



THE MINUTES OF THE 54TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Thursday 5th December 2024
At the Dorset Golf & Country Club

The meeting commenced at approximately 13:15 with 22 members present and VicePresident Peter Foster in the chair. There was a record of online votes from 20 members not present.

The Vice-President gave the President's apologies for his absence explaining that his wife had returned home from hospital the day before which required he remain at home to care for her. There were 14 other apologies for absence.

1) The Vice-President then read out the President's Address provided by David Kimberley as follows:

Good morning DGC members and welcome to the 54th Annual General Meeting. During the year one of our presidents passed away, Neil Pollard. I am sure there will be others of whom we are unaware so please, if you are able, be upstanding for a minutes silence in honour of those we have lost.

Thank you.

On the subject of thanks, I would like to thank your Committee for its work during the year with a special mention for our Hon Sec Nigel Mobbs who goes to incredible lengths to ensure things work smoothly. I would also like to give your thanks to the Dorset G&CC for hosting today's meeting, as well as your committee's meetings, and supporting our annual dinner. Finally, I would like to thank those of you who are here today, those who responded to the online vote and those who have participated in the DGC events throughout the year.

In many ways this has been a typical year for the Dorset Captains, with matches quite well supported, other events not quite so well supported and poor attendance at others particularly the annual dinner. Over the last few years the DGC has run at an annual loss in order to reduce the reserves held on account to a more reasonable level. This year was no exception but the task of reversing this trend now has to be taken in hand by your committee.

Replacement members for the committee have once again proved impossible to obtain. Disappointingly few of each year's new captains join the DGC. So once again I repeat the request to ALL members to help recruit new captains, to encourage participation in events and to consider whether, in order to keep DGC alive, you could give of your time by joining the committee.

2) The Minutes of the 53rd AGM held 7th December 2023 had been circulated prior to and at the meeting and were approved (Prop. Phil Purvis, Sec. David Recardo) 3) There were no matters arising from the previous AGM.

4) The Vice-President read a report of the Satisfaction Survey provided by David Kimberley saying:

This survey was sent out to approximately 274 members whose email addresses were held. Only 59 replies were received.

Analysis of our various events showed that in the years 2021 to 2024 contact had been received from 131 members suggesting that our contact data base needed updating. This has been done.

Of the 59 replies to the survey 21 were from members who attended the dinner only, or had not made contact since 2020, or who had not bid for matches in 2024. So only 38 golfers who had bid for matches in 2024 had completed the survey; note 64 had applied for matches in 2024.

The survey replies generally indicated that there was now so much golf, club and senior matches, away days, societies that finding time was difficult. It also indicated that a significant number of our members were either awaiting treatment for ailments or were of an age that competitive golf was becoming too strenuous. However, there was no consensus for changing the number or type of events.

There was a significant suggestion that the days were too long. The Committee felt that the format of inter county matches was common to all counties and could not be changed. Responding to the shorter day request President's Day offered a rolling meal with prizes being awarded on individual scores rather than overall first, second, third etc. This was approved by all those who participated bar one but has a significant risk in that the prize level has to be set ready for the first group's return. The President intends to repeat this shorter day format in 2025.

One other theme was that there are more working captains now which curtails their time playing golf and may be a reason why relatively few new captains join each year.

Overall the survey response was poor for a dedicated organisation and did not provide solutions to the problems that the DGC face. It did however significantly revise the number of responsive members such that approximately 50% bid for matches in 2024, rather than the original thought of it only being 25%. Finally, thank you to all those that took the time to respond to the survey.

5) David Picton gave his Captain's Report that it had been an honour and a privilege to be the Captain, it had been a fantastic year on and off the course, meeting old friends and foes and making new friends and he particularly noted our winning the 6-Counties competition at Stover. He said that his full report would be put on the website shortly before wishing John Skinner all success in 2025.

6) Nigel Mobbs gave his Secretary's Report saying:

Match registration was online and opened late December, closing at the end of January with 65 members who wished to play in matches. The Selection Committee of The President, The Captain, The Vice-Captain and myself met early February and

was able to give everyone their first choice match. Where a match was oversubscribed with second, third or further choices, selection was by ballot, with those unlucky in the ballot for their second choice match having their 3rd choice elevated to second choice. The Captain selected the representative teams. The Selection Committee then adjusted the result where we saw a few members had been particularly unfortunate in the ballot. 10 members were selected for all of their registered choices, 31 members (about half of those registered) were selected 3 or more matches. As ever, a number of Reserves went on to play as various circumstances led to selected players dropping out of their matches.

The Committee co-opted Derek Grimes at their first meeting in February and appointed the Vice-Captain John Skinner as Match Manager. John attended several matches he did not play in, dealt with late drop-outs from teams, took photos for the website and overall he was a great help to me, he did more than I expected for which I am very grateful and I think John made a great success of the task we gave him. In March and April I sent several emails to members who had not responded or taken part in our activities since 2021, with a message that I would cease emailing them if I did not get a reply. This resulted in me reducing my mailing list from about 230 to less than 150, which includes a number of members who no longer play but wish to be kept in touch. I am pleased they are interested and happy to give them the opportunity to follow what we are doing.

This year, when sending emails to large numbers of members, I have experienced increasing email rejections as SPAM. To avoid this problem and ensure good communication with you all I have begun using Mailchimp to deliver large numbers of emails. This appears to be working as you are all here!

Something new we instigated this year was to present winners of our major internal competitions with glasses engraved with the Dorset Golf Captains badge as a permanent memento of their win.

Finally I would like to thank all the Committee for their work this year. They pick up the tasks that need doing and our success is very much a team effort. Thank you gentlemen.

7) An Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th September 2024 had been circulated prior to and at the meeting. Brian Hansford gave his Treasurer's Report saying:

I'm very pleased to report a small surplus of £175 for the year compared with a deficit of £1,046 for last year.

We again show a loss on the annual dinner (£644) but matches show a profit of £694 due to more away fixtures.

AGM/Dinner – The dinner again was not well supported and unable to cover the rising costs. I'm sorry to say that despite savings made for this year we have again run at a loss. This is a very enjoyable event and we need more members to attend.

Matches – Inter County matches show a surplus of almost £800 due to more away matches but Captain's Day lost £152, other events broke even.

Clothing Costs – showed a profit as sales came mainly from previously purchased stock.

New Captains – nine new captains joined during the year, up from seven last year.

Funds held – have increased to £4,591 compared to £3,921 last year but accrued charges of £826 were outstanding at year end.

My thanks go to all committee members for their input throughout the year and in particular to Secretary Nigel and Captain Dave. Thank you.

8) The Secretary read a Report of the Colin Chataway Competition provide by David Kimberley saying:

Unfortunately a double booking resulted in the need to change the Colin Chataway date and venue this year, we are most grateful to Ashley Wood GC who agreed to accommodate this event at somewhat short notice. I am delighted to announce that Gordon Mutton has agreed to be our Colin Chataway organiser for 2025 event at Weymouth GC.

As you will recall Jim Allen stood down as organiser last year and we are grateful that Bill Kent kindly stepped in to run this years event.

There were 44 entries from 8 clubs, with 3 clubs entering two teams. Players ages ranged from 10 to 16 years.

The course was in superb condition allowing excellent golf. There was a little breeze and it was definitely a hot day! Players and referees were most grateful that our organiser Bill Kent was touring the course with a buggy full of cold water bottles. Excellent scores were returned by many players and all seemed to enjoy sustenance and refreshments on returning to the club house. Ferndown 1 won the team event with 166 Stableford points, that's an average over 41 points. The individual winner was Freddie Jewel of Sturminster Marshall with 47 points. Full results are on the website.

We thank the Ashley Wood Golf Club committee, the greens staff and the caterers for their excellent support but the biggest thanks go to Steve Sanger, the manager of Ashley Wood, who ensured that the whole event ran smoothly and that the results were provided quickly.

A month or two after this year's Colin Chataway, Derek Grimes and Nigel Mobbs met with the DCGU President seeking more support from County for this competition. The feedback so far has been positive and Gordon Mutton will be in contact with DCGU to include them as he plans the event.

9) The Secretary read the Webmaster's Report provided by David Kimberley saying:

Throughout the year the website has been updated as and when information is received. The survey showed that of those who accessed the website there was general satisfaction with the style and content.

However not everyone uses it regularly and the introduction by the Hon Sec of a WhataApp group has included some but not all members and was very effective particularly in getting replacements for the matches.

Consideration was given to ceasing using the website but as this would exclude some members and as it represents the Hon Sec's preferred route to giving members links to notices it should be continued.

A replacement webmaster has been sort without success for some time and in order to reduce the commitment I have proposed that the webmaster no longer sits on the committee which, if approved, may help. Overall, the system functions well.

10) Peter Foster gave the Annual Dinner Organiser's Report saying:

I thought the day went very well from the golf to the speaker. I have had good comments from our guests and many who were present both male and female on the evening, on the meal, and on the speaker. So, I was happy with the way the day went and thought it was a great success.

We had a total of 64 attendees a similar number to last year.

Through increasing the cost of the dinner and removing the wine from the attendees other than our guests we have reduced the deficit by £300 from the past two years which is now down to £500.

But this doesn't get away from the fact that there were only 26 Past Captains present. One could say that if each of those Captain's could bring 3 guests we would be over 100. But we need to attract more Captains.

It would probably be easier to name those Clubs who were represented rather than those that were not. I think it was 10 out of 34 and 5 of those only had one Past Captain.

We have to ask ourselves are the Past Captains still interested in having an Annual Dinner?

At our recent Committee Meeting it was decided to continue with the Annual Dinner and to have our invited guests. If we didn't invite our County guests then we would invite them to one of our other golfing events which would cost the Dorset Captains more than it does for the Annual Dinner.

Would we be better having an Annual Dinner with no speaker or a speaker on behalf of an organisation or Charity which would be at a reduced cost?

As we stand, in my opinion we cannot carry on losing money with the interest of only 26 Past Captains.

I would just finish in asking those who were at the dinner, many sitting here today to encourage other Captains and friends as the invitation is now open to all to put the date of Friday 14th November 2025 in your diaries now.

My thanks to Derek Grimes for being my sounding board and helping on the day to set up for the evening. Thank you.

Alan Hebditch spoke about contacting non-attending clubs, the difficulty getting commitment from club members and asked whether the dinner was held at the wrong time of year? Peter Foster replied to the effect that the Dorset G&CC restaurant was not available for a large dinner during the golfing season.

11) The resolution **that the Constitution of the Dorset Golf Captains be amended so as to remove the holder of the position Hon. Webmaster from the Committee** was approved unanimously.

12) The following members were elected to the positions shown en-bloc by a large majority:

Captain: **John Skinner** of Yeovil GC.

Vice-Captain: **Phil Purvis** of Broadstone GC.

Honorary Secretary: **Nigel Mobbs** of Sherborne Golf Club.

Honorary Treasurer: **Brian Hansford** of Came Down Golf Club.

Honorary Fixture Secretary: **David Picton** of Weymouth Golf Club.

Honorary Clothing Organiser: **David Recardo** of Yeovil Golf Club.

Honorary Dinner Organiser: **Peter Foster** of The Dorset Golf and CC. David Picton then invested John Skinner with the Captains Chain of Office and John thanked the meeting for their support.

13) Mike Mead of Wareham GC was appointed Honorary Auditor.

14) David Recardo gave the Clothing Organiser's Report saying:

Gentlemen, this has been a similar year as 2023 for clothing, I have sold a total of 19 items which includes a complete range of attire in just about every size.

The most recent sale was for a bowtie thanks to WhatsApp, for the dinner last month.

The total sales amounted to £362.50, plus postage in some cases.

Apparently, some members have approached the captain regarding the clothing I supply, only one person has spoken to me directly, as he had an allergy to synthetics, an alternative item was obtained for him, and he was happy. I would like to remind members, that I will always address clothing issues, if I am made aware of them, by email or WhatsApp, I then have traceability and accountability.

If members want a different make of clothing to the ones I have in stock and a request is received through the online clothing order form, I will endeavour to supply the requested alternative in Dorset Golf Captains Colours, however, it will be a bespoke item, non-returnable, non-refundable, and at the best price I can get. There is a section on the online order page for messages, and messages are always read. I have Bowties with me today if anyone wants one, they are £7.50 each if purchased today.

Any Questions?

15) David Picton gave a brief Fixture Secretary's Report that the 2025 fixtures were complete and for 2025 we had a mini-tour comprising the Sussex and Surrey match on the following day with an overnight stay.

16) The 2025 Match Fee was increased to £50.00 by a large majority.

17) The date of the 2025 AGM was planned for Thursday 4th December 2025.

The meeting closed at approximately 13:50