGA Championship where 2 of our members contested the final, with Lucy Burke narrowly beating Sammi Keen on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Sammi also represented the IOW in the 2013 Island Games, with the team winning a silver medal.

Shirley thanked the Ladies Section as a whole for making her Captain's Day such a success, with the theme being 1940's & 50's. Special thanks went to her husband John, & Richard Couse for helping out on the 14<sup>th</sup> refreshments, and to Barry Hunter for designing the cards for the day. Shirley reported that the Ladies Section raised £900 towards the Earl Mountbatten Hospice during 2013. She concluded by saying how much she had enjoyed her year as captain, and wishing Joan Martin a most successful 2014

**5. Presentation of 2012/2013 Accounts.**

- a) The Finance Director presented the Club Accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013. He commented that the Club's cash flow had been good throughout the year, all invoices had been paid promptly and stocks of both course materials and bar supplies had been proportionate to requirements.

Expenditure was approximately the same as 2012 with 2 exceptions:

- the clubhouse maintenance is up by £1700 due to repairs on the roof
- staff costs have risen due to a pay increase of 1.5%

Income was down as follows:

- subscription income is down the equivalent of 9 full playing members
- green fee income is down 8%
- bar profits are down £3,500

The Finance Director explained that the Board have secured additional funding from the Rural Payments Agency that is worth an additional £4,500 per annum to the Club, but if the long term trend of Subs and green fee income continues downward then the Club Reserves will be put under pressure.

The Finance Director then went on to outline a claim that FBGC have lodged with HMRC for VAT that has been paid on green fees since 1990. He explained that Bridport Golf Club is the leading claimant and that HMRC have lost an appeal to the European Court of Justice. The Club are now awaiting HMRC's response to the ruling. The Finance Director assured the meeting that the Board are fully on top of the situation, and would continue to be until the claim has been settled.

In response to a question from the floor the Finance Director explained that the Natural England figure shown on the Accounts is a nett figure.

In response from a question from the floor the Finance Director explained the various management responsibilities that FBGC are obliged to carry out in return for Natural England Grants. These include scrub clearance on a six year cycle, removal of invasive species such as cotoneaster and holmeoak, and maintenance of the historical monuments on the course.

- b) The Board of Director's recommended that Subscriptions for a full playing member be increased by £20 per annum, with pro rata increases for other categories of membership.

Proposed by Mrs E Hunter and seconded by N Punter

**CARRIED**

**6. Appointment of Auditors.**

The Chairman recommended that our current auditors, Messrs Harrison Black, are re-appointed for the coming year, resulting in a formal proposal:

Proposed by G Smith and seconded by M Oldershaw

**CARRIED**

**7. Election of Club Officials.**

The following members had been both proposed and seconded to fill vacancies in the following appointments and as there was no requirement for a ballot, they were appointed en bloc:

<b>Captain</b>	C Edmonds-Smith
<b>Vice-Captain</b>	C Smith
<b>Directors</b>	C Edmonds- Smith
	B Friend
	N Punter
	C Smith

**8. Address by new Captain.**

Chris Edmonds-Smith thanked the Past Captains of Freshwater Bay for nominating him as Club Captain, and said that it will be an honour and a privilege to fulfil. During his year he will try to promote the friendly atmosphere of the Club. He announced his selection of the Earl Mountbatten Hospice as this year's Club Charity, and invited all members to join him for the Captains Drive-In on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

The meeting closed at 19:45