



Melrose Golf Club

Annual General Meeting 2020

Minutes

Note:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting was held as a Zoom video conference call with all reports, 2019 AGM minutes, nomination for Treasurer and List of Office bearers, sent out by email to all members before the meeting.

1. **Present :**

Committee: Andrew Stirling, Douglas Pollock, Mark Gillie, Gary Craig, Steve Ervine, Grant Hogg, Janice Whiteford, Janet Brown.

Members: Gordon Swan, Janet Shirra-Gibb, Iain Houston, Sheila Hogg, Ian Ramsay, Jill Murray, Gordon Pollock, Keith Grieve, Gordon Chisholm.

2. **Apologies:** Andrew Bell, Jamie Macpherson, Les Wallace, Linda Wallace.

3. **Minutes of the AGM held on 4 December 2019 :** Approved

4. **Captain's Report :** Andrew Stirling reported on his year of Captaincy (See attached).

As his report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, he highlighted various points in a year which was severely restricted in terms of competitions and other events, with no club championships taking place due to COVID-19 restrictions. He commented that he was grateful that his Captain's Day and the annual Captain v Past Captains match were able to be played, albeit later than planned and with prize giving's safely held outdoors. He thanked various Committee members for their hard work over the year and in particular Douglas Pollock, who after more than 20 years is stepping down as Treasurer at this AGM.

He then announced that Janice Whiteford would succeed him as the Club's first female Club Captain in 2021 and asked members for their full support next year.

5. **Treasurer's Report :** Douglas Pollock commented on the accounts presented (See attached).

Douglas commented on various aspects of the accounts including the following:

INCOME :

Overall Income up by £10,122 mainly due to Government Covid-19 grant of £10,000, a William Hill Grant of £2,500 (£1,400 spent on clubhouse improvements with £1,100 carried forward to next year).

Subscriptions up by £2,990 on 2019 due to more members joining due to Covid-19 restrictions on other activities.

Visitor Green Fees were good given the restrictions.

A hardship grant of £1,440 was received from Scottish Borders Council which will show in next year's accounts along with a similar grant from Scottish Golf of £300 for Covid-19 related infection control measure costs



EXPENDITURE :

The increase in staff costs mainly due to including costs for relaying the 2nd green with machinery costs due to sharpening and repair costs.

He also commented that waste costs would probably increase next year as he has been emptying bins personally.

Subscription costs also reduced due to Scottish Golf giving clubs a 25% discount and BGA cancelling their affiliation fees for 2020.

Douglas finished with the following statement;

I would like to finish off by saying that after 21 years as Treasurer I am reluctantly stepping down albeit not through choice. It appears that certain members of the committee and club want me out and have been maliciously plotting my demise for some time now. I only became aware of this following a phone call from the Secretary on the evening of 23rd November. I was therefore left with no other option but to tender my resignation. I cared passionately for MGC which has been evident given my years of dedication and hard work on and off the course, many hours voluntarily especially the practice area which I have strived to produce – I do hope this will come to be reality for the juniors of the club. No explanation has been given by committee as to what I have done to deserve such cowardly and underhand treatment, I am deeply hurt and saddened by such behaviour.

As a Past Captain, I think I deserve better.

I wish the new treasurer all the best in this challenging role.

Andrew Stirling, Janet Brown, Janice Whiteford, Mark Gillie and Steve Ervine then all commented and thanked Douglas for his fantastic contribution to the club over many years, not only for his work as Treasurer but for all the other jobs he did on the course and in the clubhouse.

Jill Murray announced that she would be stepping down as Assistant Treasurer and she and Douglas requested an explanation from the Committee into the circumstances of the nomination for a new Treasurer in the lead-up to this meeting. Andrew Stirling and Steve Ervine committed to providing this explanation in due course.

6. **Membership Secretary's Report :** Mark Gillie commented on his report to the meeting (See attached). He said that a total of 39 members across all categories had left the club but had 67 new members joining. This gave an overall income of £42,783, an increase of £2,990 on 2019. He also mentioned the new Scottish Golf Venue Management System which would be in place for administrative functions including Memberships, the new World Handicap System, visitor bookings, competition entries, etc.
7. **Green Convener's Report :** Gary Craig commented on the Green Convener's report to the meeting (See attached). He stated that the relaying of the 2nd green had gone well with Greenkeeper Sandy, Douglas Pollock, Grant Hogg, Mark Gillie and himself carrying out the work and the new putting surface holding up well despite recent rain and hoped it would be in play in spring 2021. The new practice area next to the 6th hole had also progresses well with a



large amount of grass seed being source by Grant Hogg for only £200. Turf from the 2nd green had been relayed as a putting green at the practice area by Douglas Pollock. He finished by thanking Sandy for his hard work on the course along with the others mentioned above.

8. **Election of Office Bearers** : The following Office Bearers were elected unopposed; Captain – Janice Whiteford; Vice-Captain – tbc; Secretary – Steve Ervine; Treasurer – Gordon Swan; Competition Secretary – Andrew Bell; Green Convener – Gary Craig; House Convener – Keith Gordon; Membership Secretary – Mark Gillie; Past Captain – Andrew Stirling.

Ladies representatives to the General Committee; Lady Captain – tbc;
Lady Vice-Captain – tbc; Lady Secretary – tbc.

9. **Proposals from the General Committee** :

There were no proposal put forward by the Committee.

10. **Any Other Business** :

Gordon Pollock said that he congratulated Janice Whiteford on her Captaincy along with Keith Gordon and Gordon Swan on their new posts and wished them well but was not happy in the way that his brother, the outgoing Treasurer, had been treated in the nomination process.

11. **Appointment of Captain for 2021** :

Outgoing Captain Andrew Stirling carried out a virtual hand over the Captain's pullover to Janice Whiteford and wished her the very best for her Captaincy next year.

Janice then said it would be an honour to be the first lady Club Captain in 2021 and hoped that next year would be back to normal following such a strange year in 2020.

The committee presented a vote of thanks for Andrew's efforts during his difficult and curtailed year as Captain in 2020.

MEETING CLOSED

Steve Ervine

Melrose Golf Club Secretary