

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Kinsale Golf Club held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

The President, Vera Webb opened the meeting and welcomed all members. She 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.

Matters Arising: The following items were mentioned under AOB by Barry McCarthy and were not included in the minutes:

2020 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Farrangalway, Barry asked if there were any plans to celebrate it.

The tee boxes on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> holes were very slippery, Barry felt that they were dangerous.

Heidi Roche had died during 2017, Barry wanted to acknowledge her commitment to Kinsale Golf Club.

The minutes were adopted and proposed by Donal Hickey and seconded by John O'Connell.

### **Attendance:**

49 members attended the meeting and there were 17 apologies.

### **President Vera Webb's Address:**

Outgoing Captain Brian and Lady Captain Anna, Incoming Captain Tim and Lady Captain Jo, Vice-Captain Des, Vice-Lady Captain Helen, Chairman Tony, members of the Management Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen. As President of Kinsale Golf Club, I had the honour of being able to sit on all three committees this year. The Men's, Ladies and the Management. I choose not to take up the invitation to attend the Men's but was delighted to be on the Ladies and Management committee. All the Ladies were hardworking and very efficient, from the Honorary Officers to Social, nothing was an issue, and everything was carried out in a jovial manner with Lady Captain Anna at the helm.

I would like to thank John Hunt for asking me to be President, he was a hard act to follow. I had a fantastic year representing Kinsale Golf Club. I had very little to do for the first few months especially with the weather being so bad, but once the matches started in April to now, it's been a whirlwind.

The Ladies this year despite their depth of talent, came up against formidable opposition early in the Leagues and Cups and did not achieve what I know they can. The West Cork Shield fared better and I though the double was on the cards, but it was not to be. Congratulations to all involved in the Teams, from players to the managers, it is a commitment but so worth it when it pays off, something big is just around the corner I'm sure.

What the Ladies didn't do this year, the Men certainly made up for. I enjoyed my time immensely following the Men's matches and got to know a whole new side to the Club. From the Spring League in Bantry, the Juveniles in Tramore, all the way to a National Title in Thurles, I hardly came up for air. I would especially like to congratulate the Team Managers of the Bruen, John O'Neill and Pat Higgins along with Ger Cullinane and Ian Stafford who looked after the Barton for the fantastic achievement of two Munster's and an All-Ireland title in my year, the first time in the Club's 106 year history. The excitement it brought will last a long time in this club. I would also like to thank all the Managers of the teams for their time and commitment all year, you were great fun to be around.

Our juvenile members, I'm talking mostly about the Boys as unfortunately we only have two girls. Our boys had a fantastic year under the Leadership of Ger Cullinane, Gerry Waldron, Ger Broderick and Ian Stafford. They played the circuit all summer, from the Fred Daly, to the Irish under 18 championship and I managed to see a lot of it, we have huge talent waiting to be harnessed and more future stars in our midst due to all the

dedication and effort put in over the years. We had a 13-year-old and a 16-year-old on the Bruen. How many 13-year olds can say they are all Ireland champions? All these boys are a credit to this Club and more so to their parents, and I would like to thank them, as they have been so courteous and friendly to me all year and continue to be.

I have to mention the boys who were juveniles not so long ago, Cathal Butler, Gary Ward, Eric Rumley to name a few, I have seen first-hand how you encourage the boys coming up the ranks, I have seen how the younger boys look up to you and how you give your time generously to help them, thank you, you are a great asset to Kinsale Golf Club.

One of the highlights of the Year for me was John Murphy's success, being selected for the world team Championships, the Eisenhower Trophy and winning the St Andrews Links to name a few of his achievements, and it was a huge honour for me to present him with Honorary life membership of Kinsale Golf Club back in July and even be part of the small group mostly his family who were there to see him accept his West Cork sports award as well. I have also just been informed that John has been voted Munster Senior Golfer of the year last night and I would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the best with his future career.

To Pdraig Crowley and his staff, thank you for presenting our course so beautifully all year and always. Visitors and teams were hugely impressed and complementary, Kinsale Golf Club, it really is one of the best clubs around.

I would also like to say a big thank you to the Pro shop, to Ger and all his staff; they couldn't be nicer and more helpful to me especially for my President's weekend in August.

Speaking of that weekend, it was embarrassing the number of cards and gifts I received but a huge thank you to all the members for their good wishes and attending the presentation on Sunday evening. To the Caterers, thank you for everything all year. To Janice in the office for her help, nothing was ever a problem.

To our Sponsors a big thank you, we are very fortunate to have such great sponsors in Kinsale Golf Club and we need to let them know we appreciate them by supporting them in every way possible.

To all on the Management Committee. Tony Long, Hilary Madden, Ger Hayes, Liz Creagh, Ger Murnane along with The Captains this year Brian Doran and Anna Ward, the work this committee does, goes unnoticed a lot of the time but they really do huge work behind the scenes to make ends meet and keep this club running smoothly, I would like to say a special thank you to them for all their work over the last number of years and wish them well for 2019.

To the two fantastic officers alongside me all year who served Kinsale Golf club so well, Captain Brian Doran, I cannot say enough about how efficient he is and the amount of work he does behind the scenes, how helpful he has been to me over the year and how I enjoyed working with him, thank you Brian, and I would like to wish Tim Smyth and his committee all the best for 2019 as he takes over the reins. To Anna Ward, thank you for everything and really being able to put on a fantastic night back in June for your Lady Captain's Day and your end of year dinner, well done to all, it was fab and I would like to wish Jo Condon and her committee well for next year.

Finally, to all of you, the members of this wonderful Club, from day one thirty years ago, to the newer people who have joined in the last few years, all of you have made my year as President unbelievably special, with your encouragement, your advice and most importantly your friendship. I hope I have represented Kinsale Golf Club the way it deserves to be represented and the honour and pride of being President in 2018 is something I will always remember. Thank you again everyone.

**Attendance at Management Meetings:**

There were 7 meetings held during the year. Full attendance by Hilary Madden, Vera Webb, Anna Ward and Liz Creagh. Ger Marnane and Brian Doran attended 6 meetings Tony Long and Ger Hayes attended 5 meetings.

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

A comprehensive report was circulated with the minutes and taken as read. At present, there are 108 juvenile/Junior golfers.

The club takes part in five team events – The West Cork Shield, Harbour Shield Trophy, Fred Daly National Trophy, Junior Foursomes and Irish Boys U18 Inter Club.

The GUI have once more awarded a coaching grant – this amounted to €1210

Regular competitions were held for our junior members throughout the school holidays with an average of 15 players taking part.

We would like to restate that the Club is very grateful for the donations received from the Machie Niblicks members since 2010.

A total of 98 coaching sessions took place in the past golfing year with most sessions at full capacity of 12 participants.

John Murphy was selected to play on the Irish Senior Team to play in the European Team Championship in Berlin in July, becoming the first KGC member to play at the level. John was the leading Irish player in the Strokeplay section finishing joint 4<sup>th</sup> and went on to win ¾ matches in the match play stage. John was then selected to play on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Man Irish Team to contest the Eisenhower Trophy in Carton House in early Sept. Representative honours were brought to a new level when John was selected for the GB&I team that contested St Andrews Trophy against the Continent of Europe in Finland in early August.

John won the prestigious St Andrews Links Trophy in June, beating a world class field with a -9-winning score. John followed up the success by reaching the ¼ finals of the British Amateur Championship. The +5 handicapper also won the 36-hole Killarney Scratch Cup by 15 shots in August.

Eoghan Cassidy was selected as part of the Nations Trophy Irish U14 Team to play in the Reid Trophy in Reading, England in early August. Eoghan, who has another year to play at this level, finished 25<sup>th</sup> position in the Global field and was the leading Irish player.

Eoghan was also a member of the Munster U14 team, which won the U14 Interprovincial Championship in Slieve Russel this summer.

Eoghan has been selected on the Irish U16 panel for 2018/2019 – a great achievement considering Eoghan has 3 years left at this age level.

Cathal Butler was a member of the Senior Munster Team and won the Interprovincial Championship in Athenry in early September.

Robbie Walsh and James Walsh have been named on the Munster U18 and U14 respectively for 2019. They were both integral parts of the All Ireland winning Buren Panel this year.

The Officers thanked the members, committees, staff, Ian Stafford and Ger Broderick for their support during the year.

The report was adopted and proposed by Declan O'Flynn and seconded by Denis O'Sullivan.

### **Election of Officers:**

#### **President**

Vera said, one of the considerations in taking on the role of President for her was, who would she like to follow on from her, and there was only one person in her mind from day one. She had the pleasure of working with this man back in 2015 when She was Lady Captain and couldn't have asked for a nicer person, she knew he was going to do a fantastic job. This man loves his golf, is a past Captain, a great club member and is the club's Juvenile Liaison officer. He has also been a great sponsor over the past number of years due to his association with Bruce Collage. She knows he is going to be a great ambassador for Kinsale Golf Club and will give it his best. She thanked John Hunt for seconding her nomination and for being so complementary about my choice. So, she announced Micheál Landers as President of Kinsale golf club for 2019 and ask him to come up, accept his blazer and say a few words. Thank you.

Micheál thanked Vera for the nomination. He said he was honoured to be invited to be President of Kinsale Golf Club for 2019 and hoped that he would be a good ambassador for the Club.

#### **Captain**

Brian Doran thanked Chris Cronin for giving him the opportunity to be Captain of Kinsale Golf Club, he thanked him for his support. Brian wished Tim Smyth well for his year, he said Tim has served many years on committee and has incredible commitment to the Club.

Tim Smyth thanked Brian and said it was a real honour to accept the Captaincy and he was looking forward to working with Micheál, Jo and the Management Committee.

#### **Lady Captain**

Anna had great pleasure in nominating Jo Condon as lady captain for 2019 and wished her well for the coming year. Anna thanked Colette for asking her to be Lady Captain, she had a great year.

Jo said it was an honour and privilege to be Lady Captain of Kinsale Golf Club and looked forward to her year.

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

The year just past has been a bizarre year by any standards. We experienced extremes of weather commencing late last year with very heavy rain, followed by a storm, followed then by a very cold spell and heavy snow which crippled the country. I missed that bit as I was stranded in Lanzarote, which was tough. The wet weather resumed and lasted until early May. This was followed by a glorious long hot summer well into the Autumn and of course the tremendous success of our teams in the National Competitions.

#### **Course:**

It is difficult to appreciate or understand the challenges this weather created for our Greenkeeping staff in maintaining the course, featuring as it did, wide variations in temperature and precipitation, seasonal and unseasonal, and the stresses it put on the greens and fairways grasses.

It is a credit to the hard work and professionalism of Pdraig and the course staff that the course emerged unharmed, unlike many courses which suffered damage to fairways. The Head greenkeeper is now supported by four staff and during the summer months this is complemented by taking on two students. Improvements to the course continued with the 6<sup>th</sup> hole, 11<sup>th</sup> and finally the removal of the ponds on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole. The plan here is that enough space has been provided at the rear to allow for the remodelling of the green at a future date. The Architects would recommend that the green is extended by adding a tier at the rear and this makes the green more receptive to long shots to it. They also advise that the edges of the green have settlement which holds water, and this should also be addressed.

In the coming year it is hoped to continue the programme with work on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> greens, subject to funding. A feature of many of our holes is that the area around the greens, fringes and the greens themselves are generally flat. This creates a very poor challenge in terms of short game skills and is a weakness in the design of these holes. It is important that this is recognised and that we address it in the works we propose to carry out, otherwise we will not achieve the best outcome for the course in the future. We wish to thank all our Members who supported our fundraising weekend and who brought guests to play or who provided sponsorship in various ways. It was a very successful event and we hope to repeat it again next year.

Over the winter months there will be ongoing work on trees culling and pruning as part of a Trees management programme. This is to ensure that the better specimens have the space to flourish and to remove trees which have grown to the stage where they may be interfering with the line of play.

I mentioned last year that changes were made to the greens flags to address concerns with uneven wear on the greens and to provide a better presented cut to the holes. As this is being discussed in more detail under any other business, we will elaborate further on it later.

The Sports Capital Programme is operated by the Dept of Transport, Tourism and Sport and provide grants to assist in the development of sports facilities and sport equipment. We have applied for grants to build Short Game practice facilities. There are very specific criteria governing applications, which would rule out applying for Clubhouse or car park type improvements. I wish to thank Hilary for preparing and submitting the application including all the supporting documentation.

A former member of the staff has submitted a claim against the Club. The matter has been put in the hands of our Insurers.

#### Membership and Finance:

Maintaining membership numbers continues to be a challenging matter for our club. This is due to the high attrition rate being experienced. It was hoped that at this stage this would be declining. It is a continuing concern whether we can keep on replenishing our numbers at this high rate of leavers and the worry is that we go to the well once too often. There is no clear pattern why members leave, but it does represent a significant loss of income which must be made good.

In the current year the Ladies club continued to grow members with an increase of 14 full members. This brings the increase in lady members from 92 two- years ago to 128 now. The ladies have run the Get into Club initiative and thanks to Captain Anna and previous Captains, it has delivered for them.

There was a decline of 25 in full membership of the Men's Club and this is very worrying. We have operated special joining rate for a number of years, and we would prefer to wind it down but in the light of this, we propose to continue it for another year.

We have also kept the subscription at its present level, mindful of the financial pressures on our members, i.e. retirees on reduced income and younger members faced with high mortgages and childcare costs. It is important that we remain affordable to 30 to 40-year olds as we need this age cohort to provide a balanced membership profile for the club.

Our current subscription remains very good value. Our peer Clubs have subscriptions ranging from €1,200 to €1,700 per annum. Yet, our course is on a par with these. If we were set at the midpoint of this range, i.e., approx. €1,350 pa we would have additional income of approx. €200,000 pa which would transform our course, clubhouse and facilities. It is not suggested that our subs should increase to this level, but there needs to be modest increases for a few years to give us some breathing space and address issues which are becoming more and more problematic with each passing year.

Our green fee income has remained static and there is a proposal, accepted by Management, that a Business Development Committee be established to raise the profile of the club and develop this source of income. This will be discussed later in more detail under any other business.

Our costs are now reduced to the absolute minimum both for the Course and the Clubhouse. We have a cash flow problem for the past four years which we have failed to address, and we must borrow funds to cover costs from October to December. This is not sustainable.

We are faced with continuing repairs or issues of one type or another in respect of the Clubhouse and Ger Marnane, House Officer can vouch for the myriad of small and indeed bigger issues which must be dealt with on a regular basis, all costing money. This is separate from the need to refurbish the Men's Locker room and showers and toilets. The main honours board must be replaced at the end of 2019 and we are examining options for this at present

As mentioned at previous AGM's the car park is in poor condition and detracts from our club. There is no funding to deal with it and I would urge members to support the motion on funding it which will be dealt with later.

**Compliance requirements:**

Like all organisations now, we are obliged to meet onerous compliance requirements. These are being enforced with much greater diligence than in the past and this put added pressure and costs on the club. Matters identified at food safety inspections, Health and Safety at Work, and the annual fire safety inspections must be remedied promptly regardless of cost.

This year we implemented Safeguarding Compliance in respect of Children First legislation and I wish to thank Micheál Landers for accepting the role of Club Liaison Officer.

We also implemented the General Data Protection Requirements legislation and members must appreciate that data and details pertaining to members, whether phone or email contact details cannot be given out except in certain restricted circumstances.

President Vera has thanked all those who have contributed to our Club, and on behalf of the Management Committee, we wish to be associated with those remarks.

It will always be a special year for the successful Team Managers, John, Ger and Gerry and all the players and panel who were involved. No doubt the memories will be cherished even more with the passage of time.

Vera, Brian and Anna had a year like no others before them experienced and they can now put their feet up and enjoy the success and their golf.

I congratulate Tim, Jo and Micheál on their election and I welcome them to the Management Committee.

Ger Hayes has served three years and is stepping down and I want to thank him for his contribution to the Committee and his commitment to the course improvement plan.

Liz Creagh has also served three years and I am glad she is staying on for a further term.

Hilary is also stepping down having served five years and I wish to thank him for his role in managing the Club's finances through five difficult years. I benefited also from his knowledge and experience of golf administration in his role as Secretary/ Manager.

I welcome Michael McEvoy on Committee and his expertise as An Engineer will be welcome around the table.

Declan O Flynn is taking on the role of Treasurer and bearing in mind my earlier views on the Club's Finances, he will be busy, and I am confident our finances are in good hands.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Hilary Madden reported that 2018 was very much similar to 2017

Income was down €14082 from 2017 due to a drop in subscriptions of €8616

And a reduction in Green Fees of €5630

On the expenditure side there was a reduction in cost of €6524 as compared to 2017

The surplus for the year was €14602 for the year

The Balance sheet compared favourable to 2017 with an overall increase on Net Assets of €3204 to €678 401

He also signalled that there has been no increase in subscriptions for over ten years and will need to be addressed in the future.

Hilary is stepping down as Treasurer; he said he enjoyed his time in the role and thanked Donal Hickey and John Crowley. He said hard decisions were made including the closing of Ringenane, he thanked the staff for their support, and he also thanked the Chairman Tony Long for his hard work behind the scenes. Hilary also thanked the committees he had worked with over the last years, he wished Declan Flynn well for the coming years.

#### **Motions:**

##### **Motion 1**

This motion approving the annual subscription for 2019 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 21<sup>st</sup> Jan will be entered in a free draw. The winners of the draw will be entitled to free subscription and levies for 2019, there will be 5 prizes. We are continuing the incentive where an existing member who introduces a new member to the club in 2019 will be entitled to a reduction of €100 on their subscription in 2020 if that new members renews their subscription in 2020. 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 of €200 for 2019 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**

This motion approving a Special Capital levy of €80 for the purpose of resurfacing the carpark. The work will include drainage, tarmacadam finish, lining and improved lighting was proposed by Hilary Madden and seconded by Tony Long. The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

##### **Motion 4**

The Capital Budget for 2019 was proposed by Hilary Madden and seconded by Tony Long. The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

##### **Motion 5**

That clause 6.9 be amended as follows:

##### Existing Rule

6.9 The Bank account will be kept in the name of the Club (and will be clearly identified as such) and in such Bank as the Management Committee may, from time to time determine. All cheques must be signed by two members of the Management Committee

##### Be amended as follows:

6.9 The Bank Account will be kept in the name of the Club (and will be clearly identified as such) and in such Bank as the Management Committee may, from time to time determine. All payments to be authorised by two signatories from among any two of the Management Committee and the Trustees. This motion was proposed by Hilary Madden and seconded by Tony Long. The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

#### **AOB:**

Kieran Daly addressed the meeting to discuss the idea of setting up a Business Development Committee. Kieran spoke on the benefits of Digital awareness and marketing, he said Kinsale has 3 great assets

- A very good golf course
- Kinsale was the Gourmet Capital of Ireland

- Kinsale has golfers playing on the International stage

The Chairman said that the incoming Management committee will establish terms of reference for the New committee. He said the committee would support and welcome the initiative.

Ann Fitzsimons felt that we should also use the Kinsale notice board as a means of promoting the golf.

The following submission is being made on behalf Mr Alan Whitehead who has asked Alan Hickey to make the presentation as he is unable to attend this evening, for which he sends his apologies.

The submission is as follows: That the Club re-adopt the flag system that indicates the general position of the hole on the green, i.e. – Red = Front, White = Middle and Blue = back.

First may I congratulate the Management Committee on the condition of the greens and fairways on our course – the dedication and hard work of the greens keeping staff is recognised and applauded by all members and visitors who have enjoyed playing here – it is a credit to all involved and is appreciated if not always expressed.

Throughout the world, there are several systems employed for identifying the location of the holes on greens. One of these systems was previously in use here but was dropped - it has now been re-instated. The re-instated system which was considered satisfactory by all players who I have spoken with should remain in place until it is replaced by a better system, obviously with the permission of the membership.

Before anyone might suggest that the majority of the membership are not good enough golfers to benefit from knowing the approximate position of the holes on the greens, let me say that everything that helps us enjoy our game of golf is well worthwhile – after all, we want to play and enjoy our golf here in Kinsale.

Knowing where the hole is positioned avoids the need for players to walk up to the green to check the location of the hole and therefore avoids adding to slow play.

Many golfers throughout the globe have GPS units and most GPS units on the market provide yardages to front, middle and back of greens – I wonder why!!! The value of these units is majorly diminished if the player doesn't know where the flag is located!!

If there is a cost issue in placing flags on poles, I respectfully suggest that the management committee deal with it – for the benefit of the members.

As members, our views and wishes should be accommodated where possible. There are many more reasons to justify the use of a system that identifies the location of the hole on the greens, but I do not want to take up your time

In summary, the red, white and blue flag system assists us members in enjoying our golf here and everything should be done to enhance the experience of playing golf in Kinsale for the members – the flag system also benefits the visitors who contribute to the finances of the club.

I firmly believe that knowing where the holes are located on the greens contributes to the overall enjoyment of playing golf at this club – our club.

Nora Quinn asked the management committee to look at re introducing the social fund to help bring members to the clubhouse.

Dan Scanlon asked if the Committee would consider playing singles golf in 3's, he felt that most players preferred to play in 3's on Sundays.

Barry McCarthy made the following points

- Greens:           The putting greens needs attention  
                          The 12<sup>th</sup> green has sunk, the slope is now too severe  
                          The 4<sup>th</sup> green has sunk away on the edges
- He asked if there were any plans for an event to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Hilary advised him that he had made representation to the GUI and was waiting for a response
- Heidi Roche had died during 2017, she had made a wonderful contribution to the club. Barry asked if a competition could be named in her honour

Tony Long advised Barry that the 12<sup>th</sup> green always sloped.  
The design of the 4<sup>th</sup> green was to have the runoffs.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm