**ALSTON MOOR GOLF CLUB 2024 Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday April 7th 2024 in the Clubhouse. Meeting opened at 15:05

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| **Present:** |  Present 13. A Parkin, P Parkin, P Rymer, C Walton, G P Bell, R Clover P Richardson, M Younger, J Younger, S Love, R Berry, D Rutherford ,A Dodd |
| **Apologies:** |  V James, T Younger, G Perryman, L Pease, R Moore, G Bradshaw, C Bradshaw, J&J McCary |

**Minutes of previous A G M**

Previous minutes and accounts from the April 16th 2023 AGM were read and agreed. Proposed S Love. Seconded P Rymer.

***Approval of Accounts***

We have **77** members a reduction of **10** on last year and a loss **of -£1640.78** due to the purchase of a John Deere Sidewinder teebox and surrounds mower at £9500. We currently have £34,630.31 in assets.

Proposed R Berry Seconded R Clover.

**Secretary’s Report**

**Secretary’s Report for FY2023-24**

We held 6 Committee meetings last year..

We have continued to use the Committee Whatsapp account to discuss / vote remotely on some issues.

We have 77 member compared to 87 last year and 93 in the previous year year. The ageing profile of membership unfortunately continues and is a worrying trend, which most golf clubs are feeling.

This means that the Club is more reliant on a decreasing number of hardcore volunteers and invites any members who would like to become involved to contact Paul or Andrew

We need to find ways of attracting new members.

**Subscription increase**

The Committee agreed that Greens Contractor wages should increase above the

minimum wage requirement and that the new hourly rate will be £12 an increase of £2

per hour for this cutting season.

Last year Course Contractors were paid £5165 for 516.5 hours. This works out at

approximately 20.6 hours of cutting per week based on a 25 week cutting season. The

total estimated cost for this coming season will be £6198.

The £15 increase in subscriptions and the £5 increase in Green Fees is to cover

increased costs associated with Greens contractors wages and materials.

We currently have £25,834.82 in our Bank accounts plus £311.16 in the Observatory

account. The Observatory account will remain a separate golf club account. The majority

of the funds in the Observatory will be used in the construction of the Observatory.

**Green Fees**

Green Fees increased by £479 (7.4%) .The majority of Greens Fees are via the honesty

box.

The number of visitors is increasing and it is hoped that publicity from the Peter Finch

Youtube podcast where he played the three highest golf course in Wales England and

Scotland as well as the Channel 5 TV program Hen and Dan’s Pennine Adventure which

were both presented in September.

If we had to pay for this amount of advertising it would have costs 10s of thousands

The following issues have remained on the Committee agenda throughout the year.

**Dark Skies –Alston Moor Observatory**

Westmorland & Furness Planning retracted the grant funding £164k for the

Observatory which was very disappointing. The project had received £25k of funding

which paid for planning /architects and the installation of solar panels which we think

will save us £300 to £500 per year. Thanks to David Hymers .

A second application for a much small 2.5m GRP dome was submitted and approved.

W&F agreed to fund £10k to the project and Alston Parish Council funded £2k.Current

status is the dome has been ordered and paid for and the top car park has been cleaned

up ready for a foundation pad to be installed .

The Observatory will be available to rent out to approved individuals or for the formation of a local Observatory Society who would need to become members of the Club. David Hymers will arrange Dark Sky events throughout the winter.

Estimated income under £500 per year.

 **Course - projects completed**

Extension to the existing drains on the lower part of the 1st/10th fairway.

New yardage and tee markers in progress

Rebuiding of 12 metres of drystone walling

Addition of 5 large signs relating to Highest Golf Course or Highest Hole in England .We are grateful to Lowbyer Manor Hotel thanks to Janice and Jim.

Our Greenkeeping team Richard, Colin, Carl and Simon have done excellent work throughout the year and our course continues to improve.

We need some replacement greens staff and are currently advertising.

Richard continues to do excellent work upgrading and repairing equipment

which saves us a lot of money..

Richards’s work with our Greens Consultant Peter McMorran is resulting in continuous improvement in our Greens.

Entry levels for Club competitions have suffered a decline .We encourage all members to join in our competitions and welcome feedback as to how we can make the competitions more attractive.

**Clubhouse**

The bar takings have reduced as a result of the low number of competition entries

in Friday and weekend competitions .The winter darts team have done there best to

reflect the reduction and we are grateful for their support.

The Clubhouse bar has also served two or three functions in the Townhall which is a

good source of revenue.

We are grateful to members Peter Richardson Tom Younger and anyone who has served

behind the bar.

The Clubhouse is in need of a new Central Heating boiler and we are looking for grant

funded schemes.

**Tidy up around the Clubhouse**

This is an activity that has been on the AGM Minutes for a number of years . Current plans to address this include an additional building to store equipment and to create a concrete area in front of the existing machine shed.We need volunteers to complete this activity and now have the materials to allow this project to proceed.

**Website and Marketing**

We are grateful for Haydn Howard for developing our website and we will need to add the Observatory.

**Other Projects**

1.We have been trying to think of ways of generating cash from the unused 66 acres of land that are on the otherside of the road.I made contact with ANOB in June and they have been very helpful.

The 66 acre site has several issues in that it is not stock proof as the drystone walls and in a very poor condition. I estimate that there is a total of 1800 metres of drystone wall that needs rebuilding on both the course and 66 acre sites..

Grant applications for approximately £82k will be submitted to cover reconstruction of 1800 metres of drystone wall 87 tonnes of stone and topwire installation will be submitted before the end of April.

The work has to be completed within 3 years of grant approval.

2.Other uses of the land were discussed with ANOB.A Wilderness Walk was considered and ANOB were prepared to fund the construction but we could not see the financial benefit. ANOB arranged for an initial bird survey by the RSPB.

The survey identified that they site is of special interest as we have a large number of Black Grouse on the site and these are rare. ANOB believe that we could raise £588 per hectare for the area of the 66 acres (24.6 hectare) that is applicable to Black Grouse.

I think that 30% of the land will qualify for this .ANOB believe that the rest of the land will also qualify for some degree of funding. Figures between £12k and 6K per year are being discussed. The true value will not be available until the summer as a second birds survey is to be carried out and the new Defra rates will also be announced.

ANOB are prepared to 100% fund the installation of 2 or 3 4-6 person hides on the site along with a small car park some screening and wheelchair accessable walkways to the hides. The hides have to be available free to all people for a period of 5 years and then we can charge. Similar hide facilities in the lakes are charging £100 to £150 per day. This would require a booking system.

This project needs to be submitted by 8th May which is very tight or 19th June latest.

3. We will shortly submit an application to use the Top Car park as a touring caravan/motorhome site as we believe that we can permission with very little outlay using the Clubhouse facilities.

The installation of Bird Observatories (hides) and the presence of a Sky Observatory with further attract visitors.

Standard rates are £20-£30 per night .This would require a booking system

In my opinion if all three projects reach fruition we will need someone to review and control the bookings.

All of these projects are longterm and will guarantee the future of Alston Moor Golf Club.

Very special thanks to Anne and Paul Parkin who I guess contribute 10-20 hours to the Club most weeks. This year has been particularly involved with Dark Skies and ANOB

we **Election of Chairman**

Election of P Parkin as Chairman Proposed S Love seconded D Rutherford

**Election of Secretary**

A Dodd was elected as Honorary Secretary, proposed by P Rymer and seconded by P Richardson.

**Election of Treasurer**

Mrs A Parkin was elected as Treasurer, proposed P Bell and seconded by E Brown.

Election of Committee Members

No applicants to join the Committee.

Committee comprises Chairman P Parkin, Treasurer A Parkin, Secretary A Dodd, Gents Catain M Younger Ladies Capt E Brown P Richardson, Mrs V James, D Rutherford, G P Bell, and P Rymer. S Love, J Younger. R Heslop

### Election of Captain

M Younger was elected as Captain; proposed S Love Seconded J Younger.

M Younger advised that he would like S Morris to be his Vice Captain.

### Election of Lady Captain

AE Brown was elected as Lady Captain proposed C Walton seconded M Younger.

**Proposed Subscriptions**

Proposed that the subscriptions should increase by £10. Proposed J Younger, seconded P Rymer.

Age for senior subscription confirmed as 65 years old.

The Green Fees / Subscriptions from April 2023 to March 2024 are as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Gents** | **Ladies** | **Visitors Green Fees** |
| Full Play |  £275.00  | Full Play | £275.00 | Monday - Friday | £ 20.00 per day |
| Senior | £210.00 | Senior | £210.00 | Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays | £ 20.00 per day |
| Country | £205.00 | Country | £205.00 | Starting after 5pm Monday - Friday | £ 15.00 per day |
| Weekday | £190.00 | Weekday | £190.00 | Playing with a member Monday - Friday | £ 15.00 per day |
|  |  |  |  | Playing with a member Weekends & Bank Hols | £ 15.00 per dayVisiting Juniors to pay £5 per day |

**Any other business**

1. Mr Clover advised that there had been no reoccurrence of the theft of rhubarb.
2. A letter was received and readout from Mr T Younger who asked for the following
3. Volunteers to assist with bar functions.

This was discussed an it was agreed to publicise events on facebook including darts fixtures

1. A breakdown of the individual payments made to Greenkeeping staff.

This request was discussed and declined .

1. It was agreed to implement a number of promotion events to attract new members.Suggestions were ;-

 Introduction to Golf days,

Offer free vouchers to Robin Wood

Invitation events

Meeting closed 15.41 hrs.