

# **FRESHWATER BAY GOLF CLUB**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting began at 7.15pm with a minute's silence for those members no longer with us. Eighty Two 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:

D Bell, L Bell, K Black, T Black, C Boulter, G Brown, , S Francis, S Hockin, R Hockin, A Keen, , S Keen, B Lavers, P Long, I Mace, L Rawling, M Rawling, G Ruck, E Smith, C Taylor, C Tansley, S Tansley, J Veal.

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

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 16th January 2014 had been circulated and were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by S Sargeant and seconded by W Hinchin.

**CARRIED**

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

Chris Edmonds-Smith thanked all those members that had helped to make his year of captaincy an enjoyable one. He explained that up until this year he had never played a representative match for FBGC, and although at times it was a hard task getting a full team out, the matches themselves were always very enjoyable affairs. He urged the membership to put their names forward for these matches if they get a chance to.

Chris thanked the Captain's Committee members for helping him out throughout the year with the organising of the Social Calendar and also the Charity Day. Special thanks went to Sandra Tansley for helping to make the Charity Day such a success, even though it had to be postponed from its original date due to bad weather.

The main golfing achievement that FBGC managed during the year was the winning of the Senior Alliance Shield and Chris congratulated the seniors on their achievement.

Chris thanked all the support he had received in raising money for his nominated Charity, the Earl Mountbatten Hospice. Due to the wonderful generosity of the FBGC Members £2212.07 was raised through the year.

Chris then presented the Millennium Trophy to Dave Cooke, who had been a great help to him throughout his captaincy year.

Chris concluded by wishing his successor his very best wishes for 2015.

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

Joan Martin 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 2014. She proceeded to give a full run down of all the Lady Trophy winners throughout the year and congratulated them all.

Joan thanked the Ladies Section as a whole for making her Captain's Day such a success. She thanked the Ladies Committee for helping ensure that all the Open events held through the year ran

smoothly and commented that she has been blessed with good weather for these events throughout the year.

Joan reported that the Ladies Section raised £1090 towards the Earl Mountbatten Hospice during 2014 through fundraising events such as the EMH Brig and Buy, and thanked all those that had contributed in any way. Four special mentions went to Sylvia Hinchin, Sandra Tansley, Sheila Francis and Dot Porter. She concluded by saying how much she had enjoyed her year as captain, and wished all the incoming captains a most successful 2015

## **5. Presentation of 2013/2014 Accounts.**

- a) The Finance Director presented the Club Accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. 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 slight surplus for 2013/14, but the surplus was down from the previous year.

Expenditure was approximately the same as 2013 with 2 exceptions:

- the course maintenance costs have risen significantly. The main reason for this is that due to a change in VAT Rules, VAT on course expenditure can no longer be reclaimed.
- National Insurance costs have dropped due to an annual subsidy from the Government of £2000

Income was down as follows:

- subscription income is down £3000
- green fee income shows an increase of £5000, but this is all down to the change in VAT Rules, and the trend of falling green fee numbers has continued

The Finance Director explained that the Board have set up a Marketing subcommittee to look at ways of trying to reverse the trend of falling membership and green fees. He explained that one age group of membership that we are sorely lacking is the 30 to 45 year olds. However, this is a national trend and some out of the box thinking may be required to try to entice this age group to join the Club. He commented that if the Subs and green fee income continues downward then the Club Reserves will be put under pressure.

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 HMRC have now acknowledged that there should be no VAT on Green Fees, but the counterbalance is that no VAT Expenditure on Course Maintenance can be reclaimed. These rules have been in operation since April 2014, so our accounts show a 6 month period under the new rules.

As to the claim for backdated reclaims on VAT the Finance Director explained that the case is now in front of the Tax Tribunal, and the Board are hopeful that the outcome will be known in the near future.

- 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 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>	Steve Orchard
<b>Vice-Captain</b>	Dave Cooke
<b>Directors</b>	Tony Black Bill Hinchin Liz Morris Steve Sargeant
<b>Captain's Committee</b>	Rita Smith Chris West

**8. Address by new Captain.**

Steve Orchard 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. During his year he will try to promote course etiquette through trying to cajole members into replacing divots and repairing pitch marks. He will also be looking for volunteers to join working parties during the summer to work on improving the condition of the course.

Steve announced his selection of Ability Dogs 4 Young People as this year's Club Charity, and invited all members to join him for the Captains Drive-In on Sunday 25th January, where there will be a presentation by the charity.

The meeting closed at 20:00