



Rosslare Golf Club

Joint Club Annual General Meeting

Chaired by: Michael Roche

Venue: Coast Hotel, Rosslare

Date:	December 2 nd 2022
Minutes taken by	Carol O’Brien (Hon Secretary)
Meeting opened	7.10pm (delayed by 10 mins to facilitate parking)
Time Meeting closed	20.39

Attendance	Total present: 152	
Apologies	Reading of which was waived	
Hon Secretary	The meeting is recorded for accuracy of minute taking Approved by those present	
ISSUES		Contributors to discussion
Opening Address by the Chairman	<p>The Chairperson Michael Roche opened the meeting by offering a warm welcome to everyone present.</p> <p>We had an outstanding year in 2022 by all standards.</p> <p>The Links has never been in such good condition. Great credit due to the work of Greens Committee in tandem with Course Superintendent Mark Doyle and his team is highly commended. They have had to deal with many problems due to a lack of a functioning irrigation system. Many thanks to the volunteer group under Jim Cullimore who carry out manual watering in the evenings. This is vital in order to keep our course in optimum condition. The winter programme has begun which will result in further improvements.</p> <p>Green Fee income is up 40%. Credit to the Marketing team who have promoted the links across all platforms. Unfortunately increase in visitor numbers can, at times, have a detrimental effect on members teetimes. The GM has worked closely with Golf committees to protect these times especially at the weekend. The concessionary member/guest green Fee facility is to be extended to July/August with the exception of Open Weeks.</p> <p>Member numbers have also increased with 81 new members in the Full, Burrow and U35 categories to the 30th September with a further 24 Full since October 1st. The combined efforts of Membership & Marketing are to be commended for this.</p> <p>The Club has made a profit of €250,000. The downside is that the Club requires significant investment to complete the following CapEX projects – Irrigation Phase 2, refurbishment of Clubhouse and locker-rooms, Burrow carpark and continuous upgrade of the courses. The Business Development</p>	,

	<p>team have been working on where the money might come from. You have received a comprehensive update on the work of this committee. They hope to hold an Information evening in Q2/3 to announce those plans. Despite the best efforts the Bar / Restaurant remain a challenge. What was once profitable is now a drag on resources, both financial and management. We have a number of options on how this may be dealt with.</p> <p>Thanks to the General Manager Jerry Foley and all the staff for their commitment and dedication for the past twelve months.</p> <p>Thanks to the members of the MC for their hard work, commitment and dedication throughout the year. Reports from the respective Chairs show the achievements of the year.</p> <p>Finally, thanks to the outgoing Captains Diarmaid and Dorcas and committees and I wish incoming Captains Richard & Vandra & committees every success for the coming year.</p>	
Vote of Sympathy	<p>A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to those members and friends who had died during the past year.</p> <p>Ar dhéis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse</p>	
Adoption of Standing Orders	<p>This meeting is convened and conducted under the Constitution and Standing Orders which were previously circulated and read to the floor. Hon Secretary adopted Standing Orders/Rules of Debate for the meeting.</p>	<p>Approved by: Michael Kearns Seconded by: Bob Quilty</p>
Ratification of Individual MC members	<p>All members of the MC must be ratified individually or the vote is deemed to be spoilt.</p> <p>Prior to the collection of those votes a question was posed to the Chair as to whether he was recommending that all members be ratified given recent rumours of unrest that had been circulating. In effect the membership are voting blind as they do not know what is going on.</p> <p>Response: The change in the Constitution means that each member must be ratified. However, what goes on in the committee room is sacrosanct and not subject to rumour.</p> <p>Permission to ask individual committee members for their view on ratification of individuals was refused by the Chair.</p> <p>A further clarification was requested as follows: We are ratifying five people on this paper. There are eight on the committee. Have three people resigned and under what circumstances? Response: Three people have resigned. Under the Constitution two had to step down and a third resigned for personal reasons. At present there are no candidates to fill these positions.</p> <p>Further query: Was there any one reason why it was not possible to fill the vacancies? Response: No, the Nominations committee have reached out to many people and we appealed through BRS for candidates but no-one came forward.</p> <p>Members for ratification:</p>	<p>Denis Noonan</p> <p>Paul Kennan</p> <p>Johnny Kelly</p>

	<p>Chairperson: Michael Roche Hon Secretary: Carol O'Brien Hon Treasurer: Kevin Mitchell Chair of Business Development: Geoff Coman Chair of Greens: Michael Dempsey</p> <p>Scrutineers: Sean Mernagh, Doreen McGovern, Colm Waldron, Robert Redmond</p> <p>The voting papers were collected and removed for counting.</p>	
Adoption of Minutes: AGM 2020	Minutes of AGM 2021 which had been held in January 5 th 2022 due to Covid restrictions had been previously circulated and were taken as read.	Proposed by: Mary McDonald Seconded by: Frances Kavanagh
Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
Statement of Accounts Hon Treasurer Kevin Mitchell	<p>The Statement of Accounts had previously been circulated including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Hon Treasurer's Report year ended September 30th, 2021 ➤ The Independent Auditor's Report ➤ Income/Expenditure Account ➤ Balance Sheet ➤ Notes to the financial statements ➤ Budget 2022 <p>The Hon Treasurer Kevin Mitchell asked the meeting to consider how they would like to hand the Club to the next generation?</p> <p>He then gave a more detailed account of the Club's finances for 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscriptions (+ 16%) & Green Fees up on 2021. Surplus €245,000 • Financial outcome from Bar / Restaurant disappointing but not surprising given the pressure on staff shortage and personal finance. The MC are looking for workable solutions. • Increases in admin expenses are driven by wage increases and the absence, this year, of government subsidy • Increase in repairs due to replacement of the aircon system €15,000 • Entertainment expenses due to Sky (€7000) and IMRO licence charges • Course machinery, bar/ kitchen equipment purchased, • Our current obligations to the bank were reduced by €93.000 • Phase 1 of Irrigation system is now complete within budget. • There are no outstanding CapEx projects but many under active consideration. • Major CapEx for the coming year are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Course Machinery ➤ Phase 2 Irrigation project ➤ Locker rooms ➤ Possible Bar/Restaurant refurbishment <p>Above expenditure will depend on cash resources, external finance and income for 2023. There will be significant spending in the coming years and</p>	

	<p>we must ensure that it is financed appropriately without endangering the longterm future of the club. Looking at the budget for 2023 the outlook is uncertain as there is no guarantee we will achieve the same level of income. Two items in the budget to be noted; €22,000 for new course signage included in the course budget €20,000 for legal fees which is to cover a possible legal action involving one of our course boundaries.</p> <p>The Treasurer thanked the following for their help since coming into the role: Jerry Foley, Claire Farrell, Roisin Doyle, Aideen Murphy (Office) Finance Committee especially Sean Mernagh, our late friend and colleague Donal O’Keeffe who gave so much to the club over the years. He will be greatly missed. If anyone present is interested in joining Finance subcommittee please make themselves known.</p> <p>Q&A:</p> <p>1. Is Phase 2 of Irrigation still on budget or likely to increase? Indoor & outdoor wages seem to have increased substantially. There is no indication of overtime paid. Is this an issue? Response: Phase 1 completed within budget. No figures yet for Phase 2 as it is some time off. Re wages: no government subsidy. No doubt that wages will go up. No figure for overtime. The MC endeavour at all times to keep costs to a minimum.</p> <p>2. The golf experience in RGC is lacking in relation to the Clubhouse. If we want visitors to come could the committee consider borrowing to refurbish the bar. Response: Matter has discussed extensively at MC level. However, Finance will not recommend borrowing for B/R until a business plan is presented that works. 1st phase is the lockerrooms. Thereafter, B/R. But nothing has been spent since 1999</p> <p>3. Why spend money on lockerroom? Response: Government have given a grant for lockerroom nothing for B/R</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Accounts approved</p>	<p>David Hemmingway</p> <p>Eleanor Wardlaw</p> <p>Bobby O’Dowd</p> <p>Proposed by: Richard Kennedy</p> <p>Seconded by: Michael Kearns</p>
<p>Chair of Greens Michael Dempsey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on course is excellent which in turn has great impact on motivating the workforce. • 11 greens meeting during the year • Review meeting weekly with Course Superintendent. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team meeting every two months whereby staff can offer ideas and receive feedback. • Fantastic potential for the course- as good as anywhere. Thanks to Mark and team. • The structure of the Greens Committee is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Responsibility for Course presentation: Phil Callery, Doreen McGovern, Ian Lynch ➤ Machinery: Paul Boggan, ➤ Irrigation: Jim Cullimore who gives an extraordinary amount of time to co-ordinating volunteers etc. Incredible commitment to the Club. ➤ Finance/ Administration: Richard Kennedy & Michael Kearns. Best wishes to incoming Captain Richard and to Michael who is leaving – a huge loss to RGC • Irrigation Phase 1 completed without bank loans or levies • The capacity of the new tank is 800-1 million litres – filling up as it empties. • €470k – wages and inputs. Tens of thousands less than previously. Thanks to Mark for his management. • Phase 2 of irrigation system is vital to the ongoing viability of the course. It is not just the grass it is the treatments which also need efficient water distribution. Jim Cullimore has agreed to stay on for another year. • Adrian Motrom Course/ Irrigation Consultant has submitted his report which is paid for. • Next phase is to get the work done. • The new teeboxes on 7th/16th will be ready for play in March. Thanks to the anonymous donor for the significant donation for the teeboxes. <p>Q&A: Compliments to all concerned. Do we have an established course plan that could be presented to members? Was Martin Ebert consulted on design changes?</p> <p>Response: Martin Ebert recommended the move of the 16th teebox in his 2006 report to avail of the seaviews and later in 2018 the 7th. There is an H&S issue with proximity of 5th green and 6th teebox. Mark has problems keeping growth in that area but the new path will help. Yes, a course plan is available.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report approved:</p>	<p>Ted Tierney</p> <p>Proposed by: Bob Quilty</p> <p>Secoded by: Des Murphy</p>
<p>Reports from Chairs to be taken in the order listed.</p>	<p>Business Development (Chair: Geoff Coman)</p> <p>Q&A: 1. Are there any valuation figures on the potential sites for sale? Response: Yes figures are available. It is not a fact that we are going to sell land but the strategic development committee are looking at all options to meet our demands top of which is irrigation. Valuations cannot be circulated at this point.</p>	<p>Ted Tierney</p>

	<p>An Information Meeting for the members to discuss the strategic document is planned for Q3 2023.</p> <p>2. a) Is the site at back of 18th governed by foreshore Act? Can planning be got for this site? b) The Grove - the only deciduous grove left in Rosslare. c) Another issue with development is that Irish Water have no plans to upgrade water supply in the village . There is no infrastructure.</p> <p>Response: History: In 2021 Hughes Consultants were employed to identify potential sites. The land at back of 17th/18th is not prime building land but could be used for other purposes. All sites will be considered. Some sites will be sold on spec i.e. with no planning. It will be up to the members to make the final decision at SGM. It is simply research now.</p> <p>House/Social:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congratulations to Peter on his hard work over the last few years. . Is there any proposal to install PV panels? An engineers report would be required. They could be installed on a HP basis. It is the way to go now. <p>Response: A structural report has been conducted. It may be possible to install PV on the machine shed. We are currently looking at available grants. We will work on it in 2023. First we had to make sure the building was sound.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Is there a tie-up. Has anyone been surveyed to see what is required from our restaurant. Opening hours / food . <p>Response: We are always open to suggestions from the membership. We try to get feedback from societies etc. We do speak to staff.</p> <p>Golf Ireland have drawn up survey templates which we may be able to utilise for this purpose.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There were no further questions to the Chairs</p>	<p>David Hemmingway</p> <p>Des Murphy</p> <p>Bob Quilty</p>
<p>Motions:</p> <p>No 1:</p>	<p>Voting on Motions will be by show-of-hands. Scrutineers are drawn from the two Golf Committees: Paul Boggan, Michael Brosnan, Valerie Doyle and Eilis Kavanagh.</p> <p>Motion No 1: “That the annual subscription for Ordinary, Associate, Burrow and Overseas members be increased by €40.00 for the year 2022.”</p> <p>Proposed by: Kevin Mitchell Seconded by: Gemma Duggan Proposer: This represents a 4.8% increase in order to build financial resilience., inflation pressures, currently running at 9.2%. The Club has weathered Covid reasonable well and finances are on an even keel. However, this is not the time for complacency as the club faces into further development on course and Club. I would urge members to support the motion</p> <p>Secunder: Seconded the motion.</p>	

**Motion No 2:
Amendment
to Rule 30.2**

Result: Carried by a clear majority

That Rule 30.2 be amended to read:

“Any member whose subscription remains unpaid, or who has not agreed to an instalment plan if any, by March 1st, shall cease to be a member of the club and will have his/her access to the golf links denied. He/She may be re-admitted without an entrance fee and without re-nomination within twelve months subject to the payment of all subscriptions, arrears and other monies due to the club. Members availing of the subscription instalment plan shall cease to be members 14 days after the default of any instalment with access to the golf course denied immediately after missing an instalment.”

Proposed by: Kevin Mitchell Seconded by: Michael Dempsey

Proposer: The committee does not have adequate powers to deal with defaulters under the current clause. It needs to be clear to both members and committees how we deal with those non-payees. I again urge you to support the motion.

Secunder: Seconds the motion

Amendment to motion:

Insert in Line 3: access to the course denied by March 1st. “

Proposed by Marie Garahy Seconded by: Joan Walsh

Amendment adopted unanimously

Result: Carried by a clear majority

**Motion No 3:
Amendment
to Rule
14.2/14.3**

That Rule 14.2 be amended to read:

“Upon a requisition signed by not less than 50% of members of the Management Committee, stating the nature of the business to be transacted, the Chairperson or Secretary of the Committee shall call a Special Meeting of the Management Committee for the consideration thereof; and if the Officers designated above neglect or refuse to call such Meetings within seven days, the same may be convened by notice signed by not less than 50% of Members of the Management Committee”

Insert Clause 14.3

14.3. Special Meetings may also be held for the transaction of urgent business at the discretion of the Chair. Notice for such special meetings shall be in such form and in such a time-period as the Chair, in her/his sole discretion, deems fit. Such period of notice shall be not less than 24 hours to each member of the Management Committee.

Proposed by: Paddy Lonergan Seconded by: Jim Hennessy

Proposer: Currently committee members cannot convene a meeting – this is at the sole discretion of the Chairperson. This is undemocratic in nature. The proposed amendment is to bring the rule in line with all other committees. It does not diminish the right of the Chair to call a meeting. I propose that the amendment be adopted.

Secunder: Seconds the motion

1. One issue arises: The constitution is designed in its entirety to relect the clear differences between the MC and the golf committees. The

	<p>convening of golf committee meetings is covered by Section 13 whilst MC meetings are governed by Section 14 which emphasises the differences. Concern would be that we would treat all committees the same. The responsibilities of the MC are very different in nature.</p> <p>The Chairperson or Secretary of the MC are not officers.</p> <p>2. Has the review of the Constitution, promised within two years, taken place? Would it be prudent to review the entire constitution including this Clause.</p> <p>Response: No</p> <p>Comment from Chair: Cannot understand the motivation for it. He may not be Chair for much longer but this amendment emasculates future Chairpersons. The committees are not the same. You, the proposer, wrote this constitution. You thought this was the right thing to do. We have monthly meetings currently so are never more than three weeks away from a meeting. If four people want to call a meeting the Chair must acquiesce. Doesn't think it is right. Other rules need to be addressed. The Constitution is a bible – you run with it or ignore it.</p> <p>Proposer's right of reply: We are simply safeguarding democracy. The Chair is currently almost omnipotent. There are eight people voted onto committee. This amendment states that if more than four want to raise an issue they should have the right to do so.</p> <p>Th power of the Chair to call a meeting is retained under Clause 14.3 but if members of the committee want to call a meeting on a particular topic I cannot understand why they could not.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Result: Motion carried.</p> <p>“That Messrs. Martin Quigley & Co. be elected as auditors of the Club for the year 2023”</p> <p>Proposed by: Kevin Mitchell Seconded by: Carol O'Brien</p> <p>Proposer: I would like to propose that Martin Quigly & Co be re-elected. They provide an excellent service.</p> <p>Secunder: seconds the motion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Result: Carried unanimously</p>	
<p>AOB Prestige Membership</p>	<p>Prestige Membership – Member for 47 years. Took out Prestige in 2021. It is not a nice membership as I cannot play Open Competitions on Saturday/ Sunday. Would have to pay green fee. This is degrading. Some Past Captains/Presidents have taken out Prestige. To be asked to pay Green Fees after four/five years hard work is not right. It is not a question of the money.</p>	<p>Bobby O'Dowd</p>

<p>Michael Kearns</p> <p>Inclusivity and Attendance at AGMs</p>	<p>Response: The rules of Prestige membership are clearly laid out. It is a much cheaper category. However, the committee will look at it next year.</p> <p>Phil Callery paid tribute to the hard work done by Michael Kearns during his time with us. He has been a great club member and has done great work on the greens committee but he is, unfortunately, moving up the country and leaving us.</p> <p>Michael Dempsey, as Chair of Greens seconded.</p> <p>Disappointing to note that this year’s meeting, while well attended, is not done in an inclusive manner where a large body of the membership are denied access to the meeting. eg Overseas. During pandemic we were able to hold meetings by zoom which included all members. We are denying some members the right to exercise his/her vote and attend. I would ask the committee to look at this in the future.</p> <p>Response (Chair): The committee discussed this. However, it was decided to look at opening it up for next year while considering the difficulties of a blended model.</p> <p>Is that decision leaving the committee open to question if it can be considered next year?</p> <p>Response: It is a committee and a democracy.</p> <p>No further contributions were made.</p>	<p>John Fenlon</p>
<p>Ratification of Management Committee</p>	<p>The result of the Ratification vote was announced as follows:</p> <p>Chairperson: Michael Roche - Not ratified</p> <p>Hon Treasurer: Kevin Mitchell - Ratified</p> <p>Hon Secretary: Carol O’Brien - Ratified</p> <p>Chair of Business Development: Geoff Coman - - Ratified</p> <p>Chair of Greens: Michael Dempsey- - Ratified</p>	
<p>Procedure per the Constitution</p>	<p>As a quorum has not been reached the following procedure will be adopted per the Constitution:</p> <p>Following the ratification vote we now have committee of four with four vacancies. These vacancies cannot be filled at the AGM. Clauses 10.7 – 10.7.3 govern the procedure that will be adopted.</p> <p>The vacancies will take approximately a month to fill.</p> <p>If there is more than one nomination for a particular vacancy an SGM will be convened.</p> <p>In the interim the meeting is asked to approve a caretaker committee.</p> <p>Proposed by: Michael Roche.</p> <p>The Chair handed the meeting to the Hon Treasurer Kevin Mitchell who asked for a show of hands to confirm that the proposal was accepted.</p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting.</p>	

Meeting closed	As there was no other business the meeting closed at 20.39	
	Signed by: _____(Chairman) Date: _____	