

Annual General Meeting
November 2017
Minutes

ATTENDED: Roger, Mike M, Andrew S, Simon, Barry, Brian, Andy W, Jim, Hubby, Danny, Gibbo, Jeff

1. Apologies; Bucko, John, Pud, Marc, Tex, Todd.
2. Acceptance of minutes from last meeting
 - a. Minutes accepted.
3. Chairs Report

RB gave a brief revue of the 2017 season so far with the main interesting statistics of average attendance of games is nearly 13 and there has been so far 12 different winners which has to be considered in regard to any discussion on handicaps.

All agreed the anniversary day was a success and should be considered now as an annual fixture as a none order of merit day on the same lines as this year. Jim offered to plan and book.

Fixture list 2018

Roger circulated a 1st draft of the fixtures list asking the following questions.

- 1, As above all was in favour of an anniversary game.
- 2, That we generally are happy to play the top preferred courses we go to every year within a reasonable travel limit and cost. RB promised to publish the venues spreadsheet which lists the top courses played.
- 3, All agreed that the order of merit profile of 18 games per season with 12 counting works well. That even subject to later issues of membership, that the number not will not be increased if membership expands but responsibility for arranging games still be 1 per member with committee members being those who benefit from arranging a fixture due to their contributions elsewhere.
- 4, Marc's return to closer shores will allow him to participate more actively.
5. While the weekend away 2018 is already planned, thanks to Danny. There was a request to schedule it in 2019 1to 2 weeks later from Jim, which received no objections.

Vote of thanks

Roger thanked Andrew, Jim and Hubby for their support and good work which was unanimously supported.

4. Treasurers Report

Hubby summarised statistics on the finances and hole in one fund. Which can be seen in documents if requested by those not attending. The continuing policy of running on minimal balance in the coffers was universally accepted. We continue to fund the members insurance via the subscriptions that was again more

assumed than debated. The beneficiaries of the charity bucket was discussed and it was decided that the person drawing ball "10" from the bag at the next fixture will choose the charity.

The hole in one fund stands at this point at £392 after the purchase of anniversary clothing in the summer.

Brian proposed that the accounts be accepted with thanks to Hubby for his work. This was seconded by Andy and passed unanimously.

5. IT Secretary's Report

Andrew described the situation as "business as usual" in general but expressed disappointment in the lack of use of the "on line" fixture registration system which takes a significant amount of time to set up and must be renewed every year as fixtures for each players event varies in detail. General consensus is that it is a good system and we should strongly encourage players to use it.

Andrew also reminded members that a lot of rules reminders are posted to the website for regular reference on the more common problematic rules.

Roger concluded with thanks to Andrew on the work he puts in to what is at the heart of the society's function and history. We should be proud of it and use it more.

6. Handicap Secretary's Report

Jim gave a summary of the statistical information available on the Handicap website and reviewed the current positions declaring that it seems to work well and the evidence of the spread of winners that we are correctly spread in relation to each other. Hubby agreed but thought that all were generally low in relation to the "real" playing ability and says when he declares this as his handicap outside the society he suffers for it. Jim said that a handicap could be produced through the website without the society "cut rule" to reflect a higher figure on request. With the handicap system in this position Jim proposed a reduction of the "cut" rule to $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ cut for 1st/2nd. This was counter proposed by Jeff to continue as we are which was seconded by Andrew. This was carried leaving the handicaps system the same for 2018.

7. Members New Proposals

1. Andrew - That we adopt a rule regarding a ball embedded through the green. In essence, the rule is a local rule for a ball embedded in its own pitch mark anywhere on the course except a hazard, and allows you to mark your ball, lift, clean it and drop as near to the marker as you can for no penalty.

This was seconded by Danny and carried 12 to 3 with 1 abstain and will apply immediately.

Andrew also proposed a modification to our long held local rule of lost ball penalty of 2 for stroke and distance be modified to allow the next shot to be played from any position on the hole not nearer the pin with agreement of fellow players e.g. middle of fairway.

This was seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Hubby - That the existing membership limit (18) be extended to 20, after which, new members to be accepted only in replacement of people leaving the society. A waiting list be started if any person applies while membership is full who wishes to be considered in the future.

This was discussed along with the 2008 rule additions of 75% majority vote and hole in one buy-in.

The meeting was asked to vote on the increase to 20 and the repeal of the 2008 rules discussed. Seconded by Jeff, this was passed 9:2 with 1 abstain

3. Subject to above - New members proposed -

Steve Billington, Kevin Hewitt. These were proposed by Todd and Pud respectively with them both attending 3 games for handicap (already started) and accepted after that by a majority vote. Therefore a vote is appropriate when 3 games played.

8. Election of Officers

- a. Chairman - Roger
- b. Treasurer - Hubby
- c. Handicap Sec. - Jim
- d. Senior Head of I.T. - Andrew

All incumbents were willing to stand again for 2018 and were voted in unanimously.

9. AOB

1. Gibbo asked if the weekend away fixture dates to be fixed for 5 years to aid personal planning and to allocate arrangement to members to give maximum notice for planning. This all agreed would be good (taking in to account Jims request.) With dates spreading out from this date in 2 week slots.

2. Simon declared the planning of a Spanish trip in late September 2018. It was agreed it would NOT be considered an Order of Merit game.

3. Hubby asked if there would be a presentation evening which a majority were in favour of. Roger asked for suggestions for venue and volunteers to arrange.

Generally a return to Halesowen GC was favoured, nobody volunteered to arrange so it falls to the committee

CLOSE

The meeting closed with a general thanks to Hubby for the venue, beer and nibbles.

SUMMARY OF NEW RULES

1. Balls embedded "through the green" to be lifted, cleaned and replaced without penalty.
2. Current club Lost ball rule modified to allow drop anywhere on hole no nearer the pin with agreement of fellow players.
3. Maximum club membership to be increased to 20 on majority vote for applicants completing 3 cards.

NEXT STEPS

Publish 2018 fixtures - RB

Membership to respond accepting or requesting change due to personal commitments - ALL

Plan presentation night - RB + committee

Publish dates for weekend away for next 5 yrs - RB