

SEAFORD HEAD GOLF CLUB

Minutes of the A.G.M held on Friday March 22nd 2024

There were 67 signatures on the attendance list. At 7.30pm, Alan Flood, Club President took the chair and welcomed all those members present. He said the presentation of trophies would take place after the AGM formalities and a drinks break.

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from D. Lindfield, S. Foster, T. Baker, J.Ramsey, T.Toockey, T.Dezille, S.Fears, W.Patton

Minutes of the previous AGM:

Minutes of the previous AGM in March 2023 were read and accepted as a true record.

Lady Captain Report:

Firstly I would like to Welcome 3 new Ladies to the Club Andrea Keith, Sue Fears and Sally Lovett and hope they will enjoy playing at Seaford Head. We had another successful Ladies Open in August with 48 ladies playing and seems to be a popular event with a lot of the players returning each year. We had 2 away days at Eastbourne Down and Mid-Sussex which were well supported and very enjoyable. I would like to congratulate Tracie Waller and Rona Tyrrell who beat Willingdon at home in the first round of The Daily Mail competition this month. Our Charity for this year was a local one, Cycling without age where volunteers take out elderly and disabled people using a trishaw. We raised £610 for them. As you are aware the ladies don't have a Ladies Captain and we run it by committee so I would like to thank those on our committee for their help and support for the last year.

Captain Report:

First of all I'd like to thank all the members who voted for me to be your Captain. I tried to do my best to serve this club which I have member for 20 years. Apologise if this hasn't been the case but is difficult to organise a golf club without a club house and of course the weather didn't help. I'd like to thank the green keepers for keeping the course in good condition and the View management and staff. A big thanks to the pro shop staff for they services and help they give to club members which was definitely better than before. Thanks Tom baker for organising the mix matches, Pat Johnson on organising the seniors club matches and help to me on my year, Pat as now retired for this and Steve Harriman will be taking over and I hope all members will give him lots of support . Thank you all members that played on my day out making it a success and on donating prizes that contributed to help raise £213 from the 17 players. Thanks to the ladies mix match for rising £117, Thanks to my partner Carole for helping me on my Captain day, thanks to all members that contributed to help raise £2185 to my chosen charity, it was the children's charity, The Rocking Horse Appeal which is really amazing. I thank you all and wish Jack good luck.

Treasurers Report:

Lynn presented his report, said we were doing okay and in a healthy position and happy to take any questions, we had made up the loss from last year after rise in subscriptions fees. He was happy to be standing down and wished every success to Andy who he hoped would be voted in later.

Appointment of Officers:

All nominee slips were read out along with proposers and the following were duly elected for the April 2024-2025 year.

Captain Jack Mason

Vice-Captain Rob Waller

Lady Representative Madeline Murphy

Hon Secretary Shaun Doyle

Hon Treasurer Andy Hutchings

Committee members, Robert Coombs, Tom Baker, Phil Ray, Matt Noel, Kevin Bray

Propositions of Motions:

None received.

Any other business:

Jack stepped forward as the new captain and made a speech;

I just wanted to say thank you and well done to Carlos on behalf of the members. I thought he lead the club fantastically well and I heard his captain's away day was a great success and he has raised a lot of money for his charity

Unfortunately, one event has had to be cancelled this year, after we had a couple of complaints last year. I hope you can all understand how frustrating this is for me personally, but the captain's annual beer throwing showdown on the terrace won't be going ahead again.

I wanted to say a quick thank you to Rob Waller for accepting to be our vice-captain for the year.

I'm looking forward to working alongside you and coming up with a plan as to how we can move this club forward.

I don't have a charity this year, however I'm looking at ways of giving back to the community - I'm looking to help youngsters get into the game instead. When we have raised money this will go towards helping them learn the game with free of charge lessons and a free golf membership that has already been on offer for a while from the council. Hopefully this will lead to an influx of junior members which will only help the club moving forward in the future.

On a personal level my goal is to play at least once with existing society's/playing groups so I'm able to get to know everyone. There will also be a new support group set up by me and Tom Baker welcoming new members to the course with the hope that they will feel welcomed and join some of you out on the course.

Final thing is the Captains Away day; this will be held at Pryford Lakes in Woking. This will be held on the 23rd of August. This event will be open to everyone including ladies and members of other golf clubs. More details to follow.

Lastly, I'm looking forward to serving you as Captain, any suggestions as to how to bring the club closer together are more than welcome, please come up and speak to me or Rob.

Shaun then introduced Nicola from the View management to the room. Nicola spoke of her vision to try and unite the club and repeated the 10% off drink and 20% off food for all members. The plan is to stay open into the evening so that twilight golfers can get a pint as well as planning social events that she hoped to see well attended by club members. It's a learning curve but determined to make it work with members at the heart of it and hopes to make it feel like our club house again.

Shaun then gave the members present a brief overview of a few issues. Fixture cards have been printed for the men's and ladies fixtures, they will be available from the club shop. The ladies are missing the main part of their club champion trophy, it is approximately 2ft high resin sculpture of a lady golfer, it is feared that it has been thrown away when council staff cleared the basement earlier in the year. The club will work with the ladies section to find a suitable replacement. The ladies are currently not happy and they feel unsafe in the ladies locker room with men walking in on a daily basis where they fail to notice the ladies sign when looking for a toilet. There have been ongoing discussions with Fraser and the ladies would like the door kept locked with a code available for visiting lady golfers to use, a system we have all seen in operation at other clubs. The ladies have the backing of the club and Shaun will raise the issue with Fraser again and if it can't be resolved in house the club will escalate it to the Town Clerk. With Max encouraging youth golf we can't as a club have the situation where safeguarding issues occur with men entering the ladies/girls changing areas.

Carlos asked if we could go back to awarding medals and shields. A discussion took place and the opinion in the room was that 8 were in favour with the rest against. That said it would be discussed at the next committee meeting that maybe we should have something to present and keep for the main competitions.

Sue Baker asked if the scorecards would be amended as the new card although better than the old for quality does not have the space for 4 players to be marked on a the card. Max clarified that they are down to their last few boxes and believed that the reprint would solve any issues.

A member asked about divisions in competitions, it was explained that the system automatically creates divisions when the entry was above a certain level.

Rob Waller asked about the score entry machine, Max explained that Fraser has been trying to get a replacement from the company that supplies them but they sent a poor condition 2nd hand one. Fraser is chasing this and the plan is to install it downstairs near the pro shop.

Shaun then spoke about the new handicap changes coming in and that very little clear info is coming out from golf England. The main change from April 1st is the course handicap plus what we referred to as standard scratch score minus par, in essence for men we will all lose around 3 shots off the whites and 5.5 off the yellows and even more off the mats. On top of this the changes also mean that 4 ball better ball games could also count towards handicaps as well as games played over less than 18 holes but more than 9. Shaun will endeavour to update you all as and when he gets clear info. The best way will be to use the golf England app or machine once it is up and running again. The important thing is not to use both for the same round so if in a comp do not use the app. Disappointedly all the old handicap allowances are still in place such as only a 95% allowance for stroke play comps. It will be confusing to start with but like the changes 4 years ago they will soon become the norm and hopefully clearer. The changes may mean that competitions from different tees for different players can take place but it is still not clear how this will work at this stage.

Following a short drinks break, the presentation of trophies took place, announced by Jack and handed out by Carlos. The Order of Merit was won by Andy Hutchings and Shaun would send the full results list out to members.

Jack then reminded all that the Captains drive in on this Sunday 24th at 1.30pm followed by a small buffet. He hopes to see all attend and see Carlos putt out and Jack start his year.

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm