

Calderfields Golf & Country Club

2021 Club AGM.

Thursday 27th January 2022 7.30pm

Meeting brought to order and commenced at 7.35 pm.



1) Housekeeping and Covid Restrictions.

Dan advised attendees that the slide being projected onto the screen was giving relevant current advice regarding the latest covid restrictions in place within the Club and requested that all abide by them.

2) Introduction.

Ken welcomed everyone to the 2020 Club AGM.

He asked if anyone had not signed the attendance Register, could they please do so.

It was good to see some new attendees this year after a very difficult 2 years for everyone and things are now looking more positive going forward.

There are three vacancies this Year for 3 Year, 2 Year and 1 Year positions. Although there had originally been 8 Nominations for the posts the Committee had been advised that two of the candidates had withdrawn.

One further candidate had offered apologies for tonight due to a re scheduled Holiday from Covid so it had been determined he would be allowed to stand.

Ken confirmed more detail will be provided at Voting time.

Ken thanked Tom Keenan for his service to the Club and support in taking over the role of President and also wanted to mention the Past Lady Captain Beryl Saunders, who had seen her 90th Birthday last year and was still playing at that time.

A great record.

We have sadly lost some members of the Club due to both Covid and other issues but the most recent was a past Men's Captain John Roberts whose Funeral had only been last week after passing away on Christmas Day.

Ken mentioned the slightly unusual expense incurred this Year with the requirement of a new Computer and Touchscreen costing approximately £900.00 and the Men's Committee provision of a Practice net for circa £1400.00 which was currently undergoing installation.

3) Present and Apologies

Alan Ratcliffe	Captain 2020/21
Dave Freeman	Senior Captain (2021/22)
Dan Lowe	General Manager
John Burnett	Handicap (2021)
Ken Jones	Club Sec/President

38 Members from all sections inc above (Appended as an attachment)

Apologies:- D.Senior,, R .Simkin, R Colbatch,Beryl Saunders, Kev Beech, Ken Wilson, Gwyn Pugh..

4) Acceptance of Minutes of Last Meeting:-

The minutes from the AGM for 2020 were accepted.by Dave Freeman and seconded by Phil Latham.

5) Matters arising:-

The issue of the internal Out Of Bounds on the 11th Hole had been previously raised and a Trial had been undertaken with this being removed.

Feedback would be presented to the Members and a vote will be held towards the end of the meeting to determine the decision.

6)Section Reports

Club Captains Report Presented by Alan Ratcliffe

Captain's report AGM

Good evening Directors, Management, Mr President, seniors Captain, Lady Captain, and members.

It has been an honour to have been Captain for a second year, with another lock down at the start of the year and the course not open until late March was not good for any Golfers around the country. In March the club had employed our new head green keeper Matt Jupp who I must say has done a fantastic job with the course through the summer season, nothing but praise from the members so a big thankyou Matt and the team.

I would also like to thank Mr Tom Keenan for a fantastic Job he has done as President for 6 years and a valid Committee member, Tom you can just enjoy your golf now thanks for all your help.

A big thankyou to Mr Dave Pottinger for coming up with the idea of the Key workers night and the management team and staff for a great night had by all it was a great success. Thanks to all members who helped to raise the £3500.

There was no Captains 4 club played because of the lockdown but the Captains cup was played and won by David Simeon beating Steve Mcarten on count back well done guys.

I had a Captains away day at Kidderminster golf club in September who made us very welcome and I had a great turn out for that day the winner being Ian Jackson well done Ian.

I would like to thank the Directors and Management for all there help over the last two years it has been a pleasure working with you.

I would like to wish Rob Ashfield a great year as your Captain he will always have my backing and the Committee for the year ahead. Enjoy your year.

Regards

Alan Ratcliffe

Club Captain.

Seniors Section presented by Dave Freeman (Seniors Captain)

Senior Captains Report for Club AGM – 27th January 2022

This report is to cover activity and information for 2021.

We had 81 members at the beginning of the year and ended with 75.

Following the lockdown period we managed to start on 1st April and managed to play 36 of our Thursday competitions with an average of 54 players each week.

I firmly believe that the new WHS handicap system has contributed greatly to creating a more level playing field for all abilities.

We did manage to play all of our Majors as follows:

Ted Brown AM/AM – Bill Rhodes, Eddie Dace, Chris Maguire & Jim Brothwood – 124 pts

Geoff Radford Trophy – Peter Colbourne – 37 pts

Colin Grubb Shield – Phil Ricks & Jim Brothwood – 53 pts

Paul Simkiss Trophy – Steve Paddock - 43 pts

Crystal Orb – Teg Williams – 43 pts

Seniors Club Champion – Peter Colbourne – nett 67

Seniors Matchplay Champion – Peter Furnival

Sportsman of the Year – Dave Lovell

Inter Club Matches

PLAYED – 14; WON- 11; HALVED – 1; LOST – 2

AN EXCELLENT SET OF RESULTS FOR THE YEAR.

Away Day

My away day on 17th June was very successful with lots of positive feedback received from many members saying how much they enjoyed it and thanking me for all the hard work put into it. Druids Heath was an excellent venue to hold the day. The course, facilities, hospitality and food were all excellent. Well done to Bill Rhodes as overall winner on the day.

Charity Day

The Prostate Cancer Charity Day on 12th August 2021 was a fantastic success with a total of £2983.27.

Special thanks to Richard Bruce who got all the sponsorship and raffle prizes. Organised the golfer/non golfer evening and everything else involved.

Breakfast

A total of 66 seniors attended the Seniors Captains Breakfast.

Notes of Thanks

To fellow committee members, Ken Wilson, Ken Jones & Mike Kimberley for all their support during my time as Captain.

Mike is standing down as Treasurer after 12 years in role.

Ken Wilson is unable to take up role of Captain.

Thanks also to Bob Colebatch who despite his setbacks has always remained positive and has always continued to be a loyal supporter of the Seniors section and has helped immensely on a weekly basis.

Thanks to Danny Newey who has kindly audited the accounts.

Seniors Committee for 2022

Captain – David Freeman

Vice-Captain – Phil Latham

Secretary – Ken Jones

Treasurer – David Lovell

Member Delegate – Peter Furnival

Report concluded.

David Freeman

Seniors Captain 2021

Ladies Section:

There was no formal report for the Ladies section for last Year due to an unexpected change in the role.

Alan introduced Lyn Alderson to the members who would be the new Lady Captain for 2022.

All welcomed Lyn to the position and wished her well.

POST MEETING NOTE:

Lyn had ascertained the winners of the Ladies Major Competitions and it seemed correct that these should be noted and receive the recognition these wins deserved.

Jenny Luke Trophy

Sue Bowskill

Xmas Spirit

Sue Bowskill(Runners up. Jean Barley, Kath Forrester)

Fur & Feather	Sue Bowskill
Club Championship	Kath Forrester
Parr Club	Sarah Purvis
Summer Eclectic	Kath Forrester

Lyn would like to add their thanks to Dan, Tehgan and staff for all of their help with the celebration of Beryl Saunders 90th Birthday.

Handicap and Competition (John Burnett)

John provided a background on how WHS had progressed since the last meeting with the New Computer and Touchscreen being a great benefit allowing him remote access. He highlighted the ongoing issue of members entering Competitions via the App which created a problem as currently Comps are Non-qualifying due to course conditions. John is having to review entries and delete any cards put in for Handicap purposes.

The main report was in the form of a Power point presentation which is appended as an attachment to the end of the minutes.

Greens Report:

Report presented by Greens Chair (Paul Marsh) Compiled by Head Greenkeeper Matt Jupp.

Course Report for AGM 2022

Welcome to my course report for the past year at Calderfields Golf & Country Club. I will be covering work that has been carried out so far and the work to be done in the coming months as we start planning ahead for the main playing season.

From the start of the 2021 season, we had extreme dry conditions which carried on throughout the summer months until Autumn. This made it difficult for us to keep the course in a condition I was hoping for, however we did our best to keep it going. Regarding pest damage, at present damage is minimal but I'm expecting more damage in the coming months as soil temperatures start to rise the leather jackets will also start to rise in the rootzone and this is when crow and magpie damage will start to occur. We will be trialling sheeting greens in the late afternoon and overnight when temperatures start to rise to help try and sweat the leatherjackets out of the rootzone and on to the greens surface when we will then clear the green, when we are doing this there will be a temporary green in play.

Greens

The greens were hit hard the amount of thatch that was present it made them susceptible to dry patch and other drought related conditions. However, with irrigation and a substantial amount of rainfall towards the end of the playing season, I feel the

greens recovered well. During the Autumn & Winter where disease pressure is high due to less daylight hours and the grass plant sitting wet overnight, we have come out this side of the year pretty clean with only 2 minor outbreaks which has left scarring, but this will grow out when overseeded in the spring. This winter has enabled us to identify any issues with the irrigation and carry out any repairs and we are now at a point where we are looking to replace sprinkler heads and will only have a small handful of greens that will require watering by hand these being the 4 practice greens, 9th, 17th & 18th.

Tees

Although they're looking very tired and worn now, I feel the tees stood up well this season with the amount of foot traffic they have seen with the "golf boom" after covid restrictions lifted. I plan to do more aeration and scarification on them this season as well as overseeding which should see them improve further. In regards to the approaches these are treated the same as the greens with both liquid and granular fertiliser applications and verti cutting this is why I took the decision to move the temporary greens onto the approaches as when they are required should be better to putt on rather than where they were previously situated on the fairways, the only hole we've had to leave the temporary green on the fairway is on the 10th due to a dipped drainage line in the approach which we will be addressing this year and the other exception is the 17th where there isn't an approach to the green.

Fairways

The fairways took the drought very well and retained their colour throughout the season with only the odd patch scorching due to the dry conditions. When I first arrived, I checked all the mowing heights that were set under previous management and took the decision to raise the height of the fairways to 18mm, we also reshaped the fairways as per Director from the General Manager prior to reopening in March last year to give them a more aesthetically pleasing look and to try and gain more definition to them. Regarding maintenance there is very little we can do to the fairways as we have to rely on rainfall for recovery. We started to slit tine them in October and managed to get 3 passes on all fairways before it came to wet for the tractor to go on them, I would have liked to have got at least 2 more passes across them, but the weather was against us. September 2022, I plan to utilise the mole plough we have and run that across all the fairways to try and help aid drainage for Winter 2022 as this Winter they did become very wet due to the large amount of rainfall we experienced the back end of November and throughout December.

Semi-Rough/Rough

The semi-rough & rough remained in good condition throughout the playing season with very little damage from traffic and pests. The roping system that is currently in place is there to minimise foot & trolley traffic and protect the playing surfaces around the greens during the Winter and hopefully there will be less "bad lies" when the ball is within chipping distance from the greens.

Bunkers

The bunkers need a lot of work doing to them regarding drainage as most of December and January they have had to be classed as G.U.R. due to being waterlogged. I think the main cause of this is due to the sand being so compacted so I'm hoping to purchase

or hire a handheld rotovator or rotovator attachment that can attach to the strimmer which will enable us to get through the build up of compacted sand leading to softer/fluffier sand for play.

Tree management

The team have been busy this Winter on some much-needed tree management. Tree management is an important job on the golf course and can vastly improve airflow and light levels especially in restricted areas. Reasons for tree management are as follows:

1. Trees too close together that don't allow either tree to develop into a natural attractive form.
2. Trees have a life expectancy and should be removed when they show signs of serious decline before they become a hazard.
3. Large tree limbs can get broken off from a storm and get lodged in the tree. They can get dislodged in another wind storm and become a danger to players. If that condition is known and not corrected it also becomes a financial liability. If the damage is substantial, then removing the whole tree may be the best course of action.
4. Trees that block air movement across a green will promote fungus diseases. This is particularly relevant beside the 17th green.
5. Tree root invasion that suck the moisture and nutrients from the playing surfaces results in weak unhealthy turf. These areas can be hand watered and get extra fertilization, but these are temporary measures because tree roots will out compete grass plants.

Renovations

I have been in talks with the Management over finishing the buggy paths, this is something we will look at before the playing season. During the months of March & April we will be working on greens maintenance where we will be verti draining greens at a depth of 10 inches to relieve soil compaction from the Winter months, enhance root growth and aid water percolation, this will be followed up by double verti cutting to remove any dead material and reduce the thatch levels and finally topdressed and overseeded. Regular verti cutting, aeration and light frequent topdressing throughout the season should see big improvements in the greens.

Thank you for your support since my arrival and please enjoy your golf in 2022.

7) Treasurers Report (Mens, Ladies, Seniors)

Ken introduced Terry German who had kindly stepped into the Role of Men's Treasurer vacated after Les Williams retired from this position after many years of valuable service.

Our thanks go to Les for all of his input into this and the many other roles he has filled and wish him the best in his retirement from duties to play golf at the club.

A report for the Men's section was presented by Terry German and Ladies by Jean Noon with Seniors by Michael Kimberley.

The actual reports are included as attachments.

Terry highlighted the Yearly reported loss which was due to the exceptional purchase of a New Computer system and also a Practice net which were one off costs.

8) Management Report presented by Dan Lowe.

Dan presented via Power Point the summary of how the last 8 – 12 Months since last AGM had been from the Clubs perspective and the specific challenges and impacts the Lockdowns had had on the operational side of the business.

The full presentation is appended to the minutes.

9) Confirmation of Club Captain for 2022

Alan confirmed that Rob Ashfield would be taking the Role of Club Captain..

10) Confirmation of Vice Captain for 2022

Alan confirmed that John Burnett had been selected to be Vice Captain for 2022.

11) Confirmation of Club Secretary

KSJ was currently undertaking this role but invited Members from either the Committee or otherwise to come and see him if they wished to be considered for the position.

Post meeting Note: No one applied so KSJ would continue in the role for 2022.

12) Confirmation of Management Committee members

For 2022 the Management Committee would be comprised of.

Rob Ashfield (Club Captain)

John Burnett (Vice Captain)(Handicap & Competition)

Ken Jones (President /Secretary)

Lyn Alderson (Lady Captain)

Dave Freeman (Seniors Captain)

Dan Lowe (Management)

Greens (Paul Marsh)

Treasurer. (Terry German) could be invited as and when required.

13) Voting for New Committee members.(During 15 min Break)

KSJ again outlined that two of the candidates had withdrawn at late notice but introduced each of the attending ones so the members would understand who they were voting for.

Withdrawn: S. Millership, P. Davis

On Holiday D. Dudley but included in vote.

Participating. Terry German, Phil Latham, Dave Nicholls, Jason Dudley, Neal Beech.

Voting slips were issued to men's members in attendance and the votes were gathered and scored by, Peter Furnival, Nick Hirst and Tony Bradley. Many thanks for that help.

11) New Committee Members

This Year there were three new positions and from the voting as above would be :

3 Years Terry German

2 Years, Phil Latham

1 Year Jason Dudley.

KSJ thanked all of the participants for offering their services and congratulated the three new Committee members chosen to be part of the 2022 team.

12) Questions from the Floor.

As indicated earlier in the meeting the 11th Hole OOB was to be put to all members in attendance to determine the Course of action.

John's Handicap report had highlighted that since the trial removal had been in place the Hole was actually playing to it's stroke index as opposed to lower when in place.#

A free vote by show of hands was taken to pass the motion for permanent removal.

Some discussion took place regarding the merits prior to the show of hands.

For the Motion 22.

Being 38 in attendance Motion was carried by the majority vote and would be implemented.

Cards would be changed at renewal time.

There were two actual questions from Members to be raised at this meeting and are included within the Management Report appended to these Minutes in slides 11 and 12.

These were submitted by Jason Hibbs and Matt Jackson.

Response as below.

Questions from Jason Hibbs

On Course condition Yes fully endorse the good work in challenging conditions.

On Competitions.

1. Understand but Trophies need to be sponsored and provided by the Family and very few have come forward to that.

Seniors do additional Comps that are not all majors but do represent past members.

Certain other items are offered such as a Bench or Captains Bell etc.

Schedule is very tight and would be very difficult to bring extra majors into over a season but can always be discussed if an option is offered.

Many existing trophies are the legacy of the Club from its early days and Founding members so will always be historic in their make up.

Committee is currently discussing with the Directors to change one of the Comps for which a new trophy will be played for.

The Andrews memorial no longer has any connection to the existing Club so will be phased out this Year.

2. All majors have and always will be drawn comps with the problems of any not played recently due to Covid restrictions.

Problems with drawing comps that are not individual is relying on people to turn up which could drastically affect entry on the day.

3. The schedule has to be determined early enough to be published in January but Texas Scrambles have been included as a safeguard against inclement weather.

The winter does not preclude Qualifying competitions if the course permits but it has been found historically that more members play in fun type formats such as scrambles in poor weather.

Half Way Hut Dan

Dan responded to the question by stating the real issue with this idea was the security aspect of having a hut on the course with break ins and vandalism and that the Mobile Buggy was introduced to alleviate this issue.

Dan was asked if the times for this service may be increased and would be kept under review.

The Practice area Dan advised that the practice area was receiving some attention to bring it back into a better condition including the new Practice nets purchased by the Mens Committee.

Matt Jackson.

KSJ had researched this issue of playing these specific Competitions on 1 day.

The history went back to 2013/ 2014 when a proposal to change the comps to be played over two days was put forward.

This was not implemented until 2015 after discussions with Golf England who advised strongly against playing two Comps within one overall.

This separated them into individual competitions from then onwards.

The Handicap Committee at that time listened to arguments to make them two day comps to ensure they were fair and more inclusive for older members as well and there were no dissenting views at that time.

The Secretary's Bowl would be an issue on one day now under WHS as submitting two scores for one comp on the same day gives issues of Handicap adjustment during the half way point so may not be fair.

Obviously Two day comps permit any adjustments.

The Fixture list is published in January each Year so should provide opportunity for members to arrange days off etc to facilitate entry at this time.

It was no different for working members who wished to participate in the Summer knock out draws that were played mid week.

KSJ asked for a show of hands to see if there was any more interest in adopting this proposal and a large majority were against.

No further action would be taken and proposal would not be implemented.

Mr Dave Pottinger kindly stood and thanked the Club and Committee members for their input for the benefit of the members and stated that he knew sometimes it could be difficult keeping everyone happy.

His thanks were duly noted and the Committee thanked him for the endorsement.

Being no other Business the meeting was closed at 9.25 PM.

