

The Radcliffe-on-Trent Golf Club

Minutes of the 110th Annual General Meeting held in the Clubhouse on Saturday 25th January 2020 at
3.00 p.m.

Present:	Chris Asher	Vice Captain
	Martyn Wakeman	Treasurer
	Glynis Armstrong	Ladies Captain
	Ian Wroughton	President
	Chris Cooper	Main Committee
	Christine Holmes and Ady Brightman	Minute Secretaries

131 Full Playing Members and 19 Non-Voting in attendance

110.01 Introduction by Club President

In the absence of both The Chairman and The Captain, who had both tendered their apologies, the President opened the meeting and explained that due to the timing of the meeting the Radcliffe room would remain open for golfers leaving the course. He made members aware of the fire exits. He then advised that the General Manager is on leave and that the Treasurer had not been in a position to sign off the accounts. The A.G.M. would therefore be adjourned at the appropriate point and reconvened once the accounts were duly authorised. He introduced the top table. He stated that there would be no AOB and that questions would be dealt with during the presentation of the relevant reports.

110.02 Roll of Deceased

The Chairman asked those present to stand and reflect on members and others with club connections that had passed away since the last AGM whilst the manager read out their names;

Mr Brian Newton, Mr. Glen Prince, Mrs June Parker, Mr. Maurice Harvey, Mrs Barbara Hanson, Mr. Nick Rutter, Mr. Tony Bakewell, Mr. Dennis Jordan, Mr. Norman Foster, Mr. Richard Watling. Mr. David Banks.

110.03 Apologies

There were 19 apologies recorded.

110.04 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 25th January 2019

Martin Berry asked for an amendment to be made to the minutes. However, after re-reading them, he commented outside the meeting, that he was happy to leave the minutes as reported.

Proposed by Martin Berry. Seconded by John Holland

Members approved unanimously that they be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

110.05 Matters Arising from that Annual General Meeting

No matters were raised.

110.06 Election of Chairman

Chris Cooper was elected as Chairman – unopposed.
Proposed by Martyn Wakeman. Seconded by John O’Brien.

Chris Cooper then addressed the meeting as follows:-

“Mr President, Lady President, Mr Captain, Lady Captain, fellow members.

Firstly I’d like to thank Gilbert Barnatt for his commitment to the role of Chairman for the last 3 years, and Ian for stepping into the breach today.

I am deeply honoured and humbled to be elected as your Chairman. I do however wonder if I am somewhat mad taking on this role, my wife certainly thinks so, and after the experience of the 2 recent Q&A sessions I have no doubt she is right.

Strangely I did enjoy the Q&As and I learnt 2 very important facts about our membership.

Firstly as the McDonalds advert says – you like getting your money’s worth. It was interesting to see so many of the same people who enjoyed throwing rocks at the main committee on the Monday turn up again on the Wednesday to have another go! So I hope we continue to provide you with such good value for money. It is our duty to listen to our members and I look forward to further such sessions throughout the year.

Secondly I learnt what short memories we all have. If you listened to some of the contributions then 3 to 4 years ago we were in a golden era when everything was rosy and we just needed to carry on as we were.

Now, unless I’ve been playing at another club back then, I seem to remember we had a course who’s presentation was mediocre at best, a greens shed with clapped out machinery held together with gaffer tape, and a declining membership, despite the best efforts of everyone and a plethora of incentives to join . But we did have a nice patio.

So I have a much more positive view of our progress over the last 3 years since then.

Our course over this last year in particular is the best I can remember in my 26 years as a member, a view shared by the quiet majority of members, and a fact supported by our STRI report. We have planted over 100 new trees, re-surfaced the 8th tee, built a new tee on 17 and created a fantastic

signature hole, subtly realigned many holes etc., all culminating in being awarded championship status by England Golf.

We now have a fleet of up to date greens machinery that means we have the tools to maintain our great presentation of the course.

Our membership decline has been completely reversed so much so we have grown faster than any other established members club in the UK, and have playing member numbers not seen since 2010.

This has obviously come with a financial hit on our previous year's accounts, and although we don't have the accounts for last year yet I am confident we will see a much improved picture and with higher subscriptions than we have ever had we can look forward to a brighter future.

In my view none of that success would have been achieved had we carried on as we were and not made the radical and brave change to structure, governance and management that we made.

And instead of being here today looking to the future we would most likely have been going the way of many other clubs across the country towards closure.

So whilst I acknowledge we have some short term challenges I am very optimistic for the future of this club under the stewardship of this Main Committee. Just because you hit a pothole doesn't mean you should give up driving.

When we set out 4 years ago to look at how we could arrest the decline in our membership we looked at research done in the UK and Europe which established what key factors made successful members golf clubs successful.

They were:-

Having a good course in great condition.

A clear governance and management structure with a GM.

A good academy facility providing coaching and practise for members and encouraging potential members into the game.

A family friendly culture and clubhouse, with other activities other than golf.

Being at the heart of the local community.

Whilst we have made excellent progress on the first 2, the course and governance, we still have much work to do. So whilst not taking our eye off these we need to start looking at some of the other areas in order to make our club truly sustainable in the long term.

We have already started to look at some of these areas in the process of updating our strategic plan and we will hopefully be in a position to share our thoughts with you during this year.

It looks like we are going to be in for a busy few years and I hope I can fulfil your expectations by providing the right level of leadership and guidance for the Main Committee in order to keep the Club moving forward successfully.

I will always be focused on ensuring we continue to act in the best interests of all our members. I have only one simple objective for my term of office.

That is that by the time my term is up, wherever any of us are playing as visitors, either locally, across the UK, or abroad, when the locals ask where do you usually play we'll be able to say – I'm a member of Radcliffe on Trent – The best members golf club in the Midlands."

110.07 Captain's Statement -Previously circulated.

Firstly can I begin by apologising that I am not here in person today but I have been given the amazing opportunity to manage an MCC Tour to Argentina which is a great honour and one I did not want to miss which I hope you will understand.

What a privilege it has been to be Captain of this great club this year. I know Gaye our Lady Captain feels the same as does Steve Lawes our Senior Captain and it has been a pleasure to share my year with you both.

Overall it is fair to say my year has been helped enormously by so many kind people.

However, I should add that once you don the green jacket you do become a target for people's gripes and 'you're the Captain so you must know everything that is going on'. It does surprise me how many people feel the need to have a moan – surely this is our leisure time so let's just enjoy it!!

I would like to begin my report by congratulating Karl and his team for their support and the presentation of our course and look forward to the new developments on the course being completed (especially that 1st). I should also thank Dawn and Teresa in the office who do a great and often underappreciated job too.

This year has rushed by and I don't know if I have made the most of it or have represented the club in the way I should. That I guess, is for others to say but I have tried to do it right.

We are a member's club and outside of the executive team much work is done by volunteers who give up their time to support their club. The work they do is invaluable and is done in the best interests of the 'majority' of our members. We should offer our thanks and support to them.

We have played many Club matches this year with generally great success and a wide range of members playing which is great to see. A big thank you needs to go to my Vice Captain Chris Asher for organising the teams – it is a big headache at times.

It's also been my pleasure to play in a few mixed matches this year and again a huge vote of thanks should go to Phillip and Christine Holmes for their work in putting these together.

I would also like to pay tribute to Robin Savage for managing and running the scratch matches and to Zog Gibbons for running all the other matches on behalf of the club. These are thankless tasks at times with people regularly dropping out.

Following all our matches we are superbly looked after by Phil and Louise with the catering. Our catering offer is the envy of most clubs.

I would also like to pay tribute to Joe Grange our assistant professional. Our junior membership has gone through the roof and we now have 132 juniors.

An incentive by the office to get a radio message out in all sport arenas and council offices, to promote Radcliffe's free under 12 and inexpensive junior membership and the hard work of Joe Grange and his volunteers, making it the most successful club in the midlands for junior recruitment. To give you an idea Hollinwell recently had an article about their success of 8 new junior members. Well done Joe and if we can keep their interest during that key adolescence period our club is in safe hands.

Thank you also to Craig and Claire in the Pro Shop for your support it really does mean a lot.

There are many others who work tirelessly in the club and it would be wrong not to mention, Match and Handicap and the social committees. These are an incredibly valuable part of our club.

The playing highlight of the year was the McGregor. The course looked stunning and earned rave reviews from the players and the EGU resulting in the presentation of our plaque to commemorate us as a championship golf course, a brilliant accolade.

One of my abiding memories of the event was looking around and seeing how many members were involved, so well done to them, we showed ourselves off well and should be very proud.

Probably our biggest achievement this year off the course has been the restructure of the Main Committee and the ongoing operational review. Whether we like it or not we are now a very different business from days gone by due to size of our membership which now stands at 1060 members of all categories and over 600 full, and much new legislation.

The main committee have been re-aligned and now have specific portfolios and accountability and while you may not have seen visible changes yet, I am confident the new structure will ensure a smooth and more accountable running of the club and encouraging better and more open communication with our members.

We are also undertaking a thorough review of the changes to the way the club works with a General Manager which we said we would do after two years of Karl being with us. It is fair to say there have been one or two teething problems understanding how our General Manager works and for Karl to understand the needs of our members. This will ensure we build on the work that has been done and continue to deliver the high standards we all want as members.

Finding a balance that keeps everyone happy is not likely to be possible but if we can keep to the 80-20 rule of 80% being happy, we will have done not too badly.

2019 has proved to be a better financial year which needed to happen, and I will leave the report on this to others at this meeting.

There are some other areas of income generation being looked at by the Main Committee and provided these can be worked in the best interests of our club we could have some hugely exciting times ahead.

Finally, I would like to welcome our New Captain - Chris Asher.

I have got to know Chris well over this last year and I know he is a good man who will continue to work hard to ensure that our club continues to be a fantastic place to come and play and socialise.

I am sorry I cannot be there to present you your new Jacket although that may in some way be a blessing following the character assassination, I received from Simon Bacon last year!!!

So, let me take this opportunity to wish you and your Vice Captain Chris Ward well for your year, I hope you will enjoy the experience.

Thank you to all our members and can I wish you all a great golfing year in 2020.

Darren Bicknell, 2019 Club Captain

Question

Peter Higgins asked for clarification of the complaints/disciplinary procedure. The Chairman replied, in the first instance complaints should be addressed to the Club Manager and if the response is unsatisfactory then the Main Committee should be contacted through Lee Whiteman.

110.08 Financial Report

Martin Wakeman (Treasurer) explained that it had been necessary to delay the publication of the accounts pending an investigation into the disposal of certain assets that were no longer required by the Club. The investigation had been completed showing no significant impact on the accounts. He advised that the accounts would be audited the following week by an independent accountant and an A.G.M. would take place on Friday 28th February at 6.00 p.m. to approve them.

Question - Keith Danby asked how many new members had been taken into the club last year.

Answer - We will answer that at the next A.G.M.

110.09 Annual Reports

The Captains Report, Lady Captain's Report, Greens Committee Report and Operational Summary had all previously been circulated to members.

Question – Jo Spencer asked if there was any intention of bringing back the House Committee.

Answer - House and Social have been combined. This area is currently under review.

Jo Spencer - Are we going to elect another House Chairman

Answer – To be decided.

All present voted in favour of the reports being adopted.

110.10 Appointment of Scrutineers

Gaye Docherty

Val Peat

Richard Tyas

Jackie Simpson

All scrutineers were approved.

110.11 Election of Officers and Support Committee Members

110.11.01 Election of President

Ian Peat - Proposed by Ian Wroughton Seconded by Keith Danby

Elected unopposed.

Ian Wroughton introduced Ian Peat

Lady President, Lady Captain, Fellow members

It has been, to say the least, a somewhat dramatic year full of peaks and troughs with the odd booby trap thrown in for good measure. Nevertheless, it has been enjoyable and, as has been said before, it is a privilege to have served as President following in the footsteps of many who have gone before. I now have the pleasure of introducing the incoming President, Ian Peat, well known to some of you and a well-respected member of the Club for many years.

Ian joined the Club in 1980 under the captaincy of Henry Clough. Those were the days when you were very much considered to be the “New Boy” and were not expected to question the hierarchy. Jackets & ties were the order of the day for gentlemen in the Clubhouse and strict rules applied to what one could or couldn’t wear on the course.

Ian survived the early years even if a little battle scarred. Over the following years he moved ever onwards and upwards eventually becoming Chairman of Match & Handicap. He became my Vice Captain in 2005 and made sure I didn’t make too much of a hash of things.

There followed a year as Captain in 2006 prior to becoming Club Chairman. During this period he played a major part in securing the services of Phill & Louise as our caterers – so basically Ian “it’s all your fault!!!” Seriously, that appointment has proven without doubt to be a great success for which you probably didn’t get the accolade you deserved at the time. However, you **have to stop accepting complimentary Sunday lunches!!!!**

Over the years Ian has supported the Club teams and is a long serving member of the Hilltoppers. He also chaired the Social Committee.

Ian lives in Radcliffe with his wife Val. Val by the way - as probably most of you are aware - is a qualified County Referee with eagle eyes... so no “pinching an inch” on the greens Ian!

His career was to a large extent in the world of property. Having worked in an estate agency for some years he formed his own successful property rental company which he eventually sold in 2008 and retired. Plenty of time then Ian to help with Club affairs!!

Ladies & Gentlemen, it is time for me to present Ian with his President’s blazer and ask him to say a few words by way of introduction - as is the tradition. I shall then step down and leave him in the hot seat.

Ian Peat responded.

Mr Chairman, Lady Captain, ladies and gentlemen

“First of all I should like to thank Ian Wroughton for proposing me as President and Keith Danby for seconding that. On your behalf, I also thank Ian for the support he has given to the Club and the Management Committee during 2019.

I have been a member of this Club for 40 years and have seen many changes over that time, particularly in the way that it has been managed. The present management system has been in place three years but as stated in the Minutes of the recent Q&A sessions, a comprehensive review has now resulted in further changes with committee members being given specific roles and accountability. This is intended to improve the running of the Club and create more communication with our members which I believe is of paramount importance.

I am advised that my own role is basically as an ambassador for the Club and I do not have a vote at management meetings. However I plan to attend those meetings whenever possible and hope my past experience on all the Club’s committees might sometimes prove useful. I also offer my full support to the Captain and Vice Captain in promoting our Club in any way I can.

It is a great honour to be President of this excellent Club. I look forward to my year in office and wish you all a happy and successful golfing year.”

Ian Peat

110.11.02 Election of Club Captain

Chris Asher Proposed by Darren Bicknell Seconded by Ian Wroughton

Elected unopposed.

The Club President, Ian Peat introduced Chris Asher

“In the absence of Captain Darren, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our 2020 Captain, Chris Asher. I shall keep it fairly brief as I am sure you will find out a lot more about him at his drive-in tomorrow.

Chris has been a member of Radcliffe-on-Trent Golf Club for over 20 years. If you have seen little of him on the course, it is probably because he tends to tee off between 7.00 and 8.00 am. It is not a time that I frequent but I know it’s true because he is usually on the 18th green when I am just arriving at the 1st. He does play on many other occasions as he has represented the club in numerous matches and was responsible for organising the teams last year.

Chris has a good business background which will be invaluable to the Management Committee. He has been in the building trade all of his working life and has been the managing director of Hamilton Knight Development Company since 1999. He was also Chairman of Bingham Badminton Club for 20 years so is no stranger to committee activity, although his main task in 2020 is to enjoy himself.

On your behalf I should like to wish Chris an enjoyable year as Captain and am proud to present him with his green jacket.”

Chris Asher replied

“Looking back to August 2018, I was very surprised to be asked by Darren to be his Vice Captain. I would like to thank him for giving me this opportunity, it came totally out of the blue, and I was very proud to accept. This now seems a very long time ago. My year as Vice Captain has been very busy, but both enjoyable and rewarding. I would like to thank everyone for their help, support and guidance which has been very much appreciated and totally invaluable.

Over the past year I have organised and played in the A/B team and have seen first hand how hard it can be to coordinate the players. Well done to Zog for the C team, Phil and Christine for the Mixed and Robin for the Scratch team. You have all done an excellent job and we are so lucky to have you. Can I also thank all of the members that have represented the Club in these matches, some stepping in at the eleventh hour. It is my hope that we can persuade Craig and Joe to join us in some of the forthcoming matches of 2020.

I would also like to thank the Committee who have dealt with a particularly hard year with dedication and efficiency. We must remember that we would not be able to function without such hard working members and volunteers, who give up their precious time for us.

I am looking forward to meeting with our junior section, where I hope to help in some small way to support Joe and his team who have increased our membership to record numbers. He has been incredibly pro-active in visiting local youth groups, such as brownie and scout packs to promote Radcliffe Golf Club, to great success.

We have just been through the wettest Autumn on record, but I think the course has held up brilliantly. This is down to the dedication of Karl, Luke and the greens team who have done a fantastic job. As you are all aware, our GOLF CLUB would be nothing without a good GOLF COURSE. These are exciting times, with some major changes to the course happening during the coming season. The 1st becoming a par 5, and the 11th becoming a shorter par 3. I for one look forward to these changes, at least I won't lose as many balls in the pond on the eleventh. Instead I will probably lose them in the new pond on the first for a change.

I would now like to tell you about my charity. In 1982 my sister Joscelyn received her first kidney transplant, without which she would probably not have seen her 19th birthday. My chosen charity this year is therefore the Renal Unit at the Nottingham City Hospital. In 1999 she then successfully received her second transplant within the same unit. Without the care and dedication of this amazing team we would not have had the pleasure of having her with us for the further eleven years. Joscelyn had been diagnosed with diabetes at the age of 18 months and had lived her life at full speed and to the full, unfortunately leaving us in 2010 at the age of just 46. I am proud to now be able to support the unit as my Captain's charity for the coming year.

It is a great honour to be your Club Captain for the coming year and I am very much looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead. Tomorrow is our Captains Drive in and I hope that ALL of the captains have a great day and a very successful 2020.

Thank you”.

Chris Asher Club Captain

110.11.03 Election of Vice Captain

Chris Ward Proposed by Chris Asher Seconded by Darren Bicknell

Elected unopposed.

The Club Captain Chris Asher introduced Chris Ward.

“I would like to say that I thought long and hard about my decision for who I would choose for my Vice Captain, however this simply was not the case. He did take a little bit of persuading that he would be a good ambassador for the club, but eventually agreed.

I am delighted to introduce Chris Ward as my Vice Captain. Born in Leeds Chris’s family moved to Bingham in 1970 where the newly built leisure centre provided an ideal opportunity to get involved with a wide range of sports. Badminton was his main sport and this is where I first met and got to know Chris. He played for Bingham for 25 years, as well as playing for the County for several years.

His parents joined Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club in 1970 and his first experience of playing here was on the old course in 1970/71. Chris then became a junior member in 1973 until he left for university in 1979.

He married in 1989 and now lives in Radcliffe with his wife Julie. They have four children and two grandchildren. He works for Nottinghamshire County Council managing the Authority’s transport services and fleet operations.

In 1993 Chris re-joined Radcliffe Golf Club and has been an enthusiastic member ever since. He has represented the club in matches and competitions. More recently was invited to join the Strategy Working Group, looking at the future of the club and options for change, which will continue to raise standards and make the club sustainable for the future.

I would like you to welcome our new Vice Captain, Chris Ward”

Chris Ward responded.

“Mr. Captain, Lady Captain, Mr. President, Lady President,

A few weeks ago I spoke with Chris and he reminded me that in his acceptance speech last year he said he was ‘shocked and amazed’ to be asked to be Vice Captain.

I am also shocked and amazed..... that I accepted.

For those of you who don’t know me I first played Radcliffe Golf Course in 1970, on the old course, when my parents moved to the area and joined the club.

I then joined as a junior member in 1973, but played rather more competitive badminton than golf.

Having left to go to University for my drinking qualification, I returned as a full member in 1993 and have been an active member ever since.

Over that time I have seen many changes in both the club and the course with a gradual move towards a more open and inclusive environment and I hope that I can contribute towards this continued growth and make Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club sustainable and attractive for many years to come.

I hope that I can support Chris over the next year, making it enjoyable and also raising money for his charity the Renal Care Unit at the City Hospital.

Thank you to those who have already helped by buying tickets for the Captain's Drive In.... there will be more on sale after the meeting and tomorrow morning if you have missed out so far.

Thank you and enjoy your golf in 2020"

110.11.04 Election of 2 Main Committee Members

Zog Gibbens Proposed by Jackie Simpson. Seconded by Simon Bacon
Tony Marriott Proposed by Dave Ecob Seconded by Ian Wroughton

Elected unopposed. The Chairman asked them to stand to identify themselves.

110.11.05 Election of Support Committee Members

Match and Handicap

Chairman Frank Radcliffe - Proposed by Ian Wroughton Seconded by Simon Bacon
Committee Members: Rob Woollacott - Proposed by Darren Bicknall Seconded by Nick Felton
 Alan Christie - Proposed by Matt Willson Seconded by Ian Terry

House and Social Committee

Chairperson Dee Gladden - Proposed by Ian Wroughton Seconded by Jackie Simpson

All the above were elected unopposed.

110.12 Propositions

110.12.01 Proposed change to Rule 3.7 Proposed by Martin Berry Seconded by John Holland

It is proposed that the present £100,000 limit should apply to any one or series of projects per annum and that capital expenditure is capped at £100,000 each year and fully detailed for the members on a quarterly basis.

Martin Berry explained his reasons for wishing to change this rule. He said the revised wording would ensure that the club membership is kept properly informed of the decisions and expenditure of the Main Committee. He wished the rule to be made clearer and less ambiguous with regard to expenditure than at present.

This rule change had the full support of the Main Committee.

There were no questions from the floor.

After a ballot the proposition was carried – 121 In favour 7 Against

**110.12.02 Proposed change to Rules 10.1.1 and 10.1.2
Proposed by Peter Higgins Seconded by Richard Scothern**

10.1.1

Current rule

The main committee shall have **the power to suspend or terminate** the membership of any member upon receipt of a complaint in writing or who, in their opinion, has breached the Rules and Regulations of the Club, or whose conduct is alleged to have made them unfit for membership of the club.

Proposal

The main committee shall have the **power to recommend to the disciplinary committee** a suspension or termination of membership of any member upon receipt of a complaint in writing or who, in their opinion, has breached the Rules and Regulations or Bye Laws of the Club, or whose conduct is alleged to have made them unfit for membership of the club.

10.1.2 to read:

No current member can have their membership terminated without first going through the Clubs disciplinary procedure.

In support of his proposal Peter Higgins quoted extracts from the Club Rules and the “The England Golf Compliance Officers report” in respect of the termination of membership rights of a former member.

Several references were made to a particular individual who had been declined the right to re-join. It was stated from the Chair that we should be considering the rules in general and not an individual case.

The main thrust of Peter’s argument in favour of the proposition was that the Disciplinary Committee should be involved in all cases where a member had breached the rules and regulations or by laws of the club, or whose conduct is alleged to have made them unfit for membership of the club.

The Chairman explained the advice received from England Golf and stated that the Committee acted under advice from England Golf. Further that England Golf stated the amendment as proposed was unworkable as it set up a circular procedure without point of conclusion.

Support for the proposal was given by Dave Rich. He was uncomfortable in the way the specific case had been handled stating that a Disciplinary Committee existed within the Club completely separate from the Main Committee and this should be used in all cases of dismissal.

Simon Holmes spoke against the amendment as he understands from England Golf that the Committee have the power to dismiss without reference to a disciplinary committee and although not supporting the amendment, he expressed a view that the committee took the wrong road and should have gone through the disciplinary procedure.

After a ballot the proposition was defeated. 48 votes in favour 75 votes against

110.12.03 Proposition - Proposed by James Glover Seconded by Julian Scothern

The Chairman advised that the Main Committee had declined to accept this proposition as the subject may become sub judice.

110.13 Appointment of Accountants

To be held over until the reconvened A.G.M.

110.14 Thanks to the Committee

David Styles said a few words.

“I think we all appreciate the tremendous job that Chris Cooper has done in running the meeting. The Club clearly faces some immediate and medium term challenges. Some we know about, some we may find out about at the next instalment of the A.G.M. on the 28th February but rest assured I believe in the committee you have appointed and particularly I would like to congratulate the two new committee members without portfolio for volunteering at a time when they know there are some issues to be resolved. I believe we can have confidence in our committee but they will need your support. They will need supportive comments and constructive comments and suggestions. If you have not yet thought about standing for committee, well perhaps you could think about that in the future because it is extremely rewarding.

I played golf this morning. The greens were absolutely magnificent. I am sorry none of the Greens Staff are here to congratulate them.

Congratulations to all the new officials, we all wish you well in the year ahead and we know, because of the commitment you have made, you will keep us informed with communications both written and verbal. Thank you very much.”

110.15 Closing the Meeting

Before formally closing the meeting The Captain, Chris Asher thanked the following:-

Ian Wroughton for chairing the meeting to start with and Chris Cooper for continuing.

Christine Holmes and Ady Brightman for taking the minutes

Gaye Docherty and Sandra Wroughton for doing the registration.

Glynis Armstrong for organising the table flowers.

Simon Bacon for being the roving microphone

Bar Staff for keeping members supplied with refreshments.

He also thanked all the members for coming to the A.G.M. and said it is nice to see so many people attending.

He confirmed that the meeting was to be adjourned until February 28th at 6.00 p.m.

He said he hoped as many members as possible would attend the Drive In on Sunday 26th January and invited all Past Captains to provide a Guard of Honour as the Captains walked to the tee.

Meeting closed at 16.49

Minutes of the Re-convened Annual General Meeting held in the Clubhouse on Friday 28th February 2020 at 6.00p.m.

Present:

Ian Peat	President
Chris Asher	Captain
Chris Cooper	Chairman
Martyn Wakeman	Treasurer
Tony Marriott	Main Committee
Matt Alls	Interim General Manager

Christine Holmes and Ady Brightman **Minute Secretaries**

43 Full Playing Members and 2 Non-Voting in attendance

110.16 Apologies

There were 11 Apologies recorded

110.17 Introduction by Club Chairman

The Chairman welcomed members to the reconvened A.G.M. and pointed out the fire exits. He said there were only two items on the Agenda, being the Annual Accounts and the Appointment of an Accountant. He then handed over to Martyn Wakeman, (Treasurer).

The Accounts and Finance Report for the year ended 31st October 2019 had already been sent out to members.

110.18 Treasurer's Comments

Martyn opened by confirming that he intended to stand down as Treasurer at the next A.G.M. primarily due to the fact that the role was much too time consuming. (If someone wanted to take over Treasurer's position before the next A.G.M., then Martyn would stand down during the year).

He said the club had not achieved the financial objectives he had set at the start of the year. Although income was higher, costs had not come down as envisaged and as a result the cash position was not as good as he would have liked.

In order to improve the situation Matt Alls had been appointed as Interim General Manager and the financial information coming from the system would now be more valid.

An analysis of membership numbers was being carried out to check that all subscriptions had been correctly collected.

Matt was going to be looking at a revised business plan to reduce costs in all categories and introduce proper budgetary control.

The following were to be reviewed.

Membership categories with a view to rationalisation.

Societies – to ensure the club gets full and fair value.

Non value added contracts (mainly marketing) – with a view to terminating.

Machine maintenance contract – the value of which needed review since the forecasted savings on maintenance were not made.

Brewery contract – targeting a standard pricing policy.

Bar pricing including membership discounts.

Martyn then opened the floor to questions.

John Farrington – He thanked Martyn for his work on the accounts. He asked how much income was lost from the discounts available to Platinum Members.

Martyn Wakeman – Said loyalty discounts were worth around £30,000 and age discounts for those between 21 and 40 were worth approximately £10,000.

Keith Danby – Also thanked Martyn for his work during the year. He asked if the £50 annual credit on the bar card for Platinum Members who paid their subscriptions promptly, was going to continue. Keith was not in favour of this credit.

Martyn Wakeman – Agreed with Keith and said this was one of the items to be reviewed.

Jo Spencer – Asked why the bank charges were so high.

Martyn Wakeman – Advised that bank charges amounted to £4,000 and card charges to £5,000. He said that a meeting was to be set up with the bank.

Graham Ward – Commented that the cost of repairs to club machinery had increased this year from around £25,000 to £41,000. Why?

Martyn Wakeman – Said part of the repairs figure was an annual maintenance contract of £20,000 which was expected to reduce the overall maintenance cost, especially since we had new machinery. This had not happened and Matt and Lee Whiteman were to meet suppliers later that week to negotiate something more reasonable.

John Holland – Asked about the job sharing with Ruddington Grange

Martyn Wakeman – Explained that a meeting had been held with Ruddington Grange last April, as they had asked if we would share our General Manager. The Club had said no to this but would be prepared to make him available to give advice. However, to avoid any potential liability for advice given, Radcliffe Golf Club would not be prepared to receive any money. Martyn explained that there are informal arrangements between green keepers and they do share equipment and occasionally staff. He said that we have someone who is an expert in cutting trees who did some extensive work for Ruddington. Martyn did not believe that Radcliffe benefited from this arrangement.

Bill Dunn – Said that the rule book states that the Main Committee take full responsibility for the hiring and firing of staff. He asked what role the Main Committee had played in the recruitment of our staff.

Chris Cooper – Said that the hiring of staff became a delegated power for the General Manager and therefore the General Manager had been responsible for the hiring and firing of staff under his direction.

Bill Dunn – Asked if the Main Committee were aware of what the General Manager was doing.

Chris Cooper – Said we had not been kept as up to date as we would have liked but going forward, with Matt and whoever is General Manager in the future, procedures would be much more rigorous to ensure that some of the things that had happened over the past few years would not happen again.

Trevor Williams - Asked who was on the Finance Committee.

Martyn Wakeman – Said there was no Finance Committee although there was a proposal to have a Finance Committee in the future, to include the General Manager, Treasurer, In House Accountant and an independent member of the Main Committee.

John Holland – Asked why computer costs had risen from £2,000 last year to £10,000 this year.

Martyn Wakeman – Said there had been a lot of software problems and there were some allocations which should not necessarily have been put under computer costs.

John Holland – Asked why fuel costs for the green's machines had gone up 50%

Martyn Wakeman – Said we had got more machines.

Bill Dunn – Asked why the cleaning bill had gone up £20,000 in one year

Martyn Wakeman – Said John (Handiman) was also included in the cleaning section, previously he had been included in the course.

As there were no further questions Chris Cooper asked for a proposer and seconder to accept the accounts.

Proposer – Keith Danby Seconder – Chris Ward.

The Accounts were accepted – all present voted in favour

110.19 Appointment of Accountants

Martyn Wakeman said that we needed to have an independent accountant in place. He therefore proposed that the existing accountant be re-appointed.

He said, however, it would be his intention, during the course of the next few months, to replace that independent accountant with another organisation.

He asked members to approve the appointment of the existing accountant in the knowledge that someone else would be appointed and that organisation would be put forward at the next A.G.M.

The Chairman asked for a proposer for the above proposal.

Proposer - Chris Ward Seconder - Bill Dunn

The proposal was carried – all present voted in favour.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6.20 p.m.