

**THE DOWNSHIRE GOLF CLUB  
34<sup>th</sup> AGM MINUTES**

**THE DOWNSHIRE GOLF CLUB  
MINUTES OF THE 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD IN THE DOWNSHIRE GOLF COMPLEX ON:  
THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009 AT 8.00 PM (20:00hrs)**

<b>Present:</b>	Chairman	Mr J. Jones
	Captain	Mr R. Ellis
	Vice-Captain	Mr D. Reeve
	Treasurer	Mr M. Smurthwaite
	Secretary	Mr J. Stringer

**Club Members** 28

**Apologies for Absence:** Nick Laugharne, Dave Keel, Mike Foggie, John Padbury Snr, Richard Flatt.

**35.1 Previous Minutes**

The minutes of AGM Meeting were accepted without modification.

Proposed: Mr. Nick Westlake

Seconded: Mr. Steve Phillips

**35.2 Matters Arising**

No matters were raised.

**35.3 Captain's Report**

As attached.

**35.4 Presentation of audited Accounts**

The Audited Accounts for the period ending 31st December 2008 were presented and accepted.

Proposed: Mr David Reeve

Seconded: Mr Lance Perkins

A vote of thanks was recorded for Brian Stapley for auditing the accounts.

John Balkwell asked for a breakdown of the BB&O fees that the Club pays. It was explained that these are made up of a fee for the BB&O membership and another for membership to the EGU. This amounted to a total of approximately £2000 to cover playing members for 2009.

Simon Cottee questioned the amount in the Account Fund. It was explained that until the last 2 years we were running at a loss and this fund had used to cover the shortfalls. This was considered by the Committee to be a situation that could not be allowed to carry on. Thanks to successful budgeting we are now covering our costs without using this fund. Whether we should continue with the current amount in this fund was another question that has been discussed in Committee with no conclusive proposition resulting.

**35.5 Secretary's Report**

As attached.

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**35.6 Election of Officers**

For the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 the following were proposed by the Committee and unanimously elected:

Captain	Mr David Reeve
Vice-Captain	Mr John Stringer
Hon Secretary	Mr Steve Bendall
Hon Treasurer	Mike Smurthwaite.

**35.7 Election of Committee Members**

For the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 there were no new Committee members. The following remain in post:

Trophy Sec	TBD
Seniors Sec	Mr Keith Jarvis
Membership Sec	Mr Stephen Sheridan
Competition Sec	Mr Matt Thomas
External Comp.Sec	Mr Mark Tovey
Club clothing	Mr Roy Ellis

**35.8 Appointment of Auditor**

Brian Stapley was unanimously elected as the auditor of the accounts.

**35.9 Any Other Business**

Steve Bendall asked about the NAPGC and it was explained that the previous AGM had voted not to renew membership and the circumstances had not changed sufficiently to propose rejoining.

John Balkwell asked if there was any specific reason for members not renewing their membership. The Committee had not identified a common trend in the reasons for not renewing.

Allen Lenton asked about the response to the newly introduced £10 for Honorary members. Currently the response had been good but the impact cannot be fully assessed until the renewal deadline had been passed.

Simon Cottee asked whether there could be more Saturday competitions. The Committee had tried to survey the members on this and many other matters but with a very poor response. The responses received and the verbal responses from members were that this was not a demand for more Saturday competitions. Nick Westlake suggested a consensus was taken on a competition day and the Committee agreed to look into this.

Lance Perkins asked for all those wishing to play in the mid-week competitions to put their names down on the list on the noticeboard. Failure to do so is causing problems, for example 7 tee times were booked, 30 members turned up of which only 15 had put their names down.

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Ian Butler asked if the Club sponsored, for example, nearest the pin on Member's Day. The Club subsidises some, but not all.

Nick Westlake asked if we could allocate a starter to ensure players teed-off at the correct time. John Balkwell stated that this had been a problem for the last 30 years. The Committee continues to monitor the competition processes in order to try and improve and provide more enjoyable golf for our members.

**MEETING CLOSED at 9:06pm, (21:06).**

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**Captain's Report**

Gentlemen, welcome to the 2009 AGM. Firstly, I would like to thank all of the committee for all their hard work throughout the year. I would also like to thank you, the members, without you I would not be here in this position. It has been an honour & a privilege to serve as your captain. The Member's Day went well and I will not forget my Captain's day.

I would like to thank Simon Cottee and Paul Stanwick for their support and Angus Parfoot for organising a really enjoyable Away Day.

I would like to wish Dave Reeve all the luck and best wishes for his year as Captain.

Roy Ellis

The Downshire Golf Club Captain 2008-2009.

**Secretary's Report**

1 2009 AGM - Secretary's Report

2 Introduction

It's been a good year with no dominant issues and hopefully we, the Committee have provided you with the opportunity to play and enjoy your golf. Most Captains would be happy if their drive in stayed on the fairway but Roy took this to the extreme and just in case you haven't heard he won the RNLI – I believe the DVD is out soon.

3 Away Days

Camberley Heath – March08

Sherfield Oaks - Sept 08

Foxhills - March 09

Thanks to Angus Parfoot for arranging the away days

4 Golf Coaching

Last year we reported that the coaching had been poorly attended. We decided to have a trial period to see if attendances improved and I am glad to say that they were fully booked and are likely to continue. Watch the website or Noticeboard for further info. Much of the success can be attributed to Angus who not only took advantage of the coaching but advertised it over the web and the noticeboard.

5 Club Matches

Very successful this year, we only lost those competitions played to a Ryder Cup format.

The trial of allocating a number of individuals the job of organisation of teams proved very successful. However, it would be good to see more players putting their names down for selection.

6 Membership

The numbers have remained relatively stable over the year (210) with those not renewing being replaced by new members.

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7 Committee

It would be good if more people put themselves forward for the Committee. I am well aware that most of you have an opinion of how the Club should be run – why not offer your services. Last year someone did come forward after my appeal at the AGM and he is now your Handicap Secretary and doing a very good job. (Nick Laugharne) Unfortunately, after serving as Trophy Secretary for the last 4 years Mike Foggie has had to stand down so if anyone fancies the job please put your name forward for consideration. Mike's final performance will be at the March prize evening.

8 Slow Play

Continues to be flavour of the day at various periods during the year. This is a complete mystery as most of you complain about slow play but no-one admits to being a slow player. I can only conclude that non-member slow players infiltrate our field during competitions and slow us down. The truth is out there! Let's try to follow good etiquette – play provisional balls, call groups through etc – you know the procedures. I fear this problem will continue to arise throughout the next year.