

MINUTES OF THE BALLARAT GOLF CLUB INC
127th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE
ON MONDAY 28th March 2022

Present:

President Lesa Gray (President and Chairman) and 55 members as per the register of attendance.

The President declared the meeting opened at 7:00 PM and asked Lloyd Miller (General Manager) to read the notice of the meeting which was then read.

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

Apologies:

Sue Howie, Leigh Mitchell, Michael & Jill Dunne, Sandra Burns, Gary Butcher, Bernie Szapiel, Bruce Sidebottom, Ross Jones, June Jones, Brenda Ryan, Betty McGuinness, Angela Widdison, Bob Widdison, Greg Anders, Caroline Sertori, Denis Faulkner, Kay Johnston.

Gil Fryatt moved that the apologies be accepted. Seconded Wendy Thomas. Carried.

The President welcomed all those in attendance to the 127th Annual General Meeting, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land, welcoming all members and acknowledging those life members present – Heather Brauman, Alan Burns and Phil Trevenen. Lesa advised that the AGM was being recorded for minuting purposes.

The President asked for the confirmation of the minutes of The Annual General Meeting held 29th of March, 2021.

Moved: Wayne Hines **Seconded:** Barbara Delmenico **Carried.**

The Presidents Report:

The President spoke briefly to her report acknowledging another difficult year with COVID-19 impacts across all areas of the Club and commended the efforts of staff and members over the last 2 years in most difficult circumstances.

The President noted that it was not possible to please all members but that the Board had been committed to providing the best possible outcomes for the Club, and noted that the strategic plan was a live document, driving the Club into the future to ensure its long-term viability and success into the future.

The President noted support of the members and Board during her time as President and noted in particular the other retiring Board members – John King with 12 years of services and Michael Erbacher for 19 years of service - for their outstanding service to the Board and the Club over many years.

The President thanked the members for the opportunity to serve in the role and that it had been an honour and privilege to do so and something she would never forget.

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

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

The Captains Report:

The Captain in presenting her report noted it was a privilege to serve as Club Captain for the past year and had loved the role and the fact that the glass ceiling had been broken. She noted that it was another year where COVID had large impacts but that some normality had returned with Club Championships and the Annual Tournament again being held and congratulating all the winners across the various grades. She noted the praise of visitors and the ongoing praise for the course, re-iterating the outstanding job of Jeff Powell and his team with the presentation of our Championship course. She also thanked the invaluable help of "Dad's Army". Noted also was the representation in Pennant with wins in Women's Division 1 and Men's Seniors and thanked all those who represented the Club.

The Captain thanked the Dave Wallis and Pro Shop staff for their work and support through the year noting that our junior, beginners and women's clinics are leading the way earning praise from Golf Australia and noting the work of Angela Tatt and Andrew Cartledge for their work in this area. The Captain also thanked the Club staff for their support to herself and the Board.

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

She then noted those that had been received prior to meeting via email.

From Jan Livingston –

Re Men's Monthly Medal.

In light of the Club striving towards Golf Australia's Vision 2025, I am perplexed at the unfairness of the Men's Monthly Medal only being awarded to men playing off the Black Tees, which excludes a large number of higher handicapped players being eligible to win a Monthly medal.

Is it not possible for the Club to offer a Blue Tee Monthly Medal also.

Kym noted the Men's Monthly Medal has been discussed many times and decided at Board level. The current position is that given all men have the opportunity to play off the Black tees with resultant handicap adjustments this is the way that each month's premier event and outstanding player on that day is to be decided. It should also be noted that not all men's medal events are contested off the black tees.

Also from Jan Livingston -

I would like to ask the Club why a female player in the Saturday field is not eligible to win a prize for obtaining a Birdie, which I experienced a couple of weeks ago.

The men were presented a prize for any birdies on the day, but I was told after mentioning I had two birdies that it was only for the men!

I would like an explanation/solution on that matter also.

Kym noted that she had provided some incorrect information to Jan and had apologised for doing so and responded that Birdies are paid out to all members who play in the Saturday competitions – men's and women's – but are only paid out for birdies on the 8th hole. Other birdies do not qualify.

From Paul Bourke:

"My question between practice fairways and 9th fairways is biggest problem because too many practice balls on 9th to me should be fencing common sense have spoken to pro Big David all he said \$\$\$\$ oh for God sake golf is 9th not practice balls on fairways Thank you Paul Bourke"

Kym responded that it is recognised that there are a number of balls that do land on the 9th and some steps have been put in place to reduce this. Some time ago a worksafe inspector visited the site following a report and some changes were made as a result, including the direction to aim to the back left of the range with drivers and the placement of a "target" in this location. During this investigation the area between the practice fairway and the 9th fairway were proven to be far greater than the areas between a number of other fairway to fairway areas. Tree planting were increased on this boundary but will take some time to establish. The Club has also recently purchased driving bay dividers and when these are installed, they will also point toward the back left of the

range. Nets are a very expensive option – quotes are for approximately \$5000 per meter – and are not a viable option for this area. We have agreed to plant additional trees in this area and are awaiting their delivery.

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

The Finance Report:

The Finance Director referred members to the full reports which contained a lot of detail noting the impact of COVID-19 and its impact across all areas of operation. The good news was the net operating surplus of \$565,814, which included support provided by both the State and Federal Governments and the improvement in the Club's cash position from \$2.6 to \$3.1 million which enabled the Club to invest over \$565,000 in capital additions.

The Finance Director highlighted the performance of each department and noted that the house operations overall contributed \$1,023,880 in profit without this profit golf fees would need to be significantly increased.

He noted that the Club continues to open up from the pandemic restrictions and the Board is confident in the financial strength of the Club moving forward.

In conclusion the Finance Director thanked all those mentioned in his report. He apologised for the later than normal provision of the report and called for questions from the floor.

Phil Trevenen congratulated the Club, its Board and staff on the outstanding result noting that in his time at the Club he had not seen a result as good and put the Club in a strong position into the future.

With no further questions the Finance Director noted that should anyone have any further questions he was happy to discuss this at any time.

The President asked that members receive and adopt the Annual Report, Revenue Statement and Balance Sheet for year-end 31st December 2021. **Moved:** Alan Burns. **Seconded** Geoff Waldron. **Carried.**

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

The General Manager asked the meeting if the 6 items could be taken as read and this was approved by those in attendance. He noted that the proposed changes had been proposed by Greg Bennett and Seconded by Kym Erbacher at the January Board meeting and carried for presentation to members at the AGM and that he would speak briefly to these changes on behalf of Greg.

He noted that in items 3, 5 and 6 that these changes were to remove specific reference to clauses within the relevant legislation that could be changed which would then require changes to our Rules despite these specifics not have any actual affect on the operation of the Rules. He noted that that some practices within the Club had changed and that these changes were being reflected in the proposed Rule changes - Item 1 removed the notification of new members to members via the notice board and this has been replaced with notification through "This Golfing Week" each month and item 2 referred to the imposing of fines where elsewhere in the Rules imposing of fines is not permitted so this was to correct this error. Item 4 clarifies when technology can be used for meetings and aligns better with the "Model Rules".

There being no objections he asked that the changes be moved as a whole rather than individually to which the meeting approved and he then called for a mover and seconder for the motion to approve the proposed changes.

Wendy Thomas **moved** and Peter Fell seconded the **motion**.

The General Manager then asked for any speakers for and against the motion.

Greg Bennett spoke for and noted that the Board had decided a review of the Rules was required and that these updates were largely cosmetic to make the Rules more relevant to the both changing legislation and Club practices.

Phil Trevenen noted in relation to Item 1 recognising that it was a practice that had not occurred for some time but that it was very important that members be provided the information on new members. The General Manager noted that this information would be provided in the issue of "This Golfing Week" on the Friday immediately following the Board meeting and would this be suitable? Phil noted that it would but that the Board should formalise this at its next meeting. The General Manager noted that he would ensure that this would occur.

There being no other question the President called for a vote.
A vote was then taken and was approved 48 for and 0 against.

The President then acknowledged members who had been with the Club for significant periods of time. Badges were presented to Phil Trevenen and Barry Parker for 50 years of membership and congratulated for their outstanding service to the Club.

30-year medals were presented to presented to Dr. Ross Squire, Jenni Lawrence and Mike Doepel. Other 30-year recipients who were unable to attend were Michael Boyko, Mary Duffy, Mary Van Den Broek, Ewan Campbell, Barry Cook, David Maloney and Greg Anders.

The President then opened to floor for General Business noting that there remained one other question submitted prior to the meeting from Phil Trevenen:

In the Annual Report both the President and the Manager commented on the increase in membership. However, when I reviewed the numbers, it appears we now have the lowest number of members in the last 5 years, when the notable change to the membership categories was introduced.

2017 882

2018 917

2019 933

2020 893

2021 875

It does appear that the only membership categories showing consistent increases are the senior (over 70) categories.

Are the statements in the annual report misleading?

The General Manager noted that the actual end of year figures were adjusted to allow for known resignations and those members who were unfinancial at the time of the reports – as these numbers were also reported to Golf Australia for the purposes of billing of Golf Australia fees. He noted further that because of these adjustments the comparison of the end of year figures was difficult and that it was mid to late March when all resignations and non-financial members had been finalised and when these were compared over the last few years the numbers showed:

2019 - 933, 2020 - 893, and 2021 - 875.

Phil acknowledged this, noting it was the numbers rather than the comments that were misleading and asked if it were possible for a comparative table of member numbers and types be included in the Annual Report in the future. The General Manager acknowledge that this would be included in future.

The President called for questions from the floor

Pauline Murphy

Spoke about the question of safety on the second with tees from the 7th tee and members playing up the 2nd.

Kym Erbacher acknowledged the issue however noted it was a golf course and shots can at times go anywhere and that all members needed to acknowledge and use the normal warning calls. She noted also that other holes also did have some of these issues but had even more limited cover between these.

Vicki Wilson

Questioned the lack of Sunday mixed events this year until late in the year and expressed that these were a great event for new members to Club.

Kym Erbacher acknowledged the importance of these events for new and existing members and explained that the Sunday golfing calendar was full until May, that running these events during the winter months had proven unsuccessful, and that they would be run again as soon as possible.

Phil Trevenen

Asked why we did not fly the Club flag from the poles available.

The President asked Gary Fry to speak on this. Gary noted that the flags had deteriorated and only a single flag was now available which was for special events and use at other Clubs events when possible. The President acknowledged that this may be possible and would be followed up on. Alan Burns noted Evans and Evans as a previous flag provider to the Club.

Vicki Wilson

Noted that the big garbage bins had been prominent at the golfer's entrance to the Club and enquired as to whether the new concrete section would be used for the bins and whether they would be further screened and the odour addressed.

The General Manager responded that the concrete had been laid for the bins following other options being examined, and that suitable screening would be arranged and the frequency of empty examined.

Maxine Berry

When might some more sand arrive for our bunkers?

Kym Erbacher responded that sourcing this was an ongoing issue with more ordered and that the Board had approved the upgrade of all greenside bunkers as had occurred to those of the 18th and that this would commence in May addressing those of the greatest concern first and continue over a period of 12 months

Vicki Wilson

Noted that the previous year she had raised her concerns over the general cleanliness of the golf club and wished to acknowledge the noticeable improvement in this area and thanked those involved.

The General Manager noted this and thanked Vicki for her comments.

There being no further questions the President then invited Club Captain Kym Erbacher to speak.

Kym noted that there were 3 members of the Board who were stepping down and that it was important that their contribution to the Club was acknowledged and that they were thanked for their service noting: John King – who had joined the club over 25 years ago and joined the Board in 2010 as the Club moved to its new home. He served as Vice President in 2016 and as President in 2017 and 2018 and had been a substantial contributor to the Club through his sponsorship support including major events to which he attracted other major sponsors.

Lesa Gray – joined the Club in 2007 and served on the Ladies Committee for a number of years becoming Women's Vice Captain in 2014 and as Women's Vice President in 2016 and 2017. She joined the Board in 2018 serving as Vice President in 2019 and becoming the first woman in the Club's history to serve as President in 2020 and again in 2021. Lesa will continue her involvement through the Women's Golf and Development Sub - Committee.

Michael Erbacher – joined the Club in 1998, joined the Committee in 2000 serving until 2015 when he moved away from Ballarat and again commencing in 2019. He has served as Club Captain for 9 years from 2005 to 2010 and 2019 and 2020. He served as Club President in 2011 and 2012. Always willing to help out in any way, he also has acted as Master of Ceremonies on many occasions

Kym again acknowledged the invaluable contribution of these members to the Club and sincerely thanked them.

A very warm round of applause followed.

The President then spoke on election of directors. The President noted there were 3 vacancies, where 5 nominations were received – these being John Noone, Justin Howlett, Peter Fell, Tony White and Wes McKnight. A ballot was conducted electronically as per the Rules using True Vote to conduct the election. There were 601 eligible members of which 379 (63%) voted. The new members in alphabetical order are Peter Fell, Justin Howlett and Tony White. The President congratulated all on their election and this was warmly applauded by all in attendance.

Being no further business, the President thanked all present for their attendance and participation, closing the meeting at 7:43pm.