

## Studley Wood Golf Club Seniors' Section

### Minutes of Annual General Meeting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 2.00pm

**In attendance;** Captain Steve Atkins, Captain designate, Bob Clarke, plus 39 members including committee. Ken Heathcote attended for the club (full attendance list available).

Chairman for items 1 to 7: Steve Atkins

Chairman for items 8 to 12: Bob Clarke

Minutes: Paul Doré

Captain Steve opened the meeting with a warm welcome and thanked all those present for their attendance.

- 1. Apologies:** Received from: B Shergill, Neil Walker, Mel Heyes, John Walker, John Deller, Stephen Capaldi, Graham McGowan-Smyth, Mike Atkins, Mike Darnell, Peter long, Ben Pritchard, Ed Carpenter, Dave Drew.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting (17th Mar 2018):** **Approved** without discussion. (Proposed Barry Muir, seconded Terry Davies.)
- 3. Matters Arising:** There are two matters arising from last year's AGM that are not covered by this agenda. Both matters are from item 11 AOB.
  1. Russel Matthews advised that qualifying competitions on the white tees in the winter were frequently up to 294 yards shorter than the measured distance on the scorecard. The seniors' committee investigated this anomaly. Following contact with CONGU the club was authorised to use a shortened course with a reduction in SSI of 1 stroke.
  2. Russel Matthews considered that competitors in the club seniors' championship should be allowed to win more than one prize. The seniors' committee discussed this issue but decided that the existing rule of a competitor only winning a single prize was the appropriate rule for this competition. The seniors' committee decision was presented to the Men's Committee and was agreed.
- 4. Captain's Report:** Steve read out his report. He thanked all players who attended the interclub matches (43 played at least 1 match), and the support for his charity day that raised £1,156.25 for the club's charity Sobell House. The roll ups were again well supported this year with an average attendance Of 29.4. There was a good mix of team and individual format games. The yellow ball game was replaced with a bonus ball format. 33 qualifiers were programmed and 32 were played. The full captain's report is published on the seniors' website together with the AGM minutes.
- 5. Proposals to amend the Seniors Constitution:** There were 3 proposals for the AGM to consider. The Chairman advised that item 1 should be voted on first. Then items 2 and 3 would be presented for the AGM to approve item 2, or item 3, or neither.
  1. In line with normal practice for AGM meetings to extend the notice period from 14 days to 21 days for: submission of proposals for discussion; submission of nominations for posts of vice

captain and treasurer; and submission of nomination of committee members. Roy Fulton proposed. This proposal was **AGREED**.

2. Proposal 2 was in essence designed to ensure that the nomination forms for committee were not filled by existing committee members so that potential new members for the committee were not put off. This proposal was passionately presented by David Scott who pointed out that this year all committee members were prepared to stand again and had signed on the form before it was put on the noticeboard thus potentially discouraging potential new members from applying.
3. Proposal 3 was proposed and presented by Roy Fulton. To increase the Committee members from five persons to six, thus taking the total number to nine including the three officers. Elected committee members shall serve for a term of three years. If a committee member takes the position of an Officer then that person will remain on the committee as an officer. The retiring Captain may fill one of the committee positions on completion of the captaincy to provide advice and support to the sitting Captain.  
Each year two members will retire from the committee and not seek re-election for at least one year. Only if there are no new names put forward would they be allowed to stand for a further year and resign the following year, whereby they would not be allowed to be re-elected for a further year unless there are still vacancies on the Committee, in which case they may.  
This proposal is to take immediate effect from 5th March 2019.

Following discussion from the floor David Scott withdrew proposal 2 and the AGM unanimously approved item 3. **Proposal 3 AGREED**

6. **Treasurer's Report:** As Mike Atkins could not attend the AGM Steve Atkins read out the main points of his report and copies were circulated to the attendees together with the balance sheet. Mike had previously announced that as he is to be club captain for this coming year, and had served on the seniors' committee for many years, he was standing down this year. He had already handed over the role of Seniors' Treasurer to Martin Wilkinson. Martin then gave a brief update on the current position and there were no questions. A key change for next year would be the inclusion of Pro Shop vouchers for winners of silverware competitions.
7. **Election of Captain, Vice- Captain and Treasurer:** Bob Clarke was elected as Captain, Stephen Painter elected as Vice-Captain and Martin Wilkinson as Treasurer. All were unanimously approved.
8. **Election of New committee:** Following the approval of Agenda item 5 proposal 3, the following were voted "en bloc" to the seniors' committee: Peter Nicholls, Stephen Capaldi, Paul Doré, Roy Fulton, and Phil Chaundy. As there were no other new applications Steve Atkins would stay on.
9. **New Captain address:** Captain Bob Clarke took over as Chairman for the remainder of the AGM. He thanked Steve for an excellent year under his captaincy. The AGM warmly applauded Steve. Bob also thanked Stephen Painter for agreeing to be Vice Captain this year and intimated that there should be volunteers for the officer posts for the next 3 years. He said that this was a vibrant seniors' section with good processes that ensured seniors can play a variety of golf games in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. This is particularly important in welcoming new senior members to the club. The twice weekly roll ups were well supported with often over 40 seniors attending a roll up The committee is very active and supportive. The section arranged

excellent tours and away days twice a year. Bob reminded the AGM that they should raise any concerns with him at any time. His focus this year is to keep all seniors well informed. In particular he will ensure we are all ready for the new handicap system. Finally, Bob said he was really looking forward to another great year of Seniors' golf at Studley Wood.

**10. Ken Heathcote Address and Questions:** Ken hoped seniors would attend at the club AGM on Thursday 21st March at 7.00pm. Ken thanked Steve Atkins and the seniors' committee for their good work over the year. He also thanked Mike Atkins for agreeing to be the next Club Captain. He talked about the difficult conditions experienced over the last year with extreme wet and dry weather. To safeguard the greens root guards were positioned between the greens and nearby trees to prevent tree roots from growing into and damaging the greens. There are now great restrictions on use of chemicals so the greenkeepers now have to employ more proactive techniques to look after the greens such as seaweed fertiliser. All the fairways have just been over-seeded with a specialist machine. Despite the very hot and dry summer the EGU reported that most golf clubs seem to have experienced a 20% drop in membership. However, Ken reported that membership at Studley Wood has remained the same over the year. Ken acknowledged that the seniors used the catering facilities after the roll up, but he is hoping that as we have an excellent Chef there would be more support for catering and social events. Ken was asked if the catering services are a separate account within Studley Wood. Ken said it is. Ken said he had abandoned the 200 club due to lack of support, but he hoped that Mike and Sharon would introduce a Captain's table on Friday evenings. He would be sending out a questionnaire soon seeking advice and views from the Studley Wood membership. Finally, Ken announced that Studley Wood had been chosen as a pre-qualifier course for the Euro Pro Tour (early May) and would host the Euro Pro Tour event in September. The President would be seeking helpers for both events.

**11. Proposals from Members:** There were five proposals put forward.

**1. Deterrence of Slow Play.** This was proposed and presented by Peter Nicholls. Despite the seniors' committee advertising 10 steps to avoid slow play, and presenting the avoiding slow play tip of the day before roll ups, there were still examples of slow play. So Peter proposed that in seniors' roll ups that any group that transgressed the rules that he described and covered in an appendix circulated to the AGM all members of the group would incur a two shot penalty to their score. This proposal elicited many passionate responses from the floor. Some spoke in favour but many spoke against mainly citing that such rules would destroy the enjoyment for many. Ken mentioned that he was considering a Course Marshall to help keep play moving. Bob asked the AGM to vote. The AGM were overwhelmingly against the proposal. **Proposal NOT AGREED**

**2. Order of Merit.** This was proposed and presented by David Scott. David stated that other clubs have an order of merit table and reminded the AGM that the seniors' section also produced these a few years ago. David proposed a top 10 list (of money won) be published on the notice board and web site and the data could be easily extracted from the roll up sheets already in use. Trevor Hansson advised from the floor that he had devised a spreadsheet for the purpose and Martin Wilkinson (Treasurer) said he would be happy to complete if the AGM approved. Bob asked the AGM to vote and the proposal was carried by 22 votes to 10.

**Proposal AGREED**

- 3. Champion of Champions Qualification.** This was proposed and presented by Chris Tappin. Chris stated that the recent amendment to the qualifier parameters had meant there were now too many (up to 30) taking part. The original intention when this trophy was introduced was to restrict entry to winners of silverware competitions only. Chris proposed that the Champion of Champions should be for the following trophy winners: Last year's Champion of Champions, any seniors' silverware competition winner, the seniors' pairs competition winners, the winter league overall winner. Following an amendment by Russel Matthews from the floor the winners of the Club Seniors' Championship – best gross and best net only should be added to this list. Bob asked the AGM to vote and the proposal was carried by 17 votes to 10. **Proposal AGREED.**
  
- 4. Seniors Winter League.** This proposal was proposed and presented by Martin Wilkinson. Martin proposed that the seniors' winter league be played continuously from October through to March (6 games without a break in January as we do now). Bob asked the AGM to vote and the proposal was carried unanimously. **Proposal AGREED.**
  
- 5. Weekly Roll Ups start time change.** This proposal was proposed and presented by Doug Green. Doug suggested that all roll ups throughout the year should start at 9 am. He thought this would be a more convenient start time for retired seniors and we would avoid changing the start times during the winter months. Many from the floor wished the current arrangements to stand. Also, some from the floor were concerned about starting so late on the 10<sup>th</sup> tee as the seniors' roll up may clash with early starters off the 1<sup>st</sup> tee. Ken thought the club could manage this and was happy for the seniors to start at 9 am if they wished. Bob asked the AGM to vote and only 3 supported the proposal with an overwhelming number against. **Proposal NOT AGREED.**
  
- 12. Any Other Business.** Roy Pritchard asked whether the number of Texas Scrambles were being reduced. Bob assured him that there are still 5 programmed but in the Winter months. There was no further AOB.

There being no further business Captain Bob Clarke thanked all the attendees and Ken Heathcote. The meeting closed at 3.25pm with a light snack and coffee kindly provided by the club.

Signed:

Bob Clarke

Captain

Date: 5/3/19