



61st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF REAY GOLF CLUB AGM DATE: 1ST MARCH 2023

Present: Jock Eunson, Carol Paterson, Jacqui Greig, Wayne Mowat, Gavin Gunn, Andy Bain, Mike Halliday, David R Craig, Pauline Craig, Fred Groves, Colin Munro, D C Mowat, Graeme Fryett, David Kelly, Lora-Jane Kelly, Jason Norwood, Tom Ross and Cammie Ross.

Approval to Convene

Welcome everyone to Reay Golf Clubs Annual General Meeting

Ask for permission for the meeting to convene,

Accepted, Proposed by Fred Groves and Seconded Jock Eunson

Apologies for Absence

Graeme Dunnett, Colin Paterson and Rebecca Munro

Approval of Minutes

For the last AGM (60th) approved by Jock Eunson and seconded by David R Craig.

Matters Arising

Nothing to report.

Reports:

Captain's Report

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has helped at the club throughout the past year, I may be the captain however it's the whole team of us on the council that makes Reay Golf Club great, non-more though than our greenkeeper Jason who is doing a fantastic job. Also, to all the members thank you for your continued support.

The Course

Over the past year we have witnessed the golf course going from strength to strength and this is through the dedication of our Greenkeeper Jason and his band of volunteers, special thanks to Pete Barker who has put in countless hours. The greens have shown the biggest improvement, and this is due to our purchase of new seeding equipment which has allowed us to over-seed more in the season with very little disruption to the putting surfaces. We will continue this regime

throughout the coming year and into the future. Members can be assured that we will continue to make progress so that Reay Golf Course will continue to improve. I would like to ask all members when your playing replace your divot, repair your pitch, its all our course so let's help make it the best it can be.

Items bought and improvements made.

Juno Grinder for sharpening mower cylinder reels
New Sleeper Signage at the front of clubhouse / tee signage.
New Golf Buggy

Marketing and Tee Booking

Again, carrying on the great work from the last couple of years Colin Munro has been putting Reay Golf Club on the social media map via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc loads of posts, photos, (shares re-tweets)
Golf Mates played the course and put their video up on YouTube 76k views.
Mike Halliday has continued updating the website and masterscoreboard tee booking system / online payments.

Match

The past year competitions have been well supported, so here some highlights.
Ronnie Wallace Open sponsored by Norbloc was won by Jack Halliday
NC500 Open sponsored by CS Drilling joint 36 hole open with Wick with Reay member Kenny Farmer Jnr winning.
Reay Open sponsored by Mike Muir returned to a 36 hole open with Gregor Munro winning the scratch and Willie Paton the Nett.
Gregor Munro was also last year's Club Champion
However, this year fixtures we have reduced the amount of Opens and have been in dialogue with Wick, Thurso and Lybster and they have done same. (Hopefully we can all support some of the other clubs opens with less competition clashes)

Safari Open was last year won by a team of ladies for the first time ever so congratulations to Carol Paterson, Pam Bain, Eleanor Tunn and Rebecca Munro. Great to see so many ladies playing their own competitions plus many opens.

Ulbster Cup was last year played at Lybster where Reay's A team Tom Ross, Michael Smith, Andy Mowat and Brent Munro retained the trophy.

Ladies Section

The ladies' section has been another busy and successful year, over the last couple of years Carol Paterson has organised come and try evenings which has seen the ladies section continue to grow. Many of the beginner ladies have now got their handicaps and they also run 9 holes for the non-handicap ladies where the star must be Heather Campbell by winning all those events.

Eleanor Tunn was once again selected for the Northern Counties team and was also scratch Club Champion with Jacqui Greig Handicap Club Champion.
Mollie O'Brien won the Reay Ladies Open with Pam Bain the handicap winner.

Junior Section

Big thank you to Lora Jane and her small group of dedicated volunteers who run the Junior Section.

We had 41 junior members this year from the age of 5 upwards. Coaching on a Friday night from May to August was well attended and finished with our Junior Open in August where we had 55 entries. It was a great day as always and was topped off with the Scratch Trophy being taken home by our very own Aaron Johnson who also made the Ulbster Cup B Team last year. Thank you to the support of the numerous club members who helped to make the junior open a success.

We were also kindly donated £200 from the Rotary Club which we plan to spend before the new season starts on some new training equipment. Also, the junior section received £350 from the raffle at the recent prizegiving.

We welcome anyone who can offer to help coaching the juniors in any way during the coming season.

Seniors

The seniors have been playing their North Point Distillery sponsored competitions on Thursday mornings with shot gun start, however I think they may have burnt a few pies along the way. Reay seniors retained the Caithness & Sutherland team event. Well done!!

Bar

Carol Paterson has run the bar and kitchen and also set up the honesty table which has been a success, organised the recent presentation night, food for competition's, Opens, visitors ,cleaning clubhouse, just a huge amount of work and I would personally like to thank you Carol for going above and beyond for the club, however we need help in this area so if anyone can spare a morning or afternoon to help in any way it would be greatly appreciated.

Future

Going forward we aim to keep improving the golf course, more over seeding the greens, identifying what new machinery we need to help Jason.

Planning on doing some irrigation trials for the greens, pop up sprinklers.

We have set up a greens committee where we will try and get 3 -5-year plan for the course.

The aim is hopefully having the clubhouse open more throughout the summer months so there is a welcoming presence for the visitors.

Improve kitchen facilities.

New Greenkeepers shed

As most of you will know we have planning approved and are in the process of trying to get funding however if this does not materialise, we will be looking at other options because we do need a new shed, but we may have to be a more basic shed and then possibly having a training/ coaching facility added later.

Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

It is pleasing to report a surplus for the year of £16,886. The £136,907 in the bank at the end of 2022 is £7,712 up on 2021.

The way the accountant groups income and expenditure doesn't always highlight why things have changed therefore I'll attempt to add some explanation.

Income:

Subscription income has increased by £1,571 to £58,147 even though the adult membership dropped very slightly, however, the junior membership has remained relatively stable.

Subscription rates were increased slightly last year for the first time since 2018. In autumn the council decided to increase the winter membership rate from £80 to £120 and also introduced a new Highland Membership category. This year's Highland Membership is open to anyone who is a member of another golf club in the Highland Council area and will cost £240 which is valid through to March 2024. The income from these two categories was £3,120 compared with £2,080 last year from the winter membership.

Visitor income has increased by £3,540 to £27,709. The numbers were very similar to 2021 but the green fee rate was increased from £40 to £50 and reciprocal rates increased from £10 to £15. The income from the Mizuno Pairs (£1,000), Bighouse Scramble (£500) and buggy hire (£450) is mostly from visitor and was therefore included in these figures. Publicity through social media, our website and various platforms we advertise on, as well as word of mouth on the condition of the course, were major contributors to this. Again, many thanks to those involved.

Bar/food sales was very poor resulting in a loss of £703. An attempt was made during the summer to provide a catering/bar service for a few hours in the middle of the day to see if there was sufficient uptake from members and visitors to make it a viable proposition. This service was beyond what volunteers could provide therefore we employed the The Store Café from Bettyhill to do it. However, even with a great deal of time and effort from Carol Paterson, it became obvious that it was running at a significant loss and therefore terminated after 9 weeks. There was a small profit on other goods sold (balls, markers, gloves, etc).

100 Club income has dropped again therefore we would like to see more members joining – there are forms behind the bar.

After 2021's exceptional year for competition profit, it has dropped this year in line with the reduced income.

Sponsorship has remained steady over the last 2 years but early signs are that this could improve in 2023.

For other income see note D

The deposit for the greenkeepers rented accommodation has been refunded in full.

Expenditure:

Course expenditure rose significantly across the board:

The wage increase is partly due to us taking on an apprentice greenkeeper in February which unfortunately didn't work out and his employment was terminated at the end of the probation period. However, we received £2,250 grant from the Highland Employment Recruitment Offer (HERO) scheme for recruiting the apprentice. There were also increases in the greenkeepers wages and bonus. James MacAdie was also given a gratuity of £600 for the many times he helped out with machinery issues.

Fertiliser and chemical expenditure shows a big increase mainly because the accountant has included vermin control costs with this - repairs to the fencing and two visits from the vermin control personnel cost £4,200. Course treatments have been carefully managed and focused on what the soil analysis is telling us, nevertheless the increasing price of consumables resulted in a rise of £815. The Dyna Seeder has greatly reduced the amount of seed used on the greens. We were expecting an increase in machinery upkeep because sharpening of the cutting reels was held over into this accounting year. Otherwise, we haven't had any major breakdown throughout the year. We bought a second-hand machine for £2,000 last month so that we can sharpen our own cutting reels – it costs about £70 to get a reel sharpened and we have 17 reels to do annually.

Fuel and oil price increases and higher consumption accounts for the rise.

New flags, cups and tee markers account for the rise in course hardware and fittings costs.

The rise in depreciation is directly linked to the value of our machinery – for accountancy purposes machinery depreciation is set at 25%/year.

Overhead expenditure is very similar to previous years apart from clubhouse repairs/renewals and representative matches.

The club's Electrical Installation Certificate has to be renewed every 5 years and it has to be carried out by a suitably qualified person. We employed a local contractor to do the inspection and remedial work which cost £1,540. The foyer refurbishment, purchase of a new deep freeze and a few utensils for the kitchen accounts for the other costs

The Wilson Cup was played in Stromness which explains this increase in cost of representative matches.

Capital purchases for the course came to £32,667 mainly due to: Dyna Seeder and Sarrel roller (£15,536), hole cutter (£1,760), second-hand and new buggy (£2,950 and £9,950 + £1,200 carriage), moisture meter (£489) and a fertiliser spreader (£493). We received £7,500 in grants towards the purchase of the new buggy - £4,000 from Strathy North Wind Farm, £2,000 from Forss Wind Farm and £1,500 from Bighouse Estate.

Accounting:

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

Looking Forward:

As the captain has said we are still trying to get funding for a new greenkeeping equipment shed and an indoor training facility. The preliminary work has been completed and paid for. Thanks to grants from Highland Council (£1,000), the Dounreay Community Fund (£1,000) and Baillie Wind Farm Community (£3,500) our outlay has been £447 so far.

Unfortunately employing of an apprentice didn't work out which leaves us needing help with course tasks.

Our fixed price contract for electrical supplies finished at the end of November and the new 1 year contract is approximately 300% dearer.

Hopefully we have overcome the rabbit problem.

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 with some upgrading to make it less intrusive and labour intensive but it will come at a cost.

2023's Wilson Cup fixture is in Caithness therefore minimal expense for the club.

Over and above the afore mentioned expenditure the club faces considerable financial challenges due to rising inflation.

Summary:

The club has had another successful year. In spite of our best efforts, membership and visitor numbers aren't increasing significantly which leaves the club's financial position fragile and heavily dependent on sponsor and grant income to develop. Bar/catering losses need to be addressed and funding will be required for support with course work.

Approvals

The approval of the accounts was proposed by Carol Paterson, seconded by D C Mowat. A motion to use Victor Fraser to audit the club accounts again next year was proposed by Fred Groves, seconded by David R Craig.

Changes to the Constitution

We do have some changes planned to reflect how the club is run and we will be holding a general meeting in a number of weeks' time where we can agree these changes etc.

Election of Office Bearers and Council Members

The captain, Andy Bain, requested Mr Fred Groves, President of the club take the chair.

On behalf of all the members I would like thank our captain Andy and the club council members for their hard work over the past year. The club and course continue to go from strength to strength due to the efforts of our brilliant green keeper Jason and all his volunteers. The club needs some new young faces with fresh ideas to take it forward, so please offer your services if you can.

Before we move on to election of a captain for 2023, I would like to pay tribute to our treasurer Jock Eunson who is retiring from the council this year. When Jock took over the treasurer role more than 12 years ago, the clubs finances were in a poor state and the club faced an uncertain future. Under his stewardship the financial position has improved year on year, and we are now in a much healthier position. In the summer months many of you will have seen Jock behind the wheels of the John Deere fairway mower, ensuring the course looked its best, as well as ordering spare parts. Fixing machinery and maintaining the club's electrical systems, just some of the tasks Jock has undertaken.

Jock you have contributed a huge amount to the success of our club and in recognition of this we are pleased to award you honorary membership of Reay Golf Club which is richly deserved. For ratification purposes can I ask for a show of hands if you support this nomination for honorary membership. In which all hands were raised.

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 Munro	Jock Eunson	
Carol Paterson	Vice-Captain	Andy Bain	Jacqui Greig	
David R Craig	Treasurer	Jock Eunson	Andy Bain	
Jacqui Greig	Secretary	Jock Eunson	Fred Groves	
Andy Bain	Match Secretary	Jock Eunson	Cammie Ross	
Fred Groves	Membership Secretary	Jock Eunson	Andy Bain	

Colin Paterson	Green Convenor	Andy Bain	David Craig	
Mike Halliday	Handicap/ Website	Andy Bain	Fred Groves	
Colin Munro	Marketing/ Media	Jacqui Greig	Andy Bain	
Lora Jane Kelly	Junior Convenor	Jacqui Greig	Fred Groves	
Carol Paterson	Bar Convenor	Jock Eunson	Andy Bain	
Graham Fryett	House Convenor	Fred Groves	Mike Halliday	
Carol Paterson	Ladies Representative	Jacqui Greig	Andy Bain	
Tom Ross	Council Member	Cammie Ross	Colin Paterson	
Pauline Craig	Council Member	Carol Paterson	Andy Bain	
Eleanor Tunn	Council Member	Tom Ross	Andy Bain	
Cammie Ross	Council Member	Tom Ross	Jock Eunson	
Jason Norwood	Council Member	Andy Bain	Cammie Ross	

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, Fuel 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 2023 (Around 5%)

		2022	2023
A	ORDINARY MEMBERS		
	Male/Female	£396	£414
	Male/Female <i>NEW MEMBER</i> (1 st Year only)	£316	£333
	Senior (Eligible for Nat Retirement Pension)	£316	£333
	Beginner Yr1	£166	£180
	Beginner Yr2	£250	£270
	Young Adult 1 (18-21 yrs.)	£166	£180
	Young Adult 2 (22-25 yrs.)	£236	£252
	Young Adult 3 (26-29 yrs.)	£306	£324
	Student (in Full Time Education)	£106	£117

B	COUNTRY MEMBERS *		£316 £333
C	HIGHLAND MEMBER	Must be a member of another Highland Golf Club	£240 £252
D	INTERNATIONAL MEMBER	(Permanent residence outside the UK)	£200 £210
E	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		£1 £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 on 1 January 2022

Any Other Competent Business

Mike Halliday – Order of merit competition – propose we award points for weekend competitions; this was agreed to trial.

Lora-Jane Kelly – Juniors are registered for leagues to compete in Texas scramble over the summer between Wick and Thurso.

Club Member submitted a letter – We are re-submitting the suggestion that was put forward at last years AGM, which to date has not been implemented even on a trail basis. We would like to request a response as to why this is the case. We were led to believe that this matter was discussed at a closed-door council meeting, but the outcome of this meeting has not been cascaded down to members, we can only assume that this matter is still ongoing and under consideration.

Could you please also advise from which tee a person that identifies as gender neutral, non-binary or gender non-conforming should be playing off. Golf is meant to be an inclusive sport available to everyone, however, gender segregation tees do not take these people into account and so excludes them from participating.

Please see the original letter and suggestions as detailed below:

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.

Mike Halliday replied that a trial period is due to take place. The plan to have a non-handicap competition, play of which ever tees to see how it works. Computer will work out the handicaps when signing in. Date to be arranged.

The Captain wished everyone happy golfing for the year ahead and closed the meeting.

Jacqui Greig
Secretary
Reay Golf Club

31.03.2023