

MINUTES OF A.G.M. OF ABBEYLEIX GOLF CLUB

2019

The A.G.M. of the club was held on Wed. 11th December '19 @ 8.30 pm. Sixty one members attended, apologies were received from Colin Self, Andrea Rogers and Bernie Kelly.

Captain Tom Molumby welcomed everyone and formally opened the meeting.

Minutes : The minutes of the 2018 A.G.M. were read and adopted, proposed by Donal O'Callaghan and seconded by Maura Horan. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Secretary's Report : Secretary Michael Martin read the report to the meeting outlining the following

1. Course improvements during the year (thanked Matt McDonald)
2. Lottery : importance of keeping tickets sales up. (thanks to Peter Scully Ann Doherty and Andrea Rogers)
3. Open Week (Thanked vice captain Liam Ryan)
4. Societies (thanks to Pat Coughlan)
5. Competitions (thank you to Colin Self, Ann Doherty and Anthony Collins)
6. Social/Fundraising (thank you to Geraldine Murphy and her committee)
7. Attendance at presentations

The secretary thanked all the co-ordinators and members of the various sub-committees, bar/restaurant staff, Maeve in the office, David Greene and photographer James Carroll.

Treasurers Report :The treasurer Kieran Savage introduced club accountant Lorcan O'Mahony who presented the financial report. Lorcan highlighted the following

- The upward graph that is now evident needs to continue.
- It was a great achievement that the bank loan/repayments were restructured.
- We need to generate €240,000 - €250,000 to be viable.

Questions Arising from financial Report :

Mick Moran : When will the bank restructuring kick in ? It will begin in 2020 (T.Molumby)

Shay Malone : Does expenditure include new equipment or just maintenance ? Maintenance only (T.Molumby)

Shay Malone : Does tangible assets include mowers ? It includes carpets, machinery but not new mower just purchased.

Donal O'Callaghan : Texting services are up, we should look into setting up whats ap group

Bridget Malone : Why has electricity bill gone up by €3,000 ? Lorcan explained that ESB charges had gone up significantly this year.

Ann Doherty : suggested that we should examine using electronic mail as printing costs last year were €6,000.

Liz Meagher : Issue of waste disposal should be examined, costs too high. Lady vice captain Evelyn Casserly agreed that recycling is the way forward.

Concluding the treasurers report, Kieran Savage thanked the following : Lorcan O Mahony for his expertise drawing up accounts , Mick Moran for his advice, captains Tom and Karen for their professionalism negotiating with the banks and Maeve whom he described as a treasure in the office. He asked members to consider paying their subscriptions early in new year to alleviate cash flow problems. With the hoped for increase in income as a result of the new deal, the council commits to course improvement in the new year. Kieran thanked John Joe Fennelly for

his help with rates reduction with Laois County Council and secretary for his co-operation in all things during the year.

Presidents/Captains Address :

President Bosco Whelan thanked Tom Carroll for the nomination, he said it was a great honour, he congratulated all the officers and introduced the incoming president Murty Kearns. In reply Murty thanked Bosco, all the incoming and outgoing officers and introduced the vice president for 2020 Liam Dunne.

Lady President Teresa Bradshaw thanked Catherine Connolly for her nomination, she described the presidency as an privilege and an honour and introduced the incoming lady president Catherine Brennan. Catherine thanked Teresa, she looked forward to working with Liam and Evelyn and introduced the lady vice president Liz Meagher.

Captain Tom Molumby thanked Noel Burke for his nomination. He said that he had a great team of officers who were marvellous with support and advice. He said that he had two objectives for the year, get the course in good condition and restructure the loan. He then introduced the incoming captain Liam Ryan. Concluding he thanked P.J. and staff, Maeve Geraghty, all who helped in any way during the year. In reply, Liam thanked Tom for the invitation, it was a privilege to be captain in the 125th anniversary year of the club. He would like to honour those who had been 50 years or more in the club, and promised to do his best for the club in 2020. He committed to a three year budget plan. He then introduced the vice captain for 2021 Anthony Collins.

Lady captain Karen Odlum thanked all the officers and trustees of the club. She particularly thanked the volunteers for their help throughout the year. She appreciated the tremendous help she got from the ladies committee and complimented the ladies for "their ladies into golf" initiative. Thanking treasurer Kieran and secretary Michael, she acknowledged the co-operation, advice and support of captain Tom. Wishing all new officers the best of luck, she introduced incoming captain Evelyn Casserly. In reply, thanking Karen for the nomination, Evelyn said she was nervous and hopeful for the coming year. She pledged to do her best for the club and introduced the lady vice captain Ann Maher.

Election of Officers :

Hon Secretary : Michael Martin, proposed by Liam Ryan, seconded by Donal O Callaghan.

Hon Treasurer : Kieran Savage, proposed by Michael Martin and seconded by Liam Ryan.

Council : Donal O Callaghan, Maura Horan, Matt McDonald, Bridget Malone, Leo Dunne, Catherine Connolly, Pat Coughlan, Eamon O Sullivan and Aidan Dunphy.

Motions:

1. That the Health & Safety Officer of the club be a full member of the council.

Decision : Recommendation – that a member of the council be health and safety officer.

2. That the incoming council be authorised to proceed with whatever course recommendations they decide arising from the course report.

Decision : accepted by meeting

3. That the 2019 subscription rates remain the same for 2020 in all catagories

Decision : accepted by meeting (dependent on decision of subsequent motions)

4. Remove drain on 7th fairway

Decision : motion defeated.

5. Matchplay Competition : Change the format to ensure it is played over a shorter period.

Greg Reilly proposed and Anthony Collins seconded. After discussion and contributions from Peter Cleary, Matt McDonald, Anthony Collins and Greg Reilly, it was decided to appoint someone to look after competition and take recommendation into account.

6. Publicise Prizes of Major Tournaments, proposed by Greg Reilly and seconded by Jimmy Joyce. After contributions from Brendan Murphy, Anthony Collins and the proposers emphasising more use of modern media, facebook, website, twitter etc. This motion was referred to incoming council.

7. A person whose membership has lapsed for three years or more would be re-admitted to the club for an initial fee of €400 and thereafter to full membership in year two. Proposed by Aidan Dunphy and seconded by Kieran Savage

Decision : accepted by meeting

8. That the subscription for new members who have never held a GUI Card be changed to €225 and for more than four joining together that it will be €200 for year one. Year Two : the subscription would be €375 and then to full rate in their category in year three. Proposed by Kieran Savage and seconded by Donal O Callaghan.

Decision : motion defeated.

9. "Drive fore Life" Recruit a new member or a lapsed /former member to the club and both memberships are locked at €400 for as long as both remain members. Proposed by Brendan Murphy and seconded by Derry Connolly. This motion generated considerable discussion with the following contributing : Brendan Murphy, Derry Connolly, Anthony Collins, Peter Cleary, Colin Murphy, Bosco Whelan, Martin Mahony, Kieran Savage, Liam Dunne, Karen Odlum, Eamon O'Sullivan.

Decision : The motion was passed with the following amendments : (a) this initiative should be reviewed annually. (b) a three year trial period be applied. (c) the administration of the proposal be streamlined by incoming committee.

A.O.B.

Anthony Collins : We should check with new gambling regulations regarding any fundraising initiative we may plan.

Karen Odlum :We need to consider the transition year students and if there is a module to include golf.

Evelyn Casserly : Arising from the success of the "ladies into golf". It is suggested that the mens section undertake similar project next year.

Concluding the meeting, the captain Liam thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and formally closed the meeting.

Abbeyleix Golf Club – Secretary's Report 2020

This year has been one of the most challenging year for everyone in society, thankfully we are now seeing a glimmer of light and hope as we face the new year. The club was essentially closed or at least curtailed since March '20 and we thank all members for their patience and co-operation. The decision of management was always to protect the health and wellbeing of our members and consequently we adhered to guidelines in regard to our activities.

We were overwhelmed by the surge of goodwill from members when we were in lock down. Many members turned up and ensured that the course was kept in pristine condition throughout. So many volunteers were involved, I am reluctant to try to name them, except to thank them all on behalf of the membership. Work on the course included

- Ditches and shubbery and trees tidied.
- Gate erected on entrance to practice area, designed for buggy entrance only.
- Sand bunker on fifth fairway redesigned..
- Drainage on the 7th fairway
- Water area at third green cleaned and enhanced.
- Erection of wall in front of 11th green ongoing.

A special thank you David Greene and the course staff, to course manager Matt McDonald and to all those who give of their time freely to help maintain the course in such good coindition.

Because of the Covid outbreak, the club lottery had to be suspended. Our vice captain Anthony Collins quickly seized the opportunity to launch our lottery syndicate, which proved extremely successful. A special thank you to all who purchased €100 tickets and those who sold tickets to others. We have not hit the jackpot yet, but hope springs eternal !

Our vice captains Anthony and Ann and the committee ran a very successful open week this year despite covid restrictions. Some new sponsors were brought on board, new formats were devised for competition and the idea of the idea of emphasising two long weekends with a midweek break was very well received by members.

Pat Coughlan has been our society co-ordinator for many years and has been a terrific ambassador for the club, meeting with visitors, organising their day and ensuring their visit to our club was enjoyable. Unfortunately, once Covid restricted golfers movements, we could not even entertain the idea of having visitors to our club. Pat has indicated that he is stepping down from this position this year and he will be sorely missed. Thank you Pat for all your work for the club.

All competitions during the year were keenly contested. The major prize winners were :

Captains Prize Winners :

Men : Donal O’Gorman

Ladies : Louise Mahony

Presidents Prize Winners :

Men : Michael Brennan

Ladies : Bernie Carroll

The social /fundraising aspect of our club is a vital cog in the whole operation of the club. It generates a great sense of friendship and fun, while at the same time brings in extra income. Geraldine Murphy and her committee had many ideas in the pipeline, but again Covid precluded anything happening.

Once again, we were not in a position to organise presentations in the traditional way, yet thankfully, most major competitions were successfully completed and a socially distanced presentation was organised.

Many people help to make the club run smoothly. During the year we lost the services of P.J.Peacock in the bar and restaurant. P.J. was always friendly and attentive to the needs of everyone, thank you for yours years of service to the club. We also lost the services of Kieran Savage as treasurer, who served this club with dilligence and interest as captain and treasurer.Thank you Kieran.

A particular word of thanks to Maeve in the office, who is a great asset to the club, - friendly, capable and helpful to all. James Carroll is always available to record the various special events and presentations, thank you James.

I have now completed two terms as hon secretary (2001 -2005), (2015 -2020) and I feel it is now time for new and fresh ideas. I assure the next Secretary of my continued support and wish him well in his role. I thank all the officers and members of the club for their courtesy to me over that period. It was an honour to be involved with such a great group of people. A special thank you to this years officers, treasurer Teresa, presidents Catherine and Martin and captains Evelyn and Liam

I wish Anthony and Ann all the best for 2021.

Message from Treasurer

There are a lot of people I would like to Thank, and I will be brief. To all our members who have supported the club throughout this year, to our very loyal sponsors / both from within the club and outside. And again, to our army of volunteers who do superb work all around the course and the Club house itself, without whom, it would be very difficult to keep the club viable. Thanks to Tom Molumby for his advice and to Kieran Savage who enabled the smooth transition.

Given the circumstances that prevailed this year, it was very heartening to see new members join the Club and how our existing members rallied round. Competition entries were good, sponsorship was a real lifeline. Having come in to this role in late May, it has been somewhat of a 'Baptism of Fire'. However, there is no room for complacency and we have to be very mindful of how the club finances are managed.

To run fundraisers within the club now is impossible in the short term. This year, we are running the Euro-millions, which will conclude next July. So far, we haven't had an amazing win, but we still have seven months to go!! It is envisaged that we will run a similar promotion next year.

In conclusion, we look forward to welcoming you back to Abbeyleix Golf Club for 2021 and to a successful years' golf.

Teresa Bradshaw

Club Treasurer

President's address 2020

Mr. Captain Liam Ryan, Lady Captain Evelyn Casserly, Lady President Catherine Brennan, officers and members,

I would like to thank all who helped steer the Club through a very strange and difficult year.

Thanks to David Greene and the ground staff for their dedication and hard work in keeping the Course in fantastic condition, also thanks to Course Manager Matt McDonald and all volunteers who have given of their time throughout the year to help maintain our Course to such a high standard.

I would like to acknowledge Maeve's contribution to the efficient running of the Club's office and thank her for her co-operation and courtesy at all times. Thanks also to the many volunteers who have assisted in the office throughout the year.

I am happy to introduce Mr. Liam Dunne as President for 2021 and I wish him and all incoming officers the best of luck and continued success with the Club in the coming year.

Happy Christmas to all.

Martin Kearns

Lady President's address AGM 2021

Mr. Captain Liam Lady Captain Evelyn Mr. President Martin fellow golfers.

I feel honoured to be President of Abbeyleix Golf Club for the year 2020 and thanks to Teresa (The Brad) for asking me to take on the role.

Little did any of us know at the start of 2020 what we were facing during a year with the Covid 19. Thankfully we are all safe and healthy and hopefully the vaccine will make a difference to all of lives for 2021 and to the game of golf.

I would like to compliment both Mr. Captain Liam and Lady Captain Evelyn for their contribution to Abbeyleix Golf Club in particular their contribution of a beautiful Plaque for the 125 years of Abbeyleix Golf Club which will be there for future of the club.

I would like to thank all the Committees both Council and Ladies Committee for their dedication to the Club – it is easy to come in and have a round of golf but without the commitment of the voluntary workers and all the officers we would not have such a wonderful Club.

Thanks to everyone for their friendship and good wishes during my reign as President which made my year very enjoyable.

Wishing all the incoming committee the very best for 2021.

Without further ado I would like to introduce by successor Elizabeth Meagher who has a great love of golf and the Club.

Catherine Brennan

**Station House, Attanagh, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
R32X7H6**

Dear Member,

It has been a great privilege to serve as Captain of Abbeyleix Golf Club even in this Covid year.

Thanks to Tom Molumby for asking me and thanks you, our members, who have given me such support throughout the year.

It has been a privilege to witness the workings of the Club from the inside and I feel humbled by the extraordinary levels of volunteering that is so essential. All of your efforts are hugely appreciated.

I want to thank David Greene and his staff for the super job they have done on the course throughout the year and look forward to the completion of the new works undertaken during the recent lockdown.

I was privileged to serve with Evelyn as Lady Captain. She epitomizes strength and calmness.

I want to wish Ann and Anthony, the 'A' team, the very best of luck throughout 2021.

I want to wish you all a great Christmas and New Year.

Again thanks a million.

Dear Member

It's a great honour to have been asked to be Captain of Abbeyleix Golf Club. I would like to thank the outgoing Captain, Liam for asking me as it came as a shock and a great honour to serve as Captain to this great club.

I would like to congratulate both Liam and Evelyn on their tough year as the club grew from strength to strength even through a bad pandemic. I will take on the baton with enthusiasm and continue to grow Abbeyleix Golf Club to be a great and strong golf club.

I would like to wish Brendan Murphy and Bridie Fennelly all the best as Vice-Captains for the year.

I am looking forward to working with Anne and the other officers in 2021.

As a quote from the great JFK in paraphrasing "it's not what your club can do for you but what you can do for your club".

Anthony Collins

Lower Main Street, Abbeyleix, Portlaoise.

December 2020.

Dear Members,

As I have already addressed the lady members, I will make this address brief.

As Liam has already said, it is indeed a great honour and privilege to serve as Captain of Abbeyleix Golf Club. For this honour, I thank Karen for inviting me to take up this position.

It has been a very strange year. Despite it all, it was a good year for the Golf Club, if not as sociable as usual. However, we had some good times. Maeve very kindly highlighted these for both Liam and I by putting them in photo albums which we will treasure. None of this could have been possible without James Carroll, our resident photographer, to whom to owe a huge debt of gratitude. Also we both want to thank Maeve for all her hard work in the office.

The good year was due to the selfless efforts and hard work of officers, committees and a very strong cohort of volunteers.

A very special thanks to Captain Liam for his hard work and dedication to the club. He set out to bring the club through 2020 in good stead. Despite the obstacles, this he did. He was totally committed to the club and a gentleman to work with.

To the retiring officers and committee members, Liam and I thank you for your devotion to the club over the years. A very special thank you to Michael Martin for his great work as club secretary for the past five years. He also held this position from 2001 to 2005. That is pure dedication. Enjoy your retirement and play good golf.

Very best wishes to Anthony, Ann, incoming officers and committees for 2021.

I want to thank you all for your courtesy, friendship and support during my year in office.

My wish to you all for 2021 is good health, good golf and a Happy Christmas for 2020.

Best wishes

Evelyn

Incoming Lady Captain's Address

20.12.20

Dear Members,

I want to thank Lady Captain Evelyn for asking me to be Lady Captain. It is such a privilege. My family have had a long association with the club and it is such an honour that my name will join my mother's and all the other valued lady members who were Captains before me. Little did I know a year ago when Evelyn asked me that I would be entering the year of my captaincy in the midst of a pandemic!

I want to commend Evelyn and Liam for their hard work and dedication. What a tough year it has been for both of them. They experienced a lot of the challenges and very few of the social aspects and niceties of being Captain. They bore it all with great stoicism and were a great team. I saw first-hand how hard they both worked behind the scenes. They guided us through all the challenges that Covid 19 brought and it is to their great credit that we managed to play all of the major competitions and have a successful Open Week.

I will do my very best for the club in the year ahead, no doubt there will be many challenges and I will be relying on the experience and knowledge of my fellow members. I look forward to working with Captain Anthony, President Liam and Liz, the Council and various Committees. Congratulations to our Vice Captain's Brendan and Bridie. We have a wonderful club and the past year has certainly brought home to us how important our social relationships and activities like golf are. Let's hope we get to play lots of golf in 2021.

In the meantime, stay safe and well.

Best Wishes

Ann Maher.

MOTION - COMMITTEE 2021

Dear Member, As there is no possibility of a physical A.G.M. The following is proposed for 2021.

- 1. Subs : We propose that the 2020 rates will remain unchanged for 2021 (again in the absence of an A.G.M.)**
- 2. Officers for 2021 : Captain : Anthony Collins, Lady Captain: Ann Maher, President : Liam Dunne, Lady President : Elizabeth Meagher. Vice capt : Brendan Murphy, Lady Vice capt : Bridie Fennelly. Vice Pres: Donal O Callaghan. Lady vice pres: Bridget Malone**

Hon. Secretary : Colin Self. Hon Treasurer : Teresa Bradshaw.

Council : Aidan Dunphy, Maura Horan, Matt McDonald, Karen Odlum, Donal O Gorman, Ann Doherty, Paul Monnelly, James Deegan and Matt Thornton.

All above have been proposed and seconded and as there were no other nominations, are deemed elected.

- 3. Accounts : Annual accounts will be available shortly. Copies will be available in office or by email on request.**
- 4. Secretary's Report and minutes of 2019 A.G.M. : Please refer to notice board, Copies will be made available in office and report and minutes will also be posted on website.**
- 5. Outgoing/incoming captains and presidents addresses : Please refer to notice board in the coming week. Copies will also be available in office and posted on club website.**

We thank all members for their support during this most challenging year and we ask for your continued co-operation as we face into the new year. We look forward with hope and emthusiasm for a great golfing year in 2021.

Keep safe and a Happy Christmas ,

Michael Martin

(Hon Secetary)