



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Shetland Golf Club, Dale, Gott at 7pm
on 16TH February 2017.**

Present

Tom Anderson, Shona Ward, Amy Miller, Margaret Simpson, Davy L Thomson, James W Sales, Janice Johnston, Christine Simpson, Danny Kenmuir, George Leask, Audrey Thompson, Heather Hogg, Stewart Tomlinson, Patricia Parham, John Collin, Liz Simpson, Ernie Smith, D. Kirk, Stuart Anderson, Jenny Arthur, Brian Groat, Crawford McIntyre.

Apologies

Richie Smith, Patrick Robertson, Ramsey Hogg, Alan Harcus, Joanna Breeze, Sonia Inkster, Pio Torrent, Steve Lamb, Margaret McNiven, Yvonne Smith, Helen Thompson, Michael Boxwell, Gibby Blance, Russell Swainston.

Adoption of 2016 Minutes.

Proposed – J. Sales

Seconded – Janice Johnson

Matters Arising

None

Chairman's Report

James noted that he didn't really have much to say as most of it would be in the reports coming later. There were four people standing down this year and James thanked them for their support over the past two years, Shona, Graeme Davie, Michael Grant and June Wishart. Replacements had been found for each of the vacant positions but if anyone wished to volunteer to help there were various sub-committees that were in need of members.

Treasurers Report

You should all have a copy, or can share one, of the relevant part of our annual financial statements as prepared by A9, my income and expenditure report, and bar accounts.

Bar accounts

Bar profit is again down on the previous year by about £650. It has been greatly boosted thanks to a darts team who are playing from the club. Without them the reduced profit would be significantly more. Since the change in drink driving legislation members are not using the bar despite having a wide range of low alcohol, non-alcoholic and soft drinks as well as tea and coffee. It is a great asset to the club and should be used more.

Main accounts

This year as well as the accounts prepared by A9 I have also included my own income and expenditure report.

The A9 accounts are accrued accounts and the way they record HP payments / depreciation etc shows us having a £4710 surplus when in real terms as shown on the income / expenditure report we had a small overspend in 2016.

Although we posted a small loss it could have been much worse, the reduction in fuel costs and the good fortune in having no major problems with the greenkeeping machinery resulted in a reduction in spend on these 2 lines of £8500. Had this spend been similar to the previous year we would be facing a significant overspend.

On the Income/Expenditure report the overspend of £2521 was in part due to the Greenkeeping Budget. A sum of £1404 had been drawn down from the 2017/2018 budget as part of the winter maintenance costs so the actual overspend is £1117. The low overspend was down to three factors; a much-reduced fuel bill, in part due to the fall in oil prices, there were no problems with machinery this last year which meant that there was a reduction in repair costs of approximately £6500. Finally, there was less spent on fertilizer this year.

Areas were always being looked at to see where savings, if any, could be made. With regards to the SIC grant we still don't know what is happening

I would like to thank Christine Simpson for doing the book keeping, Stevie Tulloch for helping me to cash up the weekly income and banking it for us.

Hole sponsorship is a major part of our income and thanks need to go to Keith Fraser and our chairman James Sales for the work they do in securing sponsors every year.

A question from the floor asked when the wind turbine would be in profit. Davy explained that the costs and profits were based on a standard model from the Met Office and that whilst it would be about seven years before all monies accrued from the turbine would be passed on to the Club, there were still significant savings on the electricity bill, around 50% reduction compared to the costs before the turbine was installed.

Men's Captain Report

Presented by J. Sales on behalf of the Captain.

Hello, and welcome to the forthcoming 2017 season at Shetland Golf Club. I'd like to apologise to you for not being able to attend this year's AGM, but I'm sure you'll appreciate my need to balance family, work and club commitments. Indeed, my 3rd place of 'worst improved' golfer in 2016 gives testament to this; I'm putting this down to 'lies, statistics', 'alternative facts' and anything else I can shamelessly grasp onto to excuse poor play.

But, at the other end of the list, congratulations to all 2016 competition winners, in particular, our Club Champion of 2016, I. G. Sandison. I'd also like to congratulate the efforts of our two youngest competitors, Andrew Bain for winning the Buildbase Open, and Kieren Fraser, for making a bold debut in July's Wilson Cup in Reay, drawing praise from all who witnessed his play. Two fine performances from Junior players, who, with Ramsay Hogg and Grant Wiseman, will now be representing us at this year's NatWest Island Games - more of which later.

Competitions 2017

We're in the final stages of compiling our fixture list for this season and we'll issue it as soon as we possibly can. Those who have had experience of working with this know that it is a difficult task to complete this jigsaw of dates, club and sponsor requirements and I'd like to give thanks to Ramsay Hogg, Vice-Captain, for his effort this year. Once it is published I do think each week will give every member something exciting to play for. We're also in early negotiations with a major retailer regarding a Summer visit, so perhaps lay off buying the next set of clubs-that-will-transform-your-game just yet!

On this note, we continue to analyse the behaviour of players with regard to competition entries and general interest. We note that 18-hole competition golf takes time; ½ the day on a weekend for most and this often doesn't fit with most members' plans and commitments elsewhere – indeed, at SGC most competitions are attended well on Saturdays and Wednesdays, but maybe we can play more 9-hole competitions on Fridays? I'd like to hear your opinion on what you would like to see; we need valuable feedback.

And 'social' or 'non-handicap' golfers – please also get in touch if you want to see anything developed so you can enjoy your game and maximise your membership. If you wish to gain a handicap, please let us know.

I'll take this opportunity to remind you that *this is your club* – the club, clubhouse are all at your disposal to use. We have a tremendous asset in a good location just out of town that can easily be used for functions: Birthdays; Weddings; Anniversaries; concerts and rehearsals, it's all there for you and all in a self-contained and safe environment. I am puzzled as to why it isn't used more often.

I'm typing myself into running up an online survey to collate views on all this but in the meantime please feel free to give your opinions to gents@shetlandgolfclub.co.uk.

Junior Golf Programme 2016

A significant amount of my club-time last year was taken in delivering our 2016 Junior Golf Programme. I'm glad to say that we had 6 new Clubgolf Level 1 Coaches trained in May last year, with Level 1 Advanced training planned for this March. I'd like to thank all our coaches for helping and committing to volunteer this year, in particular new member Pio Torrent who has taken on the important role of Junior Convenor for 2017.

We had a healthy dozen juniors attending coaching every Sunday, and it's hoped we can build on these numbers in the new season. *We must* encourage more junior players to the club in the new season and coming years if the club is to prosper. Proof, if needed is Andrew and Kieren mentioned above.

We also need to see more families playing together – I appreciate that there is a constant call on families and 'things to do at the weekend', and that we have a football season running at the same time – but the simple fact is the club needs more people playing the game. Again, if you have any views on this on how we can improve this for you please email us at gents@shetlandgolfclub.co.uk.

Indoor Golf

To help with this, we're continuing to work on establishing indoor golf at Clickimin and special thanks is given to Bryan Leask and Robert Geddes at SRT. 3 Clickimin coaches were given the Level 1 coaching above and they are working on introducing golf to new young players. It's then hoped that they can graduate from this to our own coaching programme through the season with indoor golf continuing through the year and into the winter of 17/18.

On that note, I'm grateful for your help in responding to the Indoor Golf Survey I drew up at the end of 2016. Over 90 of you responded, and the results of this survey are invaluable to ensure we allocate our resources effectively to continue to develop this. I'll keep you informed of developments, but again, please feel free to offer any comment and assistance to gents@shetlandgolfclub.co.uk.

Volunteer Help

As you're all aware, the Club is entirely run by volunteers, serving you the member, in their own time.

I'd like to thank Gavin, Ronnie, George, Crawford, Ramsay and Keith for all their work in the Match & Handicap Sub-Committee in 2016 and through 2017. In particular, I'd like to wish Gavin and Moira all the very best in their forthcoming arrival.

In the junior front, I'd like to give special thanks to Dougie, David, James, Jake, Andrew and Pio - and I'm sure we'll all give him our help and support in his new role as Junior Convenor.

I'd like to make a straightforward appeal for new help for the upcoming season. There's a variety of tasks that'll need doing; I'll post 'to-do' lists through the season – again, please email gents@shetlandgolfclub.co.uk to offer your help.

Anyway, enough of me. I wish you all the very best for the upcoming season, and enjoy your golf.

Best wishes,

Mike Stein

Men's Captain

Ladies Captain Report

Presented by Shona Ward.

2016 saw one of the best weather-wise for a number of years. The number of ladies taking part in Open competitions was up it was down slightly for other competitions. Winter golf was exceptionable being able to play 12 of the 18 available weekends. There was only one hole-in-one last season achieved by Trisha. Congratulations to the Shetland team in beating Orkney this last year by a narrow 13.5 to 12.5 margin after being 8-5 down on the first day, making it two in a row as they won the previous year. The club in conjunction with Golf Scotland took a more structured approach to encouraging those who had not played golf before leading to eleven taking part. At the end of the 6 weeks there were 5 ladies attending regularly along with one junior, all who subsequently joined the club. Thanks to all who helped this make it a success. Looking at the age statistics of lady members it was obvious that there would have to be a concerted effort to encourage younger players to join. Heather had another successful season, winning the gross in all for Opens here as well as winning most of the Gross competitions in Whalsay. She has reduced her handicap from 8 to 6 this season. She is also competing in the Island Games this summer in Gotland and we wish her good luck in her team of one! Congratulations to all who played throughout the previous season and thanks to all who sponsored our competitions in the previous season, Shetland Janitorial Supplies, Scottish Sea Farms, Shetland Transport and Baroc amongst others. Janice and Mandy for their efforts in providing refreshments for the four athletic events raising £800 towards club funds. Thanks to the Ladies Committee for all their support. Delighted to report that Janice Johnson will be taking on the role of Ladies Captain for the 2017 season.

Green Convenors Report

Presented by Davie Kirk.

2016 was again a challenging year and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff for maintaining the course and the equipment throughout the year. Unfortunately, at the start of the year we hit a bit of a sticky patch with regards to contracts but after several conversations this was resolved. The coring and sanding of the greens as proposed last year; i.e. 18 holes being done twice a year, this had to be altered to the four worst being done twice and the rest done once. A big thankyou to everyone and the volunteers that got involved and we are hoping to do something similar this year. As Davy has already touched on, the new rough cutter has not been a huge success, mainly down to safety reasons. The net effect of that is that we will nurse the old rough cutter for the next two seasons allowing the finances to concentrate on the greens and fairways. Then we will look at a new or second-hand cutter depending on the financial situation. The unusually warm weather at the end of the season coupled with both Pete and Ryan leaving caught Edwin a bit short in maintaining the course and the patience of the members was appreciated whilst this was dealt with. We have two new men starting, Andrew Brill who will be in his second year so won't be starting from scratch, and Gary Spence as Edwin's new right hand man. Winter work is on-going and Edwin has been very proactive keeping in mind the savings needing to be made across the board in maintaining the equipment whilst not reducing the quality of maintenance. Some of the winter work includes the ditching work on the 15th to improve the drainage. Also, the work being done on the area at the right-hand side of the 13th green to cut a section out to allow the rough cutter full access to the back area and bring the section above the rear back into play again. Again, working on the ditch on the upper side of the 14th green and again on the ditching area around the 13th, 14th and 15th. Ritchie should be back on board soon. Any suggestions on improvements or changes e mail me or the club and we'll try and accommodate as best we can. A question from the floor regarding the 10th. Davie had that on his list and forgot to raise it! The plan is to lift from the middle of the green back and then raise it so we have more of a run off to reduce the bogginess of that section and put in more drainage. The committee must decide whether it is re-seeded or turf laid, taken from somewhere else. Once the 15th fairway is done the intention is to move onto the 10th.

Junior Convenors Report

No Report (Included within the Mens Captain Report above).

Office Bearers and Committee

James let it be known that the usual process was for all the committee to step down and those who wished to stay on could then do so assuming there was no opposition from the floor. It was agreed that those who wished to continue could do so. Shona, Michael Grant, June Wishart and Graham who stepped down in November are all stepping down. New members were put forward for selection.

Margaret Simpson (Memberships) – proposed by James Sales, seconded by Janice Johnson. No objections.

Pio Torrent (Junior Convenor) – proposed by James Sales, seconded by Davy Thomson. No objections.

Janice Johnson (Ladies Captain) – proposed by James Sales, seconded by Shona Ward. No objections.

Grant Wiseman – proposed by James Sales, seconded by Brian Groat. No objections.

Craig Jenkins – proposed by James Sales, seconded by Davy Thomson. No objections.

There were no other proposals.

Appointment of Auditors

Davy explained to the floor that when the grant was given by the SIC there had to be a full set of accounts kept. This was done by A9 and it is costing us about £2000 to do it. However, OSCA only require an Income/Expenditure report. Davy hopes that when we get this year's grant he can persuade the SIC that as OSCA only require the Income/Expenditure report then that is what should be followed. This will effectively allow us to do it in house and it only needs to be examined by the accountant. This is what we are going to try for next year with A9 doing the examination. The floor raised an issue about this and whether a change would have to be made to the club's constitution to allow that to happen. James and Davy reiterated that any change would have to come as a proposal which would have to come either at an emergency AGM or the next proper AGM, if required.

Proposals to the Meeting

PROPOSAL 1 – If a person is deficit on their prepay on the morning of a competition they have put their name down to enter, they can play but their card would be null and void, unless they cleared their deficit and paid the competition entrance fee. No exceptions.

Proposed by Russell Swainston.

There being no counter proposals this was passed.

PROPOSAL 2- Propose that the £3 entry fee for all 18 hole and £2 entry fee for all 9 hole competitions go to the club funds for competition expenses and the maintenance and upkeep of the course. Any prizes for non-sponsored competitions should be funded by charging a higher entrance fee, e.g. £5 entry, with £3 to club funds and £2 to the prize fund.

In 2016 we gave out nearly £1000 in prizes for non-sponsored events. In 2016 we spent more than we took in so we simply cannot afford to give that amount in prizes. We also have an ongoing need to improve drainage as some of our existing drainage is now failing, as we have seen on the 15th. The material costs for the work on the 15th was in excess of £1000.

Proposed by Davy Thomson.

After a general discussion, a counter proposal by Crawford McIntyre was put forward. That the men adopt the same set up as the ladies have, i.e. that the amounts are kept as now but

all monies go to the club. A vote was taken on the original proposal with no support. A vote taken on the counter proposal was carried unanimously.

PROPOSAL 3 – To propose that the Senior Discount is set at a fixed age as opposed to the moveable feast that is the government retirement age.

I understand that at one time, the government retirement age was a useful benchmark to use. Nowadays, it can change on a yearly basis and some members may be in their late sixties before gaining access to the state pension.

I think it is fairer and more consistent if a specific age group is defined, such as all members who are 65.

Proposed by Christine Simpson.

After a general discussion, a counter proposal by Davy Thomson that the age for Seniors be set at 70 yrs. was offered. A vote on the original proposal had no support. A vote on the counter proposal was carried unanimously.

AOCB

Stewart Tomlinson suggested that the 15th tee be moved forward. It was generally agreed that the length of the 15th as it stood meant that a lot of the older players and higher handicap players struggled to make the fairway from the tee as it stands. Davy did mention that at the committee meeting the previous Monday this was discussed and all were in favour of doing something along those lines. A general discussion ensued and the long-term aim would be to put a tee back from the Ladies tee. It was agreed that the committee would look further into it.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.07.