

**Somerset Golf Captains  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
(to be approved at the AGM 2024)  
Mendip Spring Golf Club  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Present:** There were 58 members present including the following officers: Bob Acland (President), Roy Parmiter (Vice-President), David Andow (Honorary Treasurer), John Beer (Honorary Secretary), Rob Ford (Captain of Captains), David Bate (Captain Elect), Iain Robertson (Fixture Secretary)

1. **Apologies:** Paul Chesney, Andy Carter, Chris Hyldon, Gwen Cavill, Colin Davies, Ben Gliddon, Keith Wiggins, Jim Skinner, Brian Reeves, Paul Hucker, John Chillington, Phil Slater, Geoff Spinks, Murray parsons, Paul Middleton, Roger Magor
2. **Minutes of the AGM 2022:** The minutes of the AGM 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record
3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **President's Report (Bob Acland)**

Fellow captains, welcome to our 2023 AGM. I trust you enjoyed this morning's golf. This is my last meeting as your 13<sup>th</sup> President, and I thank you all for giving me that honour and privilege. It has been a pleasure to make the acquaintance of so many of you over my 22 years as a member and 7 years of committee involvement. An honour made even more enjoyable by members, past and present, who have served with me, on your executive. The Executive's "reason for being" doesn't change, it facilitates opportunities for Somerset Captains to play friendly golf with their peers. How that's achieved and what processes and support is required does change and never more so than in the past few years. The advent of digital communications, web sites, e-registration, and e-payments, plus a 2-year dose of covid disruption and changes to the business models of many of our clubs, has kept your executive busy. We have adjusted our structure and methods to accommodate change. The result, for you the members, is access to the opportunities we enjoy in the way we have always enjoyed them. This AGM will see changes. Fixture secretary, Iain Robertson, steps down to "step up;" he is your committee's nominee for Vice President. Captain Rob Ford (who in a former apparition has been secretary, fixtures, treasurer, sales, and communications - all at once) steps down. David Andow, our long serving Hon. Treasurer, and John Beer Hon. Secretary, are also standing down. John has been instrumental in driving and consolidating many of the changes we've needed to embrace. Both David and John have been tremendous servants of the captains. For the past several years your committees have striven, successfully, to widen the pool of Captains involved in the management of the organisation. Latterly, wanting to "have our cake and eat it" and not wishing to further increase the size of the Executive committee, we expanded our available skills base by establishing support teams around the Treasurer and Secretary. Needed skills have been introduced, resilience strengthened and workload on individuals reduced. The changes have proved effective, and I'd like to acknowledge the help given by Paul Chesney (treasurer nominee) and Paul Hucker to our treasurer and to Andy Carter and Mike Usher Clark in support of Website development, and resilience. This process will be further strengthened in 2023/4 with the addition of a web manager and a fixtures secretary who

will join the Secretary's team. Our thanks to Rob Fear and Ian Gover respectively; they have been engaged in the necessary handover process over the past five months. Clive Stilwell, Hon. Secretary nominee, has been shadowing John Beer and transitioning into the role. Thank you, Clive. The "Captains" are in a good place, and we can be confident for a strong and resilient team going forward. My absolute best wishes to Roy and Iain for the challenges ahead and to David Bate, Captain nominee, whose most enjoyable year in golf is about to start. Good luck, it's been fun, thank you all.

The President then presented gifts of engraved glassware to the outgoing officers: David Andow, John Beer, Rob Ford. The President then presented the Presidential chain of office to Roy Parmiter and helped him into his President's jacket. Roy Parmiter started by saying that his first job as President would be to present an engraved wine glass to outgoing President Bob Acland. He then responded more fully with the following acceptance speech.

"My fellow Captains that two years went by very quickly and as I mentioned in my speech when I became Bob's Vice President it will be a great honour to represent the Somerset Golf Captains as your next President. Bob has evolved the structure of your committee in his time in office and now I hope to move forward with a new looking committee in my two years in office. I would like to thank all the past Presidents that I have known since I joined this great group of Golfer in 2003 from Trevor, Bill, George, Mike and Bob for their work in making us what we are today. It is my pleasure to introduce your Vice President for 2023-24 and most of you will know he has worked hard as our fixture Secretary and he will need no introduction. Iain Robertson. Iain would like to say a few words."

Iain Robertson spoke and said that it is indeed a great privilege to be elected as Vice - President. He confirmed that we had a very good committee coming into office but felt that the most important people are the Captains in the room themselves.

Roy Parmiter then continued "What a few years we have had post COVID and the committee has worked bringing in changes paying by BACS web site update e-registration and all teams now selected and posted on our web site before the start of the playing year. With this some of the committee are now standing down and I would like to thank Our outgoing hard working Secretary John Beer, David Andow as Treasurer Rob Ford your outgoing Captain of Captains and not forgotten Bob Acland who I have learnt a great deal from this last two years a big thank you for me and all the members present today. The new committee when in place will look a little different:

Roy then proposed the election of the following officers en-bloc as follows:

- President – Roy Parmiter
- Vice President – Iain Robertson
- Captain – David Bate
- Captain Elect- Mike Rossiter
- Honorary Secretary – Clive Stilwell
- Honorary Treasurer – Paul Chesney

These were accepted unanimously. Rob Ford then presented David Bate with the ceremonial chain of office, and helped him on with his Captain's jacket. In response, David Bate said thank you for the great honour to represent this group, and congratulations to Rob for his term of office, as well as those people leaving the committee. David said that he

was very happy to have the knowledge and experience of those people joining the committee. It will be an honour to play in 20 matches this year and forgive me if I forget your names. David said that his last duty would be to invite the Captains present to join him for a drink at the bar after the AGM.

Roy continued by explaining that Clive Stilwell will have a sub group working alongside him Rob Fear as your new Fixture Secretary and Ian Gover as the new Web Manager. They have all had comprehensive hand overs from their predecessors and will hit the ground running at the next executive committee meeting. Ian and Rob will attend meetings as required throughout the year. I am already looking forward to meeting and playing with as many Captains over the next two years in office and hope that you support the new committee as I know the Somerset Captains can. Thank you again for making me your President and enjoy your golf this year upwards on onwards Dave have a great season as Captain”

#### **5. Captains Report (Rob Ford)**

This last year has really been most enjoyable and it has truly been a tremendous honour to have captained this wonderful society. This enjoyment has only been made possible by the hard work of all your committee and by the full support of yourselves, for which I thank you all very much indeed. It was a pleasure to get back to a full year of golf with the only problems caused by the weather being too hot, somewhat unusually! After a winning start at Oxfordshire, I thought that I was going to be your worst captain ever, however results improved as the season wore on finishing with 6 wins, 9 losses and 4 draws. The highlight being a whitewash of the S.G.U. but the downside was a whitewash by Surrey, our excuse being a very hard and tiring course the day before against Sussex. I cannot say that I led from the front losing many more matches than I won. However, Captains’ golf is not only about winning but about the camaraderie and having an enjoyable time with old friends and new friends alike. We finished the year with our annual dinner at Taunton Rugby Club, who really did us proud, and our speaker, Roy Walker at the age of 83 proved that age is not a barrier to entertaining others and enjoying life. The dinner was brilliantly organised by my successor David Bate and I am sure that I shall be leaving you in his very capable hands. Thank you all very much.

#### **6. Secretary’s Report (John Beer)**

Mr President, Mr Vice-President, Mr Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen The secretary’s main function is administration, most of which goes on behind the scenes. Examples of such activities are communications and liaison with other Counties; working closely with Fixture Secretary; servicing the committee meetings; running the three internal meetings; responsibility for Livery, Merchandise, & Trophies; recruiting new Captains as members of Somerset Golf Captains; maintaining the database of members. Last year we had seven committee meeting and the minutes are publicly available on the website. Of the 18 inter county matches, we won 6, lost 8 and halved 4. Congratulations to Murray Parsons and Peter Barton from Brean, who won the Spring Meeting; Martin Bargery and Alan Chance from Cricket St Thomas who won the Autumn Meeting and to Harold Lidbitter from Frome for winning the Griffith Trophy. The Captains Invitation day was a great success and the winners were all from Wells Golf Club: Mike McKay, Katrina Foote, Stuart Mann and Mike McGrath. We have just selected teams for the coming season and I am delighted that the number of Captains taking part; and the number of registrations are both higher than in previous years. Thank you for your support. This year, the match managers will email the

teams 21 days before the event to ask for payments and dietary requirements. Please respond promptly if you can – it does make life a lot easier for our match managers and treasurer. I can confirm that, in line with other Counties, we will not be providing wine on tables for the after match dinner next year – and I would ask you to extend hospitality to our guests at home matches by providing drinks on the same basis as we do in Seniors matches (i.e. host county buys the drinks and this will be reciprocated away from home). As well as these admin tasks, the website continued to develop and is now well established as the main channel of communication with members, including global emails and newsletters. The website is regularly updated with fixtures, news, team selections, match reports and photographs. We also use social media selectively – primarily to acknowledge and thank publicly those clubs who welcome us each year for our matches. Captains – I have been on the Committee for 5 years and I am sure that I leave the administration of the organisation in safe hands when I hand over to Clive Stilwell and Ian Gover. Clive, as Secretary will lead the admin team and in future all emails to [secretary@somersetgolfcaptains.co.uk](mailto:secretary@somersetgolfcaptains.co.uk) will go to Clive. Ian takes up the role of website manager and will use the email address [admin@somersetgolfcaptains.co.uk](mailto:admin@somersetgolfcaptains.co.uk). I would thank all the officers on the Committee over the last five years for their support, patience and tolerance. And I with the new committee every success in the future. I have to say that it has felt a bit like an unpaid part time job at times – but it has been a privilege to make a small contribution to Somerset Golf Captains. I consider myself very fortunate to look around and see a room full of acquaintances who have become good friends over the last five years. This is not goodbye - I will see you all in matches and events and I will of course be available if I can help in any other way. Thank you.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Mr President, Mr Vice President, Mr Captain of Captains, fellow members. You will have noticed that the financial statement is for the 9 months because we have changed our financial year to run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> and shows a credit balance of £9049.64 . Slightly up on previous years, but this does include around £1000.00 which is in fact to be included in the current year ending December 2023. The income of £12294.00 from match fees balances the costs of the expenses of £12009.75 which is around predicted estimates and in line with previous years. The above figures do not include this year's annual dinner but it was run within budget and proved a popular and successful event. The new committee will be looking at match fees for the years to come; the match secretary, Iain Robertson has done a sterling job arranging the fixtures for 2023. In the current financial climate costs are certain to rise especially the catering and possibility of being charged a green fee at some venues. It has been my great privilege and pleasure to serve on the committee for the last six or so years and I know, with Treasurer Elect Paul Chesney, the Somerset Golf Captains finances will be in very capable hands. When I became a club captain, I never realised that I would become involved in Somerset Golf Captains as much as I have and the amazing places and interesting people I have met on the golf courses in many counties -so a big thankyou to Somerset Golf Captains- and to you all for your support and friendship. Long may it continue. Thank you.

## **8. Any Other Business.**

No matters had been raised by members prior to the meeting and so there was no “Any Other Business”. The meeting was then closed and the presentations were made to the winners of the Spring Meeting.