



Minutes of the **20th Annual General Meeting** of the South Wales Seniors Classic

Held at the Grove Golf Club on Friday, November 3rd 2023.

Present: List of attendees available with Secretary.

The Chairman, Mr John Davies (Llantrisant & Pontyclun Golf Club) opened the meeting by asking all to stand for a minute silence for Departed friends.

Apologies for absence were recorded as per list available with the Secretary.

The Chairman called for approval of the minutes of the previous AGM.

Approval was Proposed by Derek Bines (Grove) and Seconded by Huw Morgan (Neath).
The minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Chairmans report.

The Chairman welcomed all and was disappointed with the numbers in attendance. He hoped that the horrendous weather that we have encountered over the last few days was the primary reason for non attendance.

He is very proud to be chairman of such a prestigious organisation and thanked the committee for their work over the last year. He also praised the secretary for his work during the year after being placed into the role at short notice after the sudden passing of Howel Craven. He also thanked all Clubs that took part in last years competitions and looked forward to having another successful year. The fundamental reason is to raise as much money as we can to this wonderful charity and was delighted to present a cheque for £8,500 to the WAA at the Presentation Dinner back in September.

Treasurers Report.

Chris Bailey outlined in detail the balance sheet that all members present had been provided. He said there was a year end balance of £2,431.96. A larger amount could have been donated but a decision was made that as prizes were to be purchased at this years prices to save some outgoings.

Chris thanked Ron Holloway for examining and auditing the accounts and has done so with no charge.

This was agreed by all present.

Secretaries Report.

Little did I think that virtually a year ago today that I would be addressing you as the secretary of the South Wales Classic. My predecessor Howell had intimated at last years AGM that he would be stepping aside and that I would be taking over the role. I didn't think

that for a second as if you cut Howell in half you would have the SWGC coursing through his veins.

I still believe to this day that he would have still played an integral part in the administering of the competitions as he truly loved this organisation and cherished and admired the charity that we strive to help each year.

Back in 2003 when the SWGC was founded the Wales Air Ambulance was chosen as its benefactor with different charities chosen for subsequent years. So many incidents regarding the Air Ambulance saving so many golfers were received on golf courses that it was decided to keep on supporting this cause every year. We have just celebrated our 20th anniversary and to date we have raised over £120,000, a truly wonderful achievement.

It is no wonder then that when I got a call from our Chairman last March I was shocked to hear of Howell's passing. I spoke to him briefly the day before and he was in fine spirits and to those of you who knew him he was always upbeat, gregarious, forthright in his views which is not a bad thing and liked a task done well. Jan his wife and Nicola his daughter helped him a great deal over the last few years and my thanks go to both of them for providing me with as much necessary paperwork as they could muster in assisting me to carry on the role which I now found myself in. Difficult shoes to step into but knowing the work that he and a lot of others had achieved over the last 20 years I decided it was only right that I should give it a try.

The amount of work he did was immeasurable as I have come to recognise during this year. To maintain such high standards from the competitions inception until this year is highly extraordinary and prodigious so much so that at our first committee meeting it was unanimously agreed that the Classic Cup be renamed The Howel Craven Trophy in his honour. I sincerely hope that I have in some way contributed to the ongoing success of this wonderful organisation.

I also have to report the passing of fellow committee member of Peter Watkins last month.

Peter was a valued member of the team and contributed to the organisation in many ways. Besides being an excellent worker, he was always good-humoured and considerate towards his colleagues. We understand that he was not in the best of health over the last few years but still contributed so much to the success of the Classic.

Peter will be sadly missed by everyone.

Max Boyce decided to step down as President at the beginning of the year and we thank him for his time and service. We are delighted however to welcome Garin Jenkins who will now take over the role.

He is a former Wales international rugby union player who represented his country 58 times. He played for Pontypool, Swansea, a club he captained and played in the Rugby Union World Cup three times: 1991, 1995 and 1999 .

We as a committee look forward to having him on board for the foreseeable future.

764 players registered in this years competition, congratulations to all of you that took part and those of you who have succeeded in reaching the Finals.

I am very grateful to all those venues that hosted our competitions this year.

The beginning of the year saw some unwelcome visitors to our courses namely Dudley and Eunice who bombarded us with excessive winds and rain that caused havoc across the principality.

Damage was seen across the majority of courses and most parkland courses suffered with the amount of rain that was encountered. This caused a slight problem for the early rounds of both Classic and Bowl competitions as local rules determined if Buggies or trollies were allowed on the course.

The competition rules state that we must abide by the local course rules which includes the use of buggies and trollies. It is imperative therefore that matches are arranged as early as possible to save any matches being forfeited. The committee do have the right to allow extensions if required and their decision is final.

I must pay tribute to John Our Chairman who is always there for counsel , Chris our treasurer for always looking after the pennies and his advice.

Brian Price for his support and attendance at all venues and Allen Watts who ensures that the website is kept relevant and up to date.

Finally, a big thank you to all the competitors for supporting this prestigious event again this year.

Election of officers:

No new nominations received & all the present officers would be prepared to stand again.

New Committee members would be most welcome and if interested please contact the Secretary.

Proposals: From Builth Wells, Creigiau B & Tenby

(1) - Due to the high cost of fuel could we look at if you are drawn away then the next round would be home, or even having 3 or 4 districts where we could have qualifiers from them to go through to the quarters and so on. (Proposer - Builth Wells)

While all understood the financial burden that has been placed on all of us it was thought that allowing Home winners to play away and Away winners to be drawn at home in the next round would not be feasible.

There are 32 teams in each East and West district at present. Having 3 or 4 districts It would be very difficult to administer and would be constrictive as the majority of clubs relish the opportunity to play courses that they would not normally play and most importantly meet new golfers for lasting friendships.

*(2)- All rounds of the competition up to the Quarter Finals to be played on neutral courses.
(Proposer - Creigiau B)*

This was discussed at great length and from the responses received from a number of clubs the consensus was that it was a positive move forward as the way it was at present it favoured the home side. Having looked at the data from the last six years 82% of home teams won. That having been said there are a few issues in implementing this change.

(a) How many teams will sign up and allow matches to be played on their course.

The last thing we want to do is to see clubs not registering because of this change.

(b) How many times will a course be asked to host a match.

There are courses that are more favoured than others. Restrictions into the number of times that venues are used must be considered.

(c) Would players be prepared to pay at clubs that are proprietary.

There are a number of proprietary clubs playing at present and will require some payment either by County Card or by purchasing meals. No club should be refused entry if decision is made not to sign up.

(d) Who decides on the neutral venue.

If when the draw is made the first team drawn would have the responsibility of arranging the venue is contentious as the Away Captain might not agree on the venue and that the venue could have already been booked by another club.

The decision therefore must be made by the committee which will further add to the workload that they already have.

Those are just of the few comments that were raised.

*(3)- In the event of an SWSC Classic match finishing all square the away club to be declared the winner, when matches played on neutral courses the last halving pair will play sudden death to determine the overall outcome. CHANGE TO CLASSIC RULE 3g -
(Proposer - Tenby GC)*

The third proposal was an amendment to the second proposal to try and address the balance as regards to the away Team winning the match if it was tied.

Due to the very low attendance a majority decision **NOT** to vote on any of the proposals was passed by all. The committee were asked to provide a consultative paper regarding the proposals and to present it at the next AGM for further discussion.

It was agreed by all that the status quo remained for 2024.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their thoughts and comments and reminded all that the main purpose of these competitions is to provide for this wonderful charity the Wales Air Ambulance and long may it continue.

There being no other business the chairman thanked those members that had attended the meeting and wished them all a safe journey home.

The meeting closed at 12.15.