

**MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE DALHOUSIE GOLF CLUB HELD IN THE CARNOUSTIE
GOLF HOTEL ON TUESDAY 8th MARCH 2018 AT 8pm.**

Present: The Captain and 24 members.

[Prior to the start of the meeting, the Captain asked members to join him in a minute's silence to remember members who had died recently, namely, Ian Cowie and Bill Nicoll.]

1. The Captain welcomed members to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies had been received from 28 members.
3. **Minutes of the Half Yearly General Meeting of 26th September 2017.**
The minutes were approved as a true record.

Proposed by W F Ruark; Seconded by A Hay.

4. Matters Arising.

There were no separate matters arising from the Minutes.

5. Captain's Report.

"Good evening gentlemen,

Derek Cavellini. With a combination of delight and disbelief, the Captain expressed the pleasure felt by all at the recovery which Derek was enjoying after his serious illness. Clear evidence of both his sense of humour and enthusiasm to get back to 'normal' as soon as possible was hugely welcomed by all members.

Winter Eclectic Competitions. In spite of a very bad fortnight of weather, eclectic competitions had proceeded well; March 17th would be the final day for competition.

March Events. Arrangements for the celebratory golf and post-match dinner were proceeding well. Current numbers totalled fifty for golf and fifty eight for dinner (members and guests of local clubs). Members were reminded that the unveiling of the Dalhousie water fountain would take place at 10.00 a.m. on the sixteenth tee and the Captain urged both Council and members to be present, if possible, for the historic occasion.

Proposed Coaching. The unfortunate delay in completing the new Golf Centre meant that the four-part series of indoor coaching on the golf simulators would also be delayed. As soon as a date of readiness was announced, members would be invited to confirm attendance.

Ready Golf. Ian Wilson having completed his excellent paper on the club adopting "Ready Golf" for the forthcoming season, the Captain invited him to present the basis of the plan to members. The new approach to "speed up play" would be applied to all stroke competitions in the season ahead, but not to match play within club tournaments. It was likely that Dalhousie would be the first of the local clubs to adopt the strategies involved, but evidence was growing that many more clubs were keen to follow the R&A advice on the now unacceptably high numbers of slow rounds. Two R&A posters were to be scanned and forwarded to members to allow them to better absorb the key issues within the plan.

Payment of Subscriptions. The Captain confirmed that failure to settle subscription dues by the due date would result in the disqualification of all who were taking part in club match play tournaments. Council had agreed that rigorous action would be taken in the season ahead in an effort to have unacceptable delays in payment reduced.

Dress Code for Dinner. Following a complaint from a member that the forthcoming dinner was not demanding full formal dress, the Captain referred to the decision taken in 2014 to allow 'informal' i.e. collar and tie, lounge suit etc, at the March anniversary dinner, while the main celebratory dinner on August 24th WOULD require formal dress. Should members wish to wear formal dress at the March event, it would not be discouraged.

Race Night. The Captain reminded members that the Race Night on May 4th would be the next social event of the year. He encouraged all present to buy tickets and/or acquire suitable prizes for tombola/raffle etc. The evening again promised to provide exceptional entertainment and it was hoped that more members would be supportive of an important fund raiser for both Dalhousie and its chosen charity, the Scottish Air Ambulance Service.

Inter-club Matches. The captain expressed the hope that members would make every effort to be included in the excellent range of inter-club matches programmed for the new season. In a very special year for Dalhousie, it would be ideal for the club's standing in Angus golf to be reinforced by enthusiastic turnouts of members.

Captain's Thanks. The Captain paid tribute to the members of the Dalhousie sub-group, who had worked over four and a half years to produce the principal events for the club's sesquicentenary. In particular, the various plans and schemes had been grasped enthusiastically by all within the sub-committee, while Council was also thanked for its support of the various celebratory ideas which were now ready for the enjoyment of all concerned in Dalhousie's forthcoming season."

6. Annual Subscriptions.

The aim has always been to keep the costs of running the Club in line with the income from subscriptions and the interest on our capital. With existing subscription levels, low interest rates and the exceptional costs for the 150th, the forecast indicates a deficit of between 3 and 500 pounds. In addition to the reduced capital sum, there is a predicted increase in Scottish Golf levies due in January 2019. It would be prudent, therefore to recommend an increase in subscriptions but at a modest level in anticipation of income from the Race Night and an increase in interest rates.

Increases as follows: Ordinary +£4 (to £59), Country +£3 (to £48), and Ladies +£2 (to £32), were agreed.

Proposed by A McColgan; Seconded by G W Paton.

7. Election of Office Bearers to serve from 1st April 2018.

With the exception of G Paton who was retiring from Council, all the current incumbents had agreed to continue and were duly elected:

Captain: D Ford; proposed by I Wilson, seconded by J McDougall.

Vice Captain: D Cavellini; proposed by D Ford, seconded by G W Wilson.

Treasurer: A McColgan; proposed by R Geddes, seconded by A Arthur.

Match Secretary: A Baird; proposed by G Lumsdaine, seconded by B Carr.

I Wilson was then nominated as Secretary, proposed by D Ford, seconded by W F Ruark, and was duly elected.

Before continuing, the Captain wished to record the Club's thanks to Graeme Paton for his contributions to the running of the Club over the past 20 years.

8. Election of Council Members to serve from 1st April 2018.

J Mitchell and G Lumsdaine were due to retire by rotation; both had indicated that they would be pleased to continue and were duly elected.

J Mitchell: proposed by P McColgan, seconded by M Sinclair.

G Lumsdaine: proposed by R Geddes, seconded by A Hay.

With I Wilson now an Office Bearer, there were two, two-year vacancies on Council. There were 3 nominations. It was felt that the requirement was for a minimum of 6, so it was agreed that all 3 could be elected should the meeting so wish. The nominees were:

R Geddes; proposed by G Lumsdaine, seconded by G W Wilson.
B Carr; proposed by I Wilson, seconded by J Mitchell.
P McColgan; proposed by I Wilson, seconded by D Ford.
All 3 were duly elected.

[**Afternote:** the Secretary subsequently apologised to Council for misleading the Captain and the Meeting regarding the elections to Council. The requirement of the Constitution is a *maximum* of 6. Council therefore agreed that R Geddes and B Carr would be confirmed as elected for two years and that P McColgan, who had agreed to be Seniors' Convener, would be de-selected and co-opted to Council for one year.]

9. Report from LMC Directors.

Courses.

Winter Works. Most were completed/nearing completion. The replacement of sand in bunkers is on-going.

Open Works. Road works and associated bridges were nearing completion; laying of tarmac is due shortly. There will be additions to the revised Open practice area.

Golf Centre.

Delays are on-going but the fitting out has started. There is no firm date for a hand-over, but it is expected to be open for business in early April.

Finance.

As at Jan 18, there was a projected surplus of 978K. Green Fees and the Pro Shop were ahead of budget.

Pro Shop income has passed £1M. The gross profit was c.£560K, but this results in a higher payment to the Hotel of c.£140k and also generates credit card charges of c.£27.6k. Visitor purchases amounted to c.951k (from £3.37m in green fees).

Overall, the main income streams were: Green Fees £3.37m; Season Tickets c.725k; Tournaments c.£63k. The main expenditure headings were: Salaries etc c.£1.68m; Course maintenance c.£154k; Machinery maintenance c.£80k; Portakabins £111k.

10. Any Other Business.

Ready Golf. In response to queries from J McDougall and T Wotherspoon, I Wilson clarified some of the issue concerning Ready Golf. This initiative had come about because of an R&A study into slow play and a perceived drop in numbers playing. The principal issue is to play when ready regardless of the "honour" provided it is safe so to do (this does not apply to matchplay). We cannot control others, but by adopting this initiative it is hoped that it will make it easier for us to keep up with the game ahead. The R&A want all clubs to adopt this in the next 12 months and have supplied posters outlining the initiative.

Competitions. The Match Secretary made the following announcements:

The Winter Eclectic ends on Saturday 17th March.

The entry sheets for the matchplay competitions are on the noticeboard and the draws will be made on Sunday 24th March.

Mid-week Sweeps would be stablefords.

There would be no fixture card this year but the fixture list would be circulated to members electronically soon.

A trial would be run with week-end medals whereby they could be played on either Saturday or Sunday; Sunday entries were generally small and often did not justify a separate competition. CONGU allowed for the same competition to be played over 2 days.

A new trophy, the Sesquicentenary Bowl, had been created to mark the anniversary. The winner would be the member with the lowest aggregate

score from 2 rounds on each of the 3 courses. The fixture list will show which rounds will count.

Matches. The match convener advised that the availability list had been sent out and he would appreciate prompt returns, including nil returns.

Dinner. W F Ruark enquired about the cost of the up-coming dinner and the Captain replied that it would remain at £30.

11. Closing Remarks.

The Captain re-iterated his thanks: to the 150th Sub Group and particularly A Arthur as its Chairman; to Council and particularly the Office Bearers for keeping him “straight”. He noted the huge contribution by the Club to these links and the efforts of our predecessors. He urged members to take part in and enjoy the events planned for this year and hoped that all would have a good season.

Past Captain Ian Wilson then invited members to record their thanks to the Captain for all his endeavours this year. Many have put in a lot of effort, but none more than Donald Ford.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Attendees:

A Arthur	R Geddes	A McColgan	M Sinclair
A Baird	A Hay	P McColgan	E J C Smith
B Carr	W Jackson	J W McDougall	G W Wilson
C Douglas	M Lowe	G W Paton	I E R Wilson
G Douglas	G Lumsdaine	J Philp	T Wotherspoon
J Duncan	J Mitchell	W F Ruark	N Yates

Apologies:

D Ashford	G Begg	D Bell	D Cavellini
A Clark	A Coleman	M G Ferrier	C Ford
G Forbes snr	G Forbes	D G Forman	R Fraser
J Fullerton	J Gray	D L Hood	N A Howie
C Innes	H Kennedy	G Liddle	J W Lindquist
D Milne	D J Mitchell	C Sinclair snr	R Smith
W H Stewart	J R Wallace	M R Watkin	R S Wilson