

Minutes of Mens Section Annual General Meeting Monday 11th December 2023, Bawburgh Golf Club, Glen Lodge Clubhouse

Present:

Justin Warr Captain, Mark Cocker Vice Captain, Greg Gladwell Handicap Secretary, Tony English Treasurer, Jake Keeley Immediate Past Captain, Pete Bennett, Graham Lock, Phil Baker, Paul Greengrass, Malcolm Manley, Gary Clarke, David Bawden, Peter Halford, Robert Barnard, Robert Webb, and Alfie Gotts Secretary. Attendance log was duly signed and record maintained.

1. **Apologies for Absence;** Richard Bunn, Andrew Gooch, Kevin Webb, Paul Waymark, and Chris Ingram
2. **Approval of minutes, AGM 12th December 2022.** The minutes of the AGM 12th December 2022 were approved and signed by Justin Warr Captain and dated 11th December 2023
3. **Matters arising from minutes of AGM 12th December 2022.** There were no matters arising
4. **Men's Section Captains Report – Justin Warr**

Writing my final report whilst coming to the end of my duties as Captain I reflect to saying 'yes' to the role when Jake asked me to be his Vice Captain back in 2022. It has been a testing but extremely rewarding experience, and I have learned more than I ever imagined about the running of the Men's Section, as well as the broader running of the golf club. This leads me to expressing my sincerest thanks to the whole of the committee for their fantastic support throughout the past year as Captain, I certainly could not have done it without you all. The biggest thank you must go to Chris Ingram with the office staff. I am not sure any member truly understands the amount of admin & support the golf office complete for us as a committee with the additional tasks that come from Captains requests, sorry Chris. The work ethic and commitment they show is second to none and something the Mens Section is incredibly grateful for.

My final thank you goes to the management, Robert, Jo, Jamie & Krissy along with the rest of the staff at Glen Lodge, who continue to invest/support projects and improvements for all of us members to enjoy. The golf course has seen some major changes this year with some disruptions, but we are clearly seeing the results of everyone's hard work for the members to enjoy in 2024. To all members I would like to Thank you for your patience and support throughout the year.

I would like to Congratulate all those winners throughout the year, where we have had fantastic performances from all levels of golfer both at club and county level. This will lead us to our annual event and start of the golfing season in April next year to compete for the champions of champions. Of course, aside from the winners at Bawburgh Golf Club we are blessed with a jam-packed optional competition schedule which continues to attract fantastic support. In 2023 we have seen a reduction in entry numbers by 864, unfortunately due to extreme weather there have been 8 less competitions played with the course closed 5 times in December, once in January causing the numbers to fall within the 2 months by 722. This year are entry numbers are 8642 with 131 competitions played averaging 63 players per competition. Still a fantastic result for the section and golf club.

I would like to thank all members who have committed time and money in supporting our comprehensive golfing calendar.

This time last year I represented that I would like to centre my attention on several projects one of those was trying to give new and existing members an opportunity to represent Bawburgh Golf Club throughout our busy golfing programme. This I feel has been a success seeing members actively getting involved with our busy competition programme. The addition of a second team for the handicap league has also given us the platform to develop and increase opportunities for players. Due to Gary Clarke's and Chris Ingrams' commitment this year we have seen the 1st team come runners up in division 2 and the 2nd team promoted to Division 5, a fantastic effort from all that represented and a huge Thank you to both Gary and Chris who have agreed to continue managing the teams next year. Thank you.

For the first time, we experienced the Turner trophy which gave us a unique opportunity to have 16 players from 4 handicap divisions represent Bawburgh. I consciously picked some players that again are new to representing Bawburgh. Following a great event, we had some positive feedback from players encouraging them to put themselves forward for other competitions in 2024.

The county knock out teams Cullington, Myhill, Barnard, Scratch and Bass Trophy teams also had a mixture of experienced and new players performing extremely well at tough home and away venues. I would like to say Thank you to Mark Cocker, Steven Ansett, Jake Keeley and Chris Goddard for all their time, support throughout the year and it was good to see so many players attend the get together sessions.

My captains day back in July received incredible support and will certainly be a day I will never forget. The day raised £5000 for the Clare School Norwich, which is simply incredible. Thank you to all members, who played, sponsored, and donated towards the day, the school is incredibly overwhelmed by the total raised, and so am I. This will go to their sensory rooms to give children and young adults let's fortunate than us some relief and enjoyment.

As you can imagine with so many members it can be extremely difficult, trying to make sure we have accommodated the needs of every golfer. During the year the Mens section have persistently tried to develop its involvement and delivery of our golfing programme. We have added to our already comprehensive committee a representative from the off-peak members and introduced a communications officer hopefully broadening information and giving all members an opportunity to have direct access to the Mens section. To add to this, we have updated all the rules for each competition and increased the information forums, giving direct access for members to all aspects of the golfing programme.

Finally, the Mens section along with help from the office over the past 2 months have produced a Golf rules crib sheet document that can be accessible for all members. This has centred attention on the most frequent questions involving rules and concerns during your round of golf. Hopefully this will not only allow members to play with minimal delay involving decision making but reduce the discrepancies when handing in your completed cards.

2024 is set to be another busy year of golf, and Mark, I wish you luck.... I look forward to assisting you with any help or advice you may need from my year as past captain, but with the help and support of Kevin and the rest of the committee I am sure you will put on another fantastic year for the members. Your delivery as the communications officer during the last few months have clearly shown we really are in safe hands.

I wish all of you, and your families a happy and healthy Christmas and I look forward to seeing many of you on New Years Day to support Mark on hopefully, hitting a nice shot down the first fairway and officially taking over.

5. Treasurers Report – Tony English

I have been the Mens Section Treasurer for 11 years now and I wanted to tell you what I do and how the figures I produce drive decisions at committee level on financial matters.

Every year I produce a Budget/Projection/Forecast based on historical data and present to the committee for approval. This is what we work to although changes do happen as circumstances change.

The Income and Expenditure figures before you are for the 12 months to 31st October 2023.

The top line shown as competition entry fees is one of the most important figures as this drives how much we can payout in terms of percentage and money. The more members enter the more we can pay out. The current payout is 80%.

Over the years entry numbers have increased from 5000 in 2013 to 8642 this year. The numbers have increased steadily over the years peaking in 2022 at 9506. I think we may have hit a new ceiling but let us see.

All other competitions being The Masters, Club Championship, Knockouts and OOM's all pretty much wash their own faces and with help from Spire and Peter Field Golf we are able to provide prize tables around £1,000 for each of The Masters and Club Championship. This year I have added a new line to reflect the changes seen in OOM competitions as we now see income flows not just cost.

Justin has already covered Captains day and the amount raised is a fantastic achievement which we at committee are pleased to help and support. Both Jake and Justin have raised £5,000 each for their charities in last 2 years, so Mark the bar has been raised!!

Turning to expenditure most costs are fairly fixed and thus reasonably easy to budget, the main unknown being County events such as Myhill, Cullington etc. The Match Expenses cover food costs and much depends on how far we go in each competition. If we reached the final in all of them we would exceed budget but I know we would all be delighted.

This year we upgraded The Honours Boards which cost net £2,885 after we sold the old ones for £410. In addition my thanks to the Ladies section who contributed £300 which is shown in last year's figures. We decided to upgrade as the existing boards were getting full and the new ones provided more name space and were easier to maintain. I think you will agree they look very good and as I always say, funds allowing, we will continue to support projects that benefit our members.

Lastly we have £4,681.21 in the bank which is now much closer to the buffer we comfortably need. When I took over as Treasurer our bank balance was just over £11,000 and over the years we have supported projects and people for eg juniors and increased payouts on all competitions.

Finally my thanks to Chris and his team in the office who have provided me with tremendous support and also to our Accountant Mike Gibbins for over-viewing the figures.

Tony English Treasurer of Men's Section.

11th December 2023

6. Handicap Secretary's Report – Greg Gladwell

The year has gone smoothly:

- The course has consistently been set up to comply with England Golf requirements allowing WHS qualifying competitions and general play card submissions to go ahead throughout the year. We thank the greenkeepers for their hard work in delivering this for the members.
- The Playing Handicap Indexes used by members in competitions have been consistently accurate and we thank the office for managing this considerable amount of activity on behalf of the Handicap Committee.

- The management of individual members Handicap Indexes has gone smoothly with almost 99% of members handicaps being automatically calculated by the “best 8 rounds of 20” formula. An interim handicap review in April 23 and the annual handicap review in November 23 saw just 7 members handicaps adjusted by the Handicap Committee, primarily because they had demonstrated over a period of time that they could no longer play at their allocated Handicap Index level.

The tougher scoring in winter conditions in 2022/23 and already this winter saw the daily Playing conditions calculation consistently at +1, +2 or +3. This has allowed some members Handicap Indexes to rise significantly in the winter. As a consequence the Handicap Committee, are consulting with England Golf, will from January 2024 undertake quarterly interim Handicap Index reviews to ensure there is a broad alignment between general play scores and demonstrated competition playing capability.

As the WHS has been in use for over 3 years England Golf have undertaken a full review. There will be some limited changes from April 2024 that will impact all members. These will be automatically applied to members competition handicaps on the scorecards provided by the office. For details of these changes members are advised to listen to the England Golf podcast.

Question from Robert Webb, querying the winter slope rating. It was confirmed this was governed by WHS, and England Golf, and Greg Gladwell would write to All England to query the winter course rating and return to the membership when received.

7. **Proposed amendments to Mens Section constitution.** The below were proposed by Justin Warr, and seconded by Alfie Gotts
 - a) Amending objective 2.5 by adding “ supporting Bawburgh Golf Club” to the existing objective of “ to develop junior members through competition and coaching”
 - b) Deleting the role of Junior Organiser from the Mens Section committee under 5.7 of the constitution
 - c) Points 5.8 to 5.13, to move to 5.7 to 5.12

Amendments were voted upon and accepted unanimously 16 to 0. Alfie Gotts to make amendments, including website

8. Nomination and Election of Officials 2024

Mark Cocker was nominated as Mens Section Captain, proposed by Justin Warr, and seconded by Alfie Gotts

Kevin Webb was nominated as Mens Section Vice Captain, proposed by Mark Cocker and seconded by Justin Warr

Tony English was nominated as Mens Section Treasurer, proposed by Justin Warr and seconded by Mark Cocker

Alfie Gotts was nominated as Mens Section Secretary, proposed by Justin Warr and seconded by Mark Cocker.

The nominations were all approved

Men’s Section Handicap Secretary, previously appointed at 2022 AGM.

9. PROPOSAL TO RE-INTRODUCE THE PAUL GREENGRASS ORDER OF MERIT FROM 2024

We would like the members to consider reintroducing this competition in 2024 on the following basis:

The format would be similar to previous years, i.e. a specified number of nominated events throughout the main golfing season (April to October) where OOM points are allocated to the top 20 players in each event (or last 16 in the knockouts);

There would be additional NO entry fee and, in a similar approach to the Mike Sowerby Eclectic competition, this would be run in the background as a by-product of existing MSC events;

There would be a variety of event types and tees to ensure inclusion for all members, specifically season long knockout match-plays, and medals & stablefords (trophy & non-trophy) over both 36- & 18-holes;

These would include events on various days, mainly being Saturdays, Sundays & Wednesdays;

We would recommend 30 events, split into tiers according to ranking by importance, as follows:

- Tier 1 (6 major events) - Stewards Cup, Summer Knockout, Alex Birrell Pairs, Club Championship and Bawburgh Masters (all white tees), and Charity Stableford (yellow tees);
- Tier 2 (18 white tee events) - 6 monthly medals (Sundays), plus Spring Stableford, Entertainments Trophy, Captain's Cup and Spooner Trophy, plus 4 Midweek Medals and 4 Midweek Stablefords;
- Tier 3 (6 yellow tee events) - Rover Cup and 5 optional Saturday Stablefords.

OOM points would be awarded according to an agreed allocation and, if members so wish, there could be both Nett and Scratch versions;

Members could enter (and score OOM points in) as many events as they wished to;

Prizes, as agreed and published, to be awarded to the member(s) accumulating the most OOM points throughout the season, with the winner in the nett competition receiving the Paul Greengrass OOM Trophy and having their name added to the Men's honour board and an invitation to the next Champion of Champions competition.

There are several reasons for making this proposal, including:

Although the original Paul Greengrass OOM has been replaced by various, smaller competitions, no season long order of merit exists that will truly recognise the most consistent player in MSC events throughout the season;

This competition could co-exist with the other OOMs now in place, as these appear to be specifically arranged for those members who wish to take part in (and are prepared to pay for) a more limited number of events;

Allowing members to enter free of charge and without limitation, as with the Mike Sowerby Eclectic competition, ensures everyone is included if they take part in a specified event, and has an opportunity to improve their total;

Historical records show that, although some members may enter more individual events than others, those scoring OOM points will not do so in every event, with the leading contenders usually scoring points in 10, 11 or 12 of those entered - it's not about how many are entered, it's about consistent performance;

The administration of the competition is simple enough, using pre-prepared MS Excel spreadsheets, that can be published to ALL members after each competition and on the members' page of the website;

This had become an established part of the MSC competition programme, for which a trophy and honour board already exist and, like the Mike Sowerby Eclectic, rewards consistent play over a significant number of events.

The above written proposal was verbally supported and endorsed by Malcolm Manley.

Greg Gladwell responded on behalf of the MSC and sub committee, with a key objection being that, the proposal was not constitutional, under section 2. Objective, "to represent the competition interests of the male members" under "fairness for all"

Given the season long nature of the OOM, which consisted of 30 events, 92% of the membership played less than 10 competitions per year. This would severely limit their ability to win versus the remaining 8% , which included the proposer, seconded, and trophy name holder, and the last winner

A vote was taken as to whether the proposal was constitutional, and was carried by 9 to 7

Greg highlighted 4 "weeds" that needed further discussion a) automatic opt in, could conflict with GDPR regulations, and hence it was agreed an opt out would be available b) the events were "mainly" Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, agreement was made to add clarity so this could include the playing of KO's on different days, c) champion of champions already had 5 places for the existing summer and winter OOM events, agreement was made to add a 6th for the Paul Greengrass OOM, d) clarity was asked re future amendments, and whether the trophy was donated or leased. Agreed to hold current format for next 5 years

The 4 adjustments will be written into the proposal by Alfie Gotts, supported by Malcolm Manley.

The proposal with the 4 adjustments as above was voted on, to approve the proposal.

This was accepted 9 to 7, and hence will be brought into the 2024 competition calendar, with the rules and format to be updated by Alfie Gotts, assisted by Malcolm Manley.

10. Any other business

- 10.1 Request that the Michael Sowerby Eclectic standings be publicised on a more regular basis. Mark Cocker responded with, given staff changes these updates were not in place, but confirmed this would form part of his monthly update

No further questions were raised

AGM closed at 8.28 PM

To be approved and if so approved, sign at 2024 AGM, by Mark Cocker Mens Section Captain

Signed

Mark Cocker 2024 Men's Section Captain