



Greenacres Golf AGM Minutes

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Greenacres Golf Club held their Annual General Meeting in the Members Room on the 26th February 2020 at 7pm.

Attending (22)

Mr Captain (Aaron Hynds), Mr President (Bobby McWilliams), Rab Blundell, Mark Magee, Keith Hanna, Alister McKeever, John Wright, George Baird, Brian Robinson, Stephen Cullen, Roger Baird, Paul Trimble, Nigel Wilson, Darren Wilson, Gary Spratt, Barry Baxter, Lou Watson, Paul Gaskill, Wallace Crawford, Mervyn Weir, Peter Blain, Harry Simpson.

Apologies

Simon Hopper and Davy Lynn.

Chairman's Remarks (Aaron Hynds)

Gentlemen welcome to the 2020 Greenacres Golf Club AGM, thank you for your attendance this evening. It has been an Honour and Privilege to represent you all as Captain. I would like to congratulate Stephen and Colin Crawford and their hard-working staff especially the green keepers for their sterling efforts throughout the year, your hard work is very evident and greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank the Council and Team Captains for giving up their time and working extremely hard in supporting me over the past 12 months. Arthur McEvevey (Holt Shield) & Alister McKeever (Junior Fred Daly) deserve a special mention and lastly I wish Mark Magee, Wallace Crawford and Keaton Morrison every success in representing Greenacres Golf Club.

Liaison

Colin Crawford & John Ross attended and announced that Stephen would be taking a back seat in the running of the Golf Centre in the coming years. Colin thanked the Captain, Council and membership for their support over the past year and congratulated both the Holt Shield and Junior Fred Daly teams for. Both Colin and John spoke about the great feedback they continue to receive about the course from both members and visitors and in particular the GUI after successfully hosting the Irish U14 Open. Colin went over the work that had been carried out in the past year and that rainfall had prevented a lot of other work like the 14th tee box and paths being carried out, there has been lying water in places that has never been there before. Some drainage work to be carried out, all trees have been branched and hopefully a lot of work will be carried out in the next few weeks including scarifying. Colin addressed the issue of the overlying grass cuttings, they like a lot of other clubs had been caught out with the growth spurt. They then opened the floor for questions...

Aaron Hynds asked about the stones in bunkers - John answered that the stones get left on the surface after flooding compacts the sand, he also spoke about the frustrations the green staff felt with the flooding. Several questions followed from George Baird and Gary Spratt regarding grass cuttings, the leveling of 14th tee box and the trolley cleaning bay - Colin said they would do their best to deal with the grass cuttings and look at the 14th tee box and the trolley bay in the future. Colin also stated that a new LED lighting system had been installed in the driving range and 3 machines purchased to help the greenstaff.

Minutes of Last Meeting (Rab Blundell)

Minutes have been displayed on the notice for the past 4 weeks...

Proposed by Wallace Crawford and seconded by Stephen Cullen - Passed

Matters arising from Minutes.

Nothing arising.

Hon. Secretary's Report (Rab Blundell)

Mr Captain, Mr President, fellow Members.

As Honorary Secretary of the golf club I would like to start by congratulating Aaron Hynds on a very successful year as our Club Captain and thank him for all his hard work throughout the year.

Congratulations also to Bobby McWilliams for successfully fulfilling his 2year tenure as President and I wish him every success for the future.

My thanks to our Team Captains and Council members who gave up a lot of their free time over the last 12 months to both maintain and continually try to improve Greenacres as a golf club. Also thanks to Gary Spratt and long serving council member Davy Lynn both of whom are standing down from Council this year. I wish you both every success for the future.

As I report every year the most important aspect of any golf club is its members and we are no different in that we require the support of all our members both existing and new whether it be attending competitions, team matches or functions.

I would like to welcome Club Captain Mark Magee, President Wallace Crawford, Junior Captain Keaton Morrison and all incoming Team Captains and wish them the very best of luck and hope that they enjoy and embrace all the challenges that lie ahead.

Finally, to wish all members a very successful and enjoyable year ahead.

Proposed by Bobby McWilliams and Seconded by Harry Simpson - Passed.

Honorary Treasurer's Report (Simon Hopper)

Mr Captain, Mr President, fellow Members.

The accounts show an overall excess of expenditure over income of £6409 down from £8630 in the previous year. With total income rising to £66,551 and total expenditure of £72,960. This is partly explained by the introduction of a fee for the over 60 category last year which saw an uplift in competition fees and a corresponding uplift in prizes distributed. The very sad passing of our former junior captain Niall Lyttle saw a club spirit rally to raise over £5000 for charity back in March. Otherwise, costs remained steady and where saving could be identified dropped slightly. We continue to monitor costs closely. We do however still have a shortfall from money generated against money spent on behalf of members, this added to the fact we have limited resources from which to generate income outside of the membership means increases in playing fees are set to continue over the next few years. We would encourage members to attend and support social functions as whilst these are treated as a non-profit exercise, we do not wish to overly subsidise events either. As a committee we are mindful of the need to encourage members to play in competitions, join teams, promote and sponsor the club, whilst setting competition fees as to not discourage participation. This is not an easy act to balance. We are always open to new and innovative ideas to raise funds beyond the membership and would encourage any member to bring ideas to the committee. 3 years ago, the committee took the decision to freeze subs at £40 and absorb increased costs on behalf of the membership, effectively running down our reserves. Most will agree that this has been a beneficial exercise on behalf of the membership, maintained subscription levels and the minor improvements we have been able to influence around the course have been welcomed.

The use of technology continues to drive golf administration and the requirements now being placed upon the club under the new World Handicapping System (WHS) the council have been forced to not only review the use of reserves to supplement costs but plan for increased expenditure over the next few years. The benefit of this to members should be felt in the technological advancements being put in place over the next few seasons.

Last year we passed a motion to increase subs to £45 if deemed appropriate and in light of the above we now intend to action this for the incoming season. We would be proposing an increase to £50 next year.

Proposed by Stephen Cullen and seconded by Barry Baxter.

Sub-Committee Reports

General Purpose and Disciplinary (Rab Blundell)

Honorary Secretary commented that some minor matters were brought to the attention of council and were resolved during the year.

Match and Handicap (Keith Hanna)

Mr Captain, President and members we continue to be the club in the surrounding area with the most competitive golf on offer. As mentioned in my report last year the Sunday, Midweek and 60 Plus continue to be well supported throughout the year, although this year we had to cancel the Tuesday and Thursday nine-hole competitions due to lack of support.

Saturday remains our main competition day and we continue to have 130 members regularly compete for the trophies on offer through-out the season including the newly formed GUI Gold Medals Competitions. This was played alongside our Members Day competition and the three qualifiers Stephen Halliday, Jim Bennett and Robert Creighton represented the club in the regional final at Rockmount on Tuesday 27th August at which Jim secured his place in the All Ireland Final which was held at the K Club in early October. The winners of our two major competitions were Ronnie Kelly who won Captains Day and Paul Sturgeon who won Presidents Day. Our other main trophy the Golfer of Year which based on Order of Merit earned throughout the year was won by Jonathan Hall for a second year in a row.

For our Sunday golfers we continued to play a monthly stroke competition based on the format Davidson Cup and again offered them the opportunity to play in the Campbell McCleave by extending the entry over both days.

Inter Club Competitions (Keith Hanna)

With an increase in lower handicap golfers within the Club we entered teams into the Senior Cup and Barton Shield for the first time in 2019. Unfortunately, our Senior Cup team struggled and did not qualify along with our Junior Cup, Jimmy Bruen and Pierce Purcell teams. The Barton Shield fared better but narrowly missed out in progressing to the main draw by one hole.

In the knockout competitions Belfast & District Cup were beaten in the second round by Fortwillam but we showed signs of progression in the other competitions. In which the Ulster Cup team were beaten by eventual winners Mourne in the third round and the All Ireland Fourball team also lost in the third round to Co Cavan. Our team in the new formed GUI Fred Perry Trophy got beaten by Dunmurray in the quarter finals after wins over Royal Belfast and Moyobridge but they were not the most successful team. It was the Juniors who upstaged their peers in the GUI competitions with wins over Tandragee, Co Armagh, Carrickfergus and Mourne to reach the Semi Finals where they were beaten 3 ½ - 1 ½ by a very strong Slieve Russell team.

In the East Antrim League, we couldn't replicate our success from the previous year, failing to reach the knockout stages of the league and although two of our team members picked up individual prizes could not defend our Scratch Cup win.

In the Holt Shield for the second year running we qualified for the knockout rounds after topping the group containing Cairndhu, Clandeboye and Edenmore. Then built on last year's success by beating Balmoral and Malone before losing out to eventual winners Ballymena in the Semi Finals.

At this stage I must congratulate Arthur McElvey and Alister McKeever on reaching the semi-finals and thank them for all the hard work they put into getting the teams to that stage in the competition. The same goes to all team captains and members who give their time and effort to represent the club in these competitions.

Looking Forward

As we approach the start of our qualifying competitions, I would ask you and your playing partners:

- To make sure you are aware of the changes to our Local Rules for 2020, a copy of which is displayed on the notice board and has been posted on the website.
- Read the information sheets displayed as a reminder of changes to the rules introduced at the start of last year.
- Seek clarification on all disputed rules issues from myself, rather than proceeding what could be wrongful advice which could lead to disqualification from a competition.
- Attend the upcoming workshop for members on the Worldwide Handicap Scheme.
- to pass on the message that we want all members to return all away scores not entered onto the host club's computer. Especially if you better the Standard Scratch for the course.

Conclusion

To finish my report, I would like to remind members to read the notice boards not only over the coming months as the new season starts but through-out the year as they will be a valuable source of information about what is happening within the club, the competitions being played and the Worldwide Handicap Scheme being introduced in October 2020.

Then finally I would like to congratulate the outgoing Captain Aaron on his year and wish this year's Captain, President, Team Captains and Members every success in the 2020 golfing season.

Social and Charity (Mark Magee)

I would like to thank the Council and everyone who participated and helped with the following:

6th April 2019 - 2018 Prize Giving & Winter League Buffet

Barnaby's provided a cold finger buffet with 60+ Members attending. Keith again compared and we collected £310 on the night for the Captains Charity.

28th July 2019 - Pre-Captains Day Par 3 & Putting Competition & BBQ

We had excellent weather with Gillian & Keith Hanna providing the BBQ & refreshments.

29th July 2019 - Aaron Hynds Captains Day

We were very fortunate with the weather, my thanks to the Captains wife Heather and Angela Lyttle for manning the 10th tee refreshments. Thanks also to Gillian & Keith & family for providing refreshments throughout the day with the All Day Breakfast Baps going down a treat.

We headed to Barnaby's who provided a lovely meal in the evening for the Captains Dinners with entertainment from the brilliant 'Zolene & the Als Band'. Over 100 attended. We collected £658 on the night for the Captains Charity.

31st August 2019 - Bobby McWilliams Presidents Day

Thanks again to Gillian & Keith for providing the BBQ and distributing refreshments throughout day. The day passed with great success.

Election of Officers and Members of Council for 2020/2021

Rule 5 states all Officers and members of the Committee shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting. The Captain of the Men's Club shall retire after one year's service and shall be succeeded by the Vice Captain, provided always that the members at Annual General Meeting may vote that the outgoing Captain should serve in that capacity for a longer period. In such event, the tenure of office of the Vice Captain shall be extended for a similar period. Council Office Bearers and Council Members shall hold office for two years, and one half of such members shall retire at each Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election.

Our President (**Bobby McWilliams**) was invited to take the chair for the election of Captain, Office Bearers and members to serve on the council.

In accordance with Rule 5, I declare the offices and positions within the council as vacant.

To fulfil the above rules the following will offer themselves for re-election

	Proposed By	Seconded By
Mark Magee	Aaron Hynds	George Baird
Keith Hanna	Rab Blundell	Alister McKeever
John Wright	Simon Hopper	Aaron Hynds

The following will stand down from Office

David Lynn
Gary Spratt

Election of Club Captain

As per the Club Constitution I would ask Mark Magee as Vice-Captain to take up the roll of Club Captain for the 2020/2021 season and would ask outgoing Captain Aaron Hynds to present Mark with his Jacket.

Congratulations Mark and thank you Aaron.

The Honorary Secretary received the following nominations:

	Proposed By	Seconded By
Stephen Cullen	Simon Hopper	John Wright
Brian Robinson	Keith Hanna	Alister McKeever

As there were five vacancies with three standing for re-election and two new nominations all proposed have been duly elected to your Council for the 2020/2021 season.

Election of Office Bearers

The council has proposed the following members to serve as Office Bearers for the 2020 to 2021 season.

Vice-Captain	Simon Hopper
Honorary Secretary	Robert Blundell
Honorary Treasurer	Simon Hopper
Match & Handicap Secretary	Keith Hanna

As there were no further nominations received, I declare these positions elected as proposed.
Congratulations to all elected...

Incoming Captain's Remarks.

It is an Honour and Privilege to represent Greenacres as Captain. I would like to thank Aaron Hynds for all that he has done as Captain and would like to thank Simon Hopper for standing as my Vice Captain. I look forward to whatever challenges are ahead and would like to wish all members a successful golfing year.

Annual Levy Proposal (Club Captain on behalf of Council)

As per the Honorary Treasurers earlier comments the 2020/21 Membership Levy will increase by £5 (£45 Adult, £25 Student, £20 Junior).

Proposed by John Wright, seconded by Wallace Crawford

Any other business

No other business was submitted, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Rab Blundell
Honorary Secretary.