

# **SOUTH RONALDSAY GOLF CLUB**

## **A.G.M**

**MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

**HOPE SCHOOL 8PM**

*South Ronaldsay golf club annual general meeting was convened at 8pm on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016.*

*Present; Derek Ward (captain), Violet Ward (ladies captain), Lynn Shearer (ladies vice-captain), Keith Nicol (secretary) Neil Gauld (treasurer) Billy Scott (greens convener)*

*Committee members; Stuart Barnett, Jim Seatter, and Steve Killeen.*

*Club members; Bill Banks, Erik Donaldson, Chris Burton and Ben Lacy-Brown.*

*Apologies; Benny Thomson(vice-captain), Gary Drever (handicap & match secretary), Jamie Drever & Anne Seatter*

### **Agenda**

*Club Captain Derek Ward welcomed everyone to the AGM and the apologies were read.*

### **Captains report**

*Derek opened by stating that the better summer weather, last year, made for good golf. The numbers were slightly down for our opens, especially the Pipe Dream, but still good.*

*He then went on to "extend a happy thanks to Ben for all his good work during the summer and a thank you to those on the committee and members who also helped".*

*The new winter tees are working by keeping those areas drier and these are to be extended to give a larger playing surface.*

*He went on to add that it looks like sponsorship has been secured for summer 2017 and that the Ladies have a 2<sup>nd</sup> Open planned so the future is looking bright for summer 2017.*

### **Adoption of the 2016 minutes**

*The minutes of the 2016 AGM were proposed by Jim Seatter and seconded by Violet Ward*

### **Matters arising from the 2016 minutes**

*The secretary went over the matters arising from last year's AGM and all items that were lodged have been dealt with and closed with the exception of the matter of the proposed course layout alterations.*

*So without further ado we will look at the proposals – these were read out to those in the room and a vote was taken then the matter of votes cast by email were to be added but before this happened Erik Donaldson pointed out that what we were about to do was deemed to be against our constitution and therefore these votes by absent members could not be counted.*

*A brief debate ensued then the captain intervened and agreed, that because we didn't have any evidence to prove otherwise, that we would vote again counting only those in the room.*

*This was agreed and the votes cast 7 for the status quo, 4 for the proposed alternative and 2 abstentions with reasons given.*

*The motion was carried to keep the course layout as it is.*

*The subject was moved on from as otherwise a whole new discussion would have begun.*

### **Treasurer's report**

*The treasurer gave a full report on the clubs confirmed accounts for the year*

*ACCOUNTS AUDITED BY Anne Seatter*

*The accounts were described by the treasurer and details circulated to members present.*

*Neil then began by telling the committee that the income, on the balance sheet, looked better than the expenditure due to lower green-keeping costs. But we are still losing rather than making money.*

*Depreciation has increased due to a couple more items of machinery being added.*

*But overall the picture is better that it was at last year's AGM.*

*Neil then went on to tell the committee that we had a reserve fund of £22k but even though we were taking in money we were not adding to this fund. This money must be maintained.*

*Neil then asked if those dealing with money within the club, that is at fund raising, competitions etc. would keep note of where each amount came from i.e. raffles, sales, entry fees and so on, rather than lumping it all together so that he can track how we are doing and from where.*

*Billy asked if the latest invoice from Scottish Water was more sensible than previous ones. Neil told everyone that although still seemingly high it had been stable.*

*The need for a rainwater catchment tank for general use was again raised.*

*Derek added that the Blue door week should help bolster funds this year and Billy added that the sponsorship will also be important now.*

### **Greens Convener**

*Billy started by saying that Ben has done a great job looking after the course, shaping the fairways and putting a golfer's eye on how the course plays.*

*He went on to add that Ben had been accepted on to a NC on green keeping at Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife and would be starting in September 17.*

*The club wish Ben all the best and will support him in whatever way we can.*

*The winter tees are too small and this is in hand.*

*Apologies for not progressing with the wash bay, also the drainage has not progressed as planned and the trial ditch at the 3<sup>rd</sup> has not been a success. The Verti-drain will need to be used more if possible to try and dry up some of the wetter areas of the course. As for the sand bander, we just don't have the resources to use it. (this lead to a discussion on the whether to keep it or not. Keith told those present that Willie MacKay had enquired on its practicality from some of the other courses in his area and both Royal Dornoch and Castle Stewart both said to him that the machine was worth holding on to and using if possible. Derrek added that the time to use this is the summer when the course conditions are right but that's when we are at our busiest)*

*The back 9 tees need to be made bigger, a job he would like to have seen progress but this just didn't happen.*

*Billy then went on to tell the AGM that we have plenty fertiliser and lawn sand for the coming season.*

*The Sprayer needs an MOT and £25 registration fee for NSTS. We need the chemical for spraying the daisies.*

*On a negative note, Billy added that earth worms continued to be a problem. Our machinery is aging and as it does then maintenance costs will rise. Tree's Ellie and her team have done a marvellous job of establishing trees on our course but they are now stepping down from tending to them and this will be a concern that the club will now have to decide how to deal with. Billy then went on to tell those present that one of our longstanding members Ken Brookman was diagnosed with cancer and that the news is not good for him. Not news the committee likes to hear and our thoughts are with him and Ellie at this time.*

*Closing – Billy wanted to thank Benny, Jim, Stuart, Alec, Erik and the other founder members for being bold enough to create a course that is the most difficult in Orkney. He then went on to thank the current committee and volunteers who are keeping the club going.*

*Billy stands down from the position of Greens Convener and the committee thanked him for his time and effort that has helped the course evolve and grow to what it is today.*

### **Election of office bearers**

*At this point it was noted that Billy has resigned from the Greens conveners post and will be taking some time out from the committee.*

*Gary Drever has been put forward as the new greens convener but in doing so leaves us with a gap in the Match/Handicap secretary position.*

*Keith asked Billy, on behalf of Gary, if he would agree to give Gary advice as and when needed. This was agreed and Billy also said he would continue to do the chemical spraying.*

*Anne Seatter has stepped down as a committee member.  
We thank Billy and Anne for their commitment to the club.*

**Election of committee**

*Election of new committee members proposed and approved unanimously. See below.*

**Committee 2017 – 2018**

<i>Derek Ward</i>	<i>Captain</i>
<i>Benny Thomson</i>	<i>Vice-captain</i>
<i>Keith Nicol</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Neil Gauld</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
	<i>Match/Handicap Secretary</i>
<i>Gary Drever</i>	<i>Greens Convener</i>
	<i>Junior Convener</i>
<i>Lynn Shearer</i>	<i>Ladies Captain</i>
<i>Violet Ward</i>	<i>Ladies Vice-Captain and Membership secretary</i>
<i>Stuart Barnett</i>	<i>Committee</i>
<i>Steve Killeen</i>	<i>Committee</i>
<i>Chris Burton</i>	<i>Committee</i>
<i>Jim Seatter</i>	<i>Committee</i>
<i>Jamie Drever</i>	<i>Committee</i>

*Accounts Auditor for 2017/18 - Jim Seatter*

**Committee's proposals for 2017/2018**

*The weekly fee of £35 (Mon – Fri) is to be retained and country membership stays at £50.*

*Full membership is to be £130.*

*Green fees remain at £15/day Adult and £10 after 6pm*

*Jnrs are still £5 for 9 holes*

*Chris Burton asked if we would consider a "Student" membership for those 18 – 21 as they are the ones on low wages and maybe the full fee puts them off also if they have been a jnr member then the jump to adult membership is very large. The committee*

*pondered this and agreed a trial at £90/year but persons taking up this offer are not legible to enter in summer club competitions unless they are a full member.*

## **AOCB**

*Derek proposed that Craig Rosie would be someone worth asking to for the position of Junior Convener. (Derek to ask Craig)*

*Bill Banks – What is now going to happen with the trial ditch at the 3<sup>rd</sup>? – Billy – A bridge will likely need to be put there for this year until we can get the finances and time to fill it in properly.*

*Steve added that a proper solution will be needed as the Ladies were forced to play in front of the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee last year.*

*Bill – Now that the course layout has been decided on new markers will be needed for the back 9. If someone sponsors these does that mean they buy them? As he would like to donate these and then sponsors can be added as and when. (Thank you Bill).*

*Bill then suggested that Willie Budge may be able to carve ones similar to the originals but Erik proposed they could be completely different to differentiate between the 2 9's.*

*Neil asked this be taken to the next committee meeting for discussion.*

*Erik Donaldson – Have you thought about Affiliate membership? An organisation, such as a football club or the Masons club for example, would pay say £200/year to the club and all their members could then play at SRGC for £5/round.*

*Everyone agreed this was a good idea and more research and debate should be carried out.*

*Derek suggested that organisations could be written to so as to gauge interest and Jim added that it could be trialled to find out where the pitfalls lay.*

*Erik was asked if he would pursue this on behalf of the committee and has agreed to this.*

*Chris Burton – Do we have any of the pocket rules guides left? Violet does.*

*Fundraising – Fantasy Golf league for SRGC – Chris to follow up on this and the workings of such a scheme.*

*Lynn – A huge thank you to Violet for all her work in her role as lady's captain.*

*Billy – Asked Ben for his views on the course. Ben asked about more hazards such as bunkers. Billy said that if the club were able to employ a full time green keeper then things like this would be possible but the upkeep on a bunker is huge. Erik added that these need to be dug out and replaced after every winter due to the sand compacting. The course is hard enough in its present form.*

*Billy then asked Erik for his views on the trees at the 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

*Erik told those present that a hazard is there to make you think about the shot you are about to play and if you must lay up then so be it. The lay-up shot is the hard one because you are already behind where you want to be but that's all part of golf.*

*Derek added that the mounds around some of the greens take a lot of maintenance to keep them cut.*

*And that folks is that.*

***The captain thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:50***

*Date of next committee meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April in the club at 7pm*