

FRESHWATER BAY GOLF CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Thursday 21st January 2016

MINUTES

The meeting began at 7.00pm with a minute's silence for those members no longer with us. Seventy 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:

C Blanchard, C Boulter, C Clark, S Francis, J Hill, R Hockin, S Hockin, E Hunter, S Keen, T Keen, V Kimber, K Kimber, J Martin, M Rawling, L Rawling, G Ruck, S Sargeant F Smith
C Sprackling, E Todd

2. Acceptance of Previous Minutes.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 22nd January 2015 had been circulated and were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by Tim Rees and seconded by M Kelleway

CARRIED

3. Report by Retiring Club Captain .

Steve Orchard thanked all those members that had helped to make his year of captaincy such an enjoyable one. He also thanked all the staff for their work and dedication through the year. Steve thanked the Captain's Committee members for helping him out throughout the year. He gave special thanks to David Lindsay for helping to raise money for his charity through the year, and also to Paula Burke, for not only partnering him, but winning the inaugural Bunny Trophy.

Although Club Success was very limited during his tenure, Steve gave special mention to Ryan Harmer and George Faulkner, who both represented Hampshire during the last year. Steve thanked all the support he had received in raising money for his nominated Charity, Ability Dogs & Young People, with the final figure of over £4000 exceeding all expectations. Steve concluded by wishing his successor his very best wishes for 2016.

4. Report by Retiring Captain of the Ladies Section.

Paula Burke reported that the Ladies section had another very successful golfing year. She highlighted the many successes that FBGC Lady Golfers had achieved in both Island and Hampshire events in 2015. She also praised Sammi Keen and Lucy Burke for the way that they behave and performed at the Island Games held in Jersey, highlighting what great ambassadors of FBGC they have become.

Paula thanked the Ladies Section as a whole for making her Captain's Day such a success, and the Ladies Committee for helping ensure that everything ran smoothly throughout the year. Paula reported that the Ladies Section raised £1100 towards the Earl Mountbatten Hospice during 2015 through fundraising events such as the EMH Brig and Buy, and thanked all those that had contributed in any way. She concluded by saying how much she had enjoyed her year as captain, and wished all the incoming captains a most successful 2016

5. Motion by the Board – to commit FBGC to continued CASC Registration

The President read out the background to the Board's proposal and then a vote was taken.

The motion was proposed by Richard Frost and seconded by Brian Friend **CARRIED**

6. Presentation of 2014/2015 Accounts.

- a) The Finance Director presented the Club Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2015. He commented that the accounts had been produced by Geoff Smith and thanked Geoff for all his hard work. He explained that he was going to give an overview of the accounts, rather than a detailed analysis, and would then take any questions at the end of the presentation.

The overall balance sheet showed a deficit for 2014/15, with the virtually all the extra expense coming from course costs. The main reason for this is that due to a change in VAT Rules, VAT on course expenditure can no longer be reclaimed. The previous year's accounts showed 6 months worth of the new VAT regime, with this year's being the first to show a full calendar year of the new VAT rules.

Although subscription receipts show a slight rise in monetary terms the decline in membership has not been halted, with FBGC having less members this year than last. This is despite a concerted effort by both Board and Captain's Committee to try to increase membership through various initiatives.

Green fee income shows a slight fall, but because of the VAT Rule changes this is actually a more significant drop than first appears, and the trend of falling green fee numbers has continued

The Finance Director then went on to give an update on a claim that FBGC have lodged with HMRC for VAT that has been paid on green fees since 1996. He explained that the Tax Tribunal ruled in December that private members golf clubs had borne 90% of the cost of the VAT charge and therefore the amount that green fee claims should be restricted by is only 10% of the VAT overdeclared. HMRC have until 1st February to appeal the decision, but overall it is looking positive that a sizeable amount of the submitted claim will be paid out. However, there are also other VAT aspects of the claim that have yet to be resolved, so the final size of the settlement cannot yet be determined.

A question was asked from the floor whether the capital items bought within the last year had been bought through HP. The Finance Director replied that the two items of capital expenditure had been paid for outright and no HP terms exist on any of the other items of equipment either.

- 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. After discussion this was voted upon.

Proposed by Brian Friend and seconded by Steve Orchard **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 Brian Friend and seconded by Richard Frost **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:

Captain	Dave Cooke
Vice-Captain	Dave Bell
Directors	Dave Cooke David Lindsay Geoff Smith
Captain's Committee	Paula Burke Bernie Pinnell Tim Rees Chris Tansley Jim Whitehead

8. Address by new Captain.

Dave Cooke 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. He said that he is looking forward to the year ahead and thanked all the members that had offered him good wishes. He realises that Steve Orchard has set a very high bar, but he will try his very best to be as good a captain, but in a different way.

Dave announced his selection of the "Needles" National Coastwatch Institute as his chosen charity for the year.

Dave invited all members to join him for the Captains Drive-In on Sunday 24th January, where there will be a presentation given by the charity, as well as music by the Brighstone Barnacles.

Dave concluded by asking Steve Orchard to come forward to be presented with his FBGC Past Captain's Tie.

The meeting closed at 19:50

Note; after the meeting had been officially closed, the Chairman of the Board, Mr Richard Frost stood up and gave a brief outline on the activities of the Board within the last year. From next year this "Board Report" will form part of the main meeting.