Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 14th May 2021

**Attendees:** Terry Baker, Dion Beard, Dick Bell, Richard Brown, Bob Carrick, Malcolm Cornish, Nick Denny, Chris Dowling, Paul Farrant, Oliver Hickling, James Hopper, Richard Juckes, Ian Macfadyan, Michael MacInnes, James Margery, Tim Martin Jenkins, Matt Mockridge, George Moss, Cedric Mullis, Alasdair Niven, David Niven, Adrian O’Loughlin, Ben O’Loughlin, Stephen Parry, Richard Pelly, Bob Percival, Henry Robinson, Robin Swann, Charles Terry, Bernie Thomson, John Uzielli, William Wells. (32)

Before the meeting commenced, the Hon. Secretary explained the mechanics of a Zoom meeting. Attendees will be mute and the speakers will remain in view at all times. Attendees can use the Q&A button to ask questions or the chat button to make comments. Malcolm Cornish will call forward attendees to speak if required. Questions will be answered either at the meeting or afterwards.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Rupert Atkin, Robin Baker, Peter Bedford, Keith Benham, Dan Black, Tim Bond, Freddie Brookes-Smith, Julian Cartwright, Alan Catchpole, Christopher Coe, John Cooke, Alec Cunningham, Mark Davies, David Dickson, Charles Evers, Charlie Foster, Mark Foulds, James Gillett, Richard Graham, Charles Gregory, Desmond Hall, James Hall, Simon Hall, Charlotte Hampel, Joe Hare, Heath Harvey, Tim Hewan, Jonathan Hickling, Tony Hill, Philip Howard, Roger Hunt, Tim Knoops, Pippa Lark, James Lucas, Charles MacFarlane, Andrew Mackay, Martin Mercer, Hugh Michelmore, Rita Mitchell, Josh Neely, Hugh Nettelfield, Steve O’Loughlin, Richard Ohlson, Malcolm Perring, Adrian Platt, Robin Sligh, Michael Spens, Richard Stanton, Ben Stocks, Muir Stratford, Ben Sturgeon, Ned Tarlton, Charlie Twort, Charles Warner, Alex Wildman. (55)

The Captain welcomed everyone to the meeting and, before the meeting started, he wanted to pay tribute to the immediate past President, David Coe who died recently. He died on the last day of the Masters with a glass of fine whisky in his hand having backed Hideko Matsuyama at 40/1 to win the Masters. The meeting raised a glass in his memory.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th May 2020**

The Captain referred to the minutes of last year’s meeting and asked if anyone had any points of accuracy. There were no comments and the minutes were approved unanimously.

1. **Captain’s Report**

The Captain reviewed his report which had been circulated beforehand. He wanted to add a report about his visit to Marlborough to play in the match against the school. The match went well and apart from one outstanding player who plays off scratch, there are some other promising players in the school side which is good and bodes well for our future in the Halford Hewitt. The Captain paid tribute to the work being done by Joe Lane, the master in charge of golf.

The Captain also reported that Tim Martin-Jenkins and the Hon Sec had met with the Master to talk about various issues. The Hon Sec reported that there were two main topics, firstly to try and encourage the college to take more interest in golf as we were falling behind other schools and secondly to try and get an indoor golfing facility built. Tim reported that the will is definitely there but finding a spot to accommodate a building will be difficult.

1. **Hon. Secretary’s report**

The Hon. Secretary reviewed his report which was taken as read.

1. **Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021**

The Hon Sec referred to his report and commented that the Society had had a good year as, due to entirely to COVID, we had made a surplus of £3,693 as members had kindly paid their subscriptions but expenditure had been significantly down due to the cancellation of all tournaments and the fact that few matches survived the pandemic and only the autumn meeting took place. He reported that there will be challenges in the years ahead.

There were no questions and the meeting unanimously agreed the accounts.

1. **Election of Officers**

In his last job as Captain, David Niven proposed Bob Percival as the new captain. He thought he would do an excellent job and his appointment was greeted with acclamation.

The new captain thanked David Niven for his contribution in his year of office and for his major contribution to the Society as a whole.

The new Captain set out his plans as follows:

* Citing the success in 2020 of the cricket club which he runs, he said he hoped we would be successful in recruiting 20 new members under 35 in the next year (NB: With reference to the Hon Sec’s report the under 35 and college leaver membership has risen by 13 in the last 12 months).
* In particular he hoped that the new subsidy scheme would encourage more young members to participate in OMGS events and if this is the case, it could be expensive hence the committee’s proposal to increase the annual subscription. He urged the meeting to vote in favour of the motion.
* He wanted to have a drinks party in central London in March to get the season off to a good start
* and he asked if there was a member who could make a room available for us. Ian Macfadyan offered the Churchill Room at the RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly which has oak panels. The Captain will talk to Ian.
* Uniquely he will have two Halford Hewitts in his term of office and he expressed his willingness to buy the champagne after each victory.

The Captain proposed Bernie Thomson as the new Vice Captain. He had known Bernie for some time and referred to his contribution to the autumn meeting and his help during the Halford Hewitt.  Bernie has been the main point of contact at Deal and has run the Deal side against the OMGS for many years. He thought he would make a fine captain.

The Captain also said that the job of Hon. Treasurer was not filled and that the current Hon Sec was wishing to retire soon. He asked for volunteers to fill both roles. He said that he was also delighted to be in post with James Hopper in the last year of his presidency. Lastly he thanked Adrian O’Loughlin who retires from the committee after several years of sterling service.

It was agreed that the officers would be elected en bloc and the following were elected unanimously:

Hon Secretary Bob Carrick

President James Hopper

Vice-Captain Bernie Thomson

Past Captain David Niven

Similarly Matt Mockridge who had been co-opted on to the committee as Halford Hewitt captain earlier in the year and whose appointment was unanimously ratified by the meeting.

**7: Annual Subscription**

The Captain referred to the Hon Sec’s paper, which had already been circulated, on this topic in which the proposal was put as follows:

"The annual subscription for full members shall be £50 per annum, save that those over 70 not participating in any OMGS events shall pay £25 per annum"

The College Leaver membership would remain unchanged and they would continue to pay nothing up to the age of 30.

The Captain asked for questions and Dion Beard said that as an Over 80 member he would still like to pay the full sub. The Hon Sec replied that he was concerned about losing some older members who no longer participated in the OMGS events. Malcolm Cornish said that the OMGS might adopt the system operated by the Senior Golfers' society where once members got to a certain age, instead of paying by direct debit, they would pay by Standing Order which would mean that payment would be under their control instead of the Society’s. It was also suggested that those over 80 should be honorary members. The committee will discuss these options.

There were no other questions and the proposal was put to the vote. It was passed with one abstention.

**8: Any Other Business**

In the President’s unavoidable absence due to computer malfunctioning, the Captain reported that a provisional date had been booked for a dinner on 6th October 2022. The dinner was to celebrate 100 years of Old Marlburian Golf. The proposed venue is Middle Temple Hall and a small committee has been set up to run the dinner comprising; James Hopper, Bob Percival, Robin Swan and Oliver Hickling. The dinner may clash with the Grafton Morrish although we do not know the dates yet. If it does, there is an alternative date, the 10th November 2022. John Uzielli also reminded the meeting that 2022 was the 50th anniversary of Marlborough last winning the Halford Hewitt.

Alasdair Niven read out a couple of paragraphs he had prepared as regards subsidies. He felt that the new system was too complicated and he much preferred the old system of a fixed subsidy for the 35s and under, though maybe the limit could be lifted from £35 to £50. He asked the Committee to revisit their decision. The Hon Sec replied that the committee had made their decision for the following reasons:

* They wanted to give more generous subsidies to the youngest OMs than those over 30.
* The fixed sum bears no relation to the cost of the day and has to be reviewed regularly.

Malcolm Cornish did not feel that the new system was complicated as changes could be made to the registration details on the website and also help could be provided by himself and the Hon Sec. Chris Dowling agreed with Alasdair Niven’s point of view. It was agreed that the issue will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 19:00 with a vote of thanks to both Malcolm Cornish and the Hon Sec.