



MINUTES OF THE 58th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF REAY GOLF CLUB HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH 2019

Present:

F Groves, J Eunson, Miss M Mackay, J Disbury, S Chisholm, K Farmer, Lee Malcolm, Leslie Malcolm, C Ross, Mrs A Ross, Mrs J Grieg, A Gunn, G Gunn, A Anderson, I Ross, G Fryett, J O'Brien, T Ross, J Fucton, I Farquhar, W Ritchie, Mrs M Fecitt, E Tunn, A Bain, D Mackay, D Mowat and Mrs C Cameron

Approval to Convene

The Captain, Miss M MacKay, welcomed members to the 58th Annual General Meeting of Reay Golf Club.

Miss M MacKay then sought permission for the meeting to convene. This was duly accepted, proposed by Mr J Eunson and seconded by Mrs J Greig.

Apologies for Absence

I Mowat, Mrs S Hawes, G Coghill, G Dunnett, C Munro, E Sutherland, A MacKay

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the 57th AGM were adopted on the proposal of Mr J Eunson and seconded by Mr F Groves.

Matters Arising

M MacKay provided an update on two issues raised at the 2017 AGM: with a correction required to the date on point 2, this was completed.

No new matters were raised.

Reports:

Captain's Report

Club Successes

In the 125th Anniversary of the club I was proud to serve as Captain. We held very successful competitions to mark the historic year which was rounded off with our 125th Anniversary Dinner Dance where past were Captains as invited guests.

Our club made it's mark on the course, putting up a great fight in the Wilson Cup with the team of Graeme, Tom, Gavin and Ewan. Following the Wilson Cup a team was formed to play in the Northern Counties at Royal Aberdeen, although knocked out at the early stages the players enjoyed the experience and I'm sure will represent the club in the future.

The Ladies played well again at the Caithness Ladies Opens going on to win the Sandra Proudler trophy for 3rd consecutive year. At the Inter-county in Brora our scratch team of Eleanor, Tricia, Pam & Mollie were runners up to Dornoch.

Reay Seniors won the Dave Spargo Cup, last won by us in 2009, I believe winning on aggregate against both Wick and Thurso.

The Course

Throughout the year we have received good feedback on Facebook. The season began with poor weather conditions and within a blink we had the longest hot spell of weather quite possibly since the 1970's. The course, but in particular the greens, suffered damage although every effort was made to borrow a bowser from other clubs or farmers we had to use the mains water in an attempt to halt the damage. On seeking advice from green keepers at larger clubs and a plea for help from myself a fantastic effort by Jimmy supported by volunteer members the greens were reseed and top dressed in the later part of the season.

The purchase of a second-hand JD Gator proved it's worth to us during this major course work. We are also grateful to OBC and others for loan of equipment for this.

To accommodate the machinery, we purchased two ISO containers to increase storage space.

I feel a highlight of this year has been the course ranking position of 74 out of top 100 courses in Scotland by National Club Golfer.

Membership Marketing and Sponsorship

Our member numbers are holding up, with 6 new members joining after attending the Come and Try sessions.

The club has continued to be supported through sponsorship by various companies with a presence in the local area. The Bighouse Partnership being one such sponsor who have become a club sponsor hosting their own open.

The successful advertising via Facebook pages and the club website saw visitors from as far afield as America and China either from visiting liners or those doing the NC500 route.

Megan Coghill created our new website which has a modern look and layout. Towards the end of the summer season we re-introduced a bulk text messaging system which has been used to notify member of events as well as bad weather arrangements and course closures.

Match and Handicap

Masterscoreboard was introduced saving the club in the region of £500 in comparison to the Club2000 system. Feedback is that Master Scoreboard has been a successful system to operate, providing the club with much better value for money and IT support. After some discussions between myself and Ian Farquhar with council agreement a new touch screen facility is now in place in the foyer for all players to enter their scores after their round of golf. 9 hole competitions were introduced to offer members who are either struggling to play 18 or just short of time to play all 18. Hopefully this option will continue to be available to retain some members.

Open competition entries were comparative to last year, but the 125th Open and Par 3 Competitions, with entries of 44 and 40 proved to be very successful being supported by all local clubs

Bar

I would like to thank Betty and John for their continued support with covering the bar throughout the year. Sadly the current bar takings cannot support long term employment of bar staff. For the bar to remain open volunteer members are required to fill-in and support the facility. As in recent years the clubhouse continues to be utilised for refreshments after funeral services.

Ladies Section

The section has 16 players who have mainly supported competitions at a local level. As mentioned earlier we were successful at the Caithness Opens and the Intercounty in Brora. It has been lovely to welcome back Eleanor, and supporting Mollie who has represented Reay throughout the summer playing in the Northern Counties.

Junior Section

To celebrate 10 years of the SSE Scottish Hydro Challenge and recognise 2018 as the Year of the Young People, the European Challenge Tour staged a special event at the Macdonald nine-hole Academy course, Aviemore. Reay were represented by 3 teams at the local qualifier for this event with the winning team comprising John and Molly O'Brien, Kyle MacLeod and Aaran Johnson who will head to the final on the 23rd of June. The team comprising Cammie Ross, Alisha Johnson, Kyle Leavesly and Ross Rosie came a very credible 3rd with Pam and Laura Bain and Ellis and Calder MacDonald coming 6th.

House

There are grant applications in progress to replace all the windows and exterior doors. I wish to thank Kenny, Jock and Grant for maintenance of the clubhouse throughout the year.

As I'm sure you all have noticed we have a defibrillator sited at the gable-end of the clubhouse, this is a joint venture with Reay Hall who are responsible for its' maintenance.

Treasurer

A full report shall be provided by Jock, but I am pleased to say that thanks to those volunteers giving up their personal time to work for the club, in particular the maintenance of the course, we are finishing 2018 in a positive financial position for the 7th year running.

In summary, we have had a successful 125th Anniversary year at competition level, both home and away, brought the club up-to-date with technology by installing a touchscreen scoreboard system. And remaining in a good financial position.

Future Plans

- Plans in place in case we get a repeat of this prolonged hot and dry weather:
 - Recommissioning the piped water irrigation system
 - Purchase of new petrol driven pump
 - Purchase of a new tractor towed water tanker (assuming grant successful)
 - Purchase of a new second-hand greens mower (assuming grant successful) We have secured £10k funding towards the tanker & mower
 - Looking at putting a hired toilet on the course, probably next to the 13th green
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To close I have, with a heavy heart taken the decision to resign as Captain, I wish to thank those who have supported me and wish the new council all the best for the future.

Treasurer's Report

It is pleasing to report a surplus for the year of £11,210. This is the seventh year in a row we have returned a surplus. The £76,177 in the bank at the end of 2018, is £6,950 up on 2017.

It is disappointing to report that our income has decreased by £866, however, expenditure has dropped by £4,189 - I will give a breakdown on these later.

The surplus, mentioned previously, doesn't fully reflect the financial state of the club because it includes the depreciated value of the club's machinery and equipment. This year we spent £8,608 on capital equipment: 2 ISO storage containers, a drag mat, a computer for self-registering of scores, a knapsack sprayer and a used John Deere Gator.

Income:

We increased the membership subscriptions last year by a modest amount and also put a lot of effort into attracting people to join the club and visit the course with mixed results - subscriptions were down by £1,332 and visitor green fees were down by £165. Thanks again to Fred Groves for his determined efforts, sponsorship income has increased by £1,800. Nett income from competitions is up slightly. Bar income is down significantly and wages are up by £337 but it still returned a surplus of £1096. We received £500 from Thurso Golf Club for the sale of the John Deere thatching reels we never used.

Expenditure:

When the course purchase costs were deducted from 2017's expenditure the 2018's figures are about £11,000 lower, however, there were a number of significant capital purchases and unusual expenses in 2017 which have to be taken into account before comparing these figures. Course treatment costs are up by £1,291 mainly due to buying extra grass seed as part of the greens recovery programme. Machinery upkeep is up by £1,379 mainly due to more of the winter maintenance programme being carry out in late 2018 rather than early in 2019. Fuel and oil costs are down slightly mainly due to less grass to cut because of the lack of growth during summer months. Course hardware, fittings, repairs and renewals is down by £1,033 mainly due us sourcing holes cups and flag pins in 2017 which have proved to more durable.

Overhead expenditure is down by £6,268 mainly due to the high spend on clubhouse repairs and renewals last year. Furthermore, the golf club was awarded Small Business Rates Relief from Highland Council for 2018 and they also refunded us the rates we paid in 2017. With the Wilson and Ulbster Cup competitions being held in Caithness the associated costs were negligible.

We did not employ a second greenkeeper for the summer months just relying on volunteers to pick up this workload, which is estimated to have saved the club about £9,000. Without this volunteer input with course work and general upkeep of our equipment and facilities the club's expenditure would have to be severely restricted.

Accounting:

As agreed with our accountants, unrepresented cheques and voucher >1 year old are written off. There were no cheques in this category this year.

Looking Forward:

2018 had an exceptionally dry summer, which was great for playing golf, but towards the end of the summer the lack of irrigation had taken it's toll on the greens. A recovery programme of work on the greens was started in the autumn and will continue into 2019. Furthermore, the council has approved expenditure on the purchase of an irrigation bowser and upgrading of the existing irrigation system. Also, our greens mower, which is 13 years old, had a breakdown in the season which left us with only the machine, which is set up to cut the tees, to be readjusted to pick up this duty and it turned out to be not fit for purpose. Therefore, the council has approved expenditure for the purchase of a 3 year-old warranted greens mower. The total cost of the bowser, mower and irrigation upgrade will cost approximately £27,000 and the club has been awarded £10,000 from the Bailey Wind Farm Community Fund towards this, leaving the club to fund the shortfall of approximately £17,000.

The clubhouse windows and exterior doors are in an extremely poor state of repair and in dire need of replacing. We have received quotations from Norscot Joinery and Cairngorm Windows to do this work with the lowest quote, from Norscot Joinery, coming in at £15,594. We have applied for funding from the Strathy North Wind Farm Community Fund and in the process applying to the Caithness and North Sutherland Fund but it is extremely unlikely that any awards will cover the total cost, therefore the club will have to fund the shortfall. We won't know the outcome of the funding applications until late April/early May which is when we will be able to let the contract.

2019's Wilson Cup fixture is to be held at Whalsay Golf Club in Shetland which is likely to cost the club over £2,000.

We got the golf course valued by the government Valuation Office Agency in Feb 2015 however we never got billed for it, even after asking them for a bill. This work was estimated to cost £2,000 and was shown as a liability in our accounts for 2015 and 2016 but, with agreed from our accountants, this liability was written off in 2017. However, in Jan 2019 we received a bill for £1,800 which has been paid.

At last year's AGM it was stated that the club was looking to build a new machinery shed and indoor training facility, which, although we would be looking for significant grant funding, the club would have to contribute towards the cost of this project. When we looked at the specification and associated costs in more detail it was coming in at over £100,000 therefore this project is not being pursued any further at this point in time.

Summary:

It is obvious that the club's financial position is fragile and heavily dependent on sponsor and grant income to survive. Furthermore, without the significant input from volunteers carrying out bar/cleaning duties, facility upkeep and course work, we would not be returning a surplus to invest in the club's development. It is therefore essential that every effort is made to boost membership income and marketing ourselves to attract visitors.

Approvals

The approval of the accounts was proposed by S Chisholm, seconded by K Farmer. A motion to use Victor Fraser to audit the club accounts again next year was proposed by J Eunson, seconded by I Ross.

Changes to the Constitution

Miss M MacKay stated that there was a minor change required to the Constitution Point No 9 remove the paragraph associated with Landowners right.

Election of Office Bearers and Council Members

The captain, Miss M MacKay, requested Mr Fred Groves, President of the club take the chair. Mr Groves congratulated Miss MacKay and her committee for all the hard work done during 2018.

Mr Groves reiterated the call for volunteers to help with work associated with taking the Club forward.

One nomination had been received for Captain, Mr E Sutherland. Mr Groves asked for any other nominations from the floor, there being no other nominations Mr E Sutherland was elected to serve as Captain of Reay Golf Club. Unfortunately Mr E Sutherland could not join us tonight so Mr Groves continued in chair.

The election of Office Bearers continued and there being no other nominations the following were elected to the Council of Management:

Position	Name	Proposer	Secunder
Captain	Evan Sutherland	Jock Eunson	Fred Groves
Vice Captain	Alex Anderson	Jock Eunson	Fred Groves
Treasurer	Jock Eunson	Grant Coghill	Sandy Chisholm
Secretary	Jacqui Greig	Morag Mackay	Grant Coghill
Greens Convenor	Kenny Farmer	Jock Eunson	Fred Groves
Gents Match Secretary	Andy Bain	Donald Mowat	Cammie Ross
Ladies Representative	Tricia McDonald	Alison Ross	Maggie Fecitt
Bar Convenor	TBC		
House Convenor	Sandy Chisholm	Kenny Farmer	Ian Farquhar
Membership and Marketing Secretary	Fred Groves	Jock Eunson	Jacqui Greig
Junior Convenor	Alison Ross	Jock Eunson	Jacqui Greig
Handicap Secretary	Lee Malcolm	Morag MacKay	Grant Coghill
Ordinary Member	Lesley Malcolm	Morag MacKay	Lee Malcolm

Ordinary Member	Tom Ross	Morag MacKay	Kenny Farmer
Ordinary Member	Ian Farquhar	Jock Eunson	Fred Groves

Jock Eunson proposed for Fred Groves to continue as President for the club , seconded by Mrs M Fecitt.

Subscriptions

Mr J Eunson noted that when setting subscription rates for the forthcoming season, the Council had considered the following issues:

- 1 Wage Increases
- 2 Cost of Materials such as Fertilizer and Grass Seeds

It was noted that an increase in fees would be prudent to cover the additional costs noted above.

PROPOSAL

The following subscription rates were put forward by the Council for the 2018 golf year:

ORDINARY MEMBERS	Male/Female	£390
	Senior (eligible for Nat Retirement Pension)	£310
	Beginner	£160
	Young Adult 1 (18-21 yrs)	£160
	Young Adult 2 (22-25 yrs)	£230
	Young Adult 3 (26-29 yrs)	£290
COUNTRY MEMBERS		£310
JUNIOR MEMBERS	Under 9	£10
	Under 12	£30
	Under 18 in Full Time Education	£45
	Under 18 not in Full Time Education	£85
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		£1

John Disbury asked in percentage terms what was the increase, Jock replied that it relates to 3%. The increase of Subscriptions was accepted.

Question was asked about the Greens Fees of £30, it was agreed to leave as if. Reciprocal Fees which currently sit at £15 it was agreed to reduce these to £10, action on the Secretary to let the other clubs know.

James Braid prices currently sits at £15 it was proposed to raise to £20 this was agreed by all,

Winter Fees was brought up about the increase, as discussed unfortunately this year a mistake was made to increase the fees due to the damage caused by the very dry summer, John Disbury acknowledge that the new council should make the decision at the end of this years summer season.

It was highlighted that winter members were unaware that when paying winter fees this can be reduced from the summer seasons memberships. This needs to be highlighted somewhere to allow winter members to take advantage if they which to join in the summer.

Any Other Competent Business

1. John Disbury commented about ladies recognition in the Ladies Northern County, explained that there is a similar competition for men but this does not seemed to be distributed anywhere. It was suggested that any information should be passed to the secretary who would look at trying to advertise any events through Facebook or vis email distribution.

2. John Disbury asked about the men's match fees cost as currently they are £2, he suggested raising this to £5, after much debate and a show of hands this was dismissed, but it was agreed to raise the fees to £3.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 20:35 hrs

Jacqui Greig
Secretary
Reay Golf Club

02 March 2018