

BIRCHWOOD PARK GOLF CLUB

**Minutes of the
10th Annual General Meeting
Held on 5th February 2002 at 7.30pm**

Present: Mr Steve Grey (Chair)
Mr Mike Smith (Captain)
Mrs Gill Holland (Lady Captain)
Mr Brian Smith (Seniors Captain)
Mr Steve Farley (Secretary)
Mrs Barbara Fielder (Assistant Secretary)
Mrs Christine Farley (Treasurer)
Mr Steve Deacon (Competitions Secretary)
Mrs Helen Leader (Minutes)
Members of Birchwood Park Golf Club
Members of Birchwood Park Golf Centre Management

Mr Grey opened the AGM at 7.45pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He then explained the format of the meeting as shown on the agenda.

Agenda Items

1. Apologies for absence

Hilary Faldon, Bill Faldon, and Andy Alton

2. Minutes of the 2001 AGM

The minutes of the 9th AGM held on 13th February 2001 were accepted as correct. Proposed by Peter Holland, seconded by Keith Bayliss.

3. Matters arising

A member asked what was happening about the Club Honour Board, and told the matter is in hand.

4. Officers Report

4.1 Chairman's Report

He expressed his thanks to the Committee Members for all their hard work during the year, especially those who were stepping down, also to the Competition Committee, to Burhill Staff and the Greenkeepers, to the Captains and all Team Captains, and wished the new Committee good luck for the coming year. He said that he thought the club was going from strength to strength but that he felt the club had had a difficult year and had become very political but hoped the next year would run more smoothly.

He informed the members that sadly Geoff Gibson passed away in October this year, the founder of Birchwood Park G.C. and that our sympathy goes to Jenny Gibson on her sad loss.

4.2 Treasurers Report

Mrs Farley presented the account up to 31st December 2001 and thanked Colin Mason for once again completing the final accounts for the club.

The funds are in a very healthy state with a total of £8430 in the bank at the end of December. Incoming fees were up, whereas the cost of prizes dropped. Competition expenses were greatly increased due to various competition entry fees and green fees incurred.

Charity payments made this year include:

Children with Chronic Arthritis Association - £4349.65

Queen Mary's Cancer Care - £3317.15

Marie Curie - £276.00

Help the Aged - £254.00

The Golfers Trust - £150.00

Geoff Gibson memorial donation to charity - £100.00

Mrs Farley said she would like to wish the new Treasurer the best of luck and asked the members to be kind to him by not arriving with pockets full of loose change.

4.3 Lady Captain's Report

Mrs Holland reported that 2001 had seen an increase in the lady's section, especially on Wednesdays, which had risen to around 20 to 25 (50% of our lady playing members). She reported a successful year of competition playing with friendly matches against Tudor Park, Bromley Ladies and Fawkham Valley. Unfortunately we were knocked out of the Tappin Trophy in the first round and had to give a bye to Addington Court in the 'Mail on Sunday' competition due to Birchwood being closed because of bad weather on the day we were due to play the first match. We won the Triangular match this year against Chelsfield Lakes and High Elms. The ladies 'All Winners' trophy and Invitation Day were both extremely well supported and very successful. The lady Captains day out was held at Lamberhurst Golf Club and for our weekend away we went to Barnham Broom in Norfolk.

Mrs Holland went on to say that she would like to thank the Main Committee for their help and support, the ladies section and ladies committee and to her family for their understanding and help. Lastly to Mike Smith for being such excellent company and good-natured throughout the year.

As Lady Captain Mrs Holland said she had played over 200 rounds of golf on more than 50 different courses both home and abroad in the past 12 months.

She said that during the year she had played golf or chatted in the bar with most of the members and that she appreciated the friendship that they had all shown her.

Finally she wished Trevor Carter and Rachel White a successful and enjoyable year as Captains in 2002.

4.4 Captains Report

Mr Mike Smith said his year started off very damp with the first Honours Board Competition (Maintrades) being postponed and many competitions being declared non-qualifiers. He said credit must be given to Rob Holland and his greenkeepers for maintaining the course in a playable condition during this time and indeed for their continued hard work throughout the year.

Three trips were arranged over the course of the year to Happy Valley, Belle Dunes in France, and Gatton Manor, all proved to be popular and successful.

The Charity Day run by John King on the 10th August was a fantastic success raising £8073.00.

The annual Inter Quadrangular Match was held at Ramsdale in Nottinghamshire. We came 2nd with Spencer Alimo winning the overall individual trophy and Lee Venue winning the nearest the pin with a 'Hole-in-One'!

The annual Dinner and Dance proved to be one of our best club events to date, and although Captains Day was later this year (September), we still had good weather, a good day and a good evening.

Throughout the year Gill and I played in a number of Mixed Open Foursomes and enjoyed the format so much that we donated the Mixed Foursomes Trophy which, due to the success of the first event, the Committee agreed to make it an Honour Board Trophy.

Mr Smith said that on a personal note he thought it might be tricky combining his year as Captain and the fact that he is employed by Burhill, but thanks to the help and understanding of Mrs Carter, and to Fred Thompson for changing shifts with him to accommodate the many commitments, everything worked out very satisfactory.

Mr Smith went on to thank Eddie Bailly who volunteered to be our Starter, for the smooth starting of our competitions. To Mr Steve Deacon for the fantastic job he has done organising the competitions so efficiently. Steve Farley for his high standard of work as secretary, Chris Farley for looking after the Accounts. John King for his valuable contributions at committee meetings. Andy Alton for his commitment and enthusiasm as Handicap Secretary and to Steve Grey for his term of office as Chairman. Finally a special thank you to Gill Holland for all her help, enthusiasm and hard work. Finally to wish Trevor Carter and Rachel White every success and a happy and enjoyable golfing year this year.

4.5 Seniors Captain Report

Mr Brian Smith said the senior's section was formed in 1995 and is open to any Birchwood member aged 55 or over. In 1997 there was a crisis as a lot of members left and the seniors section went down to about 10-12 members. Thanks to people like John Neville, Lawrie Curtis and Archie Sampson the section survived and now has 60 members and the number is growing by the month.

The seniors have 2 competitions every month from January to December (usually Stablefords in the winter and Medals and Stablefords in the summer). Eight of the summer competitions give points for a Master Golfer. This year's Master golfer was Alex Woodgate.

In September we hold an annual Challenge Cup Competition. The winner in 2001 was Derek Holt.

We hold an annual pair's knockout competition with drawn partners. The winners in 2001 were John Jewett and Doug Mills.

We play home and away friendly matches with 6 other clubs, which is very enjoyable.

In addition we play two matches a year against the ladies of Birchwood and these are always very enjoyable occasions.

We also play some competitive matches. We played in the Kent Vets Cup but lost at the Wilderness G.C. However pride of place goes to our Invicta League Team. In 2000 we accepted an invitation to join the league and were placed second in Division Two, we performed well and came second. In 2001 we did better, we won division two and have gained promotion to Division One for 2002.

To conclude Mr Smith said that the seniors are a strong and thriving section and that he felt confident that this situation would continue for many years to come.

4.6 Team Captain's Reports

4.6.1 Ladies Teams

NAPGC WHITEWEBBS TROPHY – Report by Rachel White

This was a new venture for us in 2001; with a format of singles match play the ladies excelled themselves. Making the most of the competition rules we secured home advantage for all our first to fourth round matches, beating our opponents from Croydon, Windsor, Bournemouth and Poole.

On the 25th August we played Portsmouth on neutral territory at Hoebridge in the South of England regional final. All five matches went to the final holes; our fate was sealed on the 17th green resulting in a 1 ½ to 3-½ defeat. Rachel thanked all the ladies who had taken part.

PEARSON TROPHY – Report by Angela Hamill

We won all our home matches against Sidcup, Rochester & Cobham and Cherry Lodge. Rochester & Cobham won our group. Mrs Hamill thanked all the ladies who had taken part.

4.6.2 Whitbread League – Team Captain Tom Gill

Alex Woodgate and John Waters came 2nd.

4.6.3 Yeoman & North Kent Leagues – Team Captain Ron Jupp

Birchwood Park lost to Shooters Hill in the Yeomans and won their first match at home against North Kent in the North Kent League.

4.6.4 Kent Amateur Foursomes - ?

4.6.5 Pilgrims League - Birchwood came second.

4.7 Secretary's Report

Mr Farley started by saying that it had been a difficult year.

Because of the bad weather which caused a lot of problems to Steve Deacon re scheduling various competitions and the same members are dropping out of competitions without warning. He understood

that the fine system, voted on by the members at the last AGM, would be strictly enforced for the coming year.

We had a slight problem with the Winter Rules in October. The Committee was very reluctantly forced to make a decision and if we didn't, we were told the matter would be taken to the R & A. The Rules of Golf state that competitions cannot be regarded as qualifying if the course is shortened by 100 yards or more it becomes none qualifying. You are all aware of the reluctant decision the committee made and the reversal of that decision some four weeks later. As a result the committee made all competitions qualifying for the club Honour Board purposes, but not for handicapping purposes. Clause 19 will take care of member's handicaps.

Another reluctant decision the committee had to make was the cancellation of the 2001 Winter Greensomes competition.

Finally on the subject of our internal competitions, we have a well-established set of rules governing various aspects of these competitions. A few members think that rules are for everyone but themselves, however with an almost new committee, perhaps the moaning will stop. In the past the committee has made decisions based on what was best for the majority of members and I sincerely hope this will continue.

We have a good working relationship with local management. We don't agree all the time but on the majority we do or we compromise.

Every year someone tells you that the lifeblood of the Club is our competitions and it is as true today as it is every year.

Mr Farley said he sincerely wished Trevor Carter and Rachel White a very enjoyable year and thanked Mike Smith and Gill Holland for their Captaincy in 2001.

Finally Mr Farley wished the new committee and the members the best of luck for the future.

5. Election of Club Officials

5.1 All posts were uncontested and officials were elected as follows:

Chairman – Peter Holland
Secretary – John Porter
Assistant Secretary – Barbara Fielder
Treasurer – Terry Skeggs
Assistant Treasurer – Vacant
Handicap Secretary – Alex Woodgate
Secretary of Competitions Sub-Committee – Steve Deacon

5.2. Committee Member – Vacant

(A member is interested in this vacancy but did not get their application in in time; therefore the Committee will discuss his application at the next committee meeting)

6. Appoint the Captain, Lady Captain and Senior's Captain

The following were confirmed to the posts.

Mr Trevor Carter – Captain
Dr Rachel White – Lady Captain
Mr Alex Woodgate – Seniors Captain

7. Any Other Business (Notified to Secretary)

1 Theft and Security in Car Park, Club House and Changing Rooms

Mrs Carter said she has already spoken to the CID concerning the theft of golf clubs from the car park etc and a number of arrests have been made, and she is in discussion with the Directors of Burhill concerning the Changing Rooms, She would also be grateful for any suggestions for improving the security. Members put a few suggestions forward and Mrs Carter said she would look into these.

2 Annual Dinner & Dance subsidised from Funds. Proposed by Peter Holland

Mr Holland explained why he had raised this question and a general discussion took place. Mr Holland proposed that if funds were available that this event should be subsidised for member (not their guests). Seconded by Mr Steve Farley.

7b Any Other Business (From the floor)

- 1** Mr Ron Jupp asked if Burhill was thinking of putting in a Billiard Table or Dartboard as the Clubhouse Was becoming more like a pub with non-golfers wanting to watch football on the TV in preference to golf? Mrs Carter said she was not in a position to respond.
- 2** Mr Rob Lennox wanted to know what the criterion was for picking Team Captains; he thought the members should have some input. Mr Steve Grey replied that usually it is not necessary to vote as usually only one name and that the Committee picks the Captains. A discussion then took place. Mr Steve Deacon asked why Club Captains should not pick Team Captains and that best players should be picked for teams. Mr Rob Lennox proposed that members put names forward and voted on by members at AGM. Seconded by Fred Williams. A second proposal was put by Ron Jupp to leave it to the Committee, seconded by several members. Mrs Holland pointed out that by Mr Lennox proposing members pick Team Captains; it could mean the ladies picking the Men Team Captains and the men picking the Lady Team Captains. After further discussion Mr Lennox withdrew his proposal.
- 3** Mr Russell Mills suggested that more competitions were entered and teams increased to give more members the chance to play not just the best players. Mr Ron Jupp said you should not necessary pick best players but people you can rely on to turn up etc. Mr Steve Grey said we have enough players that we could have 4 teams for Whitbread League. Mr Mick Batten said all players interested will be considered, but he would only pick people who would attend the evening function as well as the match. Mr Tom Gill publicised his team last year. One member asked if the names of the Team Captains could be put on Notice Board so those members could approach them if they were interested in playing in the competitions, and that a brief description of the competition format and conditions was also published to advise possible team members of their eligibility & obligations.
- 4** Luke Holland – Junior Section – Proposed, “to let the permitted juniors under the existing criteria (max. of 4 juniors on single figure handicaps) to enter the pairs knockout competitions as pairs, not necessarily accompanied by an adult member as is currently the condition” Mr King said, as they were single handicappers we should let them play and encourage them. Mr Farley said the proposal was not allowed at AGM but the new Committee could look into it. Mr Tom Venus said we should try to start up the Junior Section Again.
- 5** A reminder was given out that the Closing date for the knockouts is today.
- 6** Mrs Holland informed members there were still a few tickets available for the Captains Dinner.

No more proposals were put forward. The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was closed at 9.50pm