



60th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF REAY GOLF CLUB

Present: Jacqui Greig, Jock Eunson, Andy Bain, Fred Groves, Gavin Gunn, Peter Barker, Wayne Mowat, Mike Halliday, Cammie Ross, Brent Munro, Sandy Chisholm, Pauline Craig, David R Craig, Jason Norwood, Eleanor Tunn, Carol Paterson, Tom Ross, Lora Jane Kelly, Ian Ross, Carole Cameron and Colin Munro

Apologies: Graeme Dunnett, Ruth Shallcross, Graham Harness, Colin Paterson, Eilidh Paterson, Maggie Fecitt, Tricia MacDonald, Pam Bain and Graham Fryett.

Approval to Convene

Welcome everyone to Reay Golf Clubs Annual General Meeting

Ask for permission for the meeting to convene,

Accepted , Proposed by Jock Eunson and Seconded by Pete Barker

Approval of Minutes

For the last AGM (59th) Approved by Jock Eunson and seconded by Sandy Chisholm

Matters Arising

Nothing to report from last AGM

Reports:

Captain's Report

The Course

As you will all know our long standing greenkeeper Jimmy Macadie retired last year and we employed Jason Norwood a qualified greenkeeper , who moved up to Reay with his wife Laura and boys Max and Harvey.

Jason has been doing a fantastic job on the course and we have received lots of positive feedback from members and visitors in the short time he has been here and I for one can only see the course improving under Jasons stewardship.

This week we took on an apprentice greenkeeper James Tunn who will now work alongside Jason which again can only help improve the golf course.

We have also had continued volunteer support so thanks to everyone who gave up their time to help.

We have bought some new machinery over the last couple of years with a new topdresser, greens roller, dyna seeder and sarel rollers and will continue to buy new equipment to help Jason. Our plan over the next few years is to keep improving the putting surfaces and to do that we have to keep investing in better equipment and getting more grass seed into the greens.

And on another note could everyone please keep repairing pitchmarks on the greens and repair divots and ask your playing partners to do so.

Marketing and Tee Booking

Some really good work has been done over the last couple of years with Mike Halliday updating the Website and doing a monthly Blog and Colin Munro really getting Reay Golf Club on the social media map with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We also have our online tee booking system up and running which has been very good but we are hoping to improve further with card payments via the web, this could also extend to competitions

Match

We have had increased membership over the last couple of years and club competitions have been well supported and also really good entries for most of our opens.

A couple of notable opens that have been very successful was our joint NC500 Open with Wick where we had 112 players playing both days in Wick and Reay.

Also our Safari Open which we now play over 1 round and open to ladies and gents where last year we had 32 teams (128 Players) which was great to see the course and clubhouse so busy.

Reay hosted the Ulbster Cup last year with strong performances from both our A and B teams playing really well with our A team winning the Ulbster Cup by defeating Wick A in the final so well done Colin Paterson, Michael Smith, Tom Ross and Brent Munro.

The Wilson Cup was held in Lybster where our team also did really well where they narrowly got beat in the final by Thurso.

Ladies SectionA real success story

Over the last couple of years the ladies section has went on from strength to strength with Carol Paterson and helpers organising come and try nights, with many of the new members getting handicaps and playing in competitions which really good to see.

Well done to Mollie O'Brien and Eleanor Tunn who both represented the Ladies North District Team and also Eleanor who broke the ladies course record.

Junior Section

Firstly I would like to thank Evan Sutherland for all the work he has done for the junior section over the last number of years before stepping down as junior convener. Lora Jane has seamlessly taken over the role has continued to grow the junior section.

Seniors

Reay Seniors were the top club in the Caithness and Sutherland Seniors Golf Society last year and they also had one inter club match against Wick which they won. Over 20 play on a Thursday morning with a 9.00 multi tee start and a draw for partners and then in for some soup and sandwiches from Betty.

Bar

I would like to thank Betty and John for their continued work in the bar and kitchen and also Carol Paterson our bar convener who has done so much in making sure that our opens, dinner dance and our square banana campers enjoyed great hospitality.

Future Plans

We are hoping to build a new greenkeeper shed and training facility in the next 12 to 18 months, planning permission has been approved , we now are going to try and get funding to support this project.

The inner foyer is getting upgraded as we speak and we are also looking into possibly of upgrading the lounge and kitchen facilities.

Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

As you are aware, there was no AGM in 2021 but the Financial Statement was produced by our accountants as normal. Therefore, for those who did get the opportunity to see the 2021 report the associated data is in the RH column. If anyone wants a copy of the report please get in touch.

It is pleasing to report a surplus for the year of £57,651. The £129,695 in the bank at the end of 2021 is £36,085 up on 2020. However, these figures are inflated because bills totalling £18,502 for the new Sarrel Roller, Green Tek dynamic seeding cassettes, new holes cutter and repairs to the rabbit fence, which was ordered/authorised prior to the year end, didn't come through until January 2022. We received £24,850 of COVID grants during 2021.

2020 was also a good year, financially, with a surplus of £24,370 and £33,151 more money in the bank than 2019, in spite of the restrictions. In 2020 we received ~£25,000 of COVID grants and support therefore there is a degree of comparability between the two years in that respect. However, there was a number of months in 2020 with restrictions on competitions, visitors, sponsorship and bar opening which impacted on these income streams. There was only £5,150 spent on capital purchases, with £1,000 of grant support.

Income:

Membership subscriptions have been frozen for three years but income increased by £9,500 in 2020 and a further £9,591 in 2021. Adult membership increased by 38 and junior numbers increase by 21 in 2021. The “come and try” and a very active junior section, along with the course condition, are the main reasons for these increases so many thanks to those involved.

Visitor income held up remarkable well in 2020, considering the travel restrictions which were in place for a number of months. The green fee rate was increased from £30 to £40 in 2021 which, along with approximately 225 more visitors, gave £12,721 more income. This is £10,189 more than 2018, our previous best year. Without doubt, publicity through social media, website and various platforms we advertise on, as well as word of mouth on condition of the course, were major contributors to this increase. Again, many thanks to those involved.

Bar income is still very poor and now that restrictions are less onerous the council are looking at ways to improve it.

There was a small deficit on other goods (ball, markers, gloves, etc) mainly through it going through the till as bar sales. Hopefully this has been sorted.

100 Club income is down because of reduced numbers. There will be forms issued with the membership this year to encourage people to join.

It has been an exceptional year for competition income thanks to the efforts of the match committee.

Understandably, COVID restriction had a significant impact on sponsorship over the last 2 years but there are signs that this could be recovering.

The club is in the early stages of a project to build a new greenkeeping equipment shed and an indoor training facility. The club applied for grant assistance for the preliminary work (Architects fees - £1,800, Highland Council planning fees - £2,152 and fees for a consultant who specialises in raising funds for this type projects - £2,000). The Dounreay Community Fund has awarded and paid us £1,000, Highland Council has awarded and paid us £1,000 and Baillie Wind Farm Community has awarded us £3,500, which will be claimed early in 2022. This leaves the club with a liability of £447 on this phase of the project. The only out lay so far is the Highland Council planning fees.

Expenditure:

Overhead expenditure is very similar to previous years albeit there is a discrepancy in 2020 accounts against clubhouse repairs – should have been approximately £500. The club paid 50% of our greenkeeper relocation expenses and the deposit on the rented accommodation, which will be repaid to the club should he vacate the property. 2020 SGL and North District subscription were discounted due to COVID but that no longer applies hence this we are paying the full amount on increased membership.

Course expenditure is similar to last year with the increase in wages off set by significant reductions in machinery upkeep and course treatments. The reduction in machinery upkeep is partly due us not having any expensive breakdowns and the sharpening of the cutting reels being delayed to close as practical to the start of the grass cutting. Course treatments have been carefully managed and focused on what the soil results are telling us. The rise in depreciation is directly linked to the value of our machinery – for accountancy purposes machinery depreciation is set at 25%/year.

We bought a new top dressing machine, a new greens iron and 8 new pull trollies which, along with a few smaller items, came £29,220.

The clubhouse external refurbishment cost £12,248 but we got grants of £5,000 and £2,500 towards this from the Caithness and North Sutherland Fund and the Baillie Wind Farm Fund, respectively.

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, un-presented cheques and voucher >1 year old are written off. There were no cheques in this category this year.

Looking Forward:

We have employed an apprentice greenkeeper which should make life much easier but at a cost. We have secured a grant of £6,000/year, for two years, from Highland Council which leaves the club an additional cost of approximately £14,000/year.

We have received planning permission for the greenkeeping and training facility and are progressing with getting costings and seeking grant funding to make it affordable. The club are hopeful our input to this project doesn't exceed £25,000.

Visitors are increasingly looking for golf carts and currently we only have the use of Bighouse Estate's one, when it's available. Purchasing one of our own is considered to be fairly high priority.

The rabbits are problematic again and the current fences need a major upgrade to make vermin control effective.

The clubhouse lounge/bar area and kitchen need to be updated and the council are currently looking at what is affordable.

The irrigation system could do this some upgrading to make it less intrusive and labour intensive but it will come at a cost.

2022's Wilson Cup fixture is to be held at Stromness Golf Club which will incur costs for the club.

Over and above the afore mentioned expenditure the club faces considerable financial challenges due rising inflation, wages, energy prices and fertiliser/chemical costs.

Summary:

The club has had two very successful years with increasing membership and encouraging trends on the visitor front, however, the financial position has been helped greatly by the COVID grants. The club's financial position is fragile and heavily dependent on sponsor and grant income to develop therefore efforts are needed to increase income from visitors and membership.

Approvals

The approval of the accounts was proposed by David R Craig, seconded by Sandy Chisholm. A motion to use Victor Fraser to audit the club accounts again next year was proposed by Wayne Mowat, seconded by Gavin Gunn

Changes to the Constitution

None

Election of Office Bearers and Council Members

The captain, Andy Bain, requested Mr Fred Groves, President of the club take the chair. Mr Groves congratulated Andy and his committee for all the hard work done during the last 2 years.

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 Andy Bain, Mr Groves asked for any other nominations from the floor, there being no other nominations Mr Andy Bain was elected to serve as Captain of Reay Golf Club. Mr Andy Bain then took over the chair.

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

NOMINEE	POSITION	PROPOSER	SECONDER	NOMINEE ACCEPTANCE
Andy Bain	Captain	Colin Paterson	Mike Halliday	Accepted
Colin Paterson	Vice Captain	Fred Groves	Colin Munro	Accepted
Jock Eunson	Treasurer	Andy Bain	Jacqui Greig	Accepted
Jacqui Greig	Secretary	Andy Bain	Carol Paterson	Accepted
Andy Bain	Match Secretary	Colin Munro	Cammie Ross	Accepted
Fred Groves	Membership Secretary	Jock Eunson	Mike Halliday	Accepted
Colin Paterson	Green Convenor	Fred Groves	Cammie Ross	Accepted
Carol Paterson	Bar/House Convenor	Jacqui Greig	Jock Eunson	Accepted
Carol Paterson	Ladies Representative	Colin Paterson	Jacqui Greig	Accepted
Mike Halliday	Handicap/ Website Convenor	Andy Bain	Cammie Ross	Accepted
Colin Munro	Marketing/Media Convenor	Colin Paterson	Fred Groves	Accepted
Lora Jane Kelly	Junior Convenor	Cammie Ross	Carol Paterson	Accepted
Cammie Ross & Bruce Mackay	House Convenor	Andy Bain	Fred Groves	Accepted
David R Craig	Council Member	Fred Groves	Jock Eunson	Accepted
Tom Ross	Council Member	Carol Paterson	Eleanor Tunn	Accepted
Eleanor Tunn	Council Member	Cammie Ross	Pauline Craig	Accepted
Brent Munro	Council Member	Andy Bain	Carol Paterson	Accepted

Andy Bain proposed for Fred Groves to continue as President for the club , seconded by Jock Eunson

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 2022

A	ORDINARY MEMBERS	Male/Female	£396
		Male/Female <i>NEW MEMBER</i> (1 st Year only)	£316
		Senior (Eligible for Nat Retirement Pension)	£316
		Beginner Yr1	£166
		Beginner Yr2	£250
		Young Adult 1 (18-21 yrs)	£166
		Young Adult 2 (22-25 yrs)	£236
		Young Adult 3 (26-29 yrs)	£306
		Student (in Full Time Education)	£106
B	COUNTRY MEMBERS *		£316
C	JUNIOR MEMBERS	The Juniors Convenor will contact Junior Members with Subscription Fees and Parental Consent Forms.	
D	INTERNATIONAL MEMBER	(Permanent residence outside the UK)	£200
E	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		£1

* Must permanently reside more than 20 miles from Reay Golf Club. They may be restricted to specific competitions as detailed on the Club Notice Board.

For Young Adult Categories, the rates are based on the applicant's age at 1 January 2022

Any Other Competent Business

G Gunn presented a letter:

The Club Captain

We write a proposed suggestion which we feel would improve the experience for all members within Reay Golf Club. Collectively going forward, our suggestion would be pivotal in ensuring a diverse, cultural and inclusive club.

In light of the current equal rights and opportunities movement with regards to gender and sexuality, a natural starting point would be to refer to the tees by colour replacing the use of male/female.

It would also be fairer all round if the tees were handicap rated rather than gender divided.

For Example:

The red tees could be allocated for those with a handicap of 20 or more, the yellow tees for those placed at 10-19 and the white tees for those 9 and under. This would make for fairer competitions and eliminate positive discrimination. No-one with a genuine love for the sport wants to be placed higher than their natural abilities.

Of course, if people wish to play off a more challenging tee, this should also be encouraged with the necessary adjustment made through the handicap system in order to keep the game fair and progressive.

We are fully aware that change can often be met with resistance, however, a trial period of several competitions throughout the year may change people's perspective. The drive to improve and better oneself comes from a healthy desire to win against those of similar standard.

Your faithfully
Reay Golf Club Members.

It was decided to add this to the next Council Meeting Agenda for discussion.

Pauline Craig asked about RGC Branded items and stock of them. Tom Ross agreed to look at other supplier of branded items.

David R Craig asked about if the club was considering a golf simulator, Andy commented going to be considered as part of the new training facility upgrades.

Jacqui Greig
Secretary
Reay Golf Club