

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Kinsale Golf Club held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

The President, John Hunt opened the meeting and welcomed all members. He asked that the members note the fire exits and to turn off mobile phones.

A minute's silence was held for deceased members.

### **Minutes:**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were taken as read as they were previously circulated to members. There were no matters arising. The minutes were adopted and proposed by Ned Lambe and seconded by Denis O'Sullivan.

### **Attendance:**

48 members attended the meeting and there were 12 apologies.

### **President John Hunt's Address:**

John was delighted and honoured to have served as President of Kinsale Golf Club for 2017. Especially when he looked at the club notice board and see all the past Captains and Presidents that have served before him and taken the golf club to the fantastic standard that it is today. To all the members he very much appreciated the many good wishes and offers of support that he has received during his Presidency.

He thanked Declan Murphy for proposing him and Denis O'Sullivan for seconding him for the position of President. Declan Murphy was a hard act to follow and it was a great honour to follow him into the office as President.

He will always remember when he joined Kinsale Golf club, the welcome and friendship afforded to him at that time by all the members and continues to this day.

Back in January, the first duty Captain Chris and Lady Captain Colette and John performed was to attend Carton House to receive the hidden gem of Ireland award. They were all so proud of receiving this award on behalf of the club and he has no doubt because of receiving this award helped in that over 100 new members joined the Club this year. Also, thanks to the many members who introduced new members to our club. He hoped that all these new members have found the club a place of friendship and enjoyment.

To his fellow officers Captain Chris and Lady Captain Colette, it has been a pleasure working with you both. You were been a great support to him throughout the year and you both have been magnificent ambassadors for Kinsale Golf Club.

To the Ballhoppers, Mashies, Al Frescos and Mixed, these groups are a fantastic asset to our club and bring a great source of enjoyment to everyone. He wished them every success for the future and thanks to all the organisers and everyone involved.

A special mention to our juvenile officer Ger Cullinane, supported by Ger Broderick, Ian Stafford, Gerry Waldron and Meredith Talbot for all the effort they have put in with the Juvenile section of our club. Many years of hard work is now reaping the just reward.

The future of any golf club is its Youth. As it's from this group we can look forward to future captains and presidents. It has been a great year for our top golfers, Cathal Butler, John Murphy and Gary Ward. Gary has the course record in Cobh, Cathal in Newlands Golf Club and John has won numerous prestigious trophies throughout the year. Also, congratulations to Mark Healy who is now playing off scratch.

To all our teams and managers from the ladies and men's clubs a big thank you for representing our club with such enthusiasm and dedication. What a year he had following our club teams around Cork city and county. I got great enjoyment and there were some very memorable performances. A special mention to our ladies on a great achievement winning the West Cork Shield. Well done to manager Frances Power assisted by Mary Crowley and all the team members for all the hard work put in to win this competition and bringing great honour to Kinsale Golf Club

We have in Kinsale a great golf course that is one of the best around and has been maintained to such a high standard throughout the year. In the early part of the year we saw the completion of work around the 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> greens and this work has blended in so well with the rest of the course. Work is now almost completed with the new bunkers around the 7<sup>th</sup> green. A huge word of praise and gratitude to our head green keeper Pdraig Crowley and his staff, for the completion of all this work. Also, after all the damage done by storm Ophelia the removal of all the fallen trees and keeping the grass cut and the green kept in fantastic condition. We are so lucky to have a green keeper like Pdraig.

He also thanked Vincent McDwyer and his volunteers for keeping the area around our club house and golf course in such a fantastic condition.

Also, a big thank you to John Guirey for maintaining the flowerbed around the club house.

Many thanks to Ger Broderick and Ian Stafford and the staff in our Pro Shop for running of all competitions so smoothly and their help and support to him throughout his year as President.

Also, many thanks to Shane, Lisa and the catering staff for the great food and service in the restaurant and bar throughout the year.

To our Management committee headed up by our Chairman Tony Long, Hilary Madden, Ger Hayes, Liz Creagh, Lady Captain Colette Kenny and Captain Chris Cronin. It was a pleasure to work with you all throughout the year. The amount of work done behind the scenes is very much appreciated this year and always. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Tony, Hilary, Liz and Ger for steering our club from the difficult situation of 2013 to the much-improved situation we find ourselves in today.

Of course, we cannot stand still, and more work is planned for our golf course and the re surfacing of the car park.

To the men's and ladies' committees headed up by Chris and Colette, he thanked them for organising all competitions and the excellent running of all events during the year. Your support was invaluable to the entire club.

The highlight of his year was my President's prize weekend held on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August. A big thank you to Ted Curtin for flying the Mayo flag for the weekend. Over 400 members played, and he thanked you all most sincerely for your support and taking part in the competition. Also, sincere thanks for all the cards gifts and good wishes received from the members. He thanked Pdraig Crowley for setting out the course and presenting it in such a fantastic condition. The standard of golf was very high and there were some great scores recorded. Well done to Helena O'Sullivan and Ruari Dwyer, two deserving winners.

He thanked all the member who turned up for the presentation of prizes and it was great having his family present for this special night. To all who helped this weekend, sincere thanks.

To Janice in the office, your help throughout the year was very much appreciated.

We really appreciate the generosity of our sponsors who continue to give generously to our club year in year out and I would ask you to support our sponsors where possible.

To the photographers, Richard Heffernan, Kay Galvin and Thelma Strickland, thanks for recording and being present at the presentations and many other events throughout the year.

He was also very grateful to my family for the fantastic support he has received from them throughout the year and always.

He wished his successor Vera Webb and all the officers and committees every success for the coming year.

Finally, to all of you he really enjoyed his year as President of Kinsale Golf Club

Thanks for the memories!!!

**Attendance at Management Meetings:**

There were eight meetings held during the year. Full attendance by Tony Long, Hilary Madden, and Liz Creagh. John Hunt and Colette Kenny attended 7 meetings Chris Cronin and Ger Hayes attended 6 meetings.

**Junior/Juvenile Officer Ger Cullinane's Report:**

A comprehensive report was circulated with the minutes and taken as read. At present, there are 130 juvenile/Junior golfers. The report outlined the programme of coaching and competitions for juvenile and junior golfers. The club takes part in five team events – The West Cork Shield, Harbour Shield Trophy, Fred Daly Trophy, Junior Foursomes and the Fred Daly Plate

Regular competitions were held for our junior members throughout the school holidays with an average of 30 players taking part.

John Murphy won both the Munster and Leinster Students titles this year, becoming the first player to have ever won both titles in the same year. John also won the trophy for the leading under 21 players at the East of Ireland Championship. John also had notable finishes at the Irish Amateur Stroke play, the French Amateur, the North and South of Ireland as well as making the cut in his first Pro Event, the Clement Ader Open on the Alps Tour. John has recently taken up a golf scholarship at the University of Louisville in Kentucky but will be back to represent the club in the summer season.

Gary Ward won the Kanturk, Cobh and Dromoland Senior Scratch Cups shooting a course record in Cobh.

Cathal Butler shot a course record in Newlands during the Leinster Students.

12-year-old Eoghan Cassidy was the runner up in the stroke play stages of the Kerry Boys Championship and reached the quarter final stages of the match play. A truly remarkable achievement in an Under 18 event. Eoghan also finished second in the Munster Under 13 close while Robbie Walsh finished third in the Munster Under 15 close.

The report was adopted and proposed by Ned Lambe and seconded by Denis O'Sullivan.

## **Election of Officers:**

### **President**

John Hunt is delighted to nominate Vera Webb for the President for 2018. Vera has been playing golf since her school days and has served on several committees, is a past lady captain, she will make an excellent ambassador for Kinsale Golf Club, John wished her well for her year.

Vera thanked John for his nomination and kind words. She said it was a huge honour to be president of Kinsale Golf Club and she was looking forward to working with captain, lady captain and management committee.

### **Captain**

Chris thanked the members for making his year so special. It is with great pleasure that he nominates Brian Doran as captain for 2018, he knows that he will make an excellent captain and he wished Brian well for the coming year.

Brian thanks Chris for his nomination, he said he is humbled to be captain of Kinsale Golf Club for 2018 and hoped he would do the office of captain justice.

### **Lady Captain**

Colette was delighted to nominate Anna Ward as lady captain for 2018 and wished her well for the coming year.

Anna thanked Colette and said it was an honour to follow in the footsteps of her mother Eileen O'Leary and sister Jeanne Madden in being lady Captain.

### **Chairman, Tony Long's Address:**

President John has thanked all those who have contributed to 2017 being a very successful year for our Club, i.e. staff, members who volunteered their time to clean-ups and those who helped in other ways, our committees and caterers and Tony wanted to be associated with his kind remarks.

John, Chris and Colette are now stepping down having served the club very diligently and effectively throughout the year and he wished to welcome the new team to the Management Committee.

Vera, back again after a short break, Brian and Anna, and he wished them a very enjoyable and successful year in Office.

Congratulations also to Vice Captains Jo Condon and Tim Smyth.

Tony also welcomed Ger Marnane onto the Management Committee as House Officer and she will bring a fresh perspective to House issues and he looked forward to working with her to improve the Clubhouse.

**Membership:** With regard to membership, 2017 has been a very good year for the club. There has been a net increase of 52 in our core membership. However, the level of resignations remains quite high at 64 arising during the year.

There are probably several specific reasons for the increase in membership. We attracted members from Fernhill, which closed. Several Ladies joined who were formerly with Lisselan Ladies Club which also closed.

Critical factors in attracting members has been the standard of our course and facilities, the efficient way the Men's and Ladies Clubs manage their business and the current level of our subscription which is very good value for money.

In 2016 the Ladies Club under Captain Siobhan signed up to the Get into Golf Programme which was promoted by the Confederation Of Golf In Ireland to help clubs grow their membership. This was

continued in 2017 by Captain Colette. It involved a considerable commitment by the Ladies Club to mentor and fulfil the programme commitments, but it has been very successful. It is now completed and 19 members in all will have joined the Ladies Club by year end. So well done to the Ladies Club.

**Course:** The course was presented to us in a consistently good condition throughout the year. The new tee on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole was put in play for Chris's Captains prize.

Work on the Course Plan commenced with the 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes and there appears to be universal appreciation of the changes which were made. Work on the 7<sup>th</sup> hole was completed in October but due to adverse weather we did not proceed with the works on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole. This will now be taken up in the new year, along with other planned works, subject to suitable weather and finances. Changes to flags on the greens were made to deal with uneven wear on the greens and to provide a better presented cut to the holes.

Members were unhappy with this as it was difficult to judge the position of flags on the greens. We have taken this on board and reverted to the coloured flags over the winter months. To maintain this regime throughout the high season, it will be necessary to roster two staff for the weekend cuts and this will generate additional costs. We will have to evaluate this next year when we have greater clarity on the financial situation.

For several years, it was necessary to have Course staff on a three-day week over the winter months for financial reasons. This year we are now reverting to full time work again over the winter. In addition to the usual work programme, there will be a focus on tree culling and pruning although the storm has already kickstarted this when approx. 50 trees were felled, unfortunately some of our better specimens. This work is now necessary as part of a tree management plan which will ensure that the better trees can now flourish and to thin out poorer specimens.

He acknowledged the superb work done by the staff in clearing the course of felled trees and having it in a playable condition after the storm.

During the year staff member David O Regan, who joined the staff when the course opened left the service to pursue a new career and we wish him well in this.

**Finance:** The financial results for the past year will be presented shortly by Treasurer, Hilary Madden. Tony wanted to provide members with a broader overview of the club's finances going forward. Our financial position is now looking good because of decisions taken to reduce our core costs in respect of the bar operations, office costs and other operational costs, on the one hand, and the growth in our membership due to our attractive subscription.

We must maintain financial discipline in respect of our operating costs and we must ensure that there is not an increase in cost headings which we have painfully reduced.

Clubhouse: Again, he wanted to welcome Ger Marnane as House Officer who will take on the responsibility for Clubhouse and related matters.

There are always invisible costs arising in relation to the Clubhouse. In the current year-old equipment in the kitchen had to be replaced, suspected water contamination was dealt with and some fire safety requirements in respect of the boiler house are being addressed. There was some storm damage to the roof which will be covered by Insurance.

The Main Honours Board has one slot left and we are looking at options for its extension or possible replacement and members will be kept apprised of this.

The main clubhouse needs improvement in terms of its décor, layout and ambience. Phil Murphy as House Officer commenced this over two years ago, but it was not possible to maintain the momentum. Ideally, a plan should be prepared by an Interior Designer or Architect, like the Course, which would outline options and related costs.

The Men's Locker room also needs upgrading, the keys are missing for most of the lockers and it is generally in a poor state. We also need options and costings for this. Finances will determine what if anything can be done.

I know the Clubhouse opening hours is of concern to some members and we will have a look at this again next year, particularly during the peak summer season. Again, we must be realistic as we cannot return to the extended opening hours which prevailed in the past, for cost reasons. Conclusion: The Management Committee is committed to continue the progress achieved to date, and to be prudent in the management of the Clubs business and activities.

He thanked his colleagues on the Committee for their commitment throughout the year, Liz, Ger and Hilary along with President John, Captains Chris and Colette.

#### **Treasurers Report:**

The Treasurer Mr Hilary Madden in his report on the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2016 outlined the following:

- Income & Expenditure the income for of €744,419 was up €24,500. The increase was mainly attributable to the Bar owed a cost reduction of €15,174 on the previous year. The Total expenditure for the year €722,358 was an increase of €34,444 on the previous year. The overall result was a surplus €22,160 against a surplus of €32,097 in the previous year.
- Balance Sheet -the Cash and Bank Balances were reduced from €41,938 to €42,444 and the overall level of Debt was increased from €1,873,336 to €1,902,328 as a result in an increaser leasing of machinery

The Accounts for the year were adopted on the proposal of Joe O'Sullivan and seconded by John O'Connell

#### **Motions:**

##### **Motion 1**

This motion approving the annual subscription for 2018 was proposed by Hilary Madden and seconded by Tony Long. In proposing the motion Hilary outlined that there was no change to subscriptions for the coming year. Members who pay their annual subscription by 16<sup>th</sup> Jan will be entered in a free draw. The winners of the draw will be entitled to free subscription and levies for 2018, there will be 5 prizes.

We are continuing the incentive where an existing member who introduces a new member to the club in 2018 will be entitled to a reduction of €100 on their subscription in 2019 if that new members renews their subscription in 2019. Special offers not included.

The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

**Motion 2**

This motion approving the membership levy for 2018 was proposed by Hilary Madden and seconded by Tony Long. The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

**Motion 3**

The Capital Budget for 2018 was proposed by Hilary Madden and seconded by Tony Long. The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

**AOB:**

George Cantwell acknowledged and thanked the management committee for the hard work done during the year

Ned Lambe complimented the management committee on the improvements to the course  
Some members were critical regarding the opening hours of the clubhouse, the service and quality of the catering being offered in the club. The management committee took all comments on board and will address them during the year

The meeting finished at 8.45pm