

MINUTES OF THE BALLARAT GOLF CLUB INC
128th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE
ON MONDAY 27th March 2023

Present:

President Cameron Bryce (President and Chairman) and 50 members as per the register of attendance.

The President declared the meeting opened at 7:01 PM

The President welcomed all those in attendance to the 128th Annual General Meeting, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land past, present and emerging, welcoming all members and acknowledging those life members present – Heather Brauman and Alan Burns.

The President then read the apologies received and called for others on the night.

Apologies:

Jeremy Johnson, Vicki and Michael Wilson, David D'Astoli, Angela and Bob Widdison, Bernie Szapiel, Michael Hanrahan, Phil Trevenen, Carolyn Sertori, Simone Byrne and Sandra Burns.

Gill Fryatt moved that the apologies be accepted. Seconded Ross Jones. Carried.

The President asked for the confirmation of the minutes of The Annual General Meeting held 28th of March, 2022.

Moved: Michael Erbacher **Seconded:** Alan Burns **Carried.**

The President then asked Lloyd Miller (General Manager) to read the notice of the meeting which was then read. Cameron advised that the AGM was being recorded for minuting purposes.

The President acknowledged David Wallis who finished as Head Professional yesterday, Sunday 26 March 2023. While acknowledging Sam Wallis for her work and support. Thank you for your contribution to the Club.

The Presidents Report:

The highlight of the year as President was hosting the US Marines on the 80th anniversary at Victoria Park for rest and recovery during World War II.

It was a privilege to be the President of the Club, the Board had a healthy and robust discussion throughout the year and thanked all Board members while wishing future Boards all the best.

The President asked for any questions in relation to his report. None were forthcoming.

The President then asked Captain Kym Erbacher to present her report.

The Captains Report:

The last year was a trying time thinking we are past covid we were then hit by wet weather which required the

course to be closed for few days. Credit to our course staff lead by Jeff Powell, compared to other clubs in the area we were able to host most of our events with some changes to our schedule.

David Wallis golf was a big part of the year which helped Kym enormously through the year while working on a combined Match Manual. We are now welcoming Tatt Golf to the Club and thank David Wallis for his time at the Club.

Thank you to the members for their support throughout the year and here's hoping to a much better 2023.

The Captain asked for any questions from the floor. None were forthcoming.

The President then asked the Finance Director Greg Bennett to present his report.

The Finance Report:

The Financial Report for 2022 is detailed in the Ballarat Golf Club 2022 Annual Report that has been made available to Members. There is a lot of detailed information in the Finance Report so I will attempt to summarise the main points.

The Board of the Ballarat Golf Club is pleased to report a 2022 Net Operating Surplus of \$332,461. Although this is \$233,353 less than 2021, it must be remembered that 2021 was greatly aided by covid related financial assistance from Governments.

It should be noted that all Covid related financial assistance received from both the Australian Federal and Victorian Governments ceased in 2021.

The Club commenced 2022 clear of all government legislated Covid restrictions.

The future stability of the Club requires maintaining a strong Cash position. In 2022 the Club increased its Total Cash position by \$52,287. This strong Cash position was possible with income generated by the Clubhouse operations. The Bar, Bistro and Gaming operations provided a Net Operating Surplus of \$1,120,127 in 2022. Up \$96,247 on 2021. These Clubhouse operational profits finance the Golf, Course and General Operations of the Golf Club.

During the year the Club increased its Fixed Assets by \$1,255,601. The major acquisition was the Buyout by the Club of the Clubs Gaming Machines and Gaming Entitlements post 2022 at a cost of \$1,137,176. This acquisition was financed by a low interest loan from the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission.

There was also the purchase of a Kubota Tractor for \$36,900 which was financed with the National Bank.

The balance of fixed assets purchased were paid from the Club Cash Funds. Major additions included:

- Kitchen Upgrade Works and Equipment \$60,958
- 3 Additional Gaming Machines \$73,971
- Greens Roller \$19,675

As advised earlier, the Club recorded an overall Net Operating Surplus of \$322,461 for 2022. This Net Surplus is the combined financial result of all the Operating Departments of the Club.

Starting with the Bar

The Bar returned a Profit of \$304,690. Bar profit was higher than 2021. Each year the Board prepares a detailed Annual Budget and the 2022 Bar profit exceeded the Budget expectations.

Bistro

The Bistro returned a Profit of \$32,040. Bistro profit was also higher than 2021 and exceeded the Budget expectations. The Bistro was hampered by the resignation of several Head Chefs during the year. Also, early in the year there were difficulties in staff and at this time the Bistro had to regularly cap Patron numbers which reduced Bistro Sales Revenue.

Gaming

Gaming returned a Profit of \$783,397. Gaming profit was slightly higher than 2021, but 2021 was greatly assisted by TGS reducing its fees by 25% as a Covid concession. Gaming continues to produce a strong financial return to the Club and the Profit and Net Machine Revenue continues to exceed Budget expectations.

Golf Operations

Golf Operations cost \$90,007. Golf Operations cost was higher than 2021 and slightly higher than Budget. Income from Green Fees and Competition Fees continues to increase each year. There was an increase in the Professional Retainer due to an escalation of costs built into the Old Contract and the New Contract arrangements in 2022.

Course Operations

Course Operations cost \$234,872. Course Operations costs were substantially higher than 2021. Notwithstanding these higher costs, Course Operation costs met the Budget set by the Board at the beginning of the year. Several experienced ground staff resigned during the year and attracting new staff was an issue. In addition, there were significant price increases on all Course supplies and services. On a plus side Golf Membership Subscriptions income of \$688,616 was an increase of \$58,550 on 2021 and continues the trend of recent years.

General Operations

General Operations cost \$462,787. General Operations cost was slightly up on 2021 but in line with Budget. The increase was due to the full year cost of the restructure of the Club Administration that included the appointment of a General Manager in August 2021.

Summarising, the Net Operating Surplus of \$332,461, although less than 2021 exceeded the Budget expectations of the Directors. Looking into the future, the Directors are confident of maintaining the financial strength of the Ballarat Golf Club.

In conclusion.

I would like to thank the Club President and all the Board Members and Lloyd Miller for their support again in 2022. My gratitude to the ever-reliable Louise Mead in performing her financial control and financial reporting duties, often under the pressure of tight timeframes. Finally, to Paul Foley who oversees all financial functions of the Club and is the strength behind the financial stability of the Club.

On that note as I have not nominated for re-election to the Board, I can sign off and pass the baton to the incoming Financial Director. It has been an honour and a privilege for me to serve on the Board of the Ballarat Golf Club.

The Finance Director asked for any questions from the floor. None were forthcoming.

The President then thanked Greg for his contribution to the Club.

The President asked that members receive and adopt the Annual Report, Revenue Statement and Balance Sheet for year-end 31st December 2022. **Moved:** Ross Jones **Seconded** Phil Roberts **Carried.**

The President then asked the General Manager to read out special business.

The President reminded all in attendance that only eligible members can vote on the following matters.

The General Manager stated there are 5 items however can we take the first 4 items as read and this was approved by those in attendance.

He noted that the proposed changes had been proposed by Kym Erbacher and Seconded by Greg Bennett for presentation to members at the AGM and that he would speak briefly to these changes on behalf of Kym.

The first item is required as back in 2017 at the Annual General Meeting a large number of the membership categories changed from Ordinary and Restricted to 7 and 6 day plus Senior membership. The Honorary Life Members section did not get updated and needs to be updated to be relevant to our Division of Membership. The 1st item is a simple update that is required.

The 2nd, 3rd & 4th items - These rules are in regards to disciplinary action which would then be supported by by-laws which enable the enforcing, if suspended or expelled there are no refunds for members and change the disciplinary appeal process to be heard by the Board members rather than a hearing requiring an extraordinary meeting and members to vote.

Unless there are any objections, I would propose that items 1 to 4 are moved for acceptance and ask for a mover.

Col Jennings **moved** and Maxine Berry seconded the **motion**.

The General Manager then asked for any speakers for and against the motion. No takers.

There being no question the President called for a vote.
A vote was then taken and was approved unanimously.

The President then read item 5

In consideration by members present of the recommendation by the Board for election of a member as an Honorary Life Member of the Club. Pursuant to the Rules, the Board has recommended "That in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Ballarat Golf Club for a period of well over 20 years an Honorary Life Membership of the Ballarat Golf Club be awarded to Pauline Murphy. Moved Cameron Bryce & Seconded Kym Erbacher and as per the Rules that recommendation has to be brought to the AGM.

I now ask Kym Erbacher to speaker for the motion.

I hereby support Pauline Murphy for Life Membership.

Pauline has been a member of the club since 1976 and has not only been an exemplary golfer having been the Women's Champion no less than 8 times, she has her name of many trophies and honour boards through the clubhouse. Pauline served as part of the Ladies committee since 1988 through to 2009 with only short breaks within those year. She held the position of Captain for many of them. She has represented the Ballarat Golf Club at many district events including pennant and as pennant captain and also on the District Committee. She has never avoided any role that has been asked of her including the Historical Sub-Committee, New Club House Sub-Committee and other Sub-Committees.

In my opinion she is the epitome of our guideline for the consideration of achieving Life Membership, which states 'Significant contribution should have been made by the individual in terms of time, effort and

commitment and has provided extraordinary service to the Ballarat Golf Club over a significant period of years held many positions.' I hereby move that the members approve Life Membership to Pauline Murphy.

The President then called for a vote.

A vote was then taken and was approved unanimously.

The President congratulated Pauline Murphy and asked Pauline if she would like to say a few words.

Pauline was shocked to be awarded life membership and very proud and appreciative.

The President then acknowledged long time members who had been with the Club there are no 50 year members this year however badges were awarded for 30-year medals to Terry Hodge which was missed at a previous AGM, Bryan Blease and Sandra Burns unfortunately both were not present.

The President moved to General Business noting that there remained one other question submitted prior to the meeting from David D'Astoli.

David's question was in regards to using 482 visa's to secure chef's/cooks from overseas. David has experience using 482 visa's for fitter & driller positions and happy to discuss how this works to help the Club.

Lloyd replied the biggest issue with staffing in the bistro for 2022 was having three head chefs. We currently employ 2 chefs' on working visas but when employed they were in the country on a different style of visa which we could speak directly to them and access their skills. At present we are at capacity, which can change, we have employed a new Head Chef who starts this week and our capacity in the kitchen also has budget. The Club has in the past investigated without success using the 482 visas – the difficulty is to assess their skills and language as you want to get that right as you are locked in with them for the next 4 to 5 years. Plus the timing of employment. I would be happy to discuss the process with you.

There being no further questions submitted the President then asked if there were any questions from the floor. None forthcoming.

The President then spoke on the election of Directors. The President noted there were 3 vacancies, with 3 nominations received which means no election was required. Congratulations to the following new Board members Kym Erbacher, John Noone and David Wallis. The President congratulated all on their election and this was warmly applauded by all in attendance.

Paul Foley was invited to speak on behalf of the Board on thanking Cameron Bryce and Greg Bennett. Firstly, to Cameron Bryce for his service having been a member of the Club since 2013 and on the Board since 2019 filling a casual vacancy at the time. We are sorry that he has not re-stood but thank you for your service and time. Congratulations Cameron.

A very warm round of applause followed.

To Greg Bennett who Paul is sad to see go as Greg is a qualified CPA and took over from Paul as Finance Director. Greg was on the Board for the last 6 years with the last 4 as Finance Director. Greg, thank you for your efforts.

A very warm round of applause followed.

Paul added, there is a lot of pressure on clubs with a lack of volunteers coming forward which hopefully will change going forward post covid. It is great we have a full board and it shows people care for the Club. We say goodbye to Cameron and Greg, we welcome John and David to the Board.

Being no further business, the President thanked all present for their attendance and participation, closing the meeting at 7:38pm.