

Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Lincoln Golf Club Seniors held on Wednesday 17th November 2010 in the Clubhouse.

1. Forty-three members attended the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Peter Allen, Nick Cook, John Edlington, Dave Froggatt, Derek Johnson, Tim Kelsey, Stuart McPhail, Peter Mawer and Tony Young.

The Meeting began at 1:25 pm.

In the absence of the Skipper, the Acting Skipper Gordon Reedman proposed that the Chair be taken by Bob Tompkins. This was seconded by Peter Harrod, and unanimously agreed.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2009

The minutes of the last AGM held on Wednesday 18th November 2009 were adopted, following a proposal by David Lendon, and seconded by John Squire.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Alan Froggatt, presented the accounts and balance sheet for the year 2009-10. He reported that we had managed to reduce the cash balances during the year from £433 to £266. This was the result of a conscious decision to subsidise the away day, and to introduce additional prize money on the Qualifying Competitions.

He informed the meeting that our main source of income was from our competition entry fees. He also reported that £319 was raised for the Club by imposing a £1 levy on all competitions. At this stage it was not known whether or not this practice would continue.

Most of the items of expenditure were similar to those in previous years, and recorded on the attached balance sheet. He congratulated Gordon Reedman on his successful organisation of the away day, and thanked him for donating all the prizes, thus reducing the overall costs to the Senior Section. He provoked an outburst of laughter by pointing out that the engraving costs would be considerably reduced if John May were to win all the competitions, as the present engraver charged by the letter!

He concluded his report by informing members that, after ten years in the role, he would be relinquishing the position at the 2011 AGM, and invited any member who was interested in taking on the responsibility to approach him during the year.

It was proposed by Wally Holt and seconded by Dave Hutchison that the report be adopted, and this was agreed unanimously.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Peter Harrod, began his report by paying a personal tribute to the Skipper Mike Wood, who had been a source of support and inspiration as friend and mentor during his three years as Secretary. His untimely death had caused considerably sadness for the Section. He also thought it was an opportune moment to mention other Seniors and family members who were not in the best of health. The meeting joined him in wishing them all well.

He went on to thank Gordon for the exemplary manner in which he had assumed responsibility as Acting Skipper under difficult circumstances. He also thanked the rest of the Committee for their friendship and support, and acknowledged their tireless work to ensure the smooth running of the section.

He went on to pay a special tribute to John May, whose outstanding website must be among the best golf websites in the UK.

Special thanks were also due to Rod Dudley who was retiring from his responsibilities for having the trophies engraved after ten years of sterling service. We were also fortunate that Hugh Nicholson had taken on the role, and had organised this year's engraving of the trophies at short notice.

Turning to the fixtures, he reported that this year's fixtures had gone according to plan, and that the provisional list for 2011 had now been published. He alerted members to the late change by Waltham Windmill, whose tee-off time is now 8:45, and not 8:30.

He then informed the meeting that several new members had joined the Seniors during the year, and that the membership now stood at 68. In the perspective of the history of the club, however, this is not exceptional as there were 93 members in 1993.

One of the achievements of the year was to gain approval from the Club's General Committee for a change of title from Seniors' Skipper to Seniors' Captain. He thanked the general Committee for their support, which puts us in line with the nine clubs with whom we have fixtures, and a further fifty or so Senior Sections in the East Midlands. Thanks were also due to Ian Extnace and John Squire for representing the section at the relevant Club meetings.

He concluded by updating the meeting on future MND fund-raising activities, and reported that the Club had agreed to allow the Seniors to organise raffles dedicated to MND at the four Senior Open competitions during 2011, and to organise an additional dedicated MND Charity Day in 2010.

5. Acting Skipper's Report

Gordon Reedman opened his report by referring to the sadness of losing our Skipper, and wished to place on record his valuable contributions to the running of the section over many years. Mike had been Secretary for seven

years, and was a great ambassador for the Club. However he felt that it was now time to move on. He thanked the Committee for their help and support, and also those past skippers who had assumed the role of Skipper for the day on several occasions during the season. He also reiterated previous votes of thanks to Rod Dudley and Hugh Nicholson, and echoed the Secretary's eulogising about John May's website.

He reserved special mention for our 'Gentlemen Seniors', Geoff Watson, Ron White, Peter Chapman, Rob Walkinton and Lawrie Lowthorpe, who continue to turn out as 'rear-gunners' (secretarial licence!) on a regular basis, and who are still able to join in with many of our competitions. They present excellent role-models to the 'younger' members!

In summarising the season's results, he reported that forty-eight members had represented the seniors in twenty-four matches, of which eleven were won, eleven lost and two halved. Our lowest point was in losing 9-1 at Radcliffe, but redeemed by the conclusive win at Elsham, and by the first ever recorded win at Woodhall Spa.

One of the main themes of Gordon's address was the need for integration within the Club, and he felt that the matches against the Gents and the Ladies, and the game played with the Juniors, were examples of the growing spirit within the Club and its different sections. He believed that membership of the main Club Committees also added to the fostering of better relationships. He reported that ten members had played in the Club's Exchange Days, and that many others played regularly in the Club competitions.

He concluded by expressing his feeling that it had been a successful year, and that we should look forward to the next season with renewed optimism.

It was then proposed by Geoff Carman, seconded by Geoff Watson, and unanimously agreed that the sum of £150 be given to the Greens Staff in recognition of their hard work and support to the Senior Section.

6. Election of Officers

The following officers were proposed by Ian Extance, seconded by Rod Dudley, and duly elected by a show of hands:

Captain:	Gordon Reedman
Vice-Captain:	Chris Pickering
Treasurer:	Alan Froggatt
Committee Liaison/ Eclectic Secretary:	Bob Tompkins
Secretary:	Peter Harrod

Bob Tompkins then welcomed the newly elected Captain, Gordon Reedman, and celebrated the fact that he was the first to hold the title of Senior Captain at Lincoln Golf Club. Gordon responded by telling the meeting that it was a great privilege to take on the role, and to inherit the tradition of past skippers. He reiterated his thanks to the Committee for their continuing support and hard work, and set out his agenda for the coming year, which would focus on the elimination of slow play. He urged members to look to their own performance in helping to speed up play, in preference to criticising others.

As far as team selection was concerned, his aspiration was to be as fair as possible, and to ensure that members were selected for one half to two-thirds of their availabilities.

He was looking forward to the challenge, and knew that he would be ably supported by his Vice-Captain, Chris Pickering, and the Committee.

7. Any Other Business

Item (a)

Following discussion, a proposal by Bill Crone that the names of the two 'unsuccessful' candidates for Vice-Captain be carried forward to the following year was deemed to be unworkable, and defeated by a large majority.

Item (b)

A proposal by Peter Harrod that the new Spring Qualifying Competition be named The Mike Wood Trophy was seconded by Bob Tompkins, and unanimously endorsed.

Item (c)

Cameron Prichard delivered some amusing and provocative thoughts about the 'half-way house', and suggested that it was time to re-assess its function and scope after four years of unhealthy tea-boy competition! In pointing out that we are unique among our competitors in providing such lavish fare, he hinted that it was high time to revert to the former practice of providing a hot drink and biscuits. After some discussion, it was the mood of the meeting to leave it to the Committee to make a decision prior to the start of the 2011 season, although the prevailing feeling seemed to be in favour of carrying on the tradition, but at a reduced level.

Item (d)

Nick Cook, who was on holiday and unable to attend the meeting, had invited Geoff Maslin to raise the issue of the Equality Act and its effect on the Seniors at LGC. Bob Tompkins pointed out that, in his view, this had nothing to do

with the Senior Section, but was a matter for the Club as a whole, and this appeared to reflect the feeling of members present. John Squire pointed out that the Club already meets all the requirements of the Equality Act, but that a meeting is shortly to be arranged to inform each section of the main implications for golf clubs. The Seniors will be represented at this meeting by the Secretary, who will then report back to the Seniors. Any further questions should be raised at the Club's AGM in the Spring.

Item (e)

Wally Holt described an incident on the first tee in a Seniors' Competition in which the etiquette of signing up in threes on arrival was not apparently followed. He told members that he was embarrassed about being left on the tee without partners, as a three-ball broke with tradition and played as a pre-arranged group in front of him. In pointing out that there were some mitigating circumstances, Bob Tompkins expressed the hope that this would be an isolated incident, and that members would continue to respect all the traditions and etiquette of the Section.

Item (f)

Ian Exance proposed that the clause '...and who is no longer in full-time employment' be deleted from Item 10 of our Procedures and Conventions. He pointed out that it was in contravention of the Equality Act, and that many members of LGC who were not Seniors felt that such a restriction was inappropriate. The proposal was accepted unanimously in the spirit of continued co-operation with the rest of the Club.

Item (g)

The issue of the start time of the Winter League was discussed, with views on either side being expressed in a measured and constructive manner. It was pointed out that this is a perennial issue, and that a recommendation was made at the last AGM to resolve the matter once and for all. However the rise in numbers participating could not have been anticipated, and it was recognised, with some reluctance, that an 8:15 draw could lead to problems with the Winter Package, and irritation to other members of the Club wishing to play at around 9:00 am. It was finally proposed by Wally Holt and seconded by Lawrie Lowthorpe that we change the draw time to 8:00 am. Twenty-two members voted in favour of the change, with four against, and several abstentions.

Item (h)

Bill Crone proposed that consideration be given to awarding an Honorarium to the Senior Captains in view of the expense incurred during their two years in office, which could amount to more than £200. Following discussion of the merits of the proposal, and ways and means of raising money, a proposal from Geoff Arrand that a sum of £100 be allocated was defeated by 18 votes to 13, with a number of abstentions. The main thrust of the argument seemed

to be that it was an 'honour' to be elected Captain, and that the incumbents should bear the costs of the appointment.

A proposal was then put by John May that the Secretary's Honorarium be increased from £25 to £50. He pointed out that the sum had not been increased since 2001, and that expenses had increased considerably over the years. This was carried unanimously.

Item (i)

A request by Peter Harrod to be given authority to amend the Procedures and Conventions in the light of changes made from decisions taken at this meeting was given approval by the meeting.

Item (j)

Dave Hutchison noted that the trophies for the Ladies' and Juniors' competitions were presented on the Club's Trophy Night, and wondered whether we should consider asking the Club if we might follow suit. He suggested that it might serve to facilitate further integration of the Seniors into the Club as a whole. It was agreed that this should be discussed during the year, and presented as an Item at next year's AGM.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2:45 pm.

Peter Harrod
Secretary
17.11.10