



**Minutes of the AGM held at Percy & Founders at 6.30pm on
13th February 2020**

Present

Committee

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

In attendance

Iain Stevenson, Julian Bunting, Neil Blundy, John Bush, Ian Abley, Malcolm Marshall, Neil Meixner, Nick Archer, Michael Foster, Steven Barker, Graham Howe, Fiona Watson, Ken Adams, Jason Wood, Luke Croll, Chris Anderson, Steven Hurworth, Ben Hurworth, John Biscoe, Aidan Mahoney, Michael Salmon, Steve Davies, Darrell Lewis, Joel Evans & David Wannerton.

Apologies were received from Bill Merry, Digby Hebbard, David Bennett, David Jenkins, Charles Gjertsen, Gary Dann, Michael Trott, Robert Seeley, Chris White and Martyn Howie

The Secretary opened the meeting by particularly welcoming John Bush, founder member, long time President, Treasurer and Secretary of the EPIC Golfing Society and reminding attendees that if it hadn't been for John and a few like minded people this society would not exist today. The assembled members welcomed and thanked John in the customary manner.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 7th February 2019 were unanimously agreed, having been proposed by Steven Barker and seconded by John Bush.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

3. Captain's Report

The Captain said something like this!!

"Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to the AGM of the Epic golf society. It's been a great year and I have thoroughly enjoyed being your captain for 2019. We have had great attendances up on 2018 with new member joining and being actively involved playing golf and bringing along guests. The society is in a healthy position however we are always looking for new members especially lady and younger professionals

The society however only runs smoothly due to the work put in by the committee. I would especially like to thank Nick Archer for his role as treasurer, Ken Adams for being our illustrious President and all the works he is doing for his chosen charity and last but not least to Neil "Monty" Meixner our famed secretary.

I'm sure all of you know who are responsible for organizing events in your personal or professional life how much effort and organization needs to go into arranging and holding numerous golf days. Neil our great thanks.

Neil and I (I believe) bonded fantastically this year with many great golf day, a battle with the BAGS golf society and I highly successful tour to La Cala, Spain.

It was especially refreshing to see so many new faces on tour as well as the usual reprobates.

Reflecting on this year's events.....

Firstly this year was always going to be difficult taking over from Phil Collins. I was not fortunate enough to have been sponsored by Austin Allegro and found it difficult not to drop in my sponsors names in every sentence. Seriously though Darrell Lewis did a great job as your Captain in 2018 and I had big shoes to fill this year.

1. Moor Park 1st May.

Our normal customary visit to Moor Park for our season opener saw, our Vice-Captain for 2020 Jason Wood basically ruined every ones day by bagging the spring cup with 36 points and getting a hole in one on the long very difficult 12th hole - 200 yards up hill! As they say miracles do happen (don't mention the tour hammering suffered by Jason)

Numbers for the day were up on previous years for the opening fixture, which sadly was not carried on as Jason had ruined everyones day and most though it was pointless turning up in the future.

Jason is also under investigation for checking out the cars in the car park, realizing 95% of the people attending were driving and offering them to buy a round of soft drinks for all. Thanks for that Jason.

2. The Buckinghamshire 23rd May

Talking of Bandits,- Jason, the captains cup was played for by 16 members and your friend / Gringo and mine, John Biscoe made a one off appearance shot 33 points and won the day. John in his speech, thanked all the mugs he plays golf with and said see you next year when I get my 2 shots back. Charming

3. Ashridge 26th June

23 members played this fantastic course where we played for the coveted Finlinson cup. This time always the brides made never the bride, Chris Anderson finally caught the bouquet and pocketed the cup. Well done MR Anderson, Nemo would be proud.

4. The Buckinghamshire - revisited 25th July

After being let down at the last minute by Sandy Lodge we all "trotted" off to the Bucks again, to see Michael Trott win in his first outing. Being a true professional as John Biscoe, Michael thanked everyone for having him and said adios till next year when he would get his two shots back.

5. The Tour La Cala Malaga Spain

We had 4 fantastic four days on tour at the Cala golf resort in Spain playing 3 of the toughest courses and truly finding the men from boys.

Our vice-captain Mr Stevenson couldn't make it as he had a diary clash and remarked 15 month's notice was not long enough. Vice - Vice captain Jason Woods stood up to the task and agreed to the split of handicaps I had proposed. Great start.

a. Day one.

As captain I had choice of my team members and one of the Captains picks was Darrell Lewis. Darrell had been telling me he was a worker at the Allegro factory and was a Golf grinder!!! and I thought a perfect playing partner for day one. What I thought I had heard, must have been incorrect, as later when questioned on his abysmal golf, Darrell said he subscribed to grinder. Not quite the same thing. Anyhow Darrell and I were playing against the gritty Steve Davies and the frankly useless Jason Woof- f**k knows how Moor Park happened. Thanks to Steve Davies, the Vice Captain side led by Jason Woods just about edging it. Steve and I still reminisce about what a great singles match we had. Jason went tree hugging whilst Darrell was in Disney land talking to Mick Mouse (as he called the course) After 4 matches the captains side led 3-1 well done the captain's team. To celebrate the early lead, day one evening was even funnier. A great meal in Mias, organized by Monty, followed by the old codgers going beddy byes and the young...ish ones going out - out. Darrell went to bed to recharge his batteries and prepare to surge through the field on day two. Sadley -or not, it wasn't meant to be and another truly rubbish round of golf had my old mate contemplating giving up and going back to the Car assembly floor.

Being a great mate of his, I showed him how to use e-bay so he could sell his £1000's of golf clubs and his Allegro golf bag. It's a great invitation only golf society you know, where you can play most of the top courses in the world for free. Only way Darrells playing them at the moment! Funniest moment was Malcom our tour token Great Grandad, getting soaked when the retractable roof at the cocktail bar wasretracted. I have never seen anyone so wet, still makes me chuckle now

b. Day two.

Movers day, or in Darrell's case, stay where you are day, in the bottom three with Illustrious company. Many looked well at breakfast. A few of us didn't, but we all rolled our sleeves up and got on with it. The captain's team extended their lead, and in the individual contest, Rob Seeley led from Steve Haley. The young-ens went back to the same wine bar now out, out out, where our president was caught

dancing or rather cowering from a very aggressive Russian. I've never seen Ken go so white and be well behaved

c. Day Three

Men from the boy's day. Going into the last day, 4 people had a chance of the green Jacket. Sealey, Haley, Monty Meixner and yours truly. We all battled hard but Mr Seeley was just too good for all of us. In the Captains v Vice battle, loads of mouth-watering tussles. I was drawn against Wannerton who frankly is now known as Mr Byright, as his folding under the Blundy pressure is now legendary. The captain's team inflicted the heaviest of defeats on the Vice- vice Captain's squad 12-3. This all with Darrell on the captains side. As David Coleman would have said "Quite remarkable"

Our overall Green jacket winner was Rob Seeley closely followed by Steve Haley and Myself

A great tour and thanks all for attending and I hope our virgin tourists also enjoyed themselves.

6. Abridge. 26th September.

We played at this wonderful challenging golf course in Abridge, Essex. Chosen by your captain as it was previously an open qualifying course and nothing to do with being 3 miles from my house.

We played for the Presidents cup. Dodging the appalling weather the days before 20 Members played for the Presidents cup.

The cup was won by Joel Evans. Well done Joel a great improvement from picking up the wooden spoon earlier in the year

7. EPIC Versus BAGS Thorndon Park 15th October

We struggled this year to get a side out to play the BAGS at their home patch Thorndon Park in Essex. We could only get 9 out for the day which was disappointing, but the 9, well 8 of us battled valiantly.

Normally being an odd number, one of the matches would normally be contested by a player and a blind player. However Mr Seeley put his hand up and said "Captain, being the tour Green Jacket holder and easily being the best played on show, I will take on both of my BAGS partners individually". Inspiring I thought and it sent out a great into battle cry. Unfortunately, Rob was carved down on the 17th and we were 2 points down in the first match. Rob was not due off first, but due to Monty having a melt down and an elderly diary moment turning up late, Monty and I went out last bringing up the rear the final four ball.

The plan for the matches was as Captain and the massive pressure I was under all year from the responsibility of it all, I paired myself with Monty Meixner the steadiest player in the society. Well what a mistake that was. Now I carry enough weight of own around with myself let alone having the Meixner on my shoulders. We.. I battled bravely against two fine BAGS players. We were 3 down with 3 to play and all looked lost. A bit of banter was what was needed and the BAGS folded to some fine golf, Monty did the scoring and held the flag and we got a half out of the match. Whilst the rest of the team battled and we got close, unfortunately not close enough and we circumed 3 to 2. Well battled though the EPICs a fine effort

8. Letchworth 29th December

In our last outing to finish of the year we played for the Recessionary Bowl at Letchworth. Unfortunately i couldn't attend this year and funny enough Monty Meixner won the day. 28 players was a fine turn out given the time of year but only 7 members fought for the trophy. Well Done Neil Meixner for your win, cut 2.

And so here we are as I come to the end of my duties being your Captain for 2019. I have to say it's been an honor and a pleasure to lead you lot. We have had a few laughs some great golfing moments that will make us all chuckle for years to come.

EPIC is a great golf society, the membership continues to increase and we are all fine likeminded people and it has, as I say, been a pleasure to Captain you.

2020, a new beginning.... It's now time to handover to your new Captain Iain Stevenson. Good luck. Iain

To sum up, I have thoroughly enjoyed being your captain for 2019. It has been an honour holding this post, and I wish every success to our new captain for 2020, Iain Stevenson. So without further ado, over to you Ian"

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary offered his report as read, highlighting a few pertinent issues.

The Secretary welcomed the new members during the year, Matthew Bowen, Luke Croll, Gary Dann (returning), Matthew Jones, Martyn Howie, Steven Hurworth, George Skinner and Fiona Watson. The Secretary thanked Neil Blundy and Nick Archer for their support throughout the year.

The Secretary's message this year is get the event dates in the diary and please try to attend as many events as possible. The Secretary noted that the event dates would be specified later in the meeting.

The statistics for 2019 were encouraging with 97 member's attendances (cf 2018 – 84, 2017 – 93, 2016 – 94 & 2015 - 96) at the 5 events (excluding the Recessional Bowl) with 24 (cf 2018 – 23, 2017, 2016 & 2015 - 29) members attending more than one event. We had disappointing turnouts at both Buckinghamshire events with 16 and 14 members respectively making it to this magnificent course. The Yuletide Letchworth event also attracted only 7 members!).

5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts

The treasure offered the Balance Sheet as issued but outlined the following key messages

- a. Turnover up by £1909.
- b. Loss on the year £2253, primarily due to the late need to relist Sandy Lodge to the more expensive Buckinghamshire, (after attendance costs had been advised) added to the normal loss at Ashridge, the ball purchase and the additional charity donation.
- c. Purchase of balls with EPIC logo, occurs approximately every fourth year.
- d. We have balls to the value of £776 in stock.
- e. Memberships – 49 paid-up members, 5 honorary members. New members, who joined part way through the year, will be allocated into 2020.
- f. AGM subsidy was to a much lesser degree than previous years.
- g. Transactions for the tour did not go through the EPIC bank account.
- h. The Sporting Lunch was cost neutral.
- i. Website – No charges raised by Jim Harvey.
- j. Charity donation made to Rosie's Rainbow total £3000 from Ball Sweep, including the agreed additional contribution voted for at last years AGM.
- k. Bank balance at 31.12.2018 - £2213.39
- l. Bank balance at 31.12.2019 - £1951.79
- m. Bank balance at 31.01.2020 - £3811.79
- n. 15 Members have paid for 2020 including the 5 new (joined after mid 2019) members.
- o. 11 Members have paid for the 2020 AGM.
- p. £500 deposit paid for Moor Park April 2020
- q. Charity Account bank balance - £2349, means £2274 raised from the ball sweeps at each event is available for Rosie's Rainbow.
- r. Recommendation to enhance the prices slightly for 2020 events to increase the reserves to the EPIC accounts

The Secretary asked that the meeting note the excellent work undertaken by Jane Chaston who keeps up with all the financial comings and goings.

It was proposed by Ken Adams and seconded by Fiona Watson that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and it was approved unanimously.

6. 2019 Subscription

After some vigorous debate it was agreed that the annual subscription should remain at £50 but could be varied if the Committee felt appropriate.

Members were reminded to send their payments to Nick Archer as soon as possible and to annotate them so we know what they were for and where they came from

7. Membership

Membership stands at 55 including (Gary Dann Joining after 2019 end). The Members List has been consolidated to remove various ex-members

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

8. Appointment of Officers and Committee

The following nominations were made

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

The appointment of the Officers and Committee was unanimously approved, having been proposed by Michael Foster and seconded by David Wannerton. Iain Stevenson was congratulated on becoming Captain and Jason Wood on becoming Vice Captain.

9. New Captain's Welcome

Iain Stevenson said something like this!!!

1. "Firstly, I want to say a big thank you to Neil Blundy for all the hard work he has done as Captain last year, and indeed his previous years

of work on the committee. Neil was a excellent Captain (so he tells me anyway) But seriously this year's tour in particular has a lot to live up to as, by all account, last year's was a huge success. So well done and thanks for asking me to be your Vice Captain and for initially introducing me to EPIC

2. I'd also like to thank Neil Meixner for his continued work behind the scenes. None of our events would go anywhere near as smoothly without his hard work and attention to detail.
3. I am delighted to take over the reigns as Captain for the coming year. It's a great honour and I hope that I do justice to the role. For those of you who don't know me so well, I've now been a member of the club for the past 5 years and have tried in that time to be a regular attendee. I joined EPIC not long after taking the plunge to start IKS Consulting and have not looked back since. I hope that during my year as Captain I can get to know all the members a little bit better and get a chance to play with as many of you as I can and if possible even do some business together.
4. I'd like to thank Jason Wood for agreeing to take on the role as my Vice Captain and thank everyone else on the committee for their continued support and agreeing to stay on.
5. We have a great programme of events planned for the year ahead and I hope that you will all turn out in good numbers to support the events. I also hope that where you get the chance you will not only use the EPIC society to entertain your clients and business contacts but encourage like minded industry professionals to apply for membership.
6. This year's Tour is to La Baule on the Atlantic Coast of France. It is a wonderful location and we are staying in undoubtedly the best hotel in the area and playing some great courses. There is one final chance to get a place on the tour this year but we would need final a final decision and payment tomorrow for any last minute additions.
7. For Captains Day this year I have chosen a new course for EPIC. It's Burhill Golf Club in Surrey. Burhill has two championship courses and a beautiful Georgian clubhouse. It is located just 5 mins from Junction 10 of the M25 and so easy to get to, even for those of you from North of the M25
8. In order to get best value for the day I have utilised the benefits of my One Golf membership which has reduced the cost by around £20 per head for everyone attending. Most of you will never of heard of One Golf but I have been a member for three years now. I have negotiated a special offer for any EPIC member who wishes to join. Details are in your AGM pack or you can talk to me if you want to know more. The benefit for EPIC is that we could potentially get further discounts off certain venues if we had a number of members of One Golf Club.
9. Finally, thanks to all of you, members old and new, for your support of EPIC Golf Society. We have a great year to look forward to. I hope you all enjoy your golf in the year ahead."

10. 2019 Programme

The Secretary outlined the 2019 programme as follows

- **Wed 29th April – Moor Park Golf Club**
- **Thu-Sun 7th – 10th May – Tour – France – La Baule**
- **Thu 11th June – EPIC v BAGS – Burhill Golf Club**
- **Wed 24th June – Ashridge Golf Club**
- **Thurs 23rd July – The Addington**
- **Thurs 10th September – Burhill Golf Club**
- **Thurs 15th October – Abridge Golf Club**
- **Tue 29th December – Letchworth Golf Club**

Please get these dates in your diaries.

11. President's Comments

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.

12. AOB

- a. Website – Social Media etc
 - i. The wasn't any discussion this year.
- b. Members AOB
 - i. The One Club Golf proposal was outlined earlier and not discussed further here
 - ii. A short discussion was had regarding the qualifying events for player of the year and the handicap reduction system. It was agreed that the Recessionary Bowl (being a family and friend event) should not qualify for the "Player of the Year" award and that handicap adjustments should not be made in future years.
 - iii. A discussion took place re the "Company Membership" proposal. After some thoughts it was agreed to leave it to committee to decide the merit of this proposal.
 - iv. All concurred that the committee should increase event fees to ensure that EPIC didn't lose money in any year. Any surplus could of course be allocated to the charity.

There being no further business, the formal part of the meeting was closed at 19.57 and the prize giving took place prior to a great dinner being enjoyed by all.

Awards for the 2019 Season

Digby Hebbard won the Player of the Year Trophy (with a score of 109 for the best 3 events from Joel Evans on 100 and Chris Anderson on 99). Unfortunately, Digby had to cry off at the last minute and so will be presented with the trophy and replica later in the year.

The Bush Trophy was awarded by Ken Adams to Darrell Lewis in acknowledgement of his contribution to the Society over many years. It was fantastic to have John Bush at the AGM and Dinner this year and he jointly presented the trophy with Ken Adams

Replica golfing trophies were presented to John Biscoe, Chris Anderson, Joel Evans, Jason Wood & Neil Meixner.

Michael Trott and Robert Seeley were also winners but were not able to be present so their replicas will be presented during the season.

Congratulations to all this year's winners.