

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY GOLF LIMITED

Company Number: 13065967

**Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company held at Bromsgrove Golf Centre
On Wednesday 18 May 2022
at 7.00 pm**

1. Present:

Ian Rone	President
Chris Gupwell	Finance Director
Anthony Hill	Golf Director
John Whitehead	Governance Director
Ian Griffiths	County Secretary
Bransford	David Hunt
Bromsgrove	Christian Shotton
Churchill & Blakedown	Bob Julier & Chris Howles
Droitwich	Carl Young
Gaudet Luce	Andrew Phillips & Dean Pointon
Hagley	David Calcutt & Roy Simms
Hollywood	Phil Cole & Mark Robinson
Kings Norton	Stuart Pritchard
Little Lakes	Andy Simmonds
Moseley	Dave McGillivray
Ravenmeadow & Perdiswell Park	Simeon Chapman & Dominic Feeney
Redditch	Kerry Halligan-Smith & Johnn Garey
Redditch Kingfisher	Stuart Gorton & Glynne Harris
The Worcestershire	Patrick Mcilroy
Wharton Park	Marc Suffok & Adrian Barrie
Worcester G&CC	Paul Newman

In attendance:

Kieron Austin	1 st Team Captain
Ciara Kelly	England Golf
Graham Yardley	Honorary Vice President
Tony Edwards	Honorary Vice President
Jo Gupwell	Minutes Secretary

Absent:

Bewdley Pines
Cleobury Mortimer
Cocks Moors Woods
Dudley
Evesham
Fulford Heath

Halesowen
Kidderminster
Ombersley
Stourbridge
The Abbey
The Vale
Warley Woods

1. **Appointment of Chairman of the Meeting:** The Board had agreed that the President would chair the meeting.

2. **Apologies** had been received from:

Mr Norman Bolton	Past President WUGC
Mr Denis Hayes	Honorary Life Member and Past President WUGC
Mr John Moreton	Past President WUGC
Mr Anthony Norton	Blackwell Golf Club
Mr Mark Romasuik	England Golf
Mr Colin Day	
Mr Grenville Rose	

3. **Minutes of the General Meeting held on 23 October 2021:** 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. **Worcestershire County Golf Ltd Annual Report for 2021:** This had been published on the website. No questions were raised in respect of this Report.
5. **Worcestershire County Golf Ltd Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021:** The Finance Director apologised for the fact that these were only draft accounts and explained that this was partly due to difficulties in obtaining details of affiliation fees due up to 31 December 2021 in order to complete the accounts. He also advised that the lady who was to have carried out the examination of the accounts had been suffering from ill health. The accounts were currently being dealt with and the Finance Director hoped to have them agreed very shortly.

A copy of the draft accounts had been on the website. The Finance Director went through the Balance Sheet and talked through the various assets and liabilities and advised that with a balance at the end of the year of £100,857 he considered the County to be in a good financial position. He then went through the Income and Expenditure Account, concluding that the figures were very much in line with a normal year.

No questions were raised in respect of the draft accounts.

6. **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.

7. Confirmation of Election of Directors: It was confirmed that Mr Ian Griffiths, County Secretary, had been elected as a Director of the Company.

8. Special Resolution: The Governance Director explained the rationale behind the need for the resolution to amend the Company Rules and Articles of Association. The following Special Resolution was proposed by the Governance Director:

The County Secretary shall be a member of the Board by virtue of their office and shall be appointed or elected as a Director as the case may be in accordance with these Articles, except that if appointed by the Board as an employee in accordance with Article 20.1, there is no requirement to be either a Playing Member or Affiliated Playing Member.

No questions were raised and the proposal was carried unanimously.

9. County Secretary's and Directors' Report:

9.1. World Handicap System update: The County Secretary reported on the various questions that had been raised about WHS changes. He advised that other countries were being added to the platform which would make it easier to deal with away scores. It was not thought that any major changes were anticipated. The County Secretary invited anyone to raise any issues on the WHS to contact him.

9.2. England Golf AGM and General Meeting: The County Secretary reported on matters discussed as follows:

9.2.a. National Golf Centre: The County Secretary reported on England Golf's plans for Woodhall Spa. At a General Meeting of England Golf the voting members had agreed that these should go ahead. Detailed proposals will be put to an emergency General Meeting later in the year at which a vote will be taken. A proviso to the plans would be a change in the business structure so that everything is under the control of a single England Golf Board. Phase 2 of the plans would be the establishment of accommodation at Woodhall Spa, but this was not currently being followed up.

9.2.b. Safeguarding: The County Secretary advised that most clubs were now compliant with the safeguarding regulations.

9.2.c. Equality and Inclusion: England Golf will be sending out a statement in connection with this and will be providing a framework to be sent to clubs. England Golf can insist on clubs complying with their requirements in connection with equality and inclusion.

9.2.d. Sustainability: The County Secretary advised that a group had been set up to ensure that clubs manage and sustain the land they own in a responsible manner.

9.3. Independent Golfer: The County Secretary advised that approximately 17,000 people had subscribed with just over 1,800 subsequently joining a club. Of those, 190 had become new members in Worcestershire.

- 9.4. 2022 Fixtures and Competitions:** The County Secretary reported on matches played so far in 2022, the results of which were on the website. He advised that he intended to start trying to find venues for 2023 earlier than for 2022 which he thought would be beneficial to everyone.
- 9.5. Resourcing – Worcestershire County Golf Ltd:** The Governance Director advised that this was really in connection with volunteering. A request for volunteers had been placed on the website and the Governance Director referred to the need to replace the Finance Director. He asked that if anyone was interested or knew of anyone who might be interested, they should contact him. He also asked that if anyone wanted to contribute something towards County golf they should contact him. He pointed out that the County would work around the personal circumstances of anyone wishing to volunteer.
- 9.6. Possible Unification with Worcestershire & Herefordshire Ladies County Golf Ltd:** The Governance Director reported that the County had been asked by England Golf to look at unification with the Ladies. Quite a lot of work had already taken place in this connection. The Governance Director produced a document which showed the proposals, potential problems, advantages and the work done so far. He stressed that at this point, this was for information only and that there was more work to be done. A number of queries were raised about the ladies in Herefordshire clubs, but the Governance Director advised that the Ladies had said that they did not foresee any problems. There were no further questions and all those present appeared reasonably comfortable with this proposals being moved forward. The Governance Director advised that following further discussions clubs would be asked to vote on the proposed unification.
- 9.7. Course Rating:** The Governance Director advised that he had now produced a schedule covering course rating for the following 10 years which had been sent to the clubs. He also advised that course rating was covered on the website. The Governance Director asked that clubs give serious consideration to altering their course and asked that clubs speak to a Course Rating Lead before making the decision to make changes. There were no questions raised on this subject.
- 10. England Golf Report – Ms Ciara Kelly – Club Support Officer:** Ms Kelly reported on how she had been supporting Worcestershire clubs, particularly with respect to recruitment and retention of members. She went on to report on England Golf's plans in connection with their policy on equality and inclusion and sustainability and the success in Worcestershire in that all clubs had achieved safeguarding accreditation. The Chairman thanked Ms Kelly for her report.
- 11. Midland Golf Union:** The County Secretary advised that the County's affiliation fee paid to the MGU would be 28p per person. He reported on changes in the MGU that had taken place and on the regional events for the year which could be found on the new MGU website. Finally, he advised that the format for the England Golf Men's County Championships (Midland Qualifier) would remain as 5 from 6.
- 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 8.00 pm.