

## The Radcliffe-on-Trent Golf Club

Minutes of the 109th Annual General Meeting held in the Clubhouse on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January  
2019 at 7.00 p.m.

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<b>Present:</b>	<b>Simon Bacon</b>	<b>Captain</b>
	<b>Gilbert Barnatt</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Darren Bicknell</b>	<b>Vice-Captain</b>
	<b>Martyn Wakeman</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Gaye Docherty</b>	<b>Ladies Captain</b>
	<b>Mike Shaw</b>	<b>President</b>
	<b>Karl Adams</b>	<b>General Manager</b>
	<b>Jackie Simpson</b>	<b>Main Committee</b>
	<b>Lee Whiteman</b>	<b>Main Committee</b>
	<b>Jonathan O'Neill</b>	<b>Main Committee</b>
	<b>Chris Cooper</b>	<b>Main Committee</b>
	<b>Mrs D Anderson</b>	<b>Minute Secretary</b>

143 Full Playing Members and 6 Non-Voting in attendance

### **109.01 Introduction by Club Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance. He stated that there would be no AOB and that queries would be dealt with during the presentation of the relevant report.

The Chairman introduced the Top Table.

### **109.02 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 Don Baston, Mr Peter Clarke, Mr Alan Gaskell, Mrs Jane Gray, Mr Brian Hunt, Mr Richard Lawes, Mr John McLellan, Mr Geoff Mellor, Mrs Pam Norris, Mr Don Parsons, Mrs Brenda Rowell, Mrs Margaret Whiteside, Mrs Dee Woodhouse

### **109.03 Apologies**

There were 32 apologies recorded.

### **109.04 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 26 January 2018**

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

### **109.05 Matters Arising from that Annual General Meeting**

No matters were raised.

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### 109.06 Captain's Statement

Mr President, Lady President, Lady Captain ladies and gentlemen

2018 has certainly been a year of extreme weather, if you recall, the beast from the east, heavy rainfall then the sudden hot sunshine that seemed to go on for ever, these elements have made it far from easy for our greens team to consistently deliver the superb course we are all now getting used to and very much enjoy playing. The standard is high and consistent and with the constant guidance of Karl and Luke, it is fair to say we will have an excellent course. It was comforting to have the official back up from the agronomist in the STRI report, however we can all see, feel and experience the quality of our greens. So I must offer my heart felt gratitude for all the hard work and conscientious effort put in by all our staff, Greens committee headed by John O'Brien and we also benefit tremendously from a core of regular volunteers, who go the extra mile to make our course a delight to play.

It has been an absolute pleasure participating in so many of the Club matches, both Mixed, Mens and Seniors. Win, loose or draw, the one consistent factor is that the visiting team will always have positive comments and make great references to the significant changes that now surround us. The vision of Zeus and his flock happily munching the grass is truly a wonderful sight and what other golf club can offer jars of their own delicious honey?

Talking of the club matches I would like to offer my formal thanks to those members who arranged the teams and ensured all visiting players were well received and catered for. In particular, Zog Gibbons for running the C team, Brian Stone & Richard Tyas for assisting with the A & B teams and of course Phillip & Christine Holmes who do a fantastic job organising the mixed matches.

Despite losing a number of key players I am delighted to say that Robin Savage has still managed to ensure the Scratch team held its own

Having played all this golf I will admit to falling pray to the other captains curse, ie the one that affects your waist line, all my trousers are now tight which is undoubtedly due to the consistently delicious food provided by Phil and the catering team. I am still not able to resist the cheesecake or any other pudding put in front of me. Many thanks to our catering team and the bar staff for all their dedicated work, who can forget Brenda in her England hat on Captains day plus Emily for her face painting skills all raising money for this years Captains charities.

I will say that although my Captains Day was not quite as I had planned, I was fortunate to have a team of quick thinking professional people around me, who were able to completely reorganise the day and pull off a truly unique event, memorable in many ways especially the England result!

It has been a great pleasure to assist Joe Grange with the junior coaching on Sunday mornings, Joe works hard ensuring these sessions are fun but also challenging, coping with the various age ranges and abilities. They are so popular we are now offering 3 sessions as we are getting too many juniors to cope with in just 2 slots, this is a good situation to find ourselves in.

Junior Week went extremely well thanks to Craig, Claire, and Joe all putting in a maximum effort to ensure the juniors achieved all they could. Lots of handicap reductions and lots of

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smiles. Thanks must also go to Bob and Dee Gladden, Jason Smith and Mark Hemmings for all their support during a very hectic week.

I have very much enjoyed attending the various social events that have been arranged by our hardworking social committee, chaired by Richard Tyas, particularly the Flat Cap & Ferret night. This event provides great fun for all members, especially our juniors and their families. It takes a huge amount of preparation plus a lot of effort on the night to ensure it is a huge money spinning success as all the proceeds are passed directly onto the Junior Section. We also extremely fortunate to have the ever popular 250 Club providing the opportunity for members to meet, chat relax and bring the all important revenue into our club, plus the regular quiz nights kindly hosted by Bill Dunn.

I must admit I was not expecting to be playing quite so much golf by this time of the year, but the Captains Charity Challenge has proved most popular. Jackie and I are thrilled by the response and have enjoyed every match, win, lose or draw, our figure raised from the challenge is 1015. Many thanks to all members that played and donated so generously.

I am truly convinced that the members of our main committee cannot be any more dedicated to the cause than they are, we have a collective who can see the bigger picture and yet take heed of what is happening to clubs around us. They bring all their business expertise to our table with the sole purpose of making our club one of the best managed in the county, ensuring succession of planning and sound decision making whilst balancing the views of all members.

All our committees work very hard, so many thanks to those who serve on the Greens, Match and Handicap, Social, House and the Main Committee. All dedicated volunteers!

A special mention to Dawn and Teresa, who work tirelessly on behalf of the club, often under great pressure and tight time scales with a never-ending phone ringing and constant enquiries from the hatch. They are always polite, welcoming and professional, a great first impression for any visitor.

A special thanks to Jackie Simpson who has been an immense support over the last two years, plus Mr President Mike Shaw, Vice-Captain Darren Bicknell, Lady Captain Gaye Docherty, Karl, and Gilbert Barnatt Chairman for their support and good company and finally to all members who have generously contributed to the Captain and Lady Captains Charities.

I would like to wish Darren and Gaye good luck for next year, but I know they will both do a great job for us, I wish Ian Wroughton as Club President and Mary Maxwell as Lady President a most enjoyable year in their roles and finally I give Chris Asher the incoming Vice-Captain my best regards.

Thank you.

Simon Bacon, Captain 2018

### **109.07 Financial Report**

Accounts and balance sheet were circulated prior to meeting. MW commented that the performance this year was extremely disappointing with a loss of £124,000, the nett current liabilities are -£131,000. Next year some changes need to be made, actions in place now are to

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increase our income, overheads need to go down by about £60,000 (10%), capex limit of £60,000 for next year compared to £107,000 we spent last year and on top, budgeting as a result of these changes for a break-even next year. Profit would be fantastic but a break even is what we are aiming for. Equally, the true cash position I would like to see at £30,000. CDF, one off charge, it was obvious we needed to make it with a lot of changes being made to the course in August/September. It was a one-off charge of £60 per member and this will not happen again next year. Instead, we will look at whether we raise subscriptions by more than inflation and we will communicate this earlier than we did this year. The other thing on membership, is that we have at the moment 25 different categories of member. We cannot continue to manage this amount and we will look to actively reduce this quite significantly. We will look at making 5-day membership more worthwhile thus relieving pressure at weekends. Finally, meetings with fellow members who are accountants and they questioned why £20-30,000 hadn't been capitalised this year in terms of own work. The own work was done by our own staff as opposed to sub-contractors. We have no policy in place – we can look at a policy going forward though but it wasn't, in my view, the correct thing to do.

Keith Danby asked about the expenditure information where there was no reference anywhere to the Notts Union/EGU fees. He also asked why PAYE and NI was up by 100%. MW explained this was due to the increase in staff.

Greg Whiting asked why the CDF was not levied to all members. MW explained that it was decided that the CDF was levied to all Platinum members who did not take up the offer of paying the 2-year subscription. GW followed up by saying that if we were in that financial position why did we not insist all members paid it, why did it have to be voluntary? MW said it was a fair point.

Brian Stone asked MW to explain the substantial increase in accountancy fees. MW explained that we now have the office prepare the accounts to a certain stage and now employ certified accountants to go through these accounts and prepare monthly statements.

Martin Berry stated that MW referred to in his report the writing off of all the expenditure on the course improvements. MB wanted to bring to everybody's attention that it doesn't actually show how much has been spent on the improvements because they are hidden in course development and revenue accounts. He stated further that we are embarked on a 5-year strategic plan to alter the state of this course, to make improvements and that he would personally have liked to have seen all that expenditure recorded in the balance sheet as a fixed asset addition. MW explained that he would be happy to include in quarterly report and half yearly report what course developments are taking place and the cost.

GW stated that two years on from the SWG proposals his view was that the finance/proposals have not worked and suggested a return to the systems that were in place previously. MW stated that the systems and controls in place did need to be reviewed very closely as a result of what happened over the course of the last 12 months and this would be done very quickly.

Proposed by K Danby  
Seconded by J O'Brien

All present voted in favour.

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**109.08 Annual Reports**

General Manager's Report – no questions were raised.

Proposed by G McKellar  
Seconded by I Wroughton

All present voted in favour.

**109.09 Appointment of Scrutineers**

Ady Brightman  
Richard Tyas  
Teresa Cronin  
Dawn Anderson

All scrutineers were approved.

**109.10 Election of Officers and Support Committee Members**

**109.10.01 Election of President**

Ian Wroughton                      Proposed by M Shaw                      Seconded by S Bacon

Elected unopposed.

Mike Shaw said:

Lady President, Mr Captain, Lady Captain, Fellow Members

I am sure that 99 years ago when my father was employed here at the Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club as an 11 year old scrubbing floors and doing other menial tasks would he have envisaged the outcome of his actions not only for himself but for future family.

The Shaw family, over these many years, have been blessed with wonderful support, friendships and memories. Now to my President's year – firstly may I express my grateful thanks to Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club and all involved for giving me the opportunity to be the 29<sup>th</sup> President of our Club. May I also thank everyone who has supported me throughout my President's Year, a year by tradition and design to be a joy with little or no serious responsibility really and that it proved to be. Finally, my sincere thanks to all members old and new who supported or played in my President Day competition, a highlight of my year, and contributed considerably to Prostate UK charities and thanks to Karl for his assistance to this as well. Thanks to all.

Mike Shaw introduced Ian Wroughton.

Ian has been associated with the Club since the 1950's both as a Junior member and a caddie, as indeed was I.

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Before taking office at the Club in 2001 he had chaired the Radcliffe Parish Council and, until 2 years ago, was the long-standing Chairman of the Radcliffe on Trent Sports Association.

On joining the Club Committee, he became House Chairman under the Captaincy of Mike Glover who could therefore be seen as responsible for Ian standing here now as your incoming President.

Following a 3-year spell as House Chairman, he became my Vice-Captain and subsequently Captain in 2005, the same year as Sandra, his wife, became Ladies Captain.

He was elected Club Chairman in 2007 before handing over the reins in 2010 to Peter Hudson. He finally hung up his boots and left the Committee in 2017 following yet another stint as House Chairman.

Ladies and Gentlemen – would you please welcome your President for 2019, Ian Wroughton affectionally known as ‘Wroughty’ to whom I have the pleasure of presenting with his President’s jacket.

Ian Wroughton responded.

Lady President, Captain, Ladies Captain

Thanks Mike. Many of us here tonight will be aware of how much time and effort you have put into the Club over the past years.

I have no wish to elongate the meeting but would like to take this opportunity to remind us all of how far we have progressed over the past 20 years.

Change is inevitable; we can’t remain in the past. This does not sit easily with some of us, and include myself somewhat in this category. But we learn to live with it and ... do you know what .... we find that it’s not bad after all.

20 years ago we had Les Wake as our Secretary who ran the office and was instructed by both Management and all other committees as to which way to steer the Club.

We then saw the appointment of Bill Dunn with a position of Secretary/Manager with a much broader brief than that of Les Wake. Again ... a step forward.

We now have a General Manager in Karl whose main brief was to fill the membership, market the club and improve the course. A much wider role than that of his predecessor, Bill. As far as I am aware, we are well on the way to achieving all three of these targets. Having a General Manager has changed the committee concept. They are now seen as a liaison between members and the management reporting directly through Karl.

Mr Chairman, we have a successful Club – a good team from top to bottom and I include our greens staff under this umbrella. Led by Luke and guided by Karl they are on track to provide us with a course we can be proud of which may well become the envy of many of our contemporaries.

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From time to time, there will be debates and disagreements amongst all of us regarding management decisions and actions. This is healthy and indicates an interest in the Club's affairs. Communication, of course, is key to this in order that everyone is kept in the picture which may help stop the 'chinese whispers' that '3 elephants and a giraffe are to be housed on the practice ground along with 2 alligators in the 17<sup>th</sup> pond'.

Finally, let us not forget that those elected or offer their services to the Club in whatever capacity give of their time voluntarily and deserve a vote of thanks for doing so.

It is an honour to stand here as President. I follow in the footsteps of other long serving members some of whom are in the room tonight.

Mr Chairman – the good name of Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club must be upheld at all times and it is our joint responsibility as members to ensure that this happens.

### **109.10.02 Election of Club Captain**

Darren Bicknell

Proposed by S Bacon

Seconded by C Cooper

Elected unopposed.

Simon Bacon introduced Darren Bicknell.

Darren was born in 1967 in Guildford, Surrey and completed his education at Guildford County College of Technology. His life is very much centred around sport. He is a keen West Ham fan. Previously he has been a member of a golf club in Surrey before joining Radcliffe in 2001 and is currently holding a handicap of 5. He loves the outdoor life and owns two dogs. Dog walking duties are shared with his wife Claire. He is kept very busy keeping a watchful eye on his three children. His present occupation is Chief Executive of the Belvoir Countryside Trust. This is a charity based at Belvoir Castle providing outdoor nature activities for primary school children from disadvantaged and special needs backgrounds. He has been a member of the MCC since 2002. Darren played professional cricket with an impressive career spanning 20 years scoring just shy of 20,000 runs. He started with Surrey in 1987 and joined Notts in 2000 before retiring in 2006. Just some of his achievements are as follows:

- Surrey batsman of the year 4 times
- Scored over 1000 runs in 6 consecutive seasons
- First English cricketer to be in more than one 400+ stand
- Captain Notts in 2001 when he achieved the rare feat of 1000 championship runs and 1000 one day runs in a season
- Awarded Notts Player of the Year in 2001
- Represented England A in tours in 1989, 1990 and 1991

We have all got to know him well and this year we can vouch for his reasonable golfing prowess. First, he has proved himself to be the gentle giant in our Clubhouse with a super smooth microphone manner. Ladies and Gentlemen I give you the Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club Captain 2019, Mr Darren Bicknell.

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Darren Bicknell replied.

Mr President, Lady President, Chairman, Lady Captain and members of Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club.

I must be honest and say I was totally shocked to be asked to be Captain by Simon earlier this year. I wasn't expecting or looking for it but on reflection I was honoured to be asked and will be very proud to be the Captain of Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club.

I suspect like many who have been asked before, I was concerned as to whether I could do it justice. After all we know the history of being Captain suggest lots of hours and lots of cash and certainly, I have the utmost respect for those who have done the job before.

Since I was asked, Karl, Simon and Jackie have been brilliant and are at pains to encourage me try and change the perception of the role from one of foot soldier to one of being an ambassador for the club.

My year as Vice-Captain has given me the chance to reflect on my role for 2019 and reflect on what I want from my golf club and what we can do to help it move forward.

So, I thought what do I want from my golf club;

As you know I am a competitive chap, so I want good competitions to play in and good golfers to play with and against and we have plenty of that!

I want a great golf course – I feel that everything being done right now is geared to developing a great course (maybe not to everyone's taste and we do need to be mindful of that)

I want a place to relax and enjoy the company of friends – it is without doubt a welcoming environment!

I want to have the chance to attend fun events in a comfortable and relaxed environment – the recent New Year's Eve party shows that we 'can put on a show' and we should continue to offer a variety of events for our varied membership.

I want my golf at a reasonable affordable price – and compared to other courses we get that too!!

So, all in all it ticks the boxes for me.

It's fair to say I can't be here 24/7 as I work full time, but I will do my bit that is for sure. I have big shoes to fill from those who have gone before me.

My hope for 2019 starts with helping to continue to develop the ethos of our club, something that Jackie and Simon have done brilliantly. Namely to involve all sections of the club and make it a place where members can come and enjoy their time. For some it is being serious about their golf and for others a place to socialise and relax.



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We are going to start with the Drive in on Sunday when all parts of the club will be involved together, men's, ladies' seniors and juniors and I hope the weather is kind and it will be a day to remember.

As a club we face many challenges. It is well documented that many clubs face financial pressures as we do, but as you will have seen from this AGM the General Committee and the Club management are making great strides to ensure the future is bright.

We are now a busy club as our membership increases, but with that comes increased pressure on tee times especially Saturdays, but surely better than a few years ago when we were looking to financially in trouble.

It is vital that we continue to monitor this to ensure we can all play golf when we want to.

Karl, Dawn and Theresa in the office along with Phill and Craig are doing an amazing job and deserve our continued support and respect.

The Course is our jewel and I can't remember a time when it was better presented.

Personally, I am loving the new ideas especially having that 1st as a par 5, but I appreciate it's not everyone's perfect idea, but we can't deny the improvement in the course and there is more improvement to come which is why we are continuing to invest in it.

There are many wonderful people involved in the club on a voluntary basis too which is a hugely important part of the club and they should be congratulated and supported.

Modern life leads to different pressures on people so we're seeing more need to be connected by phone / email whilst at the club and while we understand that, we should be mindful of others and at all time respect that not all want to be full on and that others join a member's club to enjoy peace and quiet.

So, my hope is that we all respect others needs and rights and to allow them to get on and do what they do.

I would like to welcome Chris Asher as my vice-captain. He was also shocked to be asked, but after being plied with a few beverages we managed to persuade him to take the role on. I have no doubt he will be a brilliant asset to the club.

Can I also share a warm welcome to;

Seniors captain Steve Lawes - following your challenges in 2018 it is brilliant to have you on board.

Ladies Captain Gaye Docherty – I hope we can all ensure you enjoy your year too

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Junior captain Ben George - I just hope his handicap comes down quickly following the hammering we took from the Juniors earlier this year.

I hope you will 'all' have a great and enjoyable year.

My Charity for 2019 is to be my own Charity the Belvoir Cricket & Countryside Trust. The Trust is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year now and has just under 3000 children a year being engaged in sport and countryside education. I hope you will feel able to support me through this year and I have briefed all the bar staff to keep an eye on the Captain's bunker to ensure you pay up if you land it in there!

I am certainly looking forward to 2019 and hope I can carry on the great standards left by past captain's Simon and Jackie who have both done a remarkable job.

Enjoy the club, enjoy your golf, enjoy the social events and I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible during the year.

### 109.10.03 Election of Vice Captain

Chris Asher

Proposed by D Bicknell

Seconded by S Bacon

Elected unopposed.

Darren Bicknell introduced Chris Asher.

I thought long and hard about who I wanted to be Vice-Captain and for me it was important it was someone who embraced the fun side of the golf club, who would be a good ambassador for the Golf Club. I am absolutely delighted to introduce Chris this evening. Chris started his working career with Wimpey Homes and after 4 years in the trade joined Hamilton Knight Development Company Ltd in 1990 working along Dennis Knight the Managing Director. He became Director in 1995 and in 1999, when Dennis retired, he became Managing Director with overall responsibility for the running of the company. The business continues today based in offices in Cropwell Bishop. When he has time he enjoys watching Leicester Tigers play rugby at Watford Road, he has been a member of Bingham Badminton Club for over 30 years and held the position of Chairman for the last 20 of those resigning earlier this year. Of course, he also finds time for the odd round of golf here at Radcliffe Golf Club where he has been a member for over 20 years. 15 years ago he built himself a house in Bottesford where he still lives happily with his wife, teenage son and energetic dog. It is my great pleasure to welcome our new Vice Captain Chris Asher.

Chris Asher responded.

Good Evening. Mr President, Lady President, Captain, Lady Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen.

In August last year when Darren first asked me if I would like to be his Vice Captain my initial reaction was one of surprise and astonishment. It was then about 10 days before we met again to discuss this further during which time I was able to give it some serious thought and

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think of the implications of his request. Simon was party to the subsequent meeting which actually took place over roughly seven hours at Trent Bridge. This gave me further food for thought and confirmed to me what an honour this opportunity truly was and so I, of course, duly accepted. I look forward to being a part of exciting times ahead involving the course changes, seeing Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club continuing growth and develop and I am also looking forward to working with a fantastic team we already have in place. I will do my best to be a positive ambassador for the golf club and support Darren during his year as Captain. I am sure he and Gaye will do a great job this year. Thank you.

### **109.10.04 Election of Treasurer**

Martyn Wakeman

Elected unopposed.

### **109.10.05 Election of 1 without Portfolio**

Chris Cooper.

Elected unopposed.

### **109.10.06 Election of Support Committee Members**

M&H: G Cooke and N Pike  
Social: J Elliott

Elected unopposed.

### **109.11 Propositions**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 109.11.01 | Proposed change to Rule 7.1, 7.5 and 7.6 |
| 109.11.02 | Proposed change to Rule 7.2              |

A ballot on each proposal was undertaken and the results were announced to the members. Both proposals failed to be carried forward.

### **109.12 Appointment of Accountants**

The appointment of Atkinson Evans as accountants was proposed by Martyn Wakeman and seconded by Jon O'Brien. This was put to the vote and carried overwhelmingly.

### **109.13 Closing the Meeting**

Darren Bicknell thanked the Chairman, reminded everyone about the joint Captains' Drive in on Sunday and officially closed the meeting.