

Allendale Golf Club
AGM Minutes
27th February 2022

Present:

Robin Down (Acting Chair)	Mike Carter	Kevin Philipson
Ian Dunn	Malcolm Aitchison	Dennis Cousins
Phil Garner	Jim Hall	Robin Makepeace
Neil Forsyth (Secretary)	Rod Milburn	John Colman
Debbie Carter	Pat Hignett	

Apologies:

Valeria Dunn	Mark Kimberley	Sylvia Milburn
Ray Wilson	Peter Robinson	Gary Thomson
Cliff Dalton	Paul Gadd	Carol Gadd
Mike Leveratt	Joe Hislop	Derek Todhunter

1. Receive and approve minutes of previous AGM:

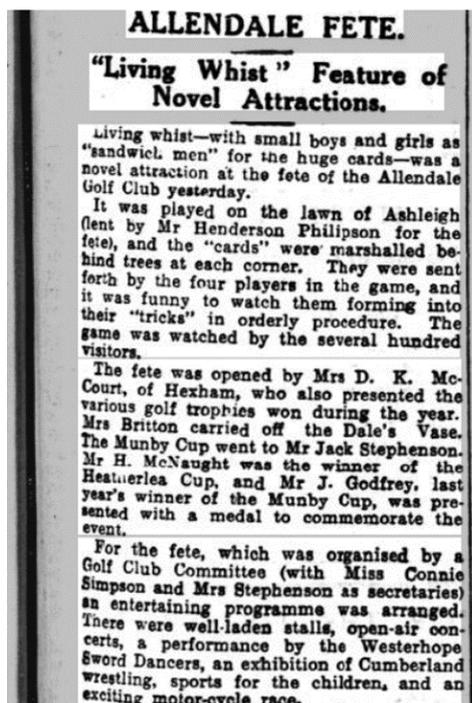
The minutes of the 2020 AGM were approved.

2. Acting Chair's opening remarks – Robin Down:

This will be short and sweet. Although I am acting chair for this meeting and have been chairing committee meetings for the last few months, I am most definitely not the chairman. It would not be healthy for the club to have so much responsibility invested in one person – particularly someone who is not an Allendale resident. Unfortunately, due to pressure of work, Fran had to resign part way through 2021 – it is disappointing to reflect on the fact that a large percentage of our membership is in the senior category and retired and yet, we had to rely upon the services of someone in full-time employment.

So, the challenge for this meeting is to recruit new members to the depleted committee and at the first meeting after the AGM elect a new chairman. It is an honour to hold such a position, particularly at a time when the club has never been stronger, both in terms of the presentation of the course, the competence of our greenkeeper and financially – as you will see from the upcoming reports.

I also think it is important that the new chairman and the club in general makes more of a connection with the village.



In researching *Golf in the Wild – Going Home* (I promise, this is the only plug), I was surprised how much the club in the 20s and 30s was integrated with the local community (this article dated 6th August 1925. I don’t know how we achieve something similar in the 21st century but therein lies a challenge for the committee and new chairman).

3. Secretary's Report – Neil Forsyth

Afternoon Everyone

First things first, I would like to take this time to thank all concerned with the committee, their tireless work should be appreciated by all here today. Robin Down once again who runs amongst other things the finance websites seniors matches and much more for the club with never a moan or complaint. Thanks to Fran Philipson for taking on the job of Chairperson when others wouldn't and with a family and full-time job to fit it in too, it's no surprise she ran out of energy to continue this summer, but thanks go to her.

As well as out on the course firstly and foremost thanks to Ian Robinson plus Robin Makepeace, Jimmy Hall Peter Robinson and Kevin Philipson, the course would not be nearly as good without their help Kev should also be thanked for his tireless work organizing and running the competitions.

The Captains, "the Carters", who as well as being long time committee members also did a great job and held an excellent captains day.

Ian and Valeria Dunn for once again running the junior section, it is great that a few of the youngsters have now acquired full handicap status More to come on this from their junior report,

The only issue which I have touched on a few times of late is it's the same names popping up in the accolades I am sure they are happy to oblige again hopefully for years to come but perhaps today finally the club may get an influx of new volunteers it is imperative to never take what all the aforementioned folk do for granted and some new blood would be nice.

I've also said before being a secretary and green keeper is an unusual thing but the more I do it the more I quite enjoy it, and now *little Bo Forsyth has lost his sheep* I hope to be able to dedicate more to the cause. I like the relationship I have with you all when I see you on the course and to be honest, I find it a lot easier dealing with you on a hands-on basis rather than having to sit up like late last night wondering what to put in a report like this, but it does seem to be combining the tasks appears to be a good combination.

MEMBERSHIP

I am delighted that the membership has increased dramatically this year again I won't tread on Robin's toes with too many facts and figures but take my word it has, by the turn of the year we had 123 playing members on the system sadly one is not with us anymore long term member Mick Smith from Haydon Bridge passed away from a short illness last year a man who I often enjoyed his close to edge at times but still hilarious banter in the club house he is sadly missed. RIP Michael

Also of course we lost Russell Handcock a huge stalwart of the club, but his legacy will never be forgotten with his magnificent seat in his memory on view to all on the 1st tee, thanks to Ian Jed and Malcolm Aitchison for helping to organize.

Back to the membership its great testimony to the taster sessions half year joiners and family membership that already most who took it up have already re-joined the club this year, thanks to all the members who helped to organize this.

Also, the intermediate and adult numbers have swelled but I would love it to get even better and hopefully by trying to improve the course more and continued efforts in recruiting and tempting membership offers this trend can continue.

COUNTY MATCH

Last June we had a county boys match between Northumberland and Cumbria and the day could not have gone better - the weather was superb and the course and our hospitality on the day received very positive appreciation which probably is my proudest moment in the job so far

CORONAVIRUS

Coronavirus was and I fear still is a great concern to us all, but Golf is one of the few things that may have benefitted from it.

It's true, grants have swelled the coffers, but we have not sat on the money and purchased a better greens cutter and fairway mower plus work on club house and surrounds, but above all this, it has given exposure to the course. We excepted visitors who were not permitted to play on other courses and the majority were impressed with what they saw and many have returned to play again and a handful joined as members

When I started my greenkeeping journey 4 years ago I felt that no matter how good a job I do, our remoteness would always hinder us, and it still does a bit but the previous reasons have helped a lot. Now the job is to keep moving forward which I will now do by saying thanks for listening
Thankyou

4. Treasurer's report – Robin Down:

Allendale Golf Club
Annual General Meeting
February 2022

Treasurer's Report

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Direct Costs

Item	2021	2020	2019	2018
Wages	£12,380	£11,740	£8,901	£7,543
Greens	£4,137	£2,515	£1,169	£2,822
Repairs/Cons.	£8,813	£3,403	£8,560	£5,025
DIRECT COSTS	£23,330	£17,658	£16,630	£15,390

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Business Plan

- 2021 Business Plan headlines:
 - Forecast income: **£47,865** – actual **£62,633**
 - Forecast expenditure: **£38,375** – actual **£45,345**
 - 2021 Profit: **+£17,288**
 - Grants and Donations in year: **£17,435**
 - In addition, we have reserves in the Business Savings Account = **£20,205**

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Overheads

Item	2021	2020	2019	2018
Insurance	£2,630	£2,101	£1,858	£1,798
Postage/Statn.	£0	£149	£91	£310
Clubhouse	£2,988	£2,410	£3,517	£2,482
Bar	£2,773 (-£134)	£1,183 (-£841)	£1,668 (-£827)	£3,556 (-£58)
Other Sundry	£3,585	£2,427	£2,256	£3,445
Fund Raising	£896	£390	£550	£240
Marketing	£360	£0	£111	£542
Golf Union	£1,116	£1,890	£1,123	£0
Electricity	£1,213	£849	£857	£2,325
OVERHEADS	£15,359	£11,369	£12,031	£14,678

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Income

Item	2021	2020	2019	2018
Green fees	£13,197	£12,828	£8,204	£5,333
Comps	£776	£1,125	£1,985	£1,790
Fund raising	£1,033	£773	£751	£1,024
Sponsors	£1,620	£1,580	£2,400	£2,506
Membership	£22,345	£19,315	£16,993	£17,689
Bar	£2,639	£2,004	£2,495	£3,614
Other/Grants	£18,979	£29,684	£3,235	£3,460
FIT	£2,044	£3,240	£2,559	£3,214
TOTAL	£62,633	£70,529	£36,622	£38,630

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Other costs

Item	2021	2020	2019	2018
Depreciation	£2,646	£8,832	£1,709	£1,504
Lease costs	£4,014	£4,014	£4,014	£4,014
Bank charges	-£4	£122	£487	£486
COVID-19 grant accrued		£9,272		
OTHER	£6,656	£20,240	£6,209	£6,004
DIRECT COSTS	£23,330	£17,658	£16,630	£15,390
OVERHEADS	£15,359	£11,369	£12,031	£14,678
TOTAL COSTS	£45,345	£49,267	£34,870	£36,072

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2021 Fixed Monthly Costs

- Council Tax - Nil
- Insurance - £219
- Electricity - £101
- FIT income - -£170
- Rijo 42 - £0
- Lease costs - £335
- **TOTAL £485**

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
£311	£389	£633	£550	£506

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Bank balances at year end

- **2021:** £10,910.70 - £248 unpresented cheques, -£1,720 subs in advance = £8,942.70 + **£29,147.66**
- **NB** – we have also spent £22K on new greenkeeping equipment over the last two years

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Profit/Loss Summary

- 2017 Balance Sheet showed a loss of **£24,82.01** for the period January 2017 – December 2017.
- 2018 Balance Sheet showed a profit of **£2557.66** for the period January 2018 – December 2018.
- 2019 Balance Sheet showed a profit of **£1752.17** for the period January 2019 – December 2019.
- 2020 Balance Sheet showed a profit of **£21,261.92** for the period January 2020 – December 2020.
- The audited Balance Sheet for 2021 shows a profit of **£17,288.50** for the period January 2020 – December 2020.

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Prospects for 2022

- 2021 - "Difficult to forecast due to lockdowns" – actually did us no harm at all.
- Equipment lease costs (59 of 84 at end 2021) – £335/month;
- £10K greens cutter was paid for in cash in 2020 and £12K fairway mower in 2021 - no additional lease costs – depreciated over 5 years
- New sponsors required – MKM may reduce further involvement in 2022 – *we need a business manager!*
- Continue to invest in the course and maintain good progress with member and visitor growth.
- *Don't spend, spend, spend – volunteer!*

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Bank balances at year end

- **2015:** -£475.12 -£1765.02 unpresented cheques, -£3360 subs in advance = -£5600.14
- **2016:** £2003.85 -£97.18 unpresented cheques, -£3180 subs in advance = -£1273.33
- **2017:** £2615.34 -£211.50 unpresented cheques, -£4558 subs in advance = -£2154.16
- **2018:** £6383.38 -£1029.88 unpresented cheques, -£3446 subs (Incl. £160 sponsorship) in advance = **£1907.50**
- **2019:** £3818.67 -£235 unpresented cheques, -£915 subs in advance = **£2668.67**
- **2020:** £22382.37 -£1427.78 unpresented cheques, -£670 subs in advance = £20,284.59 + £10,200.57 in reserves = £30,485.16, less COVID grant balance (£9272 committed spend) = **£21,213.16**

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5. Junior Organisers Report – Valeria Dunn:

A diminished junior programme of events resumed during the 2021 season despite some enforced restrictions. Some of our regular highlights comprising the Northumberland Junior Golf Tour and the taster sessions for pupils from Allendale Primary were able to be held. All the established Junior Club competitions and coaching sessions for Junior members also went ahead with Philip Waugh available to provide the coaching.

The four boys who took part in the Golf Tour all performed very well in their respected categories, with Daniel Twizell winning the Tour's top, Under-14s gross competition over four courses and joining the elite training group of County players. Several of the Primary School pupils extended the opportunity to play golf by attending an after-school club at the golf course which ran through the summer term. It was particularly pleasing that some of the most enthusiastic participants were girls!

We did manage to hold a Junior Presentation Afternoon in November, but the occasion was somewhat hampered because it took place during the 9 days when we had no electricity at Wager House courtesy of Storm Arwen. That is why the related photos on the website look as if it were a candlelit occasion! The junior membership numbers remained very much in line with previous years, but fewer juniors than usual participated in competitions or, indeed, in any of the playing or social opportunities on offer. Unfortunately, it appeared that the newly introduced membership scheme, whereby juniors do not have to pay a fee if their parents are members, did not necessarily encourage greater active junior golfing participation. [Lots of juniors on the membership list were, in fact, "sleeping partners"! This in contrast to the previous season, when the "Family membership" category drew considerable active interest.]

Our thanks to parents and family members who have assisted with supporting the running of the Junior section throughout the season.

Valeria and Ian Dunn

Ian Dunn reiterated that he and Valeria are stepping down from their posts as Junior Organiser responsibilities but will continue to maintain their interface with the schools. Rachel and Joh martin will take over organisation of competitions and coaching – arrangements are already in place for 2022 with Philip Waugh.

6. Club Captains' reports:

Ladies section – Debbie Carter: It's been a good year for the ladies. We had the ladies getting into golf charter, so with the help of Valeria we organised ladies starter sessions with Phil, the Prof from Brampton.

We followed these up with a couple of play and coffee /cake afternoons, and a regular Wednesday ladies' afternoon. We also formed a WhatsApp group to help with organising play together. This has been a great success and have 6 new ladies joined, 5 of them renewing again this year. We are planning more lady starter sessions again this spring.

We couldn't have our opens last year due to covid restrictions but will hopefully be able to hold them again this year.

This following year we are jointly sharing duties for the ladies, with Pat taking the lady captain name.

Gents section – Mike Carter: In early spring 2020 while thinking about my forthcoming year as Allendale Golf Club Mens Captain, I really did not factor in Covid. I remember a very sparse drive off, with only a few there, and all keeping a safe distance (never a bad idea with my golf). However, from a seemingly barren wasteland, the golf phoenix arose, people desperate to get into the open air and enjoy golf. Either even more keen to play or starting for the first time. Membership increased, competition entries doubled, and the club thrived as authorities gave Covid financial help in abundance.

With so many events cancelled, I took on a second year, and in 2021, with Debbie, held a Captains Day. The sun shone, and we had an enjoyable day. The season began to feel a bit more normal with most competitions being played.

For charity I decided with Debbie to have a 'captains canyon'. It seemed more exciting than a bunker, and much better at adsorbing golf balls! An amazing £515 has been 'donated' in the last 2 years no little thanks to Malcolm A. who must be the canyons most Frequent Flyer (and most generous!). The money has been raised for the Alan Shearer Centre in Newcastle. It's a highly specialist, respite, residential and social facility for people with complex disabilities and acute sensory impairments. Our son Edward went there for a short while.

Allendale has a new enlarged membership and is looking healthy as a club. It's very easy (and not wrong) to be a paid-up member of a club. The club would not exist without members. However, it would also not exist without members who go above and beyond to volunteer for all sorts of jobs and committee membership. It makes me a bit sad that whilst in the AGM and surrounded by fabulous volunteers and committee members of past and present, there are almost no members. Please think if you would like to help.

Finally, thanks for all the support and encouragement I have been given to be captain. Thanks to Neil for a brilliant job on the course - what a difference 4 years can make. Please remember every member can help him too, just replace your divots and repair pitch marks - why not choose an extra one repair too?

Very finally, I'd like to wish Jim a great Captain's year. Looking forward to a great golfing season!

Mike Carter

Seniors section – Robin Down: RD reported on a very successful year for the Seniors' team – not only did they win every match, but many were also white-washes. This was, in no small part, a consequence of the new WHS. RD expressed again, a desire to stand down as Seniors' Captain.

7. **Election of Officers:**

The secretary (N Forsyth), treasurer (R Down) and auditor (M Kimberley) were re-elected without change. It is hoped that a new chairman will be elected at the first committee meeting after this AGM on 23rd March 2022.

There were no resignations from the General Committee in the meeting, although a number occurred throughout the year. The current standing includes:

- D. Cousins
- D. Carter
- M. Carter
- R. Down
- N Forsyth
- P. Hignett
- J. Hall
- K. Philipson

In the meeting, Ian Dunn volunteered to join the committee.

2020 Captains will be: Gents – Jim Hall (with vice-captain, Peter Robinson); Ladies –the role will be shared between Debbie Carter and Pat Hignett; Seniors – Robin Down (until a replacement can be found).

8. **Fix 2022 fees:**

No change.

9. Any changes to Constitution and Rules: None

10. AOB:

- I. MA expressed his thanks to the key players that have transformed the fortunes of the club in recent years – a member since the Thornley Gate days, he emphasised that never in the history of the club has it been in such a strong position in relation to its organisation, the finances, the presentation of the course and the strength of the junior section.
- II. RM mentioned the possibility of a Rules Night – this is under consideration in committee and will be progressed.
- III. Outside of the meeting, Derek Todhunter requested consideration be given to planting additional trees. This will be progressed in committee.

11. Next Meeting: Date to be confirmed