

The Carrickmines Golf Club

Minutes of the One Hundred and Twenty-First Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 21st October 2021 at 8.00pm in the Parochial Hall of St. Brigid's Parish Church, Stillorgan.

Present:- R. Acton, D. Armitage, D. Beck, D. Briggs, A. Byrne, D. Campbell, C. Chapple, F. Close, Mrs. H. Cran, D. Cremin, Mrs. J. Cremin, S. Davis, Ms. Merle Dowling, Ms. Michelle Dowling, Ms. H. Duignan, R. Fitzsimon, I. Fleming, C. Geary, Mrs. R. Gibbons, H. Hamilton, Mrs. J. Hare, J. Harris, A. Hawe, D. Hilliard, Ms. S. Hopper, Ms. K. Judge, P. Kendrick, N. Kingston, H. Lauder, B. Levis, D. Maher, D. Malcolm, A. McCollum, Ms. N. McKee, D. Nelson, M. Nelson, T. Nicholson, Mrs. M. O'Connor, N. Oglesby, J. Orr, Mrs. P. Orr, Ms. J. Overend, I. Shearer, A. Sinclair, D. Smyth, Mrs. E. Smyth, Mrs. H. Thompson, Mrs. M. Walker, S. Walker, I. Wilkie. (50)

Apologies:- Mrs. S. Acton, Mrs. M. Broadhead, D. Brogan, D. Bryce, D. Burgess, Mrs. H. Burgess, P. Byers, Ms. B. M. Byrne, Mrs. A. Cronin, Mrs. M. Dickson, Guy Donald, J. Fleming, M. Feely, A. Flynn, Mrs. K. Flynn, A. Furlong, Mrs. M. Greene, K. Gregory, A. Holland, Mrs. H. Irwin, Mrs. G. Judge, N. Kendrick, R. Kendrick, A. Kershaw, Mrs. G. Kershaw, C. Lauder, Mrs. L. Lawrence, B. Little, Mrs. B. Love, R. Love, Mrs. Y. MacGovern, B. McConnell, Ms. A. McBride, Mrs. J. McCollum, Ms. A. McMahan, Mrs. R. Moloney, M. Moor, J. Morton, Mrs. M. Morton, Ms. M. Nevin, Ms. K. Overend, Mrs. D. Pain, Ms. C. Parker, N. Pickering, G. Reid, S. Stewart, E. Taylor, Mrs. J. Taylor, R. Tilson, Ms. S. Walker, Mrs. N. Wallis, E. Walsh, W. Wilkie. (53)

The President opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

The Hon. Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and asked everyone to ensure that their mobile phones were turned off or on silent. He also thanked Hugh Hamilton and Emer Smyth for managing the signing in of attendees.

1. Confirmation of minutes of 2020 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 15th October 2020 were approved. Ian Wilkie proposed and Ian Shearer seconded their adoption and they were signed by the President.

2. President's Report

The following address was delivered by the President:

Good evening everyone and thank you for coming this evening.
The committee decided to move the AGM to St Brigid's Parish Hall in the interests of health and safety and we are very grateful to the Parish and the Rector Ian Gallagher for facilitating us.

At this time every year we observe a moment's silence for those members who have passed away in the last 12 months.

Please stand as we remember the following: Harvey Merchant, Nigel Martin, Richard Meates, Clive Martin, John Sharpe, John Taylor and Jean Wall-Morris.

This has been a very difficult year for members of Carrickmines Golf Club. We have had to endure the various lockdowns and the return to play protocols. Your patience and co-operation is greatly appreciated and meant we could keep Covid 19 out of the Club.

However, despite the difficulties there are many positive developments to report.

1. The trusteeship of the Club has been moved from Ulster Bank to the Carrickmines Golf Club Trustee Company. The directors of the company are Tony Nicholson, Jane Cremin, Hilary Cran and Stephen Walker. The reasons for making the change are twofold.
 - (i) Ulster Bank no longer provide the service
 - (ii) We do not want individuals holding the property as trustees.
2. Applications for membership are strong, with the men's section more or less full. The ladies section still has vacancies, and the committee has sought to address this with the "Getting into Golf" initiative which got a very positive response and was oversubscribed.
3. The financial situation is very healthy.
4. The course is in excellent condition and certainly benefitted from the lockdowns.
5. During the year the new sixth and fifteenth holes were brought into play. This means we now have 10 holes and this completes the first phase of the Development Project.
6. During the year the awning was erected over the patio, and has proved timely with the Covid restrictions, and the fact that all the major competitions seemed to be played in rain this year.
7. The Dun Laoire Rathdown County Council Development Plan 2022-28 has been released and Jackson Way have been turned down in seeking to change the use of the land to the left of our opening holes from agricultural to mixed usage. Hines made an application to tweak their application for Ticknick Park, left of the fifth hole to provide extra playgrounds but this was also turned down. No date has been set for the opening of Ticknick Park. The Club has recruited Jane Doyle of Doyle Kent, an experienced planner to advise on all planning issues that may arise.
8. The Junior section is thriving and the standard of some of the younger players is improving dramatically. There is now a group of these playing off low single figure handicaps. Also for the first time ever the Club has a member playing off scratch. Congratulations to Shane Madeley.

There are many who deserve our thanks and appreciation. The Committee has worked hard during the year to continue to manage the Club in difficult circumstances, with meetings restricted to Zoom. Two of the Committee members carried a particularly heavy load.

Firstly, the Honorary Secretary David Hilliard who on top of the usual administrative duties had to liaise with Golf Ireland, the HSE and other bodies, interpret the guidelines provided, and oversee their implementation in the Club.

Secondly, the Honorary Treasurer who ensured that payments due were paid, which meant a very satisfactory financial outcome for the year, which will be dealt with shortly. This was achieved without having to lay off any staff during Covid, and in a year when many clubs experienced financial difficulties.

Both these Honorary Officers have willingly given a great deal of their time and talents to fulfil their roles. It is an area that needs looking at, as their duties exceed what can or should be expected from volunteers. I am delighted that both have agreed to continue for another year.

Our thanks are due to the two captains David and Meriel. They had to cope with the stop/start nature of the year. They had put the competition programme together and then had to rejig it after the lockdowns.

They managed to include most of the original programme, and also a very successful charity day, which managed to raise almost €10,000 for the Ronald McDonald House, a very worthy cause. My congratulations and thanks to both of them.

Ian Shearer, Joanne Hare and Guy Donald all played important roles in ensuring competitive golf returned as soon as possible. They also had to oversee the introduction of the new World Handicapping System, no easy task. My thanks to them.

My thanks to the Vice-President Tony Nicholson who chairs the Green Committee, which oversees the work on the course and the arrangements for play on the course. He also joined the Development Sub-committee which monitors and responds to the various issues as they arise.

John Harris steps down as Honorary Course Officer after serving a three year term on the completion of the first phase of the development. He has brought fresh thinking and energy to the role and was the Chief Operations Officer of the new holes and other innovations on the course. He has had excellent relationships with John Bryson, the STRI and the various contractors who came to work on the course. He was always considering ways of improving the course and the results of this are there for all to see.

Thank you John.

Thanks to Simon Davis and his team for completing another successful year running the Junior programme, a very important section for the future of the Club.

Emer Smyth has done excellent work as Honorary Membership Secretary again this year, providing a behind the scenes, very efficient service to the membership, and she also keeps the website up to date.

Our thanks are due to the greenkeeping staff and the house staff for the services they provide and who continued to work during the lockdowns.

As you can see there are so many people who contribute to the smooth running and enjoyment of the Club for which we are all very grateful. I hope I have not missed anyone. If I have, I apologise and "Virtue will have to be its own reward"

3. Honorary Treasurer's Report

To receive and consider the Financial Statements for the period ending 31st December 2020.

The Hon. Treasurer suggested that he would not comment on the details of the accounts at the meeting, as the Full Accounts and his commentary on same had been previously circulated. He asked if there were any questions and trusted that his commentary was clear to everyone. He also noted that there was one small typing error in the accounts, which has now been rectified.

There being no questions, Hugh Hamilton proposed that the Financial Statements be adopted. He congratulated the Hon. Treasurer on an excellent result for the year, bearing in mind the difficulties presented by the Covid crisis. Maurice Nelson seconded the proposal and it was approved by the meeting.

4. Election of President

Jane Cremin proposed and Huntly Lauder seconded and it was resolved that Brian Levis be elected President for the coming year.

5. Election of Vice-President

Brian Levis proposed and Kerri Judge seconded and it was resolved that Tony Nicholson be elected Vice-President for the coming year.

6. Election of Honorary Treasurer

John Orr proposed and Richard Fitzsimon seconded and it was resolved that Don Beck be elected Honorary Treasurer for the coming year.

7. Election of Honorary Secretary

Don Briggs proposed and Paul Kendrick seconded and it was resolved that David Hilliard be elected Honorary Secretary for the coming year.

8. Election of Captain

David Nelson proposed and Roger Acton seconded and it was resolved that Clive Chapple be elected Captain for the coming year.

Clive said that he was honoured to be elected Captain and he hoped that he would do justice to the role. After 2 difficult years for the Club, the Captains and the Members he is hoping for a return to normal and full golf activity in the year ahead. He commented on the fact that the club is run by a group of volunteers but there is always room for new help and he encouraged anyone interested to put their name forward.

Roger Acton congratulated David Nelson for negotiating his way through another very difficult year, in particular the fact that there was no golf at the beginning of his tenure. However, to his credit, he managed to rearrange the Fixture Card and complete all of the major competitions in a timely manner. He provided an excellent and enjoyable Captain's Day for all and a splendid Captains Charity Day in conjunction with the Lady Captain.

In response David thanked Roger for his comments and agreed that his Captain's Day and the Charity Day were the highlights of his year. He thanked the members for their support for the Charity Day and also Meriel Walker for her organizational talent. He had 2 major events during the year, firstly, the introduction of the World Handicapping System and, secondly, the introduction of the new 6th/7th/15th holes. He thanked John Harris and John Bryson for having these new holes open for the Captains Days. He wished Clive and Nicki an enjoyable year ahead.

9. Election of Vice-Captain

Clive Chapple proposed and Don Briggs seconded and it was resolved that Alex Sinclair be elected Vice-Captain for the coming year.

10. Election of Lady Captain

Meriel Walker proposed and Simon Davis seconded and it was resolved that Nicki McKee be elected Lady Captain for the coming year.

Nicki replied and thanked Meriel for her proposal and was honoured to be elected as Lady Captain. She said that she certainly had big shoes to fill in Meriel's footsteps. She considers Carrickmines to be a very special club, in particular in relation to the fact that the club is run by volunteers.

Juliet Overend praised Meriel for having a great and innovative year as Lady Captain, much as in the way that she had been a very efficient Competition Secretary. During the Covid lockdown Meriel organized the Ladies Active Challenge, 64 Ladies took part in all sorts of activities including walking, swimming, pilates, etc. in order to gain points for their team – it all became very competitive. As already mentioned she played a major role in arranging the joint Captain's Charity Day, which turned out to be a great family event and she was also the lead in promoting and helping to arrange the new patio awning, which has turned out to be a huge success.

In reply Meriel thanked Juliet for her support during the year, especially for all of her hard work in arranging the Ladies Get Into Golf Programme, which is very successful. Despite all of the Covid difficulties, she had a most enjoyable year as Lady Captain and felt that David and herself made a good team. She was delighted to see that the mixed events improved dramatically this year, with a lot more members taking part and she hopes that this will continue. She also felt that the inter club and internal matchplay competitions are now more easily accommodated with the introduction of daily timesheets. Finally she said that it had been an honour and pleasure to be the Lady Captain and wished Nicki all the best for the year ahead.

11. Election of Lady Vice-Captain

Nicki McKee proposed and Juliet Overend seconded and it was resolved that Kerri Judge be elected Lady Vice-Captain for the coming year.

12. Election of Committee

John Harris proposed and Hugh Hamilton seconded and it was resolved, that in addition to the eight officers already elected, the following be elected to the committee for the coming year:

David Nelson, Meriel Walker, Dave Smyth, Alan Byrne and Aideen McMahon.

The President made the following thanks to the outgoing committee members – Roger Acton and Juliet Overend:

It is my pleasant task to thank Juliet and Roger as they come to the end of their terms on the Committee. Despite having coped with a very difficult year during their captaincy, rather than take a back seat the following year, they chose to play a full part on the Committee.

Roger led the team dealing with the re-measurement of the course and the move from gender denoted tee boxes to colour denoted. This is a work in progress and he has kindly agreed to take over as Honorary Course Officer as well. Thank you Roger.

Juliet took on the “Getting into Golf” programme to address the issue of encouraging women to join the Club. This was due to run last year but had to be postponed due to Covid. This was the first time the Club has run this scheme and was met with a very positive response and was oversubscribed. Thank you Juliet.

13. Election of Auditors

Don Beck proposed and John Orr seconded and it was resolved that Ormsby and Rhodes, Chartered Accountants be re-elected for the coming year.

14. Resolutions

To consider and if thought fit make the following changes to the rules.

Rule 10 (a) Ordinary Members (A Intermediate) change 21 years to 24 years
Rule 10 (a) Ordinary Members (B Intermediate) change 21 years to 24 years.

Delete Rule 10 (c) Five Day Members and replace it with the following:

10 (c) FIVE-DAY MEMBERS

There shall be three categories of FIVE DAY MEMBERS

FIVE-DAY MEMBERS shall be age 30 or over on the 1st January in the subscription year.

FIVE DAY (A INTERMEDIATE) shall be over the age of 18 years and under the age of 24 years on the 1st January in the subscription year.

FIVE DAY (B INTERMEDIATE) shall be over the age of 24 years and under the age of 30 years on the 1st January in the subscription year.

FIVE DAY MEMBERS are permitted the use of the Course and Clubhouse on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and at a time on Sundays at the discretion of the Committee. Ordinary Members (Intermediate) who had previously been Junior members may elect to transfer to this category at the discretion of the Committee subject to available vacancies.

The Hon. Secretary explained to the meeting the reasoning behind the rule changes, there being no questions arising the Hon. Secretary proposed, Emer Smyth seconded and the meeting approved their adoption.

15. Any Other Business

Alan McCollum thanked the committee and all of the officers for their work during a difficult year. In particular he mentioned the introduction of the new holes, the strong financial position, the new terrace awning and the fact that the club has embraced new technology.

Heather Thompson asked if there was likely to be a subscription increase for next year. The Hon. Treasurer replied that he is proposing a marginal increase in order to keep up with the increasing costs of services and materials. He also explained that it is necessary to continue to build a reserve fund with a view to offsetting some of the inevitable costs that will be incurred in the future in relation to protecting our boundaries.

Helene Duignan mentioned the fact that cigarette butts are becoming prevalent around the course and on the terrace. She asked if efforts could be made to halt this practice of butt disposal.

Igor Fleming commented that he understood and agreed with the use of technology for timesheets but wondered if it would be possible to reintroduce some "draws" into the fixture list. The President replied that there is a Men's Committee Meeting shortly and that this is an item on the agenda.

Paul Kendrick asked the Hon. Treasurer on the current position of unpaid subscriptions. He replied that all subscriptions were paid this year by June/July except for a few due by elderly Pavilion Members. He also took the opportunity to thank those members who paid their subscriptions before the start of the New Year. This makes a huge difference to the cash flow position, it is important and he would be grateful if this trend could continue.

Simon Davis thanked the committee and the members for their support of the Junior Section, in particular he thanked Clive Chapple and Nicki McKee for their liaison work with him this year. The juniors are still going strong and he was delighted to see a resurgence of interest from girls during the year.

Denis Cremin said that it seemed that the general reports of the meeting indicated an increase in new membership in all categories. He asked if the names of new members could be published so that existing members could be made aware of them. This will be done and the committee will decide how best to publish the names.

The President thanked the attendees for their attendance and support of the Committee.

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed.

Signed: _____
President

Date

David Hilliard
Hon. Secretary

3rd November 2021