

DRAFT

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY GOLF LIMITED

Company Number: 13065967

**Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company held at Kings Norton Golf Club
on Wednesday 17 May 2023
at 7.00 pm**

Present:

Directors

Ian Rone	President
Jon Cray	Finance Director
John Whitehead	Governance Director
Anthony Hill	Golf Director
Clive Werrett	Director
Ian Griffiths	County Secretary

Representatives of Member Clubs

Bransford GC	Craig Barry
	Dave Hunt
Droitwich GC	Iain Milroy
Fulford Heath GC	Karen Sharman
Hagley GC	Graham Yardley
	Roy Sims
Kings Norton GC	Gordon Clark
	Narinder Jandu
Moseley GC	David McGillivray
Ravenmeadow & Perdiswell GC	Simeon Chapman
Wharton Park GC	Steve Owen
	Jon Shire
Worcester G&CC	Mark Hamer

In attendance by invitation of the Board

A Edwards	Hon Vice President
Brian Peplow	Past President
Chris Gupwell	Hon Vice President
Will Painter	Past President
Mark Hewlett	Junior Organiser
Kevin Fee	U16 Team Manager
Mark Romasiuk	EG Regional Manager
Jo Gupwell	Minutes Secretary

- 1. Appointment of Chairman of the Meeting:** The Governance Director advised that the Board had agreed that the President would chair the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** had been received from:

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Member Clubs

Tim Wright	(Dudley GC)
Bob Julier	(Churchill & Blakedown GC)
Andrew Phillips	(Gaudet Luce GC)
John Brothwood	(Bromsgrove GC)
Andy Simmonds	(Little Lakes GC)
David Calcutt	(Hagley GC)
Hollywood GC	
Redditch GC	

Other invitees

Jim Gray	Hon Vice President
Denis Hayes	Hon Life Member WCG Ltd & Past President
Colin Day	Former WUGC Executive
Brian Morris	Past President
Alex Bishop	Former WUGC Executive
Grenville Rose	Past President
Paul Newman	Former WUGC Executive

3. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2022:** These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read, confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.
4. **Minutes of the General Meeting held on 27 October 2022:** These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read, confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.
5. **Worcestershire County Golf Ltd Annual Report for 2022-2023:** This had been published on the website and was taken as read. No questions were raised in respect of this Report.
6. **Worcestershire County Golf Ltd Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022:**

A copy of the Unaudited Financial Statements had been on the website and will be approved by the Board at their next meeting. The Finance Director went through the Profit and Loss Account, referring to the number of affiliated members which was up by 1.5% over 2021. Turnover was down £5k on 2021 and staff costs were also down 4%. There was a profit for 2022 of £21k as compared with £24k in 2021. Turning to the Balance Sheet the Finance Director noted that there were current assets of £184k in 2022 compared with £140k in 2021. The bank account balance was up £53k on 2021 reflecting the profit for the year and the late payment of affiliation fees to England Golf. The year-end reserves stood at £121k. Referring to the current year, the Finance Director reminded those present that there had been no increase in affiliation fees for 2023, but said that these would need to be considered for 2024 although it was too early in the year to identify the impact on club affiliation numbers of the general economic outlook. The Finance Director thought that based on a potential 10% drop in affiliation income along with the inflationary impact on the County's cost base, there was likely to be a small loss or break even position in 2023.

The question was raised as to whether there was a reserves policy. The Finance Director advised that currently there was not and said that it was difficult to know what reserves might be needed. He advised that the Board would be looking at the position regarding reserves and that by the General Meeting they should have a better idea of what the reserves should be. There were no further questions.

7. **Election of Directors:** The Governance Director advised that the President's term of office ceased at the meeting. He advised that he had nominated Mr Ian Rone to serve for a further year, seconded by the Golf Director. As no other nominations for this position had been received, Mr Rone was automatically elected as President for a further year. The Governance Director thanked the President for his commitment and hard work for the County.
8. **Appointment of the Company's Independent Examiner:** It was proposed by the Chairman that Mrs Shona Cutler of Shona Cutler Limited should be appointed as the Company's Independent Examiner. Carried unanimously.
9. **County Secretary's and Directors' Report:**
 - 9.1. **Competitions Forward Plan:** A copy of this had been circulated prior to the meeting and the County Secretary explained the thinking behind the proposed plan to cover future hosting of County Competitions and Midland Region matches. In addition, there would need to be clubs hosting County matches, but the County Secretary said that dates for these could not be fixed so far in advance. A question was raised as to why Blackwell Golf Club was not being considered for hosting the County Championships. The President explained the rationale behind this. The County Secretary advised that some dates may need to be changed and in particular referred to a possible change of date for the Boys County Championship to May.
 - 9.2. **Courtesies:** The County Secretary advised that he had been asked to look into the matter of courtesies and that he had contacted the clubs about this. He had received only five replies. He questioned whether the clubs wanted help from him or whether they were happy to make their own arrangements. The Kings Norton Golf Club representative asked for assistance with the matter of courtesies for a forthcoming event. Mr David McGillivray suggested that the County Secretary should go back to the clubs on this subject.
 - 9.3. **England Golf:** The County Secretary advised that he had attended The AGM and General Meetings of England Golf on 19 April 2023 and reported as follows:

Revenue was up 8% on budget and there was income of £0.8m which was up 26% on budget. Subscriptions for 2024 were under consideration and it was expected that these would be increased.

Mr Ian Pattinson had been appointed Independent Chairman of England Golf.

Rules of Handicapping: There is to be a review of the Rules of Handicapping in 2024 which will be updated every four years. Changes will be made to bring England into line with Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The County Secretary explained how the new Handicap Index would be calculated to obtain the Course Handicap and gave examples of the calculation required. These

changes would require clubs to change their slope boards etc. and the County Secretary advised that England Golf were looking at the possibility of providing a grant to help with the cost of this. (Later in the meeting the Governance Director pointed out that these new Rules would not affect the Handicap Index).

National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa: The County Secretary advised that England Golf had obtained permission for the building of a new Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa. The total cost of this would be £8.9m, down from the £10m originally estimated. However, this project was dependent on a change to common ownership and if this is not achieved, England Golf would not go ahead. The County Secretary showed a brief video of the proposed new build.

- 9.4. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy:** Mr Clive Werrett advised that the County approved an ED&I Policy which had been shared with the Ladies and England Golf. This had now been signed off by England Golf and was on the website. Mr Werrett recommended that the clubs should not “sit on the fence” over adopting an ED&I Policy. He advised clubs to read the Policy through carefully and to take the opportunity to review Policies that clubs already had in place.
- 9.5. Course Rating:** The Governance Director outlined the progress being made on re-rating courses and said that it was planned to re-rate four clubs in the current year and four to five clubs in future years. He stressed that prior to being rated, clubs must ensure that their measurement certificate was up to date and no more than 10 years old. If a certificate was more than 10 years old, it was essential that a course was re-measured prior to being rated.
- 9.6. Working with W&HLCG Ltd:** The Governance Director referred to mention of a possible merger or closer working relationship with W&HLCG Ltd at a previous meeting. He advised that the administration resources necessary had been looked into, resulting in the decision that it would be necessary to employ someone to cover the extra work for 21 hours per week at a cost of £17,000 per annum. The Governance Director advised that the Ladies had already changed their affiliation fees to bring them in line with those of the men/boys. Further discussion on this subject will take place in June/July to establish whether the additional income raised will support the extra administration costs.
- 10. England Golf Report:** Mr Mark Romasiuk, England Golf Regional Manager, gave a presentation on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and the club approach to this. Mr Romasiuk went through the various procedures that could be affected, such as safeguarding and encouraging more Junior golfers, the need to engage with all golfers and to inspire more women and girls to play golf. Mr Romasiuk gave examples of statistics on such matters as the percentage of women in golf clubs and ethnic diversity. It was explained how clubs could benefit from adopting the principles of ED&I and how this could be achieved. To complete the presentation Mr Romasiuk gave examples of the practicalities and opportunities for clubs.

A question from the floor was raised concerning the problem of ingrained culture in a club and how this could be dealt with. Mr Romasiuk pointed out that there was a club support network whom the clubs could consult.

Finally, Mr Romasiuk advised on progress with regard to iGolf and the plan to introduce iPlay under which scheme people could sign up for iGolf for free but would have no handicap. Scores could be held until a player was ready to move to iGolf.

11. **MGU Report:** The County Secretary advised that a Deputy Championship Chairman, Mr Malcolm Eustace, had been recruited to assist with running regional competitions in 2023. It is intended that in future there will be a secretary to deal with administration supported by a Championship Chairman and Deputy Chairman. This will add to costs and affiliation fees will be increased.
12. **Closure of the Meeting:** The Chairman advised that there would be an Open Forum following the closure of the meeting. He thanked everyone for their attendance and formally closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.