



Minutes of the AGM held at Elena's Etoile on 9th February 2017

Present

Nick Archer - Captain
Malcolm Marshall - Vice Captain
Ben Hurworth - President
Neil Meixner - Secretary (Chair)
David Bennett - Treasurer
Ken Adams - Committee
David Wannerton - Past Captain
Darrell Lewis - Committee
David Smith - Committee

In attendance - Steven Barker, Neil Blundy, John Campbell, David Featherstone, Michael Foster, Charles Gjertsen, Andrew Hardy, Paul Houghton, Graham Howe, Barry Jenkins, Bill Merry, Martyn Rowlands, Robert Seeley, John Sestak, Iain Stevenson, Tony Venn & Jason Wood

Apologies were received from Mark Barnard, Mark Beer, John Bush, Jon Coles, Lawrence Coulson, Will Evans, Andy Fewings, Richard Hutchinson, David Jenkins, Feargal McEaney, Stuart McCurry, Michael Rogers, Robert Seeley, Paul Springall, Mark Taylor, David Torrance, Gavin Tuck, Gary Dann & George Caddy

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 11th February 2016 were unanimously agreed, having been proposed by David Smith and seconded by Ken Adams

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

40th Anniversary Charity Day

Michael Foster made an appeal to all present to support the Charity Day. Members could assist in a number of ways the most important of which today was to sign up to a four-ball for the day. Many other ways were possible including sponsorship and providing auction prizes to mention just two. To that end a signup sheet was circulated for members present to make any commitments they wanted to do.

Captain's Report

Nick Archer reviewed the year with a few well-chosen quips distributed amongst his description of the year's events. Nick said that the year was a great success and outlined the events starting on the High Course at Moor Park, a fine venue with the magnificent mansion doubling as the clubhouse. Congratulations were due to Charles Gjertsen who took home the Spring Cup. Brickendon Grange was Nick's Captains Day and it came around early in the season. The weather was magnificent and the course was ideal for EPIC. Andrew Hardy retained the Captain's Cup. Next came the BAGS match. Preparation and planning went into my team selection and Nick said he travelled to Chigwell truly believing that this would be our year to take the trophy. It wasn't to be and despite being in front with two groups in we were once again second. Next Ashridge presented an unusual challenge, the normally benign short and wispy rough had grown to a point where it was much more than challenging. To counter the rough the greens were fast and the fairways were not as dry as in past years. In the EPIC Members Competition Graham Howe prevailed. Sandy Lodge one of the jewels of our events, proved to be a great test although

the greens were slower than on our previous visits. The Autumn Cup for EPIC Members was hotly contested with Paul Houghton losing out on count-back to Neil Meixner. The organisation of the tour presented the usual test. La Quinta turned out to be super venue. The combination of the 27 holes provided a different set of tests each day. Whilst the individual results are somewhat difficult to establish due to the passage of time and quantity of liquid refreshment the result as all agreed was a respectable tie. On his overall performance and a good final round David Jenkins was the worthy winner of the green jacket. East Herts was in magnificent condition for our alternative early start format with true greens and well prepared fairways. All prizes were keenly contested and in the EPIC member's competition David Wannerton was victorious. Finally, to Letchworth, the morning dawned misty, cold and frosty and the precious greens of Letchworth were only just playable when golf commenced. The Recessional Bowl for EPIC Members was close run with Michael Foster taking the prize. Nick welcomed the new Captain, Malcolm Marshall and wished him a very enjoyable year. He said it had been an honour to have been Captain of this great society and that he was particularly pleased that we have continued to raise money for the Hertfordshire Air Ambulance. Nick said he now joined the select group..... Past Captains. Nick wished all well and trusted that we would all enjoy the remainder of the evening. Finally he thanked the committee for their support and stressed how much he had enjoyed his year as Captain.

Secretary's Report

Neil Meixner offered his report as read highlighting a few pertinent issues. The Secretary welcomed the new members this year (sponsors in brackets) Mark Barnard, Feargal McEaney, Barry Jenkins (Davids Smith Featherstone), Richard Hutchinson (Steven Barker) and Basra Gamma (Ben Hurworth). The Secretary thanked Nick Archer for his support during his year as Captain.

The Secretary's Report was unanimously approved

Treasurer's Report & Accounts

David Bennett presented his Treasurer's Report and the Accounts, which shows a closing balance of £5,619 very similar to last year. Considering the £2000 donation to the Air Ambulance this balance was considered an adequate cash flow for a society of our size. David confirmed that he was standing down as Treasurer and he wished Nick Archer all the best for the future.

The Treasurer's Report 2016 and Accounts 2015 were unanimously approved.

Neil Meixner thanked David for all his hard work over many years and moved on behalf of the Committee that David Bennett be admitted to the ranks of Honorary Member. The proposal was carried unanimously.

2017 Subscription

It was agreed that the annual subscription was still in line or at the upper end of other similar societies rates and should remain at £50. Members are reminded to send their payments to Nick Archer as soon as possible

Membership and New Members

The current Members number 57 of which there are now a couple non-attending, notably Graham Clarke & Trevor Powell. There was a discussion regarding the status of Life-President and Honorary Members and the meeting decided that we should continue with free golf and subscriptions but be asked to pay for the AGM if they attended. Also agreed was that in future those elevated and still working would be required to pay their subs and for all events. The Secretary will amend the Rules of the Society to reflect the above. It was noted that David Smith had regrettably stepped down as membership secretary and that Neil Blundy had offered to organise the next informal meeting, which was gratefully accepted by all.

Again this year each member is to endeavour to introduce at least one new member, and preferably a younger one, to the Society

Appointment of Officers and Committee

The following nominations were made

Malcolm Marshall – Captain/ Deputy Treasurer

Darrell Lewis – Vice Captain

Ben Hurworth – President

Neil Meixner – Secretary

Nick Archer – Treasurer & Past Captain

Ken Adams – Committee / Deputy Secretary

Neil Blundy – Committee / Membership Secretary

The appointment of the Officers and Committee were unanimously approved, having been proposed by Steven Barker and seconded by Graham Howe. Malcolm Marshall was congratulated on becoming Captain and Darrell Lewis on becoming Vice Captain.

New Captain's Welcome

Malcolm Marshall said he was looking forward to his year as Captain and reiterated that members should bring guests and encourage them to join over the course of the year. He confirmed that Captains Day would see a welcome return to Gog Magog. Malcolm has progressed well with arrangements for the tour but still has several places left open to Members prior to offering slots outside the Society.

2017 Programme

The 2017 programme was discussed and agreed

AOB

A discussion took place re the Grove as a venue for 2018. As there was a split of opinion amongst members as to its suitability and status, Neil Meixner offered to do some research and revert to the members once costs and availability was known.

The Website is a place where a lot of information is easily available. Please use it!

Ben Hurworth thanked the members on behalf of the Hertfordshire Air Ambulance for the donation and informed the meeting that three members had visited North Weald to see their set-up.

There being no further business, the formal part of the meeting was closed at 19.38 and the prize giving took place prior to dinner being served

David Bennett was presented with the Player of the Year Trophy (with a score of 102) and Ben Hurworth presented Steven Barker with the Bush Trophy in acknowledgement of his contribution to the Society over many many years.

Replica trophies were presented to Charles Gjertsen, Andrew Hardy, Graham Howe, Neil Meixner, David Wannerton and Michael Foster. Congratulations to all our winners.