

BACKWORTH GOLF CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2015



78 YEARS OF GOLF
1937 – 2015

BACKWORTH GOLF CLUB

Gentlemen,

13th February. 2015.

BACKWORTH GOLF CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

The above A.G.M. will take place at The Hall, Backworth at

7:30 pm on Friday 13th February 2015.

The business conducted will include:

- 1 The minutes of the A.G.M. dated the 21st February 2014 and any matters arising there from.
- 2 Reports from the Officials: -
 - a. The Chairman
 - b. The Hon. Secretary
 - c. The Hon. Treasurer including his presentation of the annual accounts.
 - d. The Auditors
 - e. The Competition/Handicap Secretary
 - f. The Chairman of the Greens
 - g. The Captain
- 3 The election of:
 - a. The Officers
 - b. The Committee
 - c. The Auditors
- 4 Introduction of Captain & Vice Captain
- 5 Notices of Motion
- 6 Any other business
- 7 Closing Remarks by the President

Yours faithfully,

Alan Milton
Honorary Secretary

BACKWORTH GOLF CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on 21st February, 2014

Attendance: 26 members

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr R.McKeen, Mr G. Henney and Mr J. Robinson

Chairman's Opening Remarks: Mr Burdess opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking members for their attendance.

Members were asked to observe a minutes silence as a mark of respect to the memory of their fellow members who had passed away during the year.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Copies of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th February 2013, having been circulated to members, were taken as read, and approved on the proposal of Mr T.Gascoigne and seconded by Mr J.Reay.

Matters Arising

The Chairman reported that at the 2013 AGM Mr W. Nicholson had suggested the club hold a seniors open. Mr Nicholson was asked to look into the possibility of locating a suitable date then bring his suggestion to the golf committee however no date had been received.

Official Reports for 2013

Annual reports from the Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Handicap and Competition Secretary, Greens and the Captain were unanimously accepted.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing captain Mr Reay and his successor Mr Gascoigne for the commitment they had given to the club in 2013.

The Treasurer informed members that the club had realised a profit of £1472.15p in 2013. This was approximately half what we achieved in 2012. He expected that this would decrease further in 2014 however despite the reduction in our balances the committee have decided to continue with the £25 levi and keep trophy levies at their current level of £2 per competition.

The reduction in profit was caused in part to the following increases in 2013;

English Golf Union affiliation fees-£500

Presentation night Trophies- £328

League team meals -£240

Loss of 17 members levies -£420

Mr Rudling was happy to report the there had been no increase in EGU or NUGC fees this year.

He stated that affiliation fees to both the EGU and the NUGC were an individual commitment by club members and were paid on behalf of them from their £25 levi.

The fees of £7.25p for England Golf and £3.50p to the Northumberland Union of Golf Clubs equated to 44% of the £25 allocated to the golf section by the Welfare.

To date outgoings exceed income due to the heavy expenditure that we experience at the start of the year and do not have any control over. He reminded members that their fees should be paid by the end of January to avert the need to dip heavily into our surplus funds.

Members were reminded that those who pay their fees by Direct Debit also need to pay their £25 golf levy by the end of January.

We have also decided to keep the price of a mat to £5 for members despite an increase in cost from our suppliers, which now stand at £5.17p per mat.

Positive outcomes

Mr Rudling informed members that from 2014 onwards the Welfare would take over the responsibility for the purchase and sale of the mats.

There had been an increase of £470 in competition levies due in part to the good weather we experienced last year.

We now have a new notice board and a purpose made driving mat for the net, which will be in place before the start of the summer season. Total cost of the two approximately £600.

Mr Rudling expressed his thanks to Alan Milton, the Club Secretary, for his work in obtaining the notice board, the driving mat and the £48 refund for the same. He further commended the secretary for his sterling work over his first year in the job and thanked him for his help and support which he had found invaluable.'

We currently have two estimates for a compressor which have been obtained by Mr J. Reay and Mr J. Beadling on behalf of the Welfare and Golf Committee.

Mr Rudling concluded his presentation by thanking Bobby Lofthouse for his generous discounts on the presentation trophies and engraving and Herbie Meldrum for his audit of the accounts, his ever available advice and the administration of the competition monies each week.

The Handicap Secretary reported a change to the method of recording active and inactive handicaps.

Members with a C after their handicap are now classed as eligible to play in competitions (active handicap)

Those with no C are required to compete in 3 competitions to active their handicap.

Greens report Mr Carruthers thanked those involved from the club and our sponsor Mr M. Currell at Bay Plastics for the provision of an information board.

He reported that there were still problems with surface water draining onto our land from adjoining fields and the ongoing negotiations with the local authority and Northumberland Estates.

He thanked the Green staff for the excellent condition of the course.

Captain's report The outgoing captain Mr Reay thanked the committee, Mr & Mrs A. Pearson and the incoming captain Mr Gascoigne for the help he had received throughout his term in office.

He also thanked the bar staff and Mr J.Beadling for making him his vice captain in 2012.

AUDITORS REPORT

Mr. H.Meldrum stated that having examined the accounts he was satisfied that they represented an accurate record of the financial position as at 31st December, 2013. He added that the accounts were very well prepared and therefore easy to Audit and he thanked Mr Rudling for his efforts.

ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

The following officials who had been proposed and seconded as per nomination sheet, were elected unopposed

President	Mr D Carruthers
Vice President	Mr. H. Meldrum
Chairman	Mr. R.A. Burdess
Secretary	Mr. A. Milton
Treasurer	Mr I. Rudling
Handicap/Competition Secretary	Mr. M. McLean
Captain	Mr. T.Gascoigne
Vice Captain	Mr. J. Robinson

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The following were unanimously elected to serve on the committee

Mr J. Renwick, Mr P Harvey, Mr R. McKeen, Mr G. Henney, Mr J.Beadling and Mr J.Reay (Immediate past captain)

The Chairman thanked committee members for standing for re-election and looked forward to working with them during the coming year.

Election of Auditor Mr H.Meldrum was re-elected as auditor. This was proposed by Mr D. Burns and seconded by Mr J. Reay.

Notices of Motion

The following notice of motion had been submitted by Mr R.A.Burdess and seconded by Mr A. Milton on behalf of the committee;

We the undersigned wish to propose the following:-

The golf committee propose a change to the format to determine the Club Champion. The proposal is as follows-

The champion will be the player who has the lowest gross score over 36 holes. This will form part of the Alan Crosby rounds 1 and 2.

If after 36 holes there is a tie the players will play a further 18 holes strokeplay the following Sunday.

If still tied they will continue to a sudden death playoff, starting at the first hole, playing under strokeplay rules, until all but one are eliminated.

This person will be the winner of the club championship

If this proposal is passed, it should not be re-visited for 5 years.

The motion was carried with 25 in favour of the motion, none against and 1 abstention.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Mr D. Burns pointed out an error in the captain's report; 3rd place in the Northumberland Junior Patrons competition went to Mr D.Burns & Mr J. Beadling and not Mr J Beadling & Mr T.Davidson as stated in the report. The captain apologised for this mistake.

Mr D.Burns requested that the *recorded course information message* be updated on a more regular basis to reflect current course conditions. The committee suggested that this was a matter for the Welfare and would bring his suggestion to their attention.

The Chairman gave an update on future plans to remove several bunkers on the course, to cut down on maintenance.

The Welfare have suggested that the following bunkers be removed as part of the 5 year program;

2nd Fairway: Bunker nearest Tee Box on Right hand side of fairway; Bunker on Left hand side to be removed but to give the Fairway a dog leg effect, to plant trees and widen out the semi rough where the bunker is situated.

4th Fairway: Bunker nearest tee Box on Left hand side of fairway.

5th Fairway: Plant Broom bushes on the mound (as suggested by Course designers)

6th Fairway: Remove the large bunker between Tee box and Green, but maintain the shape of the rear and sides and grass over.

7th Green: Remove the bunker at the rear of the Green and replace with semi rough.

These suggestions have been discussed at Golf Committee and we are opposed to any planting on the 5th mounds and the removal of the bunker to the rear of the 7th green however we see no reason why the rest of the work cannot go ahead in due course.

The Chairman reported that the removal of these bunkers would not affect the standard scratch for the course.

Mr M.Mordue requested an update on the artificial turf that had been laid on the 3rd medal tee.

The Chairman reported that this was being re-laid on a more permanent base and would be ready before the start of the summer season weather permitting.

Mr A.Walker inquired whether the 7th temporary green to the right of the main green was ever used. He was assured that this was occasionally used.

Mr Gascoigne asked members whether they had experienced any problems with the change to the *out of bounds rule* to the left of the 2nd green. Members present gave no indication that they were unhappy with this rule change.

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

The President thanked members for their attendance and reminded them that the committee were always available should they wish to speak to them.

He went on to remind them that any complaints should be put in writing, addressed to the Golf Secretary.

He then congratulated the incoming captain Mr T.Gascoigne and his vice captain Mr J.Robinson on their appointment and wished them well for the coming season.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:30 pm

Backworth Golf Club.
Chairman's Report 2015

It has been an absolute pleasure performing the role of Chairman again this year.

The recipe for the successful running of a Golf Section is having a good committee. Fortunately that's what you, the members, have.

I would like to thank Alan Milton and Ian Rudling for their effort and commitment over that last twelve months. Alan has put a lot of unseen work in, which has been of benefit to all members. Ian has kept a firm hand on the club finances.

All competitions have run smoothly under the guidance of Malcolm Maclean and Herbie Meldrum. The amount of time this pair give to the golf section is commendable.

The men's league team, under the guidance of Trevor Gascoigne performed well in a difficult league. I would like to congratulate Trevor and his team for representing the club.

Phil Harvey has had the reins of the Senior team, which I am sure at times has caused him a slight headache. This team too have performed well.

Finally, I wish John Robinson all the best for 2015.

R.A.Burdess
Chairman ,Backworth Golf Club.

Backworth Golf Club

Secretary's Report

Attendances by committee members during 2014/15

<i>R. Burdess</i>	11	<i>M. McLean</i>	9
<i>J Beadling</i>	12	<i>H. Meldrum</i>	12
<i>D. Carruthers</i>	9	<i>J Reay</i>	11
<i>P. Harvey</i>	12	<i>J. Renwick</i>	8
<i>I Rudling</i>	12	<i>T Gascoigne</i>	11
<i>A Milton</i>	12	<i>J Robinson 2</i>	4
<i>R McKeen</i>	11	<i>P Thompson</i>	2 from 2

Representatives from England Golf attended Backworth in October to re-measure the course using the USGA system. This system takes into account bogey and scratch golfers and resulted in a yardage gain of 139 yards off the white tees and 146 yards off the yellow tees.

Standard scratch off the white tees was increased by 1 to 69 although the yellow standard scratch remains the same at 67.

New tee box yardage disks have been supplied by our sponsor Bay Plastics and will be fixed permanently in place before the start of the summer season.

Several plates for the marker stones are also being supplied reflecting this increase in yardage.

Score cards will eventually be ordered with the new yardage and standard scratch increase once the current stock is depleted.

Alan Milton

Backworth Golf Club

Competition/Handicap Secretaries Report for Annual General Meeting 13th February 2015

Competitions last year were again fiercely contested with a wide selection of winners from all sections. Congratulations to all winners and runners up and to all others keep trying, your day will come.

Congratulations must go to Mr J McCarthy for winning the Club Championship and to the runners up Mr S Carr and Mr P Rawlings

The weather was not good to us this golfing year with competitions running into October, thanks must go to the greens staff for keeping the summer course in play.

The yearly handicap review has been carried out and those members whose handicaps are to be amended will have them adjusted for the start of the next summer season. Last years handicaps will stay in place until the end of winter season for continuity during the remaining competition rounds.

I would like to thank the Golf Committee and members for their assistance throughout the year. Special thanks must go to Mr Herbie Meldrum for all the work and assistance he has given me especially when I was ill and in hospital. I don't know what Backworth would do without him.

To all members ENJOY YOUR GOLF FOR 2015 AND REMEMBER ITS JUST A GAME.....

Thank you

M Mclean(handicap/competition sec)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

GREENS REPORT

The joint elected Greens Committee for 2014/15 was made up as follows; Messrs. Don Carruthers, Phil Harvey, Roy McKeen and Alan Milton (Men's Committee); Mesdames Caroline Hickson and Elizabeth Mitchell (Ladies Committee); Messrs, Paul Himlin and John Robinson (Welfare Management). Mrs. Jean Turner who has served on the Committee, as Chairperson for the past 5 years, resigned in April, due to family illness and commitments. Golf Committee thanked Mrs. Turner for her hard work and leadership of the Greens Committee.

Mr. Alan Milton was unanimously elected Chairman for 2014 and Mr. Carruthers took the minutes of all meetings held in April, June, August and September.

The winter of 2014 had proved to be drier and less cold than those of the preceding two years, and the spring was also generally drier, which meant the flooding problems of previous years had not been encountered. The Greens staff had been able to carry out the drainage work in front of the 9th Tee Box, and later in the summer, the long awaited drainage works (requested repeatedly by Welfare manager to Northumberland Estates) were done with the clearing of rubbish and foliage and re-excavation of the drainage ditch behind castle Park Estate, done incidentally by North Tyneside Council (a long time ownership –the Duke wins again!!). This work seems, to date, to be paying dividends.

Course and facilities improvements:

Golf Information Board and the Golf Practice Net: both of these items are now fully functional, the latter having been made more secure, and feedback from the members has been very positive. Thanks to Alan Milton (and Jackie Reay and Bay Plastics) for the very welcome additions to the Golf Club.

Compressor for Wheel and shoe cleaning machine; also now proving to be a popular and well used facility, and saving a lot of cleaning to the flooring of Locker Room and caddy storage areas. Thanks to both Jeff Beadling and Jackie Reay for their part in requisitioning Compressor and to Jimmy (Sparks) Sisterson for his electrical work.

Re-modelled 12th Tee Box: has also been completed and new artificial turfing eventually bedding in; not popular with certain members, nevertheless it is saving a lot of man hours and re-seeding to an area which has been a problem and an eyesore for some time. Messrs. Forster and Clarke deserve a lot of credit for this work. **The winter 1st/10th** has also been re-turfed this year.

Removal of white lines around

Greens: in answer to repeated requests, this matter seems to have most players respecting the notices, and by keeping their golf trolleys away from the greens, no apparent “well worn paths” have formed. Situation is being monitored by Welfare management and Greens staff.

5th. Fairway – area adjacent to first mound: requests from members. The semi-rough grass was cut to fairway length and standard.

Planned works:

Welfare management's forward planning for Golf Course improvements is still in place and as funding and weather permits, the **wet area between 2nd and 4th fairway just west of the grassed mound** is to be drained, hopefully before the competition season starts.

Concern has also been expressed, as ever, with regard to the condition of certain fairway bunkers and one or two greens side ones as well. In particular the large bunker on 4th fairway, and also in

front of the 6th green, are scheduled to be altered by removal of Grassed mound in middle of 4th, and by reduction in length of both bunkers.

The Golf Committee and Welfare Trustees realise the bunkers at times are a constant source of complaint, not through lack of materials or lack of effort by Greens staff, but mainly due to

the age and condition of sub drainage, which to replace will cost a lot of money. This will be a long term operation.

Gratitude and appreciation is expressed to the Greens staff team of Messrs. Paul Himlin,(30 years of experience and loyal service to the Welfare), Paul Forster, Brian Clarke, David Little and Dale Walker for maintaining the Course to a very good standard.

Members are respectfully reminded to assist Greens staff by observing the usual use and care of the course, and reading the notices provided by Golf committee.

Finally let us hope for another good year weather and health wise, and enjoy your golf

Don Carruthers

Captains Report season 2014

I would like to begin by thanking Jackie Reay for the great honour of being his Vice-Captain in 2013 and for his tremendous help and support throughout my year as Captain of this very fine Golf Club.

Every Captain needs a good Vice-Captain by his side and I can honestly say that John Robinson is one of my best supporters . He has been enthusiastic and a great supporter of Backworth Golf Club & myself during his year as my Vice-Captain. I know he will uphold the proud tradition and responsibility this position brings when he takes over his role as Captain in 2015.

I would like to thank all of the players who represented Backworth Golf Club in both men's and senior league teams and also at County level in 2014

Notable players being Phil Rawlings. James McCarthy. Neil Gascoigne. Andy Stokoe. James Cockburn. Steve Carr. James Storey. Peter Thompson and many many more who supported and represented Backworth Golf Club in 2014 season, in particular Neil Gascoigne who was once again the clubs outstanding player of 2014 .

Congratulations to James McCarthy on winning the Club championship in his first full year as a member, he is a true asset to the club.

A special mention to the senior league team for a creditable sixth place in there league, well done to Phil and his team.

We played very well as a club in the annual triangular matches finishing a very close second to Blyth with Newbiggin taking the wooden spoon.

Special thanks to Paul Himlin and his staff for their efforts in maintaining the course to such a high standard last season. We had many compliments from other clubs on how well the course was presented. Thank you boy's.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Golf Committee for their hard work and support, with a special thanks to Malcolm & Herbie for their assistance on my Captains' day and for all their help during my year in office.

I would also like to thank you all as members of Backworth Miners Welfare, the Welfare Management and those outside supporters of Backworth Golf Club for their generosity and help throughout my year as Captain.

A heartfelt thanks to Alf & Lorrain and their staff for all the hard work they did to make sure that my social events and Captains day went off well, even after the false start to my Captain's day.

To Lorrain, thank you and your staff for the fantastic catering at league matches and functions throughout my year, flawless.

I would like to wish the Ladies Captain for 2015 Audrey Ross all the best for her coming year.

Finally, on a closing note I wish this year's Captain elect John Robinson and his Vice Captain Peter Thompson my very best wishes for 2015-2016.

Trevor Gascoigne

Captain 2014

Backworth Golf Club

Notice of Motion

The following notice of motion has been received and will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting

We the undersigned wish to propose the following:-

That the winter Muckhart competition be changed from a strokeplay competition to a stableford competition from the 2015/2016 season

Alan Milton

Date 7th January 2015

Roy A Burdess

Date 7th January 2015

