



Minutes of the AGM held at Brasserie Blanc at 6.30pm on 21st February 2018

Present

Committee

Malcolm Marshall – Captain

Darrell Lewis – Vice-Captain

Ben Hurworth – President

Nick Archer – Treasurer

Neil Meixner – Secretary (Chair)

Ken Adams – Committee

Neil Blundy - Committee

In attendance

Steven Barker, David Featherstone, Michael Foster, Charles Gjertsen, Andrew Hardy, Barry Jenkins, Martyn Rowlands, Iain Stevenson, Tony Venn, David Jenkins, Feargal McEneaney, Stuart McCurry, Ian Abley, John Biscoe, Steve Davies, Chris White & James Woolcott

Apologies were received from

David Bennett, John Bush, John Campbell, Will Evans, Paul Houghton, Graham Howe, Richard Hutchinson, Aidan Mahoney, Bill Merry, John Mitham, Gavin Tuck, David Wannerton and Jason Wood

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 9th February 2017 were unanimously agreed, having been proposed by David Featherstone and seconded by Michael Foster

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Captain's Report

Malcolm Marshall said he'd enjoyed his year tremendously and considered it a great honour to have been selected to perform the duties of Captain. Malcolm thanked the Secretary, Treasurer and indeed the committee for their help, encouragement and support during his captaincy. Attendances at golf days appeared to be declining slightly from previous years, he said, whether it is due to tighter company budgets or increasing workloads. The Captain said we must endeavour to increase or at least maintain our current membership levels, preferably bringing in some younger blood. The EPIC Golfing Society is an excellent medium for networking.

Malcolm went on to run through the events of the year, starting with Moor Park on 27 April 2017 which followed on from the successful experiment in the previous year and has become a calendar fixture now. We played the High Course on a rather dismal and slightly damp spring day. Gog Magog, Cambridge on 25 May 2017 proved to be much more successful for being later in the calendar than previous visits. It was a very warm day and enjoyed by all.

The 40th Anniversary Charity Golf Day at Ashridge on 5 July was a great success. A tremendous amount of work goes into organising this event and a sub-committee was formed for this purpose ably chaired by Michael Foster with Neil Meixner, Ben Hurworth,

Steven Barker, Ken Adams, Nick Archer, Graham Howe, Ruth Whitby and The Captain himself. Seven meetings were held in the previous 12 months to make sure everything ran like clockwork on the day, which indeed was the case. We all had fun organising the event. Malcolm confirmed that it proved to be a special day for himself as he won the Finlinson Cup as the best EPIC score on the day. The annual Match v BAGS was held at Thorndon Park on 25 July. Although we put up a strong challenge we were defeated by 3½ to 2½. So Close!!! Sandy Lodge on 21st September proved to be a bit damp but enjoyed by the too few EPIC members who attended. Next up was the tour on 5th to 8th October. Not unsurprisingly, as Malcolm lives in the Algarve he organised the tour there based in Vilamoura staying at the Vila Gale Marina hotel. We played Palmares on the Friday, Vila Sol on the Saturday and Quinta do Lago North on the Sunday. There was the usual banter and camaraderie to make yet another memorable trip despite a disappointing turnout. The Captain's Team vanquished the Vice-Captain's Team and the victors were presented with an engraved glass tumbler in commemoration.

East Herts was held this year slightly later, on 2nd November this year. It worked well so we'll do it again this year. Being Captain, Malcolm undertook to attend every golf day. So, even though he was in Portugal for Christmas and New Year he dutifully flew to UK on Boxing Day to attend the Letchworth event, but it proved to be a challenge this year on 27th December as by the time he reached Duxford down came the snow! He managed to reach the golf course but was greeted by a thick blanket of snow. His guest also arrived, having travelled up from the Isle of Wight that morning!! The few who made it had a doughnut before retiring!! At very short notice 15 people were able to make the rearranged date of 18th January. The weather was dry until the latter part of the round when it started to rain – but NO SNOW!

Finally, Malcolm welcomed our new Captain, Darrell Lewis, who he was sure will do a great job as successor. He said that Darrell has some ideas on how to increase membership and enthusiasm. He wished him well and hoped he enjoyed a great year.

Secretary's Report

Neil Meixner offered his report as read highlighting a few pertinent issues.

The Secretary welcomed the new members this year John Biscoe, Steve Davies, Steve Haley, Aidan Mahoney, Chris White and the return of John Mitham. The Secretary thanked Malcolm Marshall and Nick Archer for their support.

Despite anecdotal sentiment that attendees this year were down from previous that fact belie that. (2017 - 93 member attendees cf 2016 - 94 and 2015 - 96) The Secretary informed the meeting that the members numbers stood at 54 with the recent confirmation from David Smith and Andy Fewings that they would not be renewing, along with those who had previously either confirmed non-renewal or hadn't responded to numerous prompts to settle their subscriptions, namely Jim Harvey, Mark Beer (who Steven Barker confirmed would now re-join EPIC), Lawrence Coulson, Mark Taylor and Simon Armstrong.

Treasurer's Report & Accounts

Nick Archer reiterated that the Charity Day had been a great success and with all income that exceeded expenditure going to the two Charities. They shared the £16,198.60 equally. The meeting expressed their satisfaction with this great effort.

In respect of the main accounts the Treasurer stated that the loss on the year was £1,173.39 with a closing balance of £6,366.08.

2018 Subscription

After a discussion and by a narrow margin it was agreed that the annual subscription should remain at £50. It was further agreed by some margin that new members under 40 should be enrolled without subscription for their first year.

Members are reminded to send their payments to Nick Archer as soon as possible

Membership and New Members

A number of members voiced the need to bring in a younger membership to ensure the long-term future of EPIC.

Again this year each member is to endeavour to introduce at least one new member, and preferably a younger (potentially female ones – see AOB), to the Society

Nomination of the Next President

The Secretary outlined that it was time for a new President to be adopted, he thanked Ben Hurworth for all his work and said it had been a pleasure to work with him over the last few years. As outgoing President, Ben Hurworth had nominated Ken Adams as successor which was unanimously supported by both the Committee and the membership. Ben went on to say that during his tenure a total in excess of £12,000 had been raised and donated to the Hertfordshire (and now Essex) Air Ambulance, a service supported entirely by voluntary contributions. He said how delighted and privileged he had been to be our president for these past 5 years and he wished Ken Adams a wonderful time in the next!!

Ken Adams said it indeed was a huge privilege to be President and to follow in the footsteps of Ben Hurworth and before that Steven Barker, John Bush and Trevor Powell. He outlined and reinforced the vision for a more vibrant and younger looking membership, stating that although he still feels he's one of the youngsters, he will be in his 60's at the end of his Presidency. All were shocked that he could still look so young!! Ken informed the meeting his chosen charity is **Rosie's Rainbow Fund**. The President outlined that they do amazing work supporting sick and disabled children in hospital, schools and in the community. For further details see <http://www.rosiesrainbowfund.co.uk/>. Please help us to help them keep doing the great work they do.

Appointment of Officers and Committee

The following nominations were made

Darrell Lewis– Captain
Neil Blundy – Vice Captain / Networking
Nick Archer – Treasurer
Neil Meixner – Secretary
Ken Adams – President / Deputy Secretary
Malcolm Marshall – Committee / Past Captain / Deputy Treasurer
Iain Stevenson – Committee
Ben Hurworth - Committee

The appointment of the Officers and Committee were unanimously approved, having been proposed by Steven Barker and seconded by Tony Venn. Darrell Lewis was congratulated on becoming Captain and Neil Blundy on becoming Vice Captain.

New Captain's Welcome

Darrell said he was delighted to be Captain and promised that this year he would help introduce some more prestigious events. He reiterated that we need more and younger members to join us and he made a personal commitment to make that happen!! He went on to outline the three programme departures from previous years, namely a UK tour brought forward to June (15th – 17th - visiting the magnificent Turnberry, likely to be ~£650 excluding flights, meals and drinks), the BAGS match at The Buckinghamshire and Captains day in September probably at the very prestigious Walton Heath. He thanked the committee and membership in anticipation of their support during this next year!!

2018 Programme

The Secretary outlined the 2018 programme as follows

- 26th April – Moor Park
- 15th – 17th June – Tour – Turnberry
- 4th July – Ashridge
- 20th July – Bags Match – The Buckinghamshire
- 12th or 13th September – Captains Day – Probably Walton Heath
- 18th October – Sandy Lodge
- 8th November – East Herts
- 27th or 28th December – Probably Letchworth

Please see the website for more details

AOB

The Secretary reminded members that the website is a place where a lot of information is easily available. Please use it!

Tony Venn raised the issue of the lack of lady members within the society and that BAGS had had a recruitment drive. Members of both EPIC and BAGS were asked to find out how successful that had been. All agreed that ladies would be very welcome within the society indeed that a similar recruitment drive had been instigated a few years ago but had produced no long-term members for EPIC. However, all agreed to try and get lady golfers along as guests and see if that lead to them wishing to take up membership.

Neil Blundy asked members if they would commit to and support a networking event in May. After discussion it was agreed this would be at Urban Golf in Soho. The meeting thanked him for this. The Secretary reminded all that Neil and his secretary had previously arranged an event near Liverpool Street Station which had been very poorly attended. So please get the date in the diary and make sure you attend.

Michael Foster proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary for all his hard work behind the scenes.

There being no further business, the formal part of the meeting was closed at 19.42 and the prize giving took place prior to a great dinner being enjoyed by all.

Malcom Marshall was presented with the Player of the Year Trophy (with a score of 99 for the best 3 events) and the Bush Trophy was awarded by Ben Hurworth to Graham Howe in acknowledgement of his contribution to the Society over the years. Graham was not present, so it will be presented at a future event.

Replica golfing trophies were presented to Neil Blundy (2) Malcolm Marshall (2), John Biscoe and Steve Davies. Congratulations to all this year's winners.