

Minutes of Mens Section Annual General Meeting Monday 9th December 2024, Bawburgh Golf Club, Glen Lodge Clubhouse

Present:

Justin Warr Immediate Past Captain, Mark Cocker Captain, Kevin Webb Vice Captain, Tony English Treasurer, Paul Greengrass, Malcolm Manley, Gary Clarke, David Bawden, Peter Halford, Robert Barnard, Robert Webb, Richard Bunn, Chris Ingram, Paul Waymark, Gary French, Andrew Gooch, and Alfie Gotts Secretary. Attendance log was duly signed and record maintained.

1. **Apologies for Absence;** Greg Gladwell Handicap Secretary, and Andy Gregory
2. **Approval of minutes, AGM 11th December 2023.** The minutes of the AGM 11th December 2023 were approved and signed by Mark Cocker Captain and dated 9th December 2024
3. **Matters arising from minutes of AGM 11th December 2023.** There were no matters arising
4. **Men's Section Captains Report – Mark Cocker**

Good evening and thank you for coming this evening

My cunning plan this year was to hopefully go unnoticed, not upset anyone, not to create any dramas and definitely not be remembered. 11 ½ months into my captaincy I have concluded that my cunning plan was an impossible task. Everyone knows who you are, everyone has a question for you, overnight you become the oracle of all knowledge in relation to the rules of golf and thanks to my never ending monthly emails I will probably always be remembered. At least I haven't upset anyone too much, as far as I am aware, still a couple of weeks to go.

I would like to thank a few people who have helped me navigate the last 12 months. Firstly Chris Ingram, whilst at times he can be a right pain when he is under pressure, he always wants the best for Bawburgh and the amount of work he puts in cannot be appreciated until you are in a position to see for yourself. Thank you also to the rest of the office staff and management.

Thank you to Kevin for agreeing to be my Vice Captain, he's had a difficult year this year but despite this he has still been there when I needed him. He's picked a great Vice Captain in Andy Gregory, I am sure that he will have a successful year and we are there to support him when he needs it.

Thank you to the committee who also do an amazing amount of work. Until I joined the committee two years ago I never realised just how much goes on behind the scenes. A special mention to Tony English who has undertaken some major projects this year on top of keeping an eye on the accounts. Most recently a complete update of the rules for every competition and it's not until we went through them all and you see them printed and spread out over the table in the conservatory that you realise just how many competitions we run here at Bawburgh. So again a special thank you to Tony for his work on that.

Unfortunately I am also required to thank a member of the committee who is standing down after 10 years of service to the club. After 5 years as Junior Organiser and the last 5 years as Handicap Secretary, thank you to Greg Gladwell. Certainly from what I have seen in the last 2 years his commitment to the golf club goes well beyond his role as handicap secretary. He has been an integral part of almost every question and decision made since I have been a member of the committee and so I know he will be greatly missed. Thank you Greg.

Also congratulations to Richard Bunn who will be taking on the role of Handicap Secretary and we welcome him to the Committee.

Thank you to Justin Warr for asking me to be his vice and also to Robert and Jo Barnard for both accepting and supporting me as Captain this year. Lastly and certainly not least, thank you to all the members that have made this year so enjoyable and memorable. There are times when you think 'why did I agree to this' and despite this I would recommend to anyone if asked that if they are able to commit the time to being captain then they should do so as the pro's far out way the cons and it has been one of the most rewarding years of my life.

Now for some apologies, in my recent newsletter I missed off the Rover Cup winner Jake Hurren, I also missed off another Jake although in my defence I did have Jake Keeley in the list for winning the Scratch Club Championship, however decided to move it up the list as it's arguably the most important competition of the year, I copied, deleted it and must have forgot the paste bit. So my apologies to Jake Hurren and Jake Keeley.

Now for some congratulations, congratulations to Trevor Berry for winning the Masters, Jake Keeley for winning the Scratch Club Championship, Malcolm Manley for winning the Net Club Championship and Paul Kennedy for winning the Charity Stableford.

Other notable winners this season Chris Sandle for the Stewards Cup, Paddy Green for the Summer Knockout, Josh Weeds for the Scratch Knockout and Elvin Pratt and Roger Townsend for the Alex Birrell Pairs. The Paul Greengrass Order of Merit made a welcome return and was won by Kevin Webb, other Order of Merit Winners were Phil Austin, Alex McDowell and Ged Morris.

Also congratulations to the Barnard Cup team for reaching the final of the Competition, narrowly losing to Royal Norwich, a valiant effort.

Thank you to David Bawden for his work in organising the 55+ Scratch this year and I am pleased to say that David will continue in This role next season.

Congratulations to our two Handicap League teams, Bawburgh 2 for a great season in division 5, eventually finishing 2nd behind Middleton Hall. Also congratulations to Bawburgh 1 for their performance in Division 2, finishing top of the division and gaining promotion back to Division 1. Both Chris Ingram and Gary Clarke are standing down this year so a massive thank you for your stewardship in organising both teams.

Having had many conversations with Gary this year I would just like to say on behalf of the members that it's great to see him back at the club after a difficult year and that we all know that he will be back to his formidable self ready for next season.

I will end by wishing Kevin the best of luck for next season and look forward to seeing you all at the Captains Drive in on January 1st. For those of you that were there this year to witness my drive in I can confirm that was the only good drive I hit this year and I will be placing a marker up the hill on the first as a reminder to Kevin, no pressure.

Thank you

5. Treasurers Report – Tony English

The Income and Expenditure figures before you are for the 12 months to 31st October 2024. As in previous years they have been overviewed by our accountant Mike Gibbins and I would like to record my thanks to him for doing this.

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

As you can see gross income is similar to last year and I think anything around £30,000 is a good number for us. Entry numbers for the last 12 months equate to around 8800 covering 134 competitions across the year. I have also been recording competition averages and for Wednesdays this is 55, Saturdays 84 and Sundays 63.

All other competitions being The Masters, Club Championship, Knockouts and OOM's continue to be well supported and with help from Spire and Peter Field Golf we are able to provide very good prize tables for Masters and Club Championship.

Last year I added a new line to reflect the changes seen in OOM and Eclectic competitions as we now see income flows not just cost. The net outflow of £550 represents the amount the men's section donates to each of these 9 competitions.

Turning to expenditure most costs are fairly fixed, the main unknown being the 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 may exceed budget but I know we would all be delighted.

Those of you in attendance last year will know we upgraded the honours boards and I have to say with the new decor and lighting is looking good. This year we had to spend a bit more than planned as we wanted to include the new OOM's and at the same time move around some competitions to ensure space was available for future years. This was quite a time consuming job for our providers Imprint and thus costly.

We have £5,213.38 in the bank. I paid today £311.50 to Norwich Foodbank being the charity chosen by Paul Kennedy following his win in The Charity Stableford.

Finally my thanks to Chris and his team in the office who continue to provided me with tremendous support.

6. Handicap Secretary's Report

Bawburgh Golf Club

Men's Section AGM Handicap Secretary Report 2024

Good evening. I apologise for not being there tonight. It wasn't a close call to be honest...the lure of a few days golfing in Portugal at 3 top courses with the sun on my back, a half inch of fairway under the ball, fluLy bunkers, fast true greens in an organised trophy event sounds too good to be true right now. Alas I have no excuses for not scoring well! 2024 has seen the usual administration by the Handicap Secretaries on your behalf, principally through formal quarterly Handicap Index reviews, checking Social Scoring play cards, considering those who have unfortunately had significant medical issues that impact their

playing capability, and the signing of all newly allotted Handicap Indexes to new members.

For all the diligent examination of statistics and reports on members playing records WHS does automatically calculate Handicap Indexes well in 99% of circumstances. That means around 1% of members get some extra attention each quarter. During the year we have made adjustments to around 10 members Handicap Indexes.

In addition there has been some changes on the handicap management front I should mention:

1.

In April WHS released changes to the handicap system using evidence from 2 years of play after WHS was introduced and following extensive consultation reviews. Now instead of course rating changes being applied on the WHS system at midnight after play, everything is wrapped up in the Playing Handicap we take on the course. This made a difference to our on course handicaps when we moved to the winter tees, but the daily Playing Conditions Calculation which reflects daily playing difficulty largely offsets this by giving us 1 or 2 or 3 shots back on our WHS round score where warranted.

2. The Handicap Committee has been restructured by Bawburgh Golf Club management so this no longer includes the 3 Section Captains and all appeals are now reviewed by Bawburgh Golf Club prior to escalation to Norfolk County Golf Union.

3. I have decided to step down after 5 years in the role which I took on to help Bawburgh Golf Club get WHS in place and ensure a smooth transfer from the previous CONGU system. Added to the 5 years I did as Junior Organiser a while back I have now done my bit to help members enjoy their competition golf. It's time for me to get back to enjoying my golf too, as this year unfortunately that has not always been the case.

I wish my successor well and will of course provide the and the Men's Committee ad hoc help where requested.

In departing I ask the membership to recognise that Committee Members give up their time voluntarily and acknowledge that we too want to, and should be able to, play and enjoy our golf without disruption. If you have issues or concerns please keep them until after Committee Members have finished their game, and treat Committee Members with respect when raising your issues. Golf is a hobby, and a club is a forum for people to come together to share their enjoyment of an activity. Sometimes, in the roller coaster of emotions that golf creates, some people miss why we are here.

I look forward to catching up with you on the fairways in 2025. Keep warm in the cold!

7. **Proposed amendments to Mens Section constitution.** The below were proposed by Mark Cocker, and seconded by Alfie Gotts

Amendment to section 3 membership, to include the following wording

The members of the committee are volunteers appointed by the members and act as agents of the members and do not accept any liability for the decisions which they make, which are made in good faith and in the interests of the members generally.

Members will be bound by the constitution and the rules of each competition so long as they remain members of the club.

The Committee shall only deal with matters which arise or actions of members which occur on the premises of Bawburgh Golf Club or the 18 and 9 hole golf courses. All other matters are the sole responsibility of Bawburgh Golf Club.

Additional wording was voted upon, and unanimously accepted 17 to 0
Alfie Gotts to amend the constitution as above.

8. Nomination and Election of Officials 2024

Kevin Webb was nominated as Mens Section Captain, proposed by Alfie Gotts, and seconded by Tony English

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

Richard Bunn was nominated as Mens Section Handicap Secretary, proposed by Kevin Webb and seconded by Alfie Gotts

The nominations were all approved unanimously

Men's Section Secretary and Treasurer, previously appointed at 2023 AGM.

9. Questions or suggestions submitted from the floor

- 9.1 Will 2025 rules, constitution, winners, be posted on the Bawburgh website. Tony English and Chris Ingram confirmed the club was previously awaited for the launch of a new website, but given relays the existing website would be updated with the above, over the next few weeks.
- 9.2 Condition of winter mats. Mark Cocker confirmed this was a current project under investigation by the Mens Section, to upgrade these. The Mens Section is hopeful to conclude this very shortly.
- 9.3 A parting gift was suggested for Greg Gladwell's 10 year service to the MSC. It was confirmed this was in hand.

10. Any Other Business

No AOB was submitted

AGM closed at 8.28 PM

To be approved and if so approved, sign at 2025 AGM, by Kevin Webb Mens Section Captain

Signed

Kevin Webb 2025 Men's Section Captain