

## **HAREFIELD PLACE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

Meeting opened by club President M. Gallagher

Minutes of 2022 AGM were proposed by S. Littlejohn and seconded by G Reynolds.

Apologies;

A. James, R. Cooper, S. Hartley, G. Payne, S. Knollman, L. Morgan, R. Thomson

### **President's address**

Mick welcomed everyone to this year's AGM. He noted the smaller turnout this year but believes a lower turnout indicated a happy group of members.

Mick introduced the committee team and thanked them for doing a great job, which requires a lot of work behind the scenes and requires all committee members inputs to make the club a great success. He also called out Anne James for her contributions and noted how much she gives to makes all our lives easier.

He then moved on to mention what a successful year the club had last year with Past Captain Ray Cooper at the helm. He noted how Ray brought a great sense of fun and his own style to the captaincy and called for a round of applause for Ray which was acknowledged by the attending members and committee members.

Mick provided an update on the new machinery given to course Greenkeepers, with circa £200,000 being spent on brand new equipment. Mick also referenced a conversation with the Management team responsible for the Greenkeepers, in which there was now an expectation that standards must improve and be maintained. Mick also noted a slight improvement with current course conditions

Mick gave a quick update on the club tour to Bournemouth, with 33 people confirmed following a high interest rate of members wanting to attend this year. He also confirmed that the hotel was now booked. Given previous experiences of the trip, it was Mick's view that it was excellent for the club and it was going to be a great trip for all the members attending.

Mick highlighted what a success the Dinner and Dance in December was and how it was enjoyed by all. He noted that he had looked at rebooking for this year, but prices had gone up and that it would be discussed by the committee.

Mick talked about the Easter Open in memory of Steve Browne and asked for all entries to be paid if not already. He asked for all payments to be paid to the club account with the Reference as "Easter Open". Mick noted the entry fee is £40 per

person, which includes green fees and prizes and there would be a trophy for the event.

Mick said that the club would be purchasing a bush and a plaque for a ceremony in honour of Steve, with members of his family attending on the day.

Mick referenced the increase of membership numbers (up to 103) and that Middlesex Golf had emailed to congratulate the club for continuing to grow the membership at the club given the difficult climate affecting business and clubs. Mick added that overall, the club is on the up and offered good luck to this year's Captain, Steve Littlejohn.

Finally, Mick asked the attending members for approval for the current committee proposed for this year to represent the club. A show of hands to approve the current committee was confirmed by all attending members.

President	Mick Gallagher
Vice President	Peter Thorpe
Treasurer/Secretary	Anne James
Captain	Steve Littlejohn
Vice-Captain	Matt James
Past Captain	Ray Cooper
Handicap Secretary	Zaro Matev
Competition Secretary	Gareth Reynolds
Welfare Officer	Scott Hartley
Junior Organiser	Mick Gallagher

### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

"In Anne's absence you should all have a copy of the accounts for the year ending 31st January 2023 which have been examined and signed by Andrew Pibworth.

We began the financial year with £13,066.44 and finished the year up £2,726.10 at £15,792.54. This was helped by annual subscriptions and new members income increasing and profits from the Smithy/Botty Memorial Day and Captains Day. The Club made donations to The British Heart Foundation in memory of Pete Smith and

The British Liver Trust in memory of Keith Bott as well as purchasing Merlin Passes for the Smith/Bott families. The Club also made a £1,500 donation to the St Lukes Hospice from the profit made from Captains Day.

At the moment we have 100 paid up members.

We also purchased new club shirts which are selling well and renovated the Club noticeboards.

The Club subsidised the very successful Dinner and Dance 2022 event at the Bull Hotel by £347.15.”

Andrew Pibworth, Honorary Member, confirmed that he had examined the Accounts and attested that they were correct in all aspects. The presentation of the accounts, prepared by Anne James, was excellent, as is normal, and he congratulated and thanked her on behalf of the Club for the work she does.

No questions were raised by those present and the accounts were approved.

### **Handicap Secretary's Report – Mr Zaro Matev**

Zaro mentioned some recent changes to the World Handicap System (WHS) relating to Penalty Scores. He also mentioned the fact that players should always complete rounds where possible and should always enter their scores even if they had a No Return (NR) on one or more holes. NR will mean that they cannot win the competition but the rest of the holes' scores will still count for handicap purposes.

Zaro also announced the 2 most improved golfers since the last AGM in August 2022. These were Leigh London (7.1 > 4.7) and Ashley Cummings (11.6 -9.2)

### **Competition Secretary's Report – Mr Gareth Reynolds**

Since the last AGM including the individual rounds of the winter eclectic, we have held 28 competitions with 17 different winners, the most prolific being Lee Morgan with 5 wins and then the trio of Darren, Scott and our president Mick with 3 each respectively. Some competitions succumbed to the weather again this winter but we enjoyed a well contested albeit delayed Turkey Trot and got the Eclectic completed, so thank you to all of you that continue to support the competitions in the more difficult conditions.

The doubles winter knockout competition continues to be on schedule, with Matt and Rob due to play the winners of the Littlejohn family duel in the remaining Semi-final with the final due to be played before the end of April.

The club competition calendar is a full one again. We have made a few changes to the schedule to even out the balance of stableford and Strokeplay events, although the wet wintery conditions do lend itself to be more stableford friendly. Therefore, some last-minute tweaks have been made and will continue to make if need be. We will soon be renewing our subs for the coming year so just a reminder to play in this year's club championship members must have competed in at least 2 club competitions after the date of renewal.

The Steve Browne Easter Open is fast approaching with a few spaces left, could we kindly ask all entry fees are paid in advance please. The Bournemouth trip is full, Spain is restocking its sun cream reserves for Ray and the national club competitions are about to get underway.

Just leaves me to wish Good luck to our Captain Steve Littlejohn and his Vice captain Matt James for the year ahead, I'm sure you will get all the support you need from the committee and the members of this wonderful club.

Play well and enjoy the season.

Gareth also tabled the following motion:

Traditionally, before the changes to the WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM (WHS) were made, 28 was always the maximum handicap for men. Post the WHS changes, England Golf strongly recommend that the limit is set using the HI, however the computer software is set using the COURSE HANDICAP. By using 28 as the HI the COURSE HANDICAP then becomes 31. At present HPGC competitions have a COURSE HANDICAP limit of 28 meaning the HI range falls between 25.1-25.9. I therefore table the motion to change the maximum COURSE HANDICAP for male members in HPGC competitions from 28 to 31 meaning the HI range will now fall between 27.8 - 28.7.

After discussion it was agreed that the MAXIMUM COURSE HANDICAP ALLOWED for COMPETITIONS be raised to 29.

### **Past Captain's address – Mr Ray Cooper**

Ray apologised for not attending due to a date clash with his holiday, but he wanted to take the opportunity of thanking the committee and all the members for the support shown to him during his year as Captain.

“We managed to raise over £2500 for my chosen charity of St Luke's Hospice plus the Club.

I would like to give special mention to Steve Littlejohn and Darren McNutt for reaching the final of the Top Rock.

It is time for me now to pass the baton onto Steve Littlejohn, who is Captain for this year, who I know will have the full support from the committee and all the members of this great club. Good luck Steve. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did!!”

### **Current Captain’s address – Mr Steve Littlejohn**

Steve began by thanking outgoing Captain, Ray Cooper, for asking him to be Captain and for the great support and handover he had received. Given his newness to the role, all the information he has been provided with, has been very much appreciated, as has the support from Mick and the committee. Steve noted that this year “should be a walk in the park!”

Steve expressed a desire to enter lots of club competitions this year. He has entered 6 teams in the Top Rock and given a great response on the Bourne Vanneck, has entered 3 teams this year.

Steve believes the club is going from strength to strength and is excited for the year ahead, where he is going to pick club competition representation based on merit and teams with the best chance of winning. However, he would also like to try and give everyone a chance to represent the club where he can. He also expressed a desire to see all those representing the club, wearing club shirts where possible.

Steve noted that the Steve Browne Easter Open was coming up in April and fittingly, coincides with the Masters which was great to see for such a great man.

With the Middlesex Sixes coming up, unfortunately due to other commitments, both the Captain and Vice-Captain are unavailable, but Steve has asked Gareth Reynolds to run in their absence, which he thanked Gareth for.

Steve also mentioned that he was really looking forward to a great club trip to Bournemouth and based on previous years, should be great fun for all attending.

Steve finished by saying how honoured he feels to be Captain of this great club for the coming year.

### **AOB**

Peter Thorpe raised a query on behalf of Lee Morgan, who could not attend the AGM, to ask why a trophy is not presented for the winner of the Winter Eclectic. To be raised at the committee.

Mick Gallagher said that renewals are going out next week and that the membership for 2023/24 will remain at the same cost as last year.

Terry Simmons thanked the committee for all they do.

Mick Gallagher finally thanked everybody for attending and confirmed that the next AGM will be March 2024.

Meeting closed at – 16.25 hrs.