

# **St Andrew's Golf Society**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Douglas Park Golf Club on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Captain John Murphy opened the meeting by welcoming all 22 attendees to the AGM and to Douglas Park GC. He invited Secretary Bruce Cobburn to read the list of apologies -

### **1) Apologies –**

Derek Spalding, Bernie Spalding, Steven Boyle, Ronnie Coia, Charlie Conlon, George Simmons, Terry McGahan, Neil O'Donnell, David Sutherland, Michael McLaren, Brian Fitzsimmons, Bob Henderson, Jim Mooney and Father Donnelly.

### **2) Meal –**

Grace was said prior to a fine meal which was followed by a fund raising raffle.

### **3) Minutes of the last meeting –**

The minutes of the last meeting, held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009, were approved.

### **4) Captains Report –**

John Murphy thanked members for their contribution to what had been a good year for The Society in terms of gaining new members and well attended events.

He congratulated Ricky Marshall and Eddie Connolly for their great play at the summer and autumn outings respectively. He hoped that members found that the outings represented excellent value for money and would be supported well again in 2010.

Douglas Park proved to be a very popular venue for the Christmas lunch which attracted 23 members to attend. At this event, an indoor putting competition was held to raise funds. A bottle of whisky was kindly supplied by DP greenkeeper Drew McKechnie and the competition was won by Alan Donnelly.

The cash flow of The Society, which is vital for payment of green fee deposits, bus reservations etc, is dependant on the income received from members fees and due to the rising costs associated with the outings and administration of the club, there will be a proposal in the Treasurers report to increase the fees which he hopes will receive the members support and is for the benefit of The Society.

The Society is a family and is reflective of The Parish and we are all deeply saddened at the recent passing of Mairi Buchanan.

The Society was founded in 1982, prompted by the visit of Pope John Paul II to Scotland. As Pope Benedict XVI is visiting in September 2010 perhaps this should be commemorated in some way by The Society and we will hear more about this from Hugh Wilson later in the meeting.

John thanked Bruce Cobburn and Michael Duff for their assistance on committee matters, Gerry McCormick and Pat Buchanan for their support and guidance, and a special thanks to Charlie Conlon who is stepping down from his role as match secretary for all his hard work and contribution to The Society.

He closed by wishing all members good luck for the golfing season.

## **5) Treasurers Report -**

Michael Duff distributed the balance sheet which showed that The Society had a closing balance of £434.55 for the 2009 season.

The outing to Tulliallan made a small profit and the trip to Dunblane broke even. There was a profit of £67 from the Christmas putting competition even after a £50 staff tip was paid to our hosts at Douglas Park.

The Society now only has 15 club ties left which are available at £10 each.

Michael re-iterated that an increase in fees was a necessity to cover outlays and deposits, particularly those advance payments required for outings, and an increase from £20 to £25 per annum is suggested. This was proposed by Bob Semple and seconded by Paul Donnelly. This was agreed.

## **6) Secretary's Report –**

Website statistics had been made available for members to inspect in relation to our website at [www.standrewsgolfsociety.co.uk](http://www.standrewsgolfsociety.co.uk). Between the inception of the site in April 2009 and December 2009 there had been exactly 200 unique visitors to the site and between January 2010 and the date of the meeting there had been a further 73. The website includes details of all forthcoming events and competition results and members are encouraged to visit it regularly.

The summer outing to Tulliallan had 24 attendees and we had good weather, excellent catering and a great day out.

The autumn outing to Dunblane had 13 attendees and the large coach that had been reserved had to be substituted with a smaller one, however, financially, the event broke even. Numbers were depleted due to the event co-inciding with the Friday of the September holiday weekend. The 2010 outing will avoid the September weekend in order to encourage greater numbers.

A deposit has been paid to reserve the 2010 summer outing and the venue is Lenzie Golf Club on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of June.

Members were invited to update their email and mobile phone details on the membership list which was being co-ordinated by Gerry McCormick. Bruce thanked Gerry for his assistance with this. It is proposed to make more use of electronic communication and less use of postal communication during the coming year.

Bruce suggested acquiring a lockable trophy cabinet for the permanent display of all trophies within the church buildings rather than the winners taking the trophies home. This would provide a focal point within the church for The Society. He requested permission from the membership to approach Father Donnelly to ask if there would be space within any of the church buildings to

house a trophy cabinet. This was agreed. Joe Donnelly requested that the insurance position be clarified and Bruce agreed to do so.

Bruce closed by thanking the membership for their support over the past year and thanking Captain John Murphy, outgoing match secretary Charlie Conlon and Michael Duff for their contributions to committee matters and events in 2009. Thanks also to Gerry McCormick and Pat Buchanan for their assistance and support in his role during the last year.

## **7) Election of Office Bearers –**

John Murphy was re-elected to his second and final year as Captain

Paul Donnelly was duly elected as Vice Captain

Michael Duff was re-elected as Treasurer

Bruce Cobburn was re-elected as Secretary and was duly elected as Match Secretary and will combine both roles.

Pat Buchanan pointed out the benefits of having additional committee members and having additional support and experience to hand. Accordingly, two additional committee members were asked to volunteer their services and they were then duly elected onto the committee. Congratulations to –

Andy Robertson & Ricky Marshall

## **8) AOCB –**

Hugh Wilson addressed the membership, firstly with a newspaper clip from 14<sup>th</sup> July 1969 verifying a hole in one he scored.

He continued by referring to a challenge made by Captain John Murphy at the Christmas lunch, that we find a suitable way of fusing the Papal visit of John Paul II in 1982 with the forthcoming Papal visit of Benedict XVI in 2010. He felt that it was no coincidence that when you add the numerals in their titles they added to 18, a significant golfing number and perhaps we had been founded on 'Papal Wisdom'. Hugh proposed 'The Benedict Quaich' to commemorate the visit planned for September 2010. This should be a lifetime achievement award, presented to a Society member and decided by criteria at the committee's discretion. The criteria should ensure that the recipient of the

award is a person of great character who underpins the values of The Society and The Parish. Hugh is pursuing a jeweller friend with a view to acquiring a suitable trophy. This met with the approval of the members.

### **9) Prizegiving –**

See separate sheet for winner's details.

Eddie Connolly addressed the members and stated he was honoured at winning the trophy in Tim O'Sullivan's memory.

Ricky Marshall thanked Gerry McCormick for introducing him to The Society last year and thanked all the members for having made him welcome.

### **10) Closing Addresses –**

John Murphy closed by reminding members that this was a year of opportunity, particularly with a view to recruiting new members who are vital to the ongoing prosperity of The Society.

The meeting ended with the proposal of a vote of thanks to captain John Murphy from Joe Donnelly.

John Murphy proposed a toast to our hosts Douglas Park.

Bob Semple proposed a toast to The St Andrews Golf Society.