



PEEBLES GOLF CLUB LTD

AGM 2023

Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023.

PRESENT 49 Members of the Club.

CHAIRMAN Mr Chris Patterson (Captain)

SECRETARY Mr Alan Frain

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:38 pm and thanked the members present for their attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from 8 Members of the Club.

2. Minute of the 2022 AGM

The minute was adopted on the proposal of Mr G Bowie and seconded by Mr N McIntyre.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Annual Report & Accounts

4a. Captains report.

A video of the club's highlights in 2022 was shared with the membership. The Captain then provided the members with a summary of his reflections on the performance of the club in 2022, strategic goals for the future and the members' support needed this year. There were no questions.

4b. Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2022.

The Secretary provided a summary of the finance report and accounts for 2022. There were no questions.

5. Budget and Proposed Subscription Charges - Season 2023/24

The Secretary provided a summary of the budget and proposed subscription charges for 2023/24.

There were no questions, and the accounts, budget and subscription charges were therefore approved.

6. Election of Committee Members

The Chairman advised that the Committee had recommended the following appointments: -

- James Young – Finance Convenor
- Warwick Brown – General Committee (Junior Convenor)
- Eve Hunter – General Committee
- Mike Foley – General Committee

No other nominations had been received and the candidates were elected.

The Chairman outlined the new responsibilities across the Board of Directors and wider General Committee: -

Board	Responsibility
Chris Patterson	Captain
Andy Pretswell	Vice-Captain
James Young	Finance Convenor
Gavin Carruthers	Greens Convenor
Craig McDonald	
General Committee	Responsibility
Ross Duncan	Marketing Convenor
Marny Waddell	Competition & Handicap Convenor
Warwick Brown	Junior Convenor
Gordon Beveridge	House Convenor
Mike Foley	
Eve Hunter	

7. Any Other Competent Business

Mr R Scott had submitted several questions ahead of the meeting and Mr C Patterson answered them in turn. **1)** To protect the edges of the course, consideration would be given to allowing a free drop close to the edges of the road crossing the 3rd hole. **2)** How best to protect the fairways over the winter would be subject to further review by the Greens Convenor and Head Greenkeeper at the end of the season. The use of fairway mats on a voluntary basis had taken some pressure off the fairways and this measure could be augmented by requiring players to play their ball from the edge of the rough as opposed to on the fairway. However, at this time, Steve Borthwick was content with the current arrangement and was not pushing for additional protective measures. **3)** The suggestion was that permanent winter tee mats should be installed at the par 3s, where iron clubs were most likely to be used. Mr C Patterson explained that this would be given consideration as part of the ongoing winter development plan. However, the selection of holes for the current set of winter mats was based on the relatively limited alternatives for grass based winter tee areas (i.e., the mats relieved pressure on the main tee areas). In contrast, the par 3s all had designated winter tee areas that allowed the main tee areas to recover in time for the main season. **4)** Mr C Patterson acknowledged the need to keep the reception area tidy but pointed to the general lack of storage in the clubhouse as a contributory factor.

K Brunton made the observation that the amount retained by the club for member competitions appeared to vary between 30% to 40%. Mr A Frain advised that the retained percentage should be 30% and suggested that the query be taken offline. The retained percentage of 30% had been implemented in 2019 and was designed to cover the cost of administration and engraving whilst generating a small profit for the club. Improved attendance and pricing for our Open competitions had augmented the club's return in recent years.

K McKay queried the maintenance programme for the bunkers citing the need to dig out contaminated sand. Mr A Frain advised that we had an ongoing programme for bunker maintenance and that this would be addressed over time. The team had undertaken some major bunker work over the last 18 months (e.g., relocation of bunker on the 2nd hole) and that the team's capability had been enhanced by the acquisition of a new digger.

A Flannery asked if the Board had given further consideration to reintroducing the bar discount scheme on the grounds that the club had lost the custom of several members, who historically had been big spenders in the bar. Mr C Patterson advised that the Board had given careful consideration to cancelling this scheme a few years ago and had no plans to reintroduce it. The original strategy to broaden regular bar usage across the membership had not materialised and financial analysis did not support the continuation of significant subscription discounts for a relatively small group of members. Mr A Frain pointed out that the new caterers would hopefully help to broaden clubhouse usage across both members and non-members, which would benefit the bar takings. The new caterers would be offering a 10% discount for food purchases made via a member's card and that allied to the existing 10% drinks discount, created an attractive incentive for members to make more use of the clubhouse.

A Turnbull and H Gilmore queried why competition winnings could not be used to purchase drinks behind the bar. Mr H Gilmore made the point that the margin on bar sales was likely to be higher than the margin on golf shop sales and that the club could be losing out financially by leaving the shop voucher system as is. Mr C Patterson explained that it was important that competition winnings continued to be credited to members' golf shop accounts, as the track record showed that these vouchers helped seed higher value purchases that might not be made otherwise. As such, they encouraged incremental spending that was less likely to occur if the vouchers were spent in the bar. In taking over the golf shop from S Johnstone, it was important that we achieved a similar volume of sales, as this would enable the shop to achieve a break-even profit, therefore fully realising the £20,000 of cost savings available to the club from adopting this operating model. It was this material cost saving that was helping to minimise subscription prices for all members against a high inflationary environment.

I Clark queried the opening of the golf shop when the course was closed due to inclement weather. Mr A Frain explained that the shop staff were all on fixed monthly salaries with a weighting towards working more hours during the peak golfing season. Whilst the course was closed, the clubhouse was still open and some golf shop sales were made during this time.

D Richards asked if the twos' vouchers won by members in our Open competitions could be paid in the form of SG vouchers. The members were paying the same as visitors to enter Open competitions and should be treated the same. Mr A Frain agreed to implement this change.

J Young said it was disappointing that we had not received any local interest in the recently advertised Secretary/Manager role replacing Mr A Frain at the end of April 2023. He asked members to refer any suitable candidates to Mr A Frain.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:45 pm.