

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PRINCES RISBOROUGH GOLF CLUB HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON 1st NOVEMBER 2022

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm by Al Bowyer, who welcomed all members to the AGM.

1. **Minutes of the last AGM held on 2nd November 2021**

a. **Matters arising**

Addition to Election of Officers:

Brian Fowler – Members Secretary

b. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes were accepted and approved.

2. **Mens Captain's Report**

Last year Al Bowyer gave a short speech of his intentions for the year and he said he would be reviewing them later. Firstly, he wanted to say how great it was to work with such a fantastic Committee who have worked tirelessly for the Club. Special thanks to Steve Sargeant for his advice and support during the year.

Al then thanked the greenkeepers who had maintained the course in good playable condition during some very trying weather conditions. Also thank you to Sarah, Julie and the front of house team for their support during the year.

Al then reported that several long-serving Committee members were standing down this year and on all the members behalf he made a small presentation to each of them.

Firstly, Barry Woledge , who as Competitions Secretary has more or less revolutionised the way competitions have been managed and run.

Secondly, Neil Martin, whose work as Handicap Secretary has not only been time consuming but also complicated, particularly the new WHS, which has been a massive learning curve for all of us.

Finally, Doug Taylor, who for a number of years has been Seniors Captain and has worked hard to maintain Seniors matches and Tuesday mornings golf.

Of course they will all be sorely missed but, knowing them, they will be available for advice and support.

Al reported that due to personal health and family issues, he did not get going into the role of Captain until the Spring. His main target was “inclusiveness” and in this he felt he had been partially successful. Successes had been the new Mixed Pairs Eclectic and his Captain's Day. Attempts, together with Craig, Sue Pomeroy and Bruce, to get Juniors going simply did not work out.

However, his chosen charity of MS Society has raised over £2000 and he thanked all members for their incredible support.

Al remarked that he had very much enjoyed the friendship and social interaction within the club and sincerely hoped that the members were satisfied with his year.

3. **Ladies Section Report**

Sue Pomeroy reported on behalf of the Ladies Section, which had been a good year with a full range of medals, stablefords and informal competitions played. The ladies had joined in with various mixed events and all Club competitions had been completed. A 3-day break at Puckrup Hall in Tewkesbury had been enjoyed by all and many thanks to Chris Hallett and Anne Ward for all their hard work in organizing the visit. Our Charity Day and Ladies Day were well supported. Our Presentation Evening had to be postponed due to the small number of members able to attend.

A raffle was organized recently in aid of our charity, Wycombe Hospital Stroke Unit, and thanks to all who supported it. A total sum of £2150 has been raised and will be presented to the Stroke Unit as soon as possible.

Finally, a big thank you to the Ladies Committee for all their hard work and all the ladies for their support during the year.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Steve Williams was pleased to report that finances remained in a satisfactory condition and the profit and loss account and balance sheet were presented to the meeting. The figures showed a small deficit of £48 but they included trophy costs for 2 years and are comparable to previous years. Trophy costs are now included in the year that the competition is played. The income and expenses are in line with previous years but detailed comparisons are difficult as previous years included 2 years and the Covid period.

We aim to cover our inter-club activities from the fees charged to those who take part and all other costs are met from competition fees, which is the only source of income. Fortunately, due to the hard work of those who organize competitions and those who play, our income has been sufficient. However, it is essential that members continue to participate in competitions if our current level of activity is to remain viable.

Thanks must be given to our competition and match organisers, who have done a sterling job in organizing and handling the finances of these events. Many thanks also to the others who handle monies in the club – Beryl Austin and Jill Peppett for the ladies, Al Bowyer for the Seniors and also Barry Woledge and Neil Martin who have handled the finances of many of the competitions.

5. **Competition Secretary's Report**

Barry Woledge started his report by saying 2021-22 had been a more normal year but it was worth noting some of the system changes which are now in place.

- The World Handicapping System: Without a Club Secretary it fell to volunteers to sort out. We still have some members who need to get their head around the system, but we will get there in the end.
- Handicap Committee: Barry reported he had chaired this committee, comprising Steve Williams, Jill Peppett, Neil Martin and himself
- Communications to all members: Monthly update had been published each month since the start of the pandemic in Spring 2019.

- Tee time booking: Sarah to know in advance who is booked, who is on the course and, vitally, emergency contact details.
- E card holders: Innovative way to manage green fees and bring them closer to the club.
- Protocol and etiquette: The Captain's brilliant reminder of dos and don'ts on the course.
- How did I do: The PSI terminal and data input protocols which makes life easier for managing events and, of course, handicaps.

Barry reported that due to a bad knee injury he had played very little golf and had only observed from the sidelines. When possible we ran all our monthly competitions. Participation is pretty steady but there are still sections of the club who choose not to play. These members do not have a WHS handicap and therefore cannot qualify for any competitions until they start to submit cards. The tweaking of the Seniors monthly summer medal and winter stableford to provide for a yellow and white tee in the same event proved very successful and we will be using this formula in the coming year.

All board competitions have been completed with the exception of the Scratch Singles and Senior singles. The one event left is the All-Medal Champion of Champions which is due to be played later this month.

With WHS now well established, to play in competitions members must have a WHS handicap with the required 20 rounds registered with England Golf. They must also have submitted 6 qualifying "competitions" cards in the previous 12 months – that is played 6 PRGC medal or stableford qualifiers or board competitions.

In view of the competition chaos last winter a number of changes have been made to the schedule for next year.

- There will be no Club medal played in the winter months, but there will be a monthly Club stableford played one day only, with an alternate day planned in the event of bad weather.
- The monthly Seniors stableford played on one Tuesday and will be flexed in the event of bad weather.
- All Club Board competitions will be played on Saturday only with the exception of the California Cup (Sunday) and Barcion Cup (Saturday and Sunday).
- The Friday Mixed Stableford to be an adopted Club event on the calendar.

Barry said that was now the end of his six-year "temporary" position as Competitions Secretary.

6. **Handicap Secretary's Report**

Neil Martin reported that WHS has now come in and hopefully everyone is fully conversant with the processes. He believes that WHS is a good concept but it still has a few issues, of which England Golf are fully aware. Members should be encouraged to enter more cards through Competitions, rather than General Play. He believes 9-hole cards provide a misleading handicap and where possible would urge members to enter 18-hole cards rather than 9-hole.

Overall, he believes WHS has given PRGC a better Travelling handicap, as can be seen by our success these past 2 years.

We have a good number of new members who only enter 3 cards to obtain a handicap, which can cause issues with regard to Club competitions. We need to encourage these members to enter more cards.

Card completion is still an ongoing issue. Official rules and regulations need to be looked at. Markers must realise that they are not just there to write down hole score provided by player. They are on-course referees and as such should not just take an acceptance attitude.

Neil then reiterated that after 20 years he is now stepping down as Handicap Secretary to give someone else all the fun involved! Many thanks for the years and his best wishes to the incoming Secretary.

7. **Senior Captain's Report**

Doug Taylor reported that he had been Seniors Captain on and off since 2015 but would like to report on 2022. He wished to thank all the members who had taken part in the matches. It had proved difficult at times to get 12 players to make up a team and it has been suggested that next year teams of 10 players be required for matches. Doug then listed some of the functions that used to be run by the Toffs but are no longer part of the calendar. Doug wished Dick Pooley every success next year.

8. **Members Secretary Report**

Brian Fowler explained to the meeting how the position of Members Secretary came into being and that it was a three-year tenure. The Members Secretary is to give information to any new member and also if any member wishes to speak to the committee then they should first go to the Members Secretary. There have been 16 new members this year and each have gone through an induction process and we are now becoming known as a very inclusive club.

9. **Course Update**

Mark Tubb then addressed the meeting and brought the members up to date on the work being carried out on the course. He explained the reason why more than one project was being carried out at the same time, without either being finished. This could be a variety of reasons. If it was necessary to buy materials for more than one project in bulk, sometimes not all the projects were ready and at others it was a question of finance. He explained the reason why restrictions are put in place is in order to protect the course. We are awaiting decisions from England Golf and BB&O and it is likely that our slope rating will go up. We hope this will be finalized this winter. Mark then asked that if members bring stuff to the course, please take it home with them!

Mark said he is looking for an apprentice to employ as a second-level greenkeeper to work with John but it is not easy to find the right person.

If members wish to volunteer with help around the club then this would be very much appreciated.

10. **Presentation of Trophies**

Trophies were presented to the winners of the mens Club competitions during the year.

11. Election of Officers

Mens Section

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Al Bowyer	Captain	Jim Findlay	Paul Rogerson
Steve Sargeant	Vice-Captain	Al Bowyer	Jim Findlay
Steve Williams	Handicap Sec. Competitions Sec. Treasurer	Al Bowyer	Paul Gerrard
Dick Pooley	Seniors Captain	Al Bowyer	Steve Williams
Brian Fowler	Members Secretary	Al Bowyer	Steve Williams
Beryl Austin	Committee Sec.	Al Bowyer	Paul Rogerson

Ladies Section

Jill Peppett	Ladies Captain	Sue Pomeroy	Christine Stevens
Sue Pomeroy	Vice-Captain	Jill Peppett	Christine Stevens
Jill Peppett	Handicap Secretary	Melinda P:ooley	Rosie Brand
Jacqui Taylor and Sue Pomeroy	Joint Competitions Secretaries	Rosie Brand	Beryl Austin
Beryl Austin	Treasurer & Secretary	Jill Peppett	Jacqui Taylor
Sue Pomeroy	BCLGA Delegate	Jacqui Taylor	Melinda Pooleu
Melinda Pooley & Rosie Brand	Social Secretaries	Jill Peppett	Sue Pomeroy

The above officers were elected unanimously.

12. Transfer of Captaincies

- a. Al then explained the reasoning why he was carrying on as Captain for another year. In discussions at Committee it was agreed that it was probably more productive to have a 2-year stint, as by the end of the first year you have probably learnt what the job really entails. Also, nobody else seemed to want this fantastic job. He hoped the forthcoming year would be less interrupted than the first few months of last year. What he promised last year was to do his very best for Club and Members, so that is what he promised again this year. All he really wants to do is to help us all to get the best out of our membership in terms of golf, friendship and social interaction. At the moment he has no additional ideas or events in mind but will look in detail at the various competitions and try to get as many members involved as possible. Al's chosen charity will continue to be the MS Society with some specific fundraising events combining where possible with our ladies. Al signed off by saying he will do his utmost in supporting the club, members and charity.
- b. Jill first of all thanked the Ladies Committee for all their hard work in keeping the ladies section together over the last 3 years. However, she thought it was time to start the ball rolling with a Lady Captain, and put her name forward and asked Sue Pomeroy to be her Vice-Captain. She thanked the ladies for continuing to support her on the Committee. She said she was looking forward to working with Al and the new committee.

The ladies section have now rejoined the Chiltern Ladies League which will be played during the summer season.

Jill said that her chosen charity is MNDA, a charity very close to her heart as she has a very dear friend suffering from this terrible disease. At this point in time there is no cure, so all money raised will go towards helping to find one.

Lastly, she wished everyone Happy Golfing.

13. **Any Other Business**

- Steve Williams pointed out that the Ladies Section had members nominated for all positions on their committee. The Mens Section, although much larger, could not fill two of the main positions on the committee. This matter to be addressed as soon as possible.

Al Bowyer then thanked all members for attending and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.