

Lauder Golf Club

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 31st JANUARY 2019

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm by the Captain Mr.R.Malcolm.

- 1) **Apologies** - Ms.A.Holton, Mr.N.Hayes, Mr.L.Mitchell & Mr.A.Thomson
- 2) **Minutes of the 2018 A.G.M** - (Viewed on Website from December 2018) and circulated were approved as a correct record of that meeting.

Proposed by Mrs.C.Campbell

Seconded by Mr.J.Keeney

- 3) **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** - Financial report - The finances of the Club are operating well within the means it has at its disposal. The volunteer course maintenance is the main reason the Club is in a very good financial position.

INCOME - The difference in income is mainly due to the grant obtained for the new machine and to a certain extent the successful fund raising for Doddie Weir.

Subscriptions are up due to the increase applied. We can also see a small increase in visitor's income. Looking back, in the hay days of the late 1990's the visitor incomes were between £6,600 and £9,600. I think our income has followed the trend of the popularity of golf rather than anything we are doing wrong. The advertising we do, is in the main, free. In the past we have tried spending a small amount on adverts and going round the Hotels in the Borders with leaflets with little or no return for the effort. I am not a fan of spending on advertising as I think we can put the money to better use ourselves in keeping the course going. This might be an old idea and a new broom might come up with better ideas.

The Clubhouse replacement fund income is down due to reduced income from the opens.

EXPENDITURE - The course upkeep is similar to last year since there has been no change to the way we operate with voluntary labour and Sandy Thomson cutting the greens.

Equipment Upkeep increase is due to new cutting heads that were required on one of the machines. This year will have a similar spend in that another of our machines needs new heads. As these heads last us several years it is not a constant concern.

Although a miscellaneous expenditure is never something I like to have it was the easiest way to explain a "one off" payment for the Doddie Weir fundraising.

The other headings on expenditure do not cause any concern.

Machinery purchase: The Club bought a relatively new hand mower for the Tees and this should be a good investment in time and effort for quite a few years before any money needs to be spent on it.

To finish it is important to mention the Loan. This is the only Liability the Club has. At the end of 2019 the Club will not owe any money to anybody else as this loan will be paid off and the Club will be debt free again. This places the Club in a strong financial position.

The Clubhouse was the last of the major capital projects that the club required. The fore runner to the Clubhouse replacement fund was the course development fund. This was a way to focus on raising the required funds to enable the projects to be completed. The intention being that the fund would reflect additional income the club generated for a specific task and the means of covering any liability incurred in the process. It started with the equipment shed, then the water to the greens, then the drainage (some members will not have known how wet the bottom of the course would get) and finally the Clubhouse. These projects would not have been possible without raising additional sums of money.

Before the members.....

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Before the members took over the course the council maintained it and as a consequence there were constant complaints about its condition, no investment in the course and Club and the course was considered just a field with some holes cut in the fairways. Since the members decision to take responsibility for the Club in 1991 the course has changed beyond all recognition and there has been investment in excess of £250,000 in machinery and facilities; more than half of this money raised by the members to facilitate these improvements. I think the members and past members, some of whom sadly are no longer with us, should be congratulated for this achievement. The club now has the type of modern facilities that suits the Clubs needs.

Looking forward and it is not for me to decide but I would suggest that the next important requirement is to be able to replace our equipment as and when required. A machinery audit was done during 2017 and it confirmed that we were correct to make an effort to put aside £5,000 per year for machinery replacement. Up until now it was a goal but it was not always possible as the Club did not make sufficient 'profit' every season. I would suggest that the idea of the Clubhouse replacement fund remains a focus for generating the majority of the money for this purpose. Possibly change the name to Machinery Replacement Fund. The Club will be £2,600 better off due to the loan repayments and added to the money generated from the opens this would be a method of keeping the Club's 'eye on the ball' as a reminder that for this Club to continue as it does currently it needs to replace its machinery.

The committee can think about this suggestion for the future as I think it is important to have a financial goal to keep in focus what is important.

There were no questions so a Proposer and Seconder were requested.

Proposed by Mr.R.Malcolm

Seconded by Mr.R.Towers

5) Gents Captain's Report - I would like to start by thanking everyone for the support they have given me in my 2 years as Captain of the Club. It has been very much appreciated. Once again the Club would like to thank everyone who has and still continue to sponsor competitions throughout the year. It is this support which helps the club to succeed.

In late November we had the sad loss of one of our longest standing members, Martin Bell. Martin was treasurer of the club prior to the members taking control of the course and at the end of his time as treasurer his financial prudence accumulated £1000 and this was the basis of the Club's future as a course owning Golf Club. Even when Martin could no longer play golf he continued with his membership and support for the Club and he will be sadly missed.

The course, this year, was in very good condition in spite of the adverse weather conditions we had at the start of the season. The team working on the course must be commended for their efforts but it is the input and advice given to us by Stevie Dixon (Head Greenkeeper at Kingsknowe) for the excellent condition of the course, although our team carry out the work it is the ongoing expertise of Stevie that keeps us right and we are learning all the time.

The committee have decided unanimously that due to Sandy Thompson's health that has been a worry to him over the last year, coupled with him not getting any younger, to reduce the pressure on him by getting someone else to cut the greens. We have had a few comments made to us by members who Sandy had spoken to regarding his health as to why at his age and health we as a Club were still having him working on the course.

This was one of the reasons.....

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This was one of the reasons why we decided that it would be both in Sandy and his families interest as well as the Clubs to make the change. The Club would like to thank Sandy for all his hard work over the last few years and hope that by relieving the pressure of him working on the course this will assist him in recovering from his health issues.

Congratulations must go to Mary Fallas on winning the Ladies Silver Championship and Carolyn Campbell on winning the bronze. Well done also to Craig Lumsden on winning the Gents Championship and to Ian Scott for winning the 'B' division. A special mention must go to the winner of the 'C' championship. This man is in his 80th year, plays in the Tuesday and Friday night competitions, plays on a Sunday and still finds time to play with the LEGGS. This is a special mention for Harry Moffat who is an inspiration to all the young golfers and long may he continue to play. Another mention must go to Aileen Scott-Aiton, Aileen invites along some people to try their hand at golf and on a Tuesday and Thursday and formed a group known as the Happy Hackers. They are a lovely bunch of enthusiastic golfers and quite a few of them took advantage of the subsidised coaching from Frank Scott and have been improving all year which is great to see. On the course we have had quite a bit of rough cut down to enable us to speed up play. This voluntary work was done by Gordon Marshall and James Brotherstone and we thank them for their help in this task and we will, with voluntary help, continue with improvements to the course. A new Tees machine has been purchased and the greens machine has been upgraded from an 8 blade to an 11 blade system. Both these machines should help maintain the cutting of the course and hopefully improve its condition.

The subscription fees for next year will remain the same and the only change will be to the guest tickets where we will no longer issue Guest Tickets and the Fee will be increase to £10 when you bring a guest along. The main reason for this change is the number of tickets being used is minimal. We have around 1500 in circulation with less than 100 being used most years. So, visitors green fee will remain at £15, a member's guest fee is now £10 and we will be changing the cost of winter golf in that from 1ST November until 28th February a visitor will pay £5.

Obie Sharp has now handed the mantle of Ladies Captain onto Mary Fallas and the Vice-captain will be Liz Bain. I hope they and the Ladies section have a successful season.

Drew Kellett and Keith Ackerman have done a grand job in organising the LEGGS and by all accounts they have had a very good season.

On the Juniors, Jack Keeney along with Bob Towers, Archie Anderson and several volunteers have had a tough time this past year. It seems to be quite difficult getting new youngsters to come along and play. On a positive note we have, for the first time for a long while, issued a national handicap to two of the Juniors, Cameron Robertson and Lewis Jeffs and the course has been set up for a 9 Hole Junior Stableford Competition for them to play in and their National Handicap allows them to enter Junior Open Competitions. Hopefully this may encourage other Juniors to get involved and achieve a handicap.

The Website continues.....

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The Website continues to be updated regularly and all results are posted weekly. The Club as a whole, as you have heard from the treasurer is in a pretty good financial position. This is mainly due to the amount of voluntary work being done on the course and I cannot stress how grateful we should be to all the volunteers. Most clubs in the Borders are finding it financially tough and many are looking to volunteers to assist in going forward so they can survive.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for their help and support during my time as Captain and I hope everyone has a happy and successful golfing season.

Lady Captain's Report - After the ladies AGM in December and taking over the reins as Captain from Obie, whom I may add was an exceptional Captain, I will endeavour to follow in her footsteps to the best of my ability with Liz Bain as my vice Captain and my fellow committee members.

We had an excellent season of weather which made the golf so much more pleasurable. Several of the ladies took part in our annual match with Minto and attending various open competitions at other clubs. Many of us at a certain age now are also taking part in the Border Ladies Veterans Association events which are most enjoyable and an excellent opportunity to meet and play other Border courses.

I wish to congratulate all trophy and prize winners and all those who have successfully had their handicaps reduced throughout the season, congratulations to everyone. I would also like to thank our sponsors once again, those being The Lauderdale Hotel, Alan Thomson and the Sharp family, your support and generosity is greatly appreciated. Again due to lack of support we were unable to hold competitions for the Black Bull Rose Bowl and 1930 cup, but we ladies are going to do our best this year and try and make play possible for these lovely trophies so watch out you men we're coming after you.

A big thank you to Dot & Ian who give up their valuable time on Common Riding morning to provide bacon rolls for the large crowd who venture up the golf course for the first gallop. Again this proved profitable with a sum of £275 given to the Treasurer. Added to this the ladies have presented the club with a further £500 raised from our open competitions. The ladies also made their own donation to the Doddie Weir fund. I think you will agree that this money raised is not at all bad for such a small membership of ladies.

10 ladies made their way by minibus with me at the wheel to combine our outing with the ladies open tri-am at Aberdour the day after Common Riding, meeting up with 2 further ladies who had made their own way. This was a most enjoyable day with one our teams finishing 5th overall followed by a hilarious journey home.

I would just like to finish by thanking all who have helped in the kitchen throughout the season and to Ian Scott & Arch Anderson for taking entries and scoring at our open competitions. Lastly, a big vote of thanks to Ian, Ronnie and all those who give up their time to have the course looking and playing as one of the best in the Borders.

I hope you have a good season and happy golfing.

7) Election of Committee Members....

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7) Election of Committee Members -

Mr.R.Malcolm stepped down as Captain and Mr.S.Paton became Captain. There is no Vice-Captain nominated as yet.

- a) Ian Scott will continue for another 2 years.

Competition Secretary – Ronnie Malcolm has agreed to continue with this duty.

Bob Towers (Acting Secretary) & David Dickson (Hon. Treasurer) have indicated this will be their last year.

Proposed by Mr. S.Paton

Seconded by Mr.K.Ackerman

- b) Mr.Jack Keeney is prepared to continue as Junior Organiser.

Proposed by Mr.R.Malcolm

Seconded by Mr.I.Scott

- c) Mr.D.Bain and Mr.A.Thomson agreed to continue as co-opted members of the committee to assist with the running of the Club.

8) A.O.C.B. - There were no submissions.

The next AGM will be on the 6th February 2020 @ 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending this meeting and declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

After the meeting was closed there was a general discussion that included providing a Defibrillator at the Clubhouse. This will be considered by the committee.

Jack Keeney remarked on what he has experienced with the condition of courses in the Borders and commented that Ian, Ron & Sandy have produced a course that he considers to be the best in the Borders. Ian Scott commented that a program of fusarium control is being implemented with the advice of Mr.S.Dixon (Head Greenkeeper, Kingsknowe G.C.) and although it is difficult to eliminate totally it can be controlled.

Bob Towers also confirmed this would be his last year as Child and Vulnerable Adult co-ordinator