

**The Minutes of the Wheathill Golf Club Annual General Meeting held in the**

**Club House on 24th November 2022**

**Present:** J Stewart-Burnett, S Chinnock, D Gregory, J Street, J Byrne, I Barrett, G Morgan, J Warmington, O Hopkins, A Forscutt, R Hardy, S Woodward, A Gates, J Rowsell, S Ovland, G Brewin, M Brewin, A Scott, F Cruse, K Snook, S Murray, J Murray, K Forward, B Thompson, G Ovland, B Burnett, S. Street, G Hillier.

**Introduction**

The Chairperson Mrs Janette Stewart-Burnett opened the meeting promptly at 1930.

Good Evening Ladies’ and Gentlemen and welcome to Wheathill Golf Club’s AGM for 2022.

I hope all of you have managed to access the Wheathill website where the draft minutes for the 2021 AGM are available and received the agenda sent out previously. Please if you have not already done so sign the attendance sheet. We have received some apologies, which will be published with the meetings minutes.

I would like to thank the management and all those who devote their time to this club. Their time is precious and without them we wouldn’t have the competitions and fun we so readily enjoy.

Sadly, during the year members of our club have passed away. Chris Cussens, Bill Spurdens and Dave Bunting. May we just take some time to reflect on the loss………

As it is customary, any questions you may have for the management team and the main committee will not be answered tonight, they will be recorded and discussed at the next MCM and an answer provided through that forum. On with the meeting.

**Apologies**

A England, P Dunford, G Gilbert, L Johnson.

**Minutes of the Last AGM**

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, proposed by Jen Warmington, Seconded by Steve Chinnock.

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**Senior Captains Report: Mr D Gregory**

Well two down and just the Lady Captains job to do (I believe Junior Captain is now out of the question).

Having now been Club Captain and Senior Captain, I have to say that in my opinion Senior Captain is by far the harder position, having to pick teams for umpteen friendlies, on top of all the other task makes it a position that takes up a lot of time.

I have however been honoured to have been Senior Captain of this lovely golf club, a club which I think would take a lot of beating overall, for the atmosphere it provides for us members and a good course to play on.

The course and greens have been given a lot of attention this year and I think that it has been at its very best over the season. Thanks to the green staff for their efforts.

Seniors friendlies finished at played 14, won 7 and lost 7. The highlight was thrashing Yeovil 5-1 in the Ivor Lewis trophy.

On a team note, the Avalon seniors team captained by Mike Low reached the final of the Somerset Bowl only to lose the deciding match on the 6th extra hole, a great effort along with our brilliant ladies who won the Rodgers cup, Wheathill have featured very well around the area, also 3 Counties B who won the winter knock out trophy. Well done to all.

Ian Barrett has been there throughout the season and has contributed much to the seniors along the way. He ran a very successful seniors invitational, which was enjoyed by all who took part.

My thanks also go to Rob Hardy and David Eynon for organising the competitions this year and may I say with very little fuss, to Andrew McDougall for his secretarial work along with getting the club diary together, to Jim Williams for his invaluable input over the season and to Pete Dunford for his support, often time a ships keel. And to Mike Low also for very worthwhile input over the season.

Lastly, every good wish to Ian for the coming year and the same to the incoming Vice Captain Jim Williams.

I will leave the last words with Roy Orbision-its over-its over-its over.

**Seniors Committee for 2022-2023**

Captain – Ian Barrett

Vice-Captain – Jim Williams

Past Captain – Dave Gregory

Secretary – Andy McDougall

Competitions Secretary – Rob Hardy

Avalon Seniors League Captain – Mike Low

Away Day Organiser – Pete Dunford

**Ladies Captains Report: Mrs J Street**

I must start my report by saying what an amazing year this has been. It feels as though we are almost back to pre-pandemic conditions – although I can speak from personal experience by saying that Covid is still around. However, this year I know many members have been able to visit families, take holidays and generally relax back into “normal” life.

It has been a very buy year with competitions, league matches and friendlies. This year we introduced weekly medals as well as stablefords, to allow all ladies more opportunities to take part in these monthly competitions.

Of course the main competition in the ladies calendar is the Ladies Championship, which this year was won by Vicki Eales, Sam Thorpe won the Best Nett and Karen Forward the Mayfield Bronze. The Supporters Trophy was one by Sue Rees and the Gates Best Nett by Lynn O’Neill. Congratulations to them and all our prize winners this year.

We had some hard fought league matches and finished third in Division 3, which this year has resulted in promotion to Division 2. Whilst we are thrilled to have been promoted I think we might have preferred to remain in Division 3 due to the different golf courses we would have been playing!

We had a great day out at Brean, which was good fun, and a fabulous away weekend at St Pierre. Thanks to Jen, and everyone, for making these two events so special for me.

Further thanks to Jen for organising the Trimatch series – and bringing home the trophy for a second year in a row – again well done to all ladies who played in these most enjoyable and very close matches.

Without doubt my proudest moment this year was captaining the winning Rogers Cup team at Mendip on 4th September. The first time in its 30 year history that a major county competition has been won by Wheathill Golf Club. Quite an achievement. We had played some close games throughout the competition – although our 7-0 win against Minehead at Burnham and Berrow was pretty spectacular! – And the semi-final at Bath and final at Mendip were no exception, winning 4-3 on both occasions. Whilst it was a great honour to be presented with the trophy at Mendip, and again at the Somerset Ladies AGM at Isle of Wedmore last week, I would have preferred it if all the ladies and caddies who had participated throughout could have joined me. This was a true team achievement and my congratulations and thanks go to all of you – and to our supporters.

And just to round off our year the Ladies Team won the Team Captains Challenge – truly the icing on the cake for what has be a remarkable season for us.

Whilst I have enjoyed all of our success this year, I am even more proud of the amount of money which the members of Wheathill have generously donated to my chosen charity this year – Young Minds. The total raised was £2,047.63 and I know this will help provide much needed services for children and young people who are dealing with mental health issues. Thank you to everyone who supported my charity.

Of course we would not be able to enjoy our club without the hard work and dedication of the management and staff who work here – thanks to the green staff who have done wonders with our course during the most difficult of weather conditions. Personal thanks from me to the Pro Shop who have been incredibly helpful whenever I have asked for assistance. And finally our wonderful, if somewhat smaller in number, clubhouse staff who without fail produce food for all of our occasions, be it matches, competitions, presentation night or every day. Thank you – we really do appreciate everything that you all do.

Thanks to Steve Chinnock and the members of the main committee for their help and support this year. And finally, special thanks to my ladies committee: your hard work and commitment has been much appreciated. It has been an honour to serve as Lady Captain this year and I wish Anne all the best for her year as Vice-Captain and Jen every success in her year as Captain.

**Ladies Committee 2022-2023**

Jen Warmington – Lady Captain

Anne Scott – Vice Captain

Jan Street – Past Captain

Becky Thompson - Secretary

Karen Forward – Competitions Secretary

Fiona Cruise – Handicap Secretary

Sylvia Bates – New Members Delegate

Sam Thorpe – Treasurer & Eclectic Delegate

Nic Boyd – County Delegate

**Junior Representative Report: Mrs J Byrne**

Once again I am pleased to report that Junior Golf at the Club has had a successful year building on the foundation of our 2021 season.

The number of registered junior golfers on the books has remained at around the 30 mark increasing in the summer with the addition of the King’s players. In addition we now have some girl members thanks to running Girls Golf Rocks.

We continued to play in the Somerset League along with 11 other clubs and participated in all the available competitions. We acquitted ourselves well and moved up slightly in the overall tables to 6th up from 8th last year. Both our outgoing and incoming Junior Captains won their section at a League Event along the way bringing valuable points to our tally.

We competed well in the Jamboree coming 6th and, had our two high handicappers been allowed their full index, we could have been runners up.

I would like to thank Andrew for allowing us to host our League Event here and also the Final of the Knockout Competition, this really promotes Wheathill within the County setup.

The link that we have forged with King’s School Bruton whereby the students become members of the club, have a programme of coaching and attend on a weekly basis to profit from playing regularly, is now in its second year. I am hoping that the school players will be contributing to more competitions and also participating in our Junior Programme and league Events 2023.

I would like to thank Dylan Millard, already a club member but also a student from King’s, for stepping in to take over as Junior Captain last Easter. Dylan led by example and was a regular team player helping us to achieve well in the League and it is fitting that he became our Junior Champion.

And now to our incoming Junior Captain, Oliver Hopkins. Oli began seriously playing golf at Easter this year and as well as achieving huge decreases in his handicap he has also been selected to join the County under 14 Development Squad. He has played in our League fixtures and the Jamboree and been instrumental in encouraging friends to join the club and get their handicaps too. We look forward to hearing about his progress, benefitting from his abilities and profiting from his commitment and loyalty to golf and to Wheathill.

**Men’s Competition Committee Report: G Morgan**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

Earlier this year four members and the current Captain were “invited” by the Chairperson to form a committee to replace the Men’s competition and handicap Secretary position and focus on the Men’s’ competitions. Whether it was a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or whether she had spotted some untapped skills in our until then unstressed lives, who knows…….but one doesn’t mess with an invite from Madame Chairperson.

The committee will have 6 members next year, 3 elected at the AGM on a rolling 3 year tenure basis, plus the Captain, Vice-Captain and immediate past Captain. Hereby ensuring that the knowledge remains. Two of the members are trained, authorised, licensed to use the ClubV1 computer system. Others including one who first starting writing computer programs for mainframe computers over 54 years ago are not allowed near it.

In an effort to encourage players to have a meaningful handicap, a 10 qualifier rule in now in operation for all silverware competitions.

We have tried to continue the competitions in the manner they were originally established, however we hope to alter some, in the expectation of involving more opportunities for larger fields of entrants.

We have adopted a similar approach to the pro shop and ladies section in extending the one day medals etc into week long events.

At present within the guidelines and terms of reference we have adopted we have no mandate of responsibility for handicaps, our minutes for each meeting are submitted to the club website.

**Treasurers Report: Mr D Gregory**

Nearly a proper year regarding the accounts, with no league fees to pay this season, but most payments have reappeared.

Most notable observance is the resurgence in the men’s accountthanks to the efforts of Geoff Gilbert and Alan Forscutt, and I am sure this will continue into next season as the two of them have the bit between their teeth.

The Junior account is ok for the moment but may need topping up at some stage during the early stages of the new season.

The main account is in a very healthy state for the coming year. The main payments are the engraving, honours boards and presentation night and these have remained around the same for this year, presentation night being £70 more than last year.

Famous last words but I do not envisage any problems this coming year.

Acceptance of accounts proposed by Jill Byrne, seconded by Alan Forscutt.

**Club Captains Report: Steve Chinnock**

It hardly seems like a year ago that I was standing here to receive my promotion to Captain and receive my Captain’s jumper.

From my point of view it feels as if the year has gone very well. The Men’s Competition Committee which I am a member of has taken over responsibilities and after a steep learning curve we are now up and running. My thanks to Ginny for keeping us in order and Geoff Gilbert and Alan Forscutt for their fantastic efforts.

I would also like to thank Andrew and his team in the pro shop for the support they have given me and especially to Mark for the numerous Captains/Pro games we have played this year. We raise £200 which has been donated to Age UK Somerset.

I have had tremendous support from my Vice Captain Gerry Morgan who I am sure will bring some life to the party next year in his role as Captain. I wish him every success for the future and I am always on hand to support him in any way I can.

Last but not least my thanks to Jan Street, my ladies captain for all her support throughout the year.

It has been a great privilege to captain this wonderful club and I look forward to helping in its continued success as the friendliest club in Somerset.

**Avalon A Report – Steve Osborne**

It has been difficult this year with regard to availability. So unfortunately with all the valour of our regulars we could not remain in the same division.

I am grateful to the new men’s competition committee for proactively encouraging members to sign up for the 2023 league season. I hope we can be sure all who have signed up will be called to play for one of our league teams.

**Avalon B Report – Mark Hill**

The 2022 season was a challenge to start with as the nucleus of the side from the previous year were not playing this season, but with the help of a few people helping getting players (Barry Ashby and Geoff Gilbert) we managed to field a team week by week. The team has grown into a strong unit and one to build on this coming year fixtures and what great venues we will be playing at.

**Avalon C Report – Brian Glen**

The team started the season with some optimism as in previous years our handicaps on other courses did not enable us to get the results that we deserved. This proved to be the case as we gained promotion for the first season in several years.

We have added a few players to the team and look forward to the challenge of the coming season.

Our player of the year was Pet Moxham who won every match he played in.

Onwards and upwards is our motto for next year.

**3 Counties A Report – Dave Gregory**

Another enjoyable season, we have a lovely mixed team and we compete as best as we can in every match.

We reached the second round of the winter trophy, losing to Cricket St Thomas at Folke where we may have lost a slight advantage over the ladies back 9 card.

We finished mid table in the league season.

A big thank you to those who played for us during the year and I look forward to us continuing as a team next year.

Just as an aside, I have been made treasurer of the 3 counties league.

Happy days.

**3 Counties B Report – Bill Burnett**

Our first league season since lockdown didn’t go very well in division 2 and we finished 5th from 6 with only Yeovil finishing below us. There’s always next year…

On a brighter note – The 2019/2020 winter knockout competition started ok and we actually got to the final but then Covid wrecked it and the final was not held. Later in 2020 our then Captain, Scott Moncrieff received a call from Long Sutton requesting us to play our final! We had forgotten about it really and assumed it wouldn’t happen. Anyway, we played them at Yeovil and beat them 5-0. I bet they wish they had forgotten too.

The 2021/22 Winter Knockout took place as usual and we unbelievably managed to retain the trophy (at Yeovil against Cannington) albeit with some very tight matches resulting in a 3-2 win. Well done to all who took part.

Unfortunately, Wincanton have had to pull out of the 3 Counties league due to losing too many key players, and we are still awaiting Charminster to confirm one way or the other. We are however bringing in a new club – Ferndown Forest. Apparently they used to be in the league many moons ago so it’s nice to welcome them back.

We see that quite a few new players have signed up to play team golf and we look forward to seeing them play in either the Avalon or 3 Counties leagues.

Can I also thank my wife and Chair, Gin Stewart, for all of her help to me over the last season and I hope she will continue to do so next season!

1. **Election of Officers 2022/23**

**Junior Captain – Oliver Hopkins**

Elected un-opposed

**Vice-Captian: Sean Woodward**

Elected un-opposed

**Committee Member & Junior Representative – Jill Byrne**

No other applicants so Jill is re-elected unopposed

**Club Treasurer – Dave Gregory**

No other applicantssoDave is re-elected unopposed

**Club Secretary – Pete Dunford**

No other applicants so Pete is re-elected unopposed

**Men’s Competition Committee**

Geoff Gilbert – Competitions

Alan Forscutt – Medals, Stablefords and Finance

**Team Captains for the 2023 Season**

Avalon A - Steve Osborne

Avalon B - Mark Hill

Avalon C - Brian Glen

Avalon Seniors - Mike Low

Three Counties A Dave Gregory

Three Counties B - Bill Burnett

Proposed by Steve Chinnock, seconded by Gunnar Ovland show of hands was a majority.

**Main Committee**

The main committee will therefore consist of:

Gin Stewart-Burnett - Chair

Gerry Morgan – Club Captain

Jen Warmington – Ladies Captain

Ian Barrett – Seniors Captain

Pete Dunford – Club Secretary

Dave Gregory – Club Treasurer

Alan Forscutt/ Geoff Gilbert – Men’s Competition Committee

Jill Byrne – Committee Member and Junior Organiser

Andrew England – Proprietor

1. **Brief Address by Incoming Captains**

**Lady Captain – Jen Warmington**

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to Jan, who has put in so much effort to make 2022 such a successful….and memorable year. As you’ve heard Wheathill Ladies have gone from strength to strength, this year……and hopefully I will be able to carry on where Jan has left off.

I joined Wheathill in 2005 and immediately felt at home.

Over the last couple of years, I have been able to give more time to my golf…and to get even more involved with, the wonderful group of women that makes up, the Ladies’ section.

We may be small in numbers but we are, I believe, a vital part of what makes Wheathill such a welcoming and friendly golf club. Right from the very beginning, the Ladies’ Section has been involved in developing an ethos of integration and mutual support, across the Club.

In this our 30th Anniversary year, I’d like to continue that tradition of unity by choosing Prostate Cancer UK to be, not just the Lady Captain’s Charity but, I hope….the **Wheathill** Charity for 2023.

I lost my own father to this disease, back in 2008, and sadly it still affects 1 in 8 men in the UK. Like all forms of cancer, early diagnosis and treatment is key. Hopefully, with the support of Gerry and Ian, we can bring everyone together, not just to raise money but, to raise vital awareness, amongst us all…..helping in the battle, to save the lives of so many of our own men.

**Junior Captain – Oliver Hopkins**

I want to firstly thank Jill Byrne for supporting me this year in getting my handicap from 43 down to 22 and for putting me in this position.

As Junior Captain my goal for this year ahead is to encourage the junior team of 5 to get out on the course and to get playing for the upcoming competitions and league and most of all to ensure we are motivated and keen. I will be aiming to do everything I can to support the club in 2023.

**Senior Captain – Ian Barrett**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thanks to Dave for asking me to be his Vice Captain and all his hard work this year.

I feel honoured to be the clubs new Senior Captain and look forward to the coming year knowing that I will have the valued support of my fellow captains Gerry and Jen.

I will endeavour to carry out my duties to the best of my ability and look forward to our exciting Pearl Jubilee Anniversary.

Finally, I wish all of you a happy healthy and peaceful 2023.

**Club Captain – Gerry Morgan**

My initial reaction to having to say a few words this evening was just to offer a thank you, this didn’t seem to satisfy Madame Chairwoman, however I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and offers of support. Like all previously elected Captains, I wish to state how proud I am of being offered this position.

There are no jokes this evening, last week I conducted the well attended prizegiving ceremony and have still not received my appearance fee. I was not shocked on being asked to Captain the club this year, in fact I was expecting it, mainly due to the fact that I heard that Steve Chinnock had already asked 207 other members to fulfil the position.

Seriously there is a uniqueness about Wheathill, that I feel we all appreciate, I often speak with other members who joined from neighbouring clubs, where they have struggled to get games, join groups and felt quite excluded. We are different here and I hope we can all play our part in welcoming new members into our special environment.

I don’t feel a Captains role should be about change, more about progression. My time at Wheathill has certainly seen that, aided by a management and staff that culminated in an excellent course and facility, even after the harsh conditions of covid and the English weather.

My thoughts now turn to our outgoing Captain, Steve Chinnock, who I have been very fortunate to serve as Vice Captain, well done young man, but please remove your car from the designated car parking space.

I am so fortunate to have a team of 3 other section Captains around me and know we are going to enjoy the year.

With Christmas now looming, may I on behalf of all the newly elected Committee members, wish a healthy and happy time and the best for 2023.

**Statement by Management – Andrew England**

It has been a really good year for Wheathill Golf Club. The highlight being the Ladies Rogers Cup Victory.

We worked hard to keep the course in excellent condition even through the hottest of summers. The autumn saw the greens at their best with the renovations put back to mid-October giving more time to enjoy.

One of the challenges going forward is finding staff. So if you come across suitable people perhaps send them in our direction.

Finally, thanks to the captains’ committees and good luck to the incoming team.

**Any Other Business**

None

**Chair’s Closing Statement.**

I would like to wish the ne Captain’s Gerry Morgan, Jen Warmington, Ian Barrett and Oliver Hopkins and their new committees a successful, healthy and enjoyable 2023.

**Meeting closed at 2007.**

**Date of Next Annual General Meeting**

The next AGM will be held on Thursday 24th November 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Club House.

Signed Date 2023

Mrs J Stewart-Burnett

Chair

**Appendix**

Appendix 1 Wheathill Golf Club Statement of Accounts 2021/2022

**APPENDIX 1**

**WHEATHILL GOLF CLUB ACCOUNTS 1ST OCTOBER 2021 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

**General Account Men’s Account Junior Account**

Opening Balance £3324.17 £49.32 £304.86

Income

Levy Payment £1932.00

Plants (Andrew) £33.00

Diary Revenue £87.00

Repayment £87.00

Competitions £261.00

Totals £5376.17 £397.32 £304.86

Expenditure

Pro-Captains £80.00

Diary revenue

Repayment £87.00

Photo boards £460.27

Honours boards £438.00

Engraving £463.75

Stationery £127.98

Chalkboard £22.99

Benches & Trees £285.00

Presentation night £400.00

Captains gifts upkeep £74.65

J Boothman trees £24.33

Bench repair £20.00

Plants (Andrew) £33.00

12 mths wi-fi £240.00

Junior League £75.00

Junior mini champs £7.00

Junior match food £23.00

Totals £2786.20 £230.32 £199**.86**

Income £5376.17 £397.32 £304.86

Expenditure £2786.17 £167.00 £105.00

Totals £2590.00 £230.32 £199.86

Cash at Bank

Total £3020.16