



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

HELD AT BLETCHINGLEY GOLF CLUB ON 14 OCTOBER 2021

Those present:	Ray Owen (Chair)	Geoff Dawe
	James Milligan (Capt)	Richard Jones
	Vince Rossiter (Sec)	Phil Patten
	Dave Milligan	Andrew Gardner
	Pete Frost	Peter Millard
	Kevin Ryan	Simon Shapcott
	Phil Ryan	Owen Jones

1. Chairman's opening remarks

- 1.1. Welcome to this very special AGM which celebrates 100 years of Civil Service golf in all its various names and guises.
- 1.2. I am particularly proud to be sitting here as President and following in the footsteps of my good friend Geoff Dawe. My involvement with the Civil Service sporting organisation goes back to 1964 when I joined, so I can claim 57 years membership. The President 100 years ago was Alfred Mond and it is pleasing that today 2 of our Society members played in the Mond Cup Final and kept that tradition going and kept up that link with the past.
- 1.3. Vince has come up with a few interesting statistics - this year we had 31 fully paid up members, the most for 6 years and the average attendance at our meetings was 17, also the best for 6 years. The most points in a single competition was 41 and the most points in a pairs competition was 45. The best gross score was 77 and there were 10 different trophy winners.
- 1.4. I would like to place on record our thanks to Vince Rossiter who has kept this society vibrant and our heads above water during the difficulties over the past 2 years. He is ably supported by an enthusiastic committee, and we hope we can keep golf on course for the next 100 years in the Civil Service.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Apologies for absence received from John Rea, Don Ward, Mark Hitchen, Anthony Ash, Steve Meyler, Peter Gray and Mike Arney.

3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

- 3.1. The minutes of the 2020 AGM were agreed and signed as a true record.



4. Matters Arising

- 4.1. **Para. 8.2** agreed that the Spring foursomes be replaced by a Texas scramble. This was not adopted this year as the Spring meeting was restricted to 18 holes. If acceptable to the club it would be adopted at Spring 2022. The meeting agreed.
- 4.2. **Para 9.2 World Handicapping System:**
 - 4.2.1. Following the trial at the Spring meeting and taking into account concerns of players having a society handicap above their club index, the handicapping Committee decided that such players would not have a society handicap. Whilst slope ratings were not used for the remainder of events, a survey showed that results would not have been much different if they had.
 - 4.2.2. Comments supporting the use full WHS system had been received from both Don Ward and Mark Hitchen who could not make the meeting. Both urged non club members to get an official handicap through the England Golf app.
 - 4.2.3. As such, the handicapping committee recommend that slope ratings should be used on all handicaps – index and society – and then adjusted to the appropriate percentage according to format.
 - 4.2.4. However, there was concern that this could advantage those with Society handicaps. In this respect the Secretary recommended that Owen Jones, who is on the handicapping committee of his club, Bedford & County, should be temporarily co-opted on to the Committee for handicapping purposes. The Secretary would provide Owen with results over the last few years of those with Society only handicaps in the hope that he could effectively provide society handicaps on the same basis as the formal handicap indexes under the WHS. This was agreed by the meeting.
 - 4.2.5. In the meantime, those without an official handicap index would be strongly urged to sign up to the England Golf app for handicapping purposes.

5. Captain's Report by James Milligan

- 5.1. It has been an absolute pleasure to be captain of this wonderful golf society, I feel even more lucky that I was able to be the captain in the society's 100th year.
- 5.2. Again, just like last year I know the organisation of the events has been more difficult than usual due to the COVID pandemic and my special thanks goes to Vince for all the hard work he has put in just to get us on the courses.
- 5.3. It was fantastic to see some old faces especially at the start of the year once we were all allowed back out to enjoy the game we love. I hope that after the last 18 months that we've all been through we will see a better attendance next year as I genuinely believe not only is this a great society to play in but it truly does help not only your physical fitness but more importantly your mental wellbeing too.
- 5.4. I met Mike Arney in a pub in Dartford in 2008, we both realised we had many things in common (except the football teams we supported) he told me all about this golf society he was part of and invited me along to Crowborough Beacon GC in early 2009. As they say the rest is history and over the next 12 years, I feel I've become part of a close-knit family playing a game that at times can be frustrating but deep down a game we all love.
- 5.5. Thank you for allowing me to be your captain and I'm sure you will support Dave in his captain's year of 2022 just as well.



6. Treasurer's Report

6.1. The Treasurer could not attend the meeting but provided the following report in writing:

SPARTA GOLF SOCIETY - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 2021			
INCOME	£'s	EXPENDITURE	£'s
Opening Balance (1st Oct '20)	£482.59	CSSC Fees	£0.00
SPARTA Contribution	£4,854.00	Prizes	£550.98
SPARTA Mem Fees	£492.00	Contribution to Charity	£160.00
Mem Fees	£170.00	Engraving	£287.73
Contribution to Charity	£160.00	Competition Fees	£0.00
Green Fees	£5,020.00	Event Costs	£8,390.15
		Web Page	£60.60
		Stationery	£63.22
		Centenary Items	£365.97
		Closing Balance (30th Sept. 21)	£1,299.94
TOTAL	£11,178.59	TOTAL	£11,178.59

- 6.1.1. Apologies for my absence but at my time of cancellation I was very pessimistic about my chances of getting around the course. Thankfully I am feeling slightly better whilst preparing this report.
- 6.1.2. It was nice to get back to near normal this year and numbers at the meetings are slowly getting to the kind of numbers hoped for. Although obviously not what we planned, we managed to make the Centenary meeting a special event, Vince's towels and other goodies all appearing to go down very well with all those present.
- 6.1.3. I unfortunately missed what was apparently the best meeting of this and indeed many previous years with the event at Knole Park – but will make sure I get to the next one.
- 6.1.4. Accounts wise we are in a nice healthy position and I will once again attempt to get our grant somewhere close to the old amounts, thus making it possible to play a couple of superior clubs over each of the coming years.
- 6.1.5. We have successfully had the accounts audited and they stand as the SOA shows. Apologies again for not being at the meeting to answer any queries, but am fairly sure that Vince will know the answer to most questions raised - if not I will be able to take a call on 07810 528796 if the answer is really important.
- 6.1.6. My thanks to Vince who as part of his secretarial duties has kept an excellent record of all monies in and out of our account, along with his chasing up payments and numbers for all the meetings this year. Also of course my thanks to all the other officials who help make every meeting a smooth well-oiled and easy day out for the attendees.
- 6.1.7. Looking forward to catching up with you all next year and wish you all good golfing.
- 6.2. The Secretary commented that last year's minutes noted that a bid for an interim £1000 had been made and this was indeed provided late last year. The total Sparta contribution above therefore includes this amount. It was hoped that a similar total bid could be made for next year. As such, it had been hoped to book better courses for next year but with the shutdown last year, many clubs prices have risen beyond the norm.
- 6.3. After a short discussion, the accounts were accepted by the meeting.



7. Nominations

7.1. The following were nominated and seconded to form the Society's committee:

Post	Existing holder	Name	Nominated by	Seconded by
President	<i>Ray Owen</i>	Ray Owen	Committee	
Captain	<i>James Milligan</i>	Dave Milligan	James Milligan	Committee
Vice Captain	<i>Dave Milligan</i>	John Rea	Dave Milligan	Vince Rossiter
Treasurer	<i>Mike Arney</i>	Mike Arney	Vince Rossiter	Andrew Gardner
Secretary	<i>Vince Rossiter</i>	Vince Rossiter	Ray Owen	James Milligan
General Committee	<i>Pete Frost</i>	Pete Frost	Ray Owen	Geoff Dawe
	<i>Kevin Ryan</i>	Kevin Ryan	Phil Ryan	Simon Shapcott
	<i>Anthony Ash*</i>	James Milligan	Dave Milligan	Geoff Dawe
Auditor	<i>David Boone</i>	David Boone	Mike Arney	Vince Rossiter
	*Anthony Ash has decided not to stand			

7.2. In addition, the Secretary proposed that Owen Jones be adopted temporarily to the Committee with special responsibility for handicapping. This was seconded by Chairman Ray Owen and agreed by the meeting.

8. **Motions:** None received

9. Any other Business

9.1. **Charity for 2022:** Sir Peter Harrop, who was a member of the Society in the early 1990's and Permanent Secretary to DOE, died in late 2020. In his memory the meeting agreed to support the River Thames Boat Project in 2022 which Sir Peter was a keen patron of and helped found. The meeting further agreed that a portion of members fees at all meetings up to and including the Autumn meeting should form the charity pot.

9.2. Hastings Challenge

9.2.1. The poor attendance at the recent annual Hastings Challenge match had prompted the question whether this event should continue. It was considered that the reason for this was that because it was for the first time a separate matchplay event – previously it had been held alongside existing competitions (for Sparta this was the AGM) but this had caused handicapping issues.

9.2.2. The meeting generally agreed that the event should continue but perhaps we should go back to holding it alongside existing events in a stableford format. It was agreed that Pete Frost and Vince Rossiter should discuss with Ashdown GS how the handicapping issue can be resolved.

9.3. SPARTA 50 Anniversary Launch Events

9.3.1. There was clearly little support for this event. Pete Frost commented that a similar event held in an anti-room in the basement of GMH had been poorly attended and it was unlikely that this event would be any different. However, further information would be sought and the Secretary agreed to convey the meetings thoughts to the Sparta Gen Sec.



9.4 Events for 2022

The Secretary reported that the following events have been booked for 2022:

Spring: Cottesmore GC, Crawley: 25 April
President's Day: Orsett GC, Essex: 25 May
Summer: Flackwell Heath GC, High Wycombe: 24 June
Captain's Day: Copthorne GC, East Grinstead: 25 July

Plus the following are still to be confirmed:

Autumn: Kings Hill GC, Early Sept (TBC)
Hastings Challenge?/AGM – mid October

9.5 Presentations: The following presentations were made:

Secretary's Cup: 1st: Geoff Dawe (35pts) 2nd James Milligan (32pts)

Mond Cup winner: James Milligan bt Andrew Gardner 2up

Golfer of the Year winner: Will Donaldson (presented to Peter Millard to pass on)

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

October 2021