

Seniors Golf Section

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CFCC SENIOR GOLF SECTION 2023

The Annual AGM was held on Monday 6th November 2023 in the Atlantic Suite at CFCC.

The Captain welcomed everyone to the meeting which was attended by about 50% of the Seniors membership (54 members and Committee in attendance).

Prior to the opening remarks from the Captain, it was his great pleasure to present, together with his wife Wendy, Ladies 2023 Captain, a cheque for £3827.74 to a representative from Guide Dogs for the Blind, their joint chosen charity over the past year.

Apologies were received from Al Tout, Steve Hatherley, Dave Pover, Dave Cuthbert, Mike Pooley, Tim Borrett, Graham Street and Tony Frost

ITEM 1 – MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the AGM held Monday 7 November 2022 were accepted unanimously as a true record of proceedings. Proposed: Mel Carter Seconded: Peter Church

ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3 – OUTGOING CAPTAIN'S REPORT (ROB SMITH)

3.1 Afternoon all, great to see a good turnout for the 2023 AGM. This will hopefully be short and quick. My main objective for this year was to get all seniors to enjoy their golf and have fun. I hope I achieved this and we all enjoyed the Monday roll ups and those who played in the matches, win or lose, had a good time. None of this could be done without the support of the Committee, particularly the treasurer doing the sums and providing the prize money on a Monday, the usual witty weekly nonsense and all the background work carried out by the secretary, along with the competition secretary sorting ecclectics and the Vice Captain standing in for me and manning the bridge every Monday.

3.2 Whilst I made no promises, I have to admit that the first friendly was a bit of a shocker losing to Bowood 8-0, this made any attempt at halving the aggregate difficult. However, we did manage to win three away matches and halve one during the season. This was a great achievement, and I would like to thank you all for the games you played. Other highlights were that one team won through to the Harry Champion Final and were able to achieve seventh place overall, thanks again to those that participated in both teams.

3.3 The proudest moment was being asked to Captain the CFCC over 55s team for the CGU Championships. After having home advantage where we won the initial qualifier, this was continued down at St Austell where we won by 5 shots. Mel Cater and I winning the pairs lowest score with 8 under net 61 and the team shooting a net 191 to beat The Point. I have been asked to Captain this again next year and hope I am able to do so. I have personally managed to maintain my handicap through the season by only going up by 0.9. Coming forth in the Seniors Individual Open and winning the inaugural Senior Team Open with Les Ware and Ian Scott.

3.4 The Charity was a joint effort with Wendy and me and as you have just seen were able to better our ambition to name the guide dog. This is all down to many people's generosity and I would personally like to thank you all for that.

3.5 I would also like to thank Ben and Matt for their assistance throughout the year. They have sometimes incurred my wrath, but generally saw my point of view and were also able to enlighten me when I was wrong. Also, Nathan and his team for the preparation of the course for many events. And most of all a big thank you to all of you. I have received some very kind emails and words of thanks and congratulations. Though we, the committee, must remember we can't do it without your support. That's about all, all that is left for me to do is wish the new captain good luck, along with the committee, to take the section to greater heights next season.

(Following Rob' speech the Vice-Captain presented him with a gift of £290 from a collection

within the Section in appreciation of everything he has done over his year in office).

ITEM 4 – SECRETARY'S REPORT (JIM JOHNSTON)

4.1 Good Afternoon everyone, hopefully a quick one this as I cover the fixtures for next year, membership numbers and changes to the Constitution which were sent out a couple of weeks ago for you to consider. If you're not sure where the email containing the proposed changes are on your phone or computer have a look in the bin or deleted folders, I'm sure it will still be there. Fixtures remain pretty much the same as this year as you would expect with a few minor date changes that most of you won't be affected by. The main change for a number of members is the move of the Peter Gill by a couple of weeks as ordered by the Vice-Captain (he actually asked nicely but there's rarely fun in the truth) so that a large group who normally miss the first round can now take part. This change was only opposed by the current holder who naturally wanted to make it easier to retain the trophy, but I told myself to shut up and move on. Other than that, we retain all our friendly fixtures albeit with some slight date changes and the Team Open will move from October to August, only in theory will that mean the weather has a chance of being better but who knows nowadays.

4.2 Membership remains fairly static. It was 122 at the last AGM but after the annual subs were collected we lost a few which is not unusual before picking up 11 new members over the course of this year to bring us up to 119. Age wise the majority are now over 70 which is why we are proposing as a Committee to lower the age of joining back to 55 which is where it was in 2012, we are not expecting large numbers to take this opportunity to join us and it brings us in to line with CGU events. More of this later.

4.3 Constitution Changes: Later in the meeting we will be taking a vote on proposed Constitution changes. 2 are fairly straightforward, the wording of how the Committee is formed and the removal of the article reference Covid which is no longer relevant. The other changes are proposed to clarify what powers the Committee have to investigate and take action on incidents which should rightfully fall within the remit of the CFCC Management, once again more later.

4.4 It wouldn't be right if I didn't finish by highlighting some of the incidents that have happened this year, not as much as last year and I was going to blame Formula 6 Trevor for either being well behaved or just playing with people who didn't stitch him up. But a couple of weeks ago he came up with an incident to match any of his previous escapades with his mechanical breakdown on the 6th and an impromptu audition for strictly whilst dismounting the buggy. Having said that he has also had a phone related incident leaving it on the car roof and driving off! Talking of driving off and forgetting things, Snowy Harvey managed to forget his dog, leaving it on his driveway and not noticing until he arrived at his destination!

4.5 The friendly season started back in March, can't exactly remember the day or date, why should I? But I do remember it was 2023. Fortunately forgetting years will never be a problem for our Senior Captains given that it is printed on their jackets. Changing after the game at Bowood Joe Francis spotted that Graham Powell and Dave Cuthbert had the wrong jackets on, probably why (as stated by Graham, not me) that Graham's jacket was hanging off him and Dave's was a bit tight. Graham then found a 'lost' pair of spectacles that Dave had been happily using whenever using the jacket. Shame Dave didn't have the specs handy when he turned up for the Alan Harvey Trophy with an extra club in his bag...Finally, whilst we're all gathered it might be an opportune time to ask our resident horticulturist, Mel Carter, if he has any advice on looking after Orchids (he spent the best part of an hour checking online after moving into a new home and finding his new plant). Still a wipe down with a wet cloth Mel as it's plastic?

ITEM 5 – TREASURER'S REPORT (MIKE VINE)

5.1 Section is in a healthy financial state with an end of year balance of £3646 of which £1228 is held in members' wallets leaving a net total of £2418 (details attached in financial statement), this is slightly up on last year's net balance but essentially our outgoings and incomings match.

5.2 Members are reminded that all payments for things internal (subs, eclectic etc.) are

automatically deducted from their wallet and there is no necessity to pay separately. Members are reminded that the preferred method of topping up wallets was using online banking rather than using Stripe via the website.

ITEM 6 – COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT (DOUG FLETCHER)

6.1 I am pleased to report that all formal competitions went through smoothly and on time. The prize giving this year will be shorter, as a trial, limited to the important competitions, the remainder will be presented after the Turkey Trot on 4 December. Feedback on this change would be appreciated.

6.2 A few points regarding this year's competitions:

We introduced a Seniors Team Open for the first time with 93 competitors and a good number of visitors competing. I regard that as a successful event which will be held next year in August. My thanks to Ben and Matt for their help in getting the event off to a successful start.

The Individual Open was a roaring success - long may it continue. You will note for next year the date has moved on one week due to the Royal Naval Championships being held over the week of our normal slot. We still expect the event to be over subscribed.

The summer knockouts produced some interesting results as usual. This was the first time we split the individual knockout into two groups split equally by handicaps. I think that was a success also and will be repeated next year, The winner was from the high handicap group. The pairs knockout went well. It is interesting to note that numbers were down for both competitions, despite in the pairs re-introducing entry for already agreed team. If you do not have a ready partner, we can find one, so please do not hold back on entering.

The winter and summer eclectics got to a conclusion. It now appears we have some specialist's in winning (or becoming runners up) in these competitions, well done to them, an added incentive to all of us to knock them off their perch. Once again, the entry was down. Any thoughts on the reasons would be appreciated. My thanks to Matt and Ben for helping me get these events to a successful conclusion - particularly the Eclectics - we have so much fun making sure the scores reflect the actual cards. I add my thanks to Jimmy for covering for me when I am not around, and to all of you who enter and remember to press the Yes button after entering the score - please keep it up.

This year there has been a couple of meetings of the Golf Section's Handicap Committee. I have represented the Seniors. The Committee is now defining and refining the requirements for all to be on the correct handicap, whether that is higher or lower. There is more afoot it seems from some of the latest announcements coming from England Golf. The club generally will keep you informed and if anyone wants a chat please do not hesitate to contact me.

The age profile of the Section is getting older, maybe not surprising. Of the circa 120 members of the section, 50 are under 70 representing 42% of the section, which is becoming a smaller proportion. Of that 50 - 7 will have a 70th birthday next year.

6.3 Lastly, I have advised the Committee that I intend to step down this time next year. If anyone fancies the job, please let me or one of the Committee know. An overlap does help smooth the handover.

ITEM 7 – 2023 AWARDS PRESENTATION

The following awards were presented at the AGM:

- Club Champion Colin Kitt
- Handicap Champion Brian Hill
- Singles Knockout Chris Jarvis (runner up Joe Francis)
- Pairs Knockout Dave Cuthbert & Graham Powell (runners-up Rob Smith/Mel Carter)
- Peter Gill Trophy Jim Johnston
- Winter Eclectic Div 1 John Callaghan, Div 2 Steve Andrew

- Summer Eclectic Div 1 Jim Johnston, Div 2 Steve Andrew

ITEM 8 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO THE COMMITTEE

The following officers have been elected to the Committee for the period Nov 2023 – Nov 24, all were elected unanimously by those present:

- Captain: Paul Jarvis
- Vice Captain: Keith Chapman
- Competition Secretary: Doug Fletcher (re-elected)
- Honorary Secretary: Jim Johnston (re-elected)
- Treasurer: Mike Vine (re-elected)
- Rob Smith will remain on the Committee as past-Captain

On completion of the election outgoing Captain Rob Smith presented Paul Jarvis with his Captain's jacket.

ITEM 9 – INCOMING CAPTAIN'S REPORT

9.1 Well here we are again, another year gone by. I have to say a big thank you for voting for me and installing me as the next target.....I mean Seniors Captain. A very big thank you must also go to Rob for his year as Captain. The Year as always was a very busy year for the captain and for which Captain Rob carried out his plans and responsibilities with passion and efficiency. (or at least that's what he told me). The Weather this year started so well for Rob and it looked like another bumper year, that was until the proper start of summer, which brought two full months of rain in July and August. For Rob, it was two months of arranging and re-arranging playing partners and playing formats due to the conditions which he handled well, along with the ever-supportive Mike Vine on the Bridge. I must now follow on from Rob and hope I can be as good a captain. I knew this day was fast approaching because Rob had a minute-by-minute countdown on his phone which he duly presented to me every Monday since August. I'm sure it was just to help and reassure me.

9.2 I must also thank the committee. Treasurer Mike for looking after the pennies, Competition Secretary Doug for totting up the scores, Jim for not wearing a Kilt, and for the support they gave to Rob. A special mention must go to Jim for his entertaining Monday evening reports. I'm sure Jim, in turn, would like to thank one regular contributor, formula 6 buggy driver Trevor Colman for giving us something to smile about, Sadly the last of Trevor's instalments saw his trusted chariot blow its turbo, wheel spinning away from the 6 tee and Trevor pushing it all the way back to the club house like superman.

9.3 Looking forward, I hope I and the Committee can maintain the level of support for each other as the next year unfolds. As always, the aim of the Captain and your senior's golf committee is to manage our section for the benefit of our members and most of all our enjoyment of playing golf. I welcome on board Keith Chapman as my Vice Captain; I know Keith very well through our membership of the affectionately named Saltash Mafia golf syndicate. Keith is a keen passionate golfer and he and I will work together along with the committee to ensure we have everything in place for us all to have a good year.

9.4 Vision: A decision was made by the previous committee to introduce more qualifying competitions for 22/23. I feel this has been a success and a benefit to all players. So, to this end, we will continue to have one qualifier a month as before. Playing regular qualifiers allows all golfer to play their golf with a realistic handicap and should not be feared. The benefit for all players both high and low handicap, is a true playing level to which all have a chance to be a competition winner. In addition to qualifiers, entering regular casual cards should ensure you have the most accurate handicap which will work for you, not against you.

9.5 Moving on, I'll be putting our inter-club match playlist on the notice board soon. If you would like to get involved, tick the matches you would like to play, although I would encourage you to tick all if you can as this will give me a good strong pool of players. You are expected to play the home and away match, so please tick both on your selection. For those who are new to our section, we play 13 clubs, 26 matches home and away. There are no green fees to pay, and a free drink from your host's players on away matches which you reciprocate at your home match. A meal is provided currently around £17 to £18 depending on the club. These are friendly competitions to be enjoyed on a variety of lovely courses

around Cornwall and Devon. We came up against some strong teams in our friendlies so get your handicaps reflective to your level of play then we can take on and beat the best of them maybe not the Bowood bandits!

9.6 There are a couple of changes to the program this year. The Rick Evans Memorial Trophy since its inception has been played midweek. Following discussions, it was felt appropriate now, to bring it in-house. It will now be played along with our roll-up on Monday the 22nd of July next year. The other is the Seniors Team open which I managed to get Mat to bring forward into the summer period as October was clearly too late, this will now be played on Thursday, August 29th.

9.7 Many will remember being unhappy at the end of 2021 with talk of the bridge being unmanned for Monday roll-ups. Well, Rob, with support from Mike and myself, committed to ensuring that this didn't happen, and I do hope you all appreciate it. We were there every Monday to give you a friendly welcome and ensure you had the information you needed to have a good day. Rob and Mike always had questions to answer, and I tried to learn all the new member's names, hence three of us ticking you off on our sheets. Please step in to help at the desk if we are short at any time, volunteers will always be appreciated, just not paid! We seem to have maintained around 120 members over the last year, of which around 50% get involved with our Monday rollups. Strangely over the years when membership was much less, 50% was still the case. I'm not sure whether this figure will ever rise above 50% but if it does, I would hope with agreement from Ben, we could accommodate the extra tee's.

9.8 The Handicap Committee is now in place and run by Matt Tamsett, and our competition secretary Doug Fletcher represents us on that Committee. I will be attending the various men's and management committee meetings throughout the year and reporting back as necessary.

9.9 My Captain's chosen charity for us all to support this year is The National Autistic Society. For those that don't know, Autism has a vast condition spectrum. A child with the most severe condition may well be obvious to us and we could understand many of the challenges the child and carer would face. However, at the other end of the spectrum, the challenges are very different and require a different care package. Autistic children can be very clever in different ways but interaction with others and coping with change are major obstacles to their progression. Notable challenges for these children and parents are that they can't cope with a new situation, so going somewhere new or doing something that hasn't been pre-planned and explained will give rise to very difficult disruptive behavioural problems. At school age, an Autistic child can be very difficult to handle within the classroom. Schools need sensory rooms, trained staff, and time out for these children. The answer is not to expel them or cast them aside. Given the right help, most of these children can progress and learn to recognize and manage their difficulties as they grow older. Employment will, for many present daily challenges, however, most can become successful if given proper support to cope with their years of struggles. The charity needs help with more volunteer trainers and of course financial support. The target I present to you is simply to do the best we can and hopefully, it will be a very healthy 4-figure sum which I know we can achieve. So, how will we achieve this? It's a tradition for the Captain to have charity bunkers, This Year it will be all bunkers on the 12th. However, previously at the end of the day's play, Captain would walk around in the lounge bar shaking the charity box, jogging the memories of those who'd ventured into the bunkers and to cough up. That said, the attendance in the bar after roll-up on a Monday was very well attended with plenty of offenders to catch. Although we have more players now, the extended time from first to last tee means the early players have left the lounge bar before the Captain can collect from the offenders. So instead, please can I ask you all to support the charity by entering the Captains weekly draw while having a chance to win a bottle of spirits and a box of chocolates. But don't despair, the penalty bunkers will still serve the charity as I have a plan to introduce them into competitions from time to time.

ITEM 10 – MOTIONS

10.1 Constitution Amendments: The following amendments were approved unanimously by all present:

13.1 The Section has no powers to investigate or take actions relating to matters arising on the course which are within the remit of CFCC Management, therefore, all complaints should be directed towards the Golf Manager to investigate. If the Committee are informed of any subsequent actions against individual(s) they should, at the earliest

opportunity, decide what the appropriate consequences are with regard to membership of the Section.

15.1 COMPLAINTS

Complaints concerning the administration of The Section or situations arising during competitions organised by The Section (which cannot be dealt with immediately) must be put in writing to the Honorary Secretary and responded to within 14 working days of receipt.

17.1 UNRESOLVED MATTERS

Any matters out with the remit of the Committee (see 15.1) are to be referred to the management of the China Fleet Country Club, either by the individual(s) concerned or by the Secretary on receipt of a written communication.

21.1 AUTHORITY

The China Fleet Management has authority in all matters concerning CFCC and no decisions or actions taken by The Seniors Golf Section shall be contrary to their policies

9 COMMITTEE

9.1 Change 6 elected officials to 5, the Past Captain is ex officio.

10 MEETINGS

Remove article 10.5 as no longer relevant

10.2 Motion 2: That the age of entry into the Senior Section be lowered to 55.

After some discussion on the pros and cons of lowering the age the members voted by a majority to keep the age of joining to 60. Motion defeated.

10.3 Motion 3: That winnings should be credited to individual wallets.

Following a short briefing by the Treasurer on how this would work in principle, including withdrawal of funds, the motion was approved by all but one present.

With no other motions to consider the meeting was closed. The date of the next AGM will be Monday 4 November 2024.

Jim Johnston

CFCC Seniors Golf Honorary Secretary

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