

Studley Wood Seniors Section

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 April 2025

The meeting was held in the Upper Meeting Room at Studley Wood clubhouse. The meeting opened at 1356hrs.

The captain welcomed everyone and asked that the attendance record be signed. The signatures of 45 members were recorded. In attendance were Alan Boswell and Ken Heathcote.

Action

1. **Apologies:** Bryan Sanders, Paul Feldman, and Peter Collingwood.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on 4 April 2024, were accepted in full. None

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Gerry Prickett (GP) reported that the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024 had been completed. He then thanked Andy Marshall who had verified and signed them off.

GP referred to some of the highlights of the past year. These included the Captain's Charity which raised £4128 for Oxford Hospitals Charity.

Roll-up income was £4927, substantially up on 2023. Of this £4428 had been distributed as prizes, a 94% payout rate, up on the 2023 rate of 92.5%.

A surplus of £89.72 was achieved, compared to the small deficit of £63.68 achieved previously.

GP then referred to the financial performance of the section over the three years of his tenure as Treasurer.

4. **Captain's Report**

Tim Mustill, the outgoing captain, thanked first GP for his report, and then the members for the AGM turnout.

He started by saying that it had been an honour to have been captain before referring to the various developments over the past year. These included new competitions, an increase in roll-up fees and prizes, more people getting prizes, the establishment of the Annual Challenge as a Stableford competition and the source of the newly formed Seniors Champion.

He referred to the quarterly newsletter as a new contribution to section communication, and to the friendly matches with clubs, including the 6-0 win at Goring and Streatley. He also referred to this year's narrow failure to qualify for the knockout stages in the M4 Winter League, and our win at Burford in the opening match of this season.

On the topic of friendly matches he reminded members that the transition year was now over and that grey shirts were required, not the white ones used previously. He thanked the various people who had stood in for him as captain when he was unavailable.

He touched upon the success of the charity day, referred to earlier by the outgoing Treasurer, before reflecting on the role of the committee and the difficulties involved in striking a balance between the various views held across the membership. As examples, he referred to the difficulties associated with the preferred speed of play, balancing the number of qualifiers, and tee selection. Some people are happy with the current pace of play, there are some who feel we have too many medals and qualifiers, and there are those dislike playing off the Cobalt tees. He requested that members appreciate that the decisions, made by the committee, are an attempt to reflect all viewpoints and that it is not possible to satisfy everyone, all of the time.

He thanked Ian and his ground staff team for their excellent work during a difficult year weatherwise, and for keeping the course open for as long as they had. He also thanked Paul Dore for his work managing the website, Paul Fitzgerald for dealing with the roll-ups and BRS and to Bob Clarke for his work as Handicap Secretary.

He concluded by thanking the committee for their support and Jonathan Perks for being a great Vice Captain.

At this point the outgoing captain introduced and handed over the captaincy to Jonathan Perks.

5. Handover to New Captain: Jonathan Perks

Jonathan Parks (JP) the new captain, thanked Tim Mustill, the outgoing captain, for his year in office and for the work he had undertaken on behalf of the Senior's Section.

He stated that he saw his overriding goal was to help everyone enjoy their golf.

Following the announcement of the Texas Scramble results played in the morning, in which he was, apologetically, a part of the winning team, he referred to the current identification of the 'Player of the Month'. This concept is to be extended into an Order of Merit for the year, based on the total winnings accumulated from Senior's roll-up and silverware events.

He referred to the low number of qualifiers that had been possible recently, due to the poor weather. The improved weather and course conditions means that more qualifiers can now be scheduled. He said that the tours and awaydays were the envy of many other clubs and hoped they would continue. If anyone was interested in the forthcoming events they should speak to Chris Perks as soon as possible.

JP thanked Gerry Prickett for accepting the role of vice-captain and looked forward to a successful working partnership, one which enabled everyone to enjoy their golf.

6. Election of New Committee Members. Nominations Received:

As they were stepping down after three years of service, the captain thanked Colin Macgregor and Phil Chaundy for their services to the committee.

He then referred to the nominations of Paul Smith (for the role of Treasurer) and David Hughes as new committee members. He asked the members for their approval and by an overwhelming majority both were duly elected to the Senior's Committee.

7. Motions:

JP explained that the single motion tabled by the committee had been developed following feedback from different members of the section. The issue concerned the Club Championship which was open to all golfers over 55 years old. The feeling was that there should be a separate Championship for members who played regularly in the roll-ups.

The motion therefore, was that the Annual Challenge become a Stableford competition, as trialed in 2024, and the winner be declared 'Seniors Stableford Champion'. In the same theme, the Memorial Trophy be played to determine a 'Seniors Strokeplay Champion'. In order to play, participants would have had to have played in 10 Roll-up events in the calendar year.

At this point the floor was then invited to respond and a substantial discussion took place. Roy Fulton argued that the section should not tamper with the established silverware competitions and should respect the foundations of the section. The Annual Challenge should remain a medal event and if a new event was merited it should be a two-day competition. Steve Capaldi and others agreed with the principles expressed. Alan Boswell was concerned that the proposed event restricted access for some, including new members, and that the word champion or championship should be avoided.

The captain invited amendments to the motion but the membership rejected the motion and the proposed changes to the Annual Challenge was scrapped.

The captain thanked those in attendance for the clarity this decision had provided. He summarized the views expressed as:

- The Annual Challenge will revert to a medal competition.
- A new competition will be considered by the committee, based possibly around a 'masters' concept and, if appropriate, acquire a new trophy.
- Competition access may not be in terms of the number of roll-ups but possibly in terms of a tee-time window.
- The competition will need to be documented.

8. Pace of Play

The captain considered the pace of play and the committee's (and others) view that the excessive time taken by some members to complete rounds is an issue that needs to be addressed. He appreciated that some players may have medical reasons restricting their pace but everyone should be ready to play. Round times of over 5 hours are not acceptable.

Reference was made by some members to the slow pace of several low handicappers in the club. Roy Fulton referred to his recent experiences and the

exceptional speed of three ball groups he had been involved with, as opposed to the times taken by four ball groups.

In an attempt to reduce round times the captain will:

- a. Introduce the principle that each tee group will nominate one person to monitor their pace of play and encourage them to keep up to the group in front.
- b. Record round finish times.
- c. Encourage players to play 'Ready' golf when it is safe to do so.
- d. Promote the behaviour of 'letting people through' when necessary.
- e. Use the full two hours allowed for tee times to schedule as many three ball groups as possible.
- f. Protect three ball groups that go out in handicap order (in some competitions) by blocking entry to the fourth slot (and remind front desk not to slot in people in early groups when it is a medal).

In addition to these measures, the club may introduce 'marshals' whose task will be to monitor the speed of all groups across the course during competitions.

9. CEO's Address

Ken Heathcote (KH) congratulated the Senior's section once again for not only being well organised and a friendly group of people but also as a valuable section of the club who made significant contributions to the viability of Studley Wood Golf Club.

He announced that investment in the club will continue as demonstrated by the recent acquisition of new mowers and buggies. He hoped to establish a trust, funded by some of the charity work undertaken by the captains. The intention would be to help support club members and their families in times of difficulty.

When quizzed by members he said that the club was still intent on providing good quality winter mats for 'many' holes. In addition they were going to trial the use of winter portable mats to be used on the fairways when wet conditions prevailed and fix the pathways on the 4th and 18th holes.

More work will be undertaken on the range including better lighting, drainage and a new carpet.

The captain informed the membership that the Social Committee required volunteers.

Paul Dore wishes to step down as webmaster, and he explained briefly what the position entails and the skills required.

The meeting was closed at 1543 hrs.

The next AGM is scheduled for April 2026.

Chris Fill
Seniors Committee
6 May 2025

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