



STURMINSTER MARSHALL GOLF CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 7th October 2020, 7pm start (via Zoom)

1. Those Present – Dave Dorrell, Mike Dodd, Dave Piercy, Barry Moore, Louise Read, Claire Perry, Peter Moore, Beryl England, Karen Hewitt, Sarah Mattingly, Colin Mattingly, Debbie Curnow, Mike Whicher, Jay Allen, James Garvey, Sally Campbell, Trevor Snoxell, Chris Evans, Peter Hughes, Tony Morgan, Jenny Piercy.

2. Apologies – Geoff Fugatt, Ann Welch

3. Minutes and Matters arising

October 2019 AGM minutes – taken as a true and accurate record, proposed by Claire Perry and seconded by Trevor Snoxell.

4. Chair's Report

As everyone will be aware, this has been a difficult year due to the effects of Covid-19. It began well with our club committee working extremely effectively to organise and develop activities for all members. Unfortunately, many plans have had to be cancelled or postponed.

However, some things have gone ahead, or were completed pre-lockdown. New Honours Boards have been created in the clubhouse and in the process of ensuring these were accurate we realised that club records could be improved. As a result, we have developed an online repository for club documents. Competitions have been reviewed and we hope that the revised options available will encourage even better participation, once we are 'back to normal'.

We have worked closely with the owners throughout the year and are delighted that Louise Read now attends our committee meetings. This means that she is able to keep us fully informed about plans and developments. It also enables us, if necessary, to raise issues/concerns directly with the owners. I am grateful to, and would like to publicly thank, the owners for the investment that they continue to make in the club. This year has seen several improvements already and more are being completed within the next few days. Anyone who has been in the club shop will have seen the exciting plans to redevelop the clubhouse. We have to hope that planning permission is granted as it would greatly enhance our facilities. In recent weeks the path through the club has been clearly signposted with

white markers which we hope will ensure walkers do not use alternative routes across our course.

Lockdown forced the club to introduce a booking system for tee-times. Whilst this has not been welcomed by all members, it has had a very positive effect. I believe that it has encouraged more people to play our course and consequently increased income. Hopefully, this will also translate into increased membership. Dave Piercy, Senior Captain, has expressed his concern that having tee-times is reducing interaction between members and making our senior mornings less 'sociable'. I have to agree with him. It is, currently, difficult to arrange different groupings and players tend to play with the same 2 or 3 people every week. Hopefully, once Covid-19 restrictions are removed we can find a way around this issue.

The problems caused by Covid-19, continue to have a financial impact and must be reducing income for our club. So far, I believe the owners have done a fantastic job, in difficult circumstances, of keeping the clubhouse open as much as possible. I hope that everyone realises what a challenge it is in the current situation and will continue to support the efforts of staff and owners.

Our academy continues to introduce high numbers of young players to golf, thanks to Mike Dodd, and they definitely bring new life and significant funds into the club. England Golf has launched a new SafeGolf accreditation for clubs which meet high standards to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. I am delighted to say that we have achieved this award. It is, I believe, a recognition of the great work that our club and especially Mike Dodd do for young players.

As everyone should know, the World Handicap System replaces our current system on 2nd November. This will be used by all clubs around the world and should make playing across different courses fairer for all players. Full details of the WHS are available on our website or from England Golf. If players wish to gain/maintain handicaps they MUST sign up to the WHS. We do this for all members through our 'Independent Software Vendor' (Handicapmaster). If you haven't already done so, please let us know your full name, date of birth and email address. We can then upload these details to the WHS.

I would like to thank the other committee members for their support during this year. They have made my job remarkably easy. It has, at times, been difficult holding our meetings using Zoom, but we have done so, thanks largely to Claire Perry who has allowed us to use her subscription. If we are forced to continue meeting in this way I think we will need to consider arranging a 'club subscription'.

Dave Piercy, our handicap secretary, must be singled out for thanks. He has done an amazing job in keeping all our competition results and handicaps up to date. The role requires more hours than any other post on our committee and I am delighted that he has agreed to continue in this role. Special thanks also need to be given to our treasurer, Trevor Snoxell. He has successfully simplified our accounts so that all committee members can easily understand them!

In the absence of any other nomination I have agreed to stand for Chair again this year. I sincerely hope that by next year's AGM we will be clear of Covid-19 and back to 'normal' in all aspects of our lives and golf.

David Dorrell

5. Men's Captain's Report

What everyone can only say is that 2020 has been one of the most challenging year's for golf and indeed any sport, we do at least seem to be making the most of it.

Apart from the short break when we could not hold monthly competitions, we do seem to have had a steady flow of members joining in, even increasing a bit in recent months. This is good news and I as Captain would hope to see it increase, particularly with new members.

We also had to limit the number of other competitions this year but still had a very successful Club Championships in early September that was very well supported. Probably one of the best turn outs for several years. The Men's Champion of Champion's competition is also being held at the end of September.

Since our return to golf we have made no charge for competition entry. From October onwards we will be reintroducing payments for entering men's monthly competitions.

The coming year will see some very interesting challenges due to COVID that it would seem is likely to be around for months yet. We also have the new World Handicap System handicaps coming into play on the 2nd November which could be quite interesting. I have a feeling that we will be able to compete more competitively in the future in inter club matches after our handicaps are adjusted due to the course.

I have enjoyed my year as Captain and if no one else steps forward I would be happy to carry on for another year if you don't mind putting up with me.

Barry Moore

6. Ladies' Captain's Report

My initial thanks this year go to my fellow captains, Barry and Dave, who have helped to keep all of the Sections communicating and have organised some very enjoyable mixed events during the part of the year when we could mix!

I would also like to thank Dave Dorrell for being our Chairman – this job entails a lot of background work and very often goes unappreciated. Keeping us all in line at Committee Meetings is not always an easy task but Dave has done an excellent job.

I am very pleased to see the Ladies Section growing rapidly since “lockdown”. Everyone is happy to be back on the golf course, meeting up with old friends and welcoming new ladies. We have had 11 ladies joining us over the last few months and it is good to be welcoming some new faces. Hopefully, they are our lady captains and committee of the future (even if they don't know it yet!).

Several of the ladies have enjoyed out inter-club competitions – particularly those Little Gem fixtures that we were able to play. It is nice that there are opportunities available for higher handicap ladies to participate in games at bigger clubs on a friendly basis.

As always, the ladies committee have been brilliant in helping me to organise events and competitions throughout the year. As you will know, I am not standing as Lady Captain next year and I have not been successful in finding a replacement. So, next year, the ladies

committee will be organising the Ladies Section events, hopefully no one will notice too much difference, but we will try to find someone to take on the Lady Captain's post next year and fill that car parking space.

The ladies have missed our regular social outings this year but we did manage to fit in a very enjoyable Christmas meal, a trip to the panto, a 10-pin bowling evening and an Away Day at Moors Valley GC.

I would just like to finish by saying that I hope Sturminster Marshall GC continues to be the friendly, welcoming Club that it has always been. Where playing golf and enjoying each other's company play equal roles and where we continue to make long term friendships, while enjoying a bit of friendly rivalry on the course.

Claire Perry

7. Seniors' Captain's Report

I found it pleasing that Seniors emerged from their lockdown in good numbers and appear to have accepted and complied with the introduction of pre-booked tee-times. We also have a number of new players, always good to see. One unfortunate side effect of the pre-booking is that there is virtually no mixing of playing groups, we are becoming a fractured set of groups. I cannot see a way out of this without introducing even more work for organisers of the tee times.

We have played only one inter-club match this year, and although others clubs and leagues have played more matches, I believe we have done what we have done correctly to keep ourselves safe and comply with the law as it has been applied from time to time. The normal group interaction between us all is lost, something I'm sure everyone regrets. Hopefully in 2021 something closer to our normal way of life will be possible.

With the advent of winter, and the possibility of frost, flooding or fog etc, I do wonder how pre-booked tee-times will be affected on Seniors' day - Tuesdays. Normally, if the course is closed early in the morning, we can wait around and start playing later. How will this work this coming winter?

Dave Piercy

8. Junior's Report

Coming out of lockdown has seen a huge interest in golf for youngsters. At Sturminster we now have over 160 children in weekly lessons and 70 junior members at the club. Running 9 hole medals has been more successful than 18 as time seems to be a problem for families.

As junior organiser I have managed to run a second hand donation system and together with selling our old winter tee mats we have increased the junior fund to help with the 2021 season.

I get a lot of support from my two fantastic golf professional Charlie and Colin without them we wouldn't be able to provide a great academy for children to learn.

We are also a training centre for both Dorset boys and girls which we are proud of and looking forward to a positive 2021 with the junior club

Mike Dodd

9. Treasurer's Report

Sturminster Marshall Golf Club Annual Treasurers Report Report on account for period 1st October 2019 to 30th September 2020.

Main club Started with a balance of £1,394.61 and finished with £281.67. The income was collected from the qualifying competitions, but only from October to March, then due to COVID no money collected. Expenditure was for Handicap master (2019/20 & 2020/21), replacement safe, honour boards, computer screen and buffet for captain's day. Allowance for Handicap Master additional fees and Honour Boards updates is required. Although we start the 2020/2021 year with a small balance, once the revenue from the competitions commence the funds will increase.

Men's Section Opening balance of £2,185.29 and closing figure of 1,748.64 The income in the early matches Oct to Mar was paid back to the winners. Expenditure was for trophies and breakfast. Allowance to be made for 2020 trophies and prizes. Hardy B Opening balance of £560.34 and closing figure of £500.34 No income this year as no matches. Expenditure for entry fee and breakfast.

Little Gem Opening balance of £185.34 closing figure of £279.34 Income from matches. Expenditure was entry fee final match.

Charity account Opening balance of £3,242.87 closing figure of £25.98 The £3,242.87 cheque was paid to the charity on Oct 19, the income was gratefully received from the ladies' section in January. This figure will be held for the 2020/2021 charity.

Ladies Section Accounts as attached £918.93

Seniors Section Accounts as attached £1,350.41

Juniors Section Accounts as attached £149.81

The accounts 'signed off' by email as follows: Main accounts - All captain's (BM, DP & CP) Men's section - Men's captain (Barry Moore) Hardy B - HB captain (Chris Evans) Little Gem - LG captain (Colin Mattingly) Charity Account - All captain's (Barry Moore, Dave Piercy & Claire Perry).

This statement below is taken from the constitution: 10. Financial Examiners a) The appointment of financial examiners shall be confirmed at the last Committee Meeting of the year and will be competent member(s) of the Club to carry out the task. They shall examine the books of the club and duly certify the annual income and expenditure sheet before they are published.

Trevor Snoxell

10. Course and Clubhouse Report

2019/20 should have been the best year ever for the clubhouse at Sturminster Marshall.

After lots of hard work from all the team. We had secured some great functions, which alongside the regular use of the facilities from members, visitors, cyclists, locals and many more. This meant we were looking forward to a very busy year. We had built a reputation for providing great food, much of which is locally sourced, in a beautiful setting with views of the course. Our team always deliver a warm and friendly welcome to all our customers, which left them in no doubt that they wanted to return. So, things were looking really good with a full diary and planning underway.

Then of course just as 2020 got started, so did a world pandemic. A new experience for us all. Government guidelines have obviously greatly restricted what we can do and these changes look set to stay for the foreseeable future in the hospitality industry.

We are confident that we are providing a Covid safe environment for our staff and customers and thank you all for your continued support.

Thanks to the flexibility of all our team we have been able to retain all our staff who have now all returned to work. So, I am delighted to say that we no longer have anyone on furlough. Our great team will now continue to work through 2020 as committed as ever and looking forward to welcoming you.

We do not currently have any plans to change the opening hours:

Kitchen 11-3 Mon-Fri 9-4 Sat & Sun Clubhouse 8-6.30 7 days

However, both could be subject to a reduction in hours if we experience wet weather during the winter.

Our aim is to now finish the year on an even ground but with the vision to achieve profit in 2021.

Thank you to all our staff and customers for all their support and use of the facilities.

We now look forward to working with everyone to ensure a smooth transition back to full capacity and service as soon as we are able.

Louise Read

11. Owner's Report

It has now been 3.5 years since Lou, and I joined Mike as partners at Sturminster Marshall Golf Club.

We have thoroughly enjoyed refurbishing and improving the facilities at the club alongside Mike.

We are continuing these improvements with the following ongoing works.

1. The new planning application for the extension to the clubhouse has been submitted.
2. Installation of new winter tees is underway.
3. All weather chipping area is underway.
4. New netting on the 8th tee to be completed this week.
5. Laying tarmac on the footpaths outside the proshop and greenkeepers shed to be completed this week. (weather permitting)
6. Flat roof over the last 6 exposed driving range bays.
7. Installation of new ball machine which will accept card payments.

The majority of all the hard work that has been done and our continuing improvements, have been very well received. It has been great to watch the club grow and move forward. However unfortunately we are aware that there are also a small number of people who do not support our efforts and very much dislike our approach to the business.

With that in mind, when the above works have been completed, we believe we will have fulfilled our objectives that we set out when we invested. The club will be both in the best condition and position that it has ever been in.

Therefore, we have decided that this could be a good time to investigate if we should now sell our interest in the business to recoup our major personal investment. This will of course be done whilst liaising with Mike.

This process may take some time to complete and is therefore not imminent.

We will update you further as and when we make any decisions.

We would like to thank all the team at SMGC as well as all the members and visitors for making this project such an enjoyable experience for us.

Andy Read

12. Competitions Report

Nothing to report.

13. Change to Constitution

Four small changes proposed due to removal of incorrect organisation references:

Proposal:

3. **Name and Affiliations** to read: The Club will be affiliated to England Golf, Dorset Ladies County Golf Association and the Dorset County Golf Union, and be bound by the rules and etiquette of golf as laid down by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.

2. **President** to read: A suitable eminent person, not necessarily a member of the club, may, on the recommendation of the committee be elected as President of the club at the AGM of the Club. The incumbent shall thereafter be bound by the rules of the club and be entitled to all privileges of membership with the exception of DCGU fees. A two thirds majority of those present at the meeting shall be necessary at such election.

3. **Application for Membership** to read: DCGU fees as determined by England Golf and the County Union shall be paid by all members, if SMGC is their home club, as part of annual membership fees.

3. **Starting Time and Playing Entitlement** to read: 5.1 Booking Time: Subject to availability, members and visitors may book a tee time in advance using the online booking system or by contacting the clubhouse. Where a tee tie has been booked in advance R&A Rule 6.3 will apply.

AGM agreed to the proposal [proposed by Dave Dorrell and seconded by Dave Piercy].

14. Election of Committee 2020/2021

The New committee will comprise:-

Chairman – Dave Dorrell

Mens Captain – Barry Moore

Ladies Captain – Vacant

Seniors Captain – Dave Piercy

Treasurer – Peter Hughes

Competition Organiser – Trevor Snoxell

Handicap Secretary – Dave Piercy

Secretary – Sandra Burnett

Members – Beryl England, Colin Mattingly, Sally Campbell

15. AOB

1. Claire Perry advised that she and Beryl England had been working on some players' briefing notes regarding the new World Handicap System and that they should be ready to circulate to all Club members soon.
2. Dave Piercy asked what would happen to allocated Tuesday morning (Thursday for ladies) tee times in the Winter if frost prevented us going out on time. Mike Dodd

advised that, if this was the case, all tee times that day would be pushed back however long the delay had been.

3. Sally Campbell asked if there was any chance of being able to book tee times via the SMGC website by using your membership number. Mike Dodd advised there were no plans to alter the system to allow this to happen.
4. Colin Mattingly asked Mike Dodd if the compressor could now be activated – Mike will look into the safety precautions needed to enable this to happen.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

D Dorrell & Claire Perry