

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Kinsale Golf Club held on 24th November 2016

The President, Declan Murphy opened the meeting and welcomed all members. He asked that the members note the fire exits and to turn off mobile phones.

The Rev Leslie Bryan led the prayers and a minute's silence was held for deceased members.

The President made a presentation to Junior Golfers Cathal Butler and John Murphy to acknowledge their achievements during the past year.

Minutes:

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were taken as read as they were previously circulated to members. There were no matters arising. The minutes were adopted and proposed by Chris Cronin and seconded by Val McCann.

Attendance:

48 members attended the meeting and there were 21 apologies.

President Declan Murphy's Address:

in typical Irish tradition, we all have a dream, something to aspire to. In Declan's case, as a young golfer in Kinsale Golf Club, he always looked at the officer's board and wondered how it felt to have your name up there. He looked up to those great individuals as he progressed through the ranks. Never thinking that one day, dreams do come through. To have served as Captain of this great club was a dream, now to pull down the curtain on his Presidency exceeds all his dreams.

To have assisted in any small part to the history of this wonderful club makes him feel humbled and proud. He especially remembers tonight his great pal (God rest him), Noel Burke, he was captain when Declan first became an "official member" in 1979.

To you, our truly valued members, a huge thank you to you all, for your courtesy, and respect during his tenure as President. He enjoyed sharing so many lovely moments during the year with you all, whether on the course or off. He considers Kinsale Golf Club to be a family, like all families, we have lost some but gained others along the way, the important thing is to make everybody welcome into this family club. It is thanks to you the members who make it a very special club.

He thanked the management committee, Tony, Ger, Liz, Lady Capt. Siobhan, Hilary and Capt. Declan, it has been a pleasure to serve with you all this year. A year when tough decisions had to be made, but huge gratitude must be paid to Tony and Hilary for their diligent hard work behind the scenes.

To his fellow officers Declan and Siobhan, congratulations to you both on a terrific year, he is sure you will all agreed, they were truly magnificent ambassadors for KGC in 2016.

All our catering staff, course staff, office staff, bar staff, thank you to you all for your assistance to him during the year past.

We in KGC, have a course to be considered one of the toughest challenges around, a prize won here is earned the hard way, to Pdraig Crowley (our head green keeper) and his staff, a huge word of gratitude and praise for the continuous work they put in to have the course in such pristine condition always. We are truly blessed to have a course superintendent like Pdraig.

The highlight of his year, was his Presidents prize weekend, and a big thank you to Ted Curtin for fixing the chimes on the clock,.....

He said he was really humbled that weekend with the well wishes, gifts, cards etc that he received from my friends here. He had great craic with Pdraig setting out the course on the Thursday, nothing was too much trouble for him, and as always willing to go the extra mile. He enjoyed painting the yellow stakes with Jodi and Eric down on 15...

It was a remarkable weekend weather wise, the scoring reflected the quality golfers we have here in KGC, and he had two great winners in Helen and Michael.

It was a night he will treasure, having close family and friends to share the weekend with, thank you all who contributed to that weekend.

A warm welcome always awaits you here in Kinsale, and the first point of contact is our Pro Shop. To Ger and his staff, thank you for all your support during my year as President. his young apprentices are a huge addition and he wish Ger, his staff and all their families all the best.

To Vincent McDwyer and his able army of volunteers, words aren't enough to say how much they contribute to the visual aspects of the club, well done to you all.

Congratulations to all winners, and competitors during 2016, keep competing, the win is only a long drive or a short putt away. Thank you to all who participated on Club teams this year, and those who supported the Navy Geansai when in action around the county and province.

Special word of praise to our Juniors and their remarkable rise and performances this year, obviously Cathal and John deserve a special mention, what a magnificent year for both.

Well done to you all, and keep it up in 2017, thanks to Ger, Ian and Ger Cullinane for the incredible amount of work they do with our young golfers.

A special word of appreciation to his wife Clare for her amazing support and assistance to me all year, he could not have done it without her support.

And finally, a big thank you to his predecessor, Mr Denis O Sullivan, who was a very hard act to follow, it was an amazing honour to follow him into office and he thanked him for his nomination, and to Frances Power who seconded his nomination.

Wishing his successor John and all officers of KGC a very successful and memorable year for 2017.

Go Raibh maith agat a Chairde

Attendance at Management Meetings:

There were eight meetings held during the year. Full attendance by Tony Long, Hilary Madden, Declan Murphy and Liz Creagh. Declan Flynn, Ger Hayes and Siobhan Long attended 7 meetings.

Junior/Juvenile Officer Ger Cullinane's Report:

A comprehensive report was circulated with the minutes and taken as read. At present, there are 147 juvenile/Junior golfers. The report outlined the programme of coaching and competitions for juvenile and junior golfers. The club takes part in four team events – The West Cork Shield, Harbour Shield Trophy, Fred Daly Trophy and the Junior Foursomes.

Regular competitions were held for our junior members throughout the school holidays with an average of 32 players taking part.

Cathal Butler was selected to play on the Munster Senior Interprovincial Team

John Murphy and Mark Healy were selected to play on the Munster Boys Interpro Team. This is the third consecutive year that KGC has had at least 2 players on a 7-man team.

2 provincial championships are currently held by KGC members with Cathal Butler winning the Munster Stroke Play Championship and John Murphy winning the Munster Boys Championship. The Fota and Killarney Scratch Cups were won by Cathal and the Kerry Boys Championship was won by John Murphy for the second consecutive year.

The report was adopted and proposed by Colette Kenny and seconded by Rev Leslie Bryan.

Election of Officers:

President

Declan Murphy is delighted to nominate John Hunt for the President for 2017. This nomination was seconded by Denis O'Sullivan and was approved by the members at the meeting.

John Hunt said it was a great honour to serve as President of Kinsale Golf Club and he thanked Declan Murphy and Denis O'Sullivan for giving him the opportunity. He offered the incoming officers his best wishes and looked forward to meeting all members and officers throughout the year. John congratulated Cathal Butler and John Murphy on their achievements and wished them well for the coming year.

Captain

Declan Flynn is delighted to nominate Chris Cronin for Captain for 2017. This nomination was seconded by Michael Landers.

Chris has worked with Declan on the Committee for the last four years. He has known Chris for a few years now having first met here as we strove valiantly to participate on the Pierce Purcell panel some years ago. He has been a great support to Declan as Vice Cap & Hon Sec this year.

Chris referred to his close connection to Kinsale Golf Club long before he became a member bringing Societies to the course many times each year and was delighted when his application was accepted (finally) and thanked Bob Quinn the then Manager of AIB Kinsale and Ollie Cahill Revenue Commissioners for proposing and seconding his membership form.

In turning to his family, he pointed out that he is married to Mairead O'Regan and they have two daughters Grace and Niamh. He stated there is a close tie between the O'Regan family and the golf club as Mairead's grandfather Hippie Murphy was past Captain in 1955 and was heavily involved in club affairs which her father Neil or Neilius as he was known in the town was a great non-playing supporter. Many Club meetings were held in the Seaview Pub owned by the three O's - O'Regan-O'Dowd- O'Brien

Chris again thanked everyone for their good wishes and hoped that he would be able to bring a greater sense of Club to Farrangalway - to keep the home fires burning - where welcome would be at the heart of every club member young or old and that each visitor would leave with a warm feeling about the Golf Club

The Captain proposed Brian Doran as his Vice Captain for the year ahead and spoke in glowing terms of how Brian had given his time, talent and technological abilities to bring the necessary changes to move the golf club forward on a firm footing as well as being supportive to the day to day running of Men's golf.

Lady Captain

Siobhan thanked all her committee for their hard work during the year. She said it was her pleasure to nominate Colette Kenny for Lady Captain 2017.

Colette thanked Siobhan for nominating her to be Lady Captain, she said she was looking forward to working the President John and Captain Chris for coming year.

Chairman, Tony Long's Address:

The past year has been a successful year for our Club. We appear to have weathered the storm which was the austerity years, and the outlook seems brighter.

Our membership numbers have stabilised, although the numbers leaving is still quite high. At the start of the year it did not appear that we would be able to replace all those leaving, but as the year progressed we had a welcome uptake of new membership applications. We finished the year with our numbers largely in line with last year.

Thanks to all those members who persuaded their friends and colleagues to join our club. Our members are our best recruiters and are well placed to outline to prospective members all the facilities we have to offer and the great course we have.

We are aware that Fernhill has closed and we are making its members aware of our subscription rates. We consider that our current pricing structure represents very good value in comparison to our peer clubs and we must not devalue what we have to offer by being drawn into deals or group offers.

Other clubs are putting up subscriptions, but we are holding our current rates as is for the present.

Course

Our course was maintained and presented to us in consistently great condition throughout the year. This is acknowledged by our members and visitors to our club. The new tee box on the 11th hole was put into play and the new tee box on the 4th hole will be operational next spring.

The new bunkering on the 9th and 18th hole made a big improvement to the aesthetics of both holes as they looked a bit bland from the tee box.

The tee box boulders were repositioned to provide greater visibility and new plaques were provided following sponsorship, which we are thankful for. Some boulders are still available for sponsorship and anybody interested should contact a member of the management committee or the Office.

We put in a lot of trees many years ago, mainly due to the harsh growing climate and anticipating a high failure rate. A programme of trees management which has been ongoing for many years must be continued and accelerated. The growth of good specimens is being inhibited, and over the winter months staff will be doing a lot of work on culling and pruning trees.

We have prepared a course improvement plan which is on the website and at the end of the meeting we will have an open forum to get your thoughts and views on the proposals.

Junior Golf

The many years of hard work by Ger Cullinane supported by Ger Broderick and Ian Stafford is now reaping it's just reward and the successes of Gary, Cathal and John is a great boost for our club. The juveniles look up to them as if they are our Rory McElroys, and spur them on to better themselves and to be very competitive.

Because of their achievements, the name of Kinsale Golf Club is frequently cropping up now in the sports pages of the national newspapers and golf magazines and this is great exposure and publicity for the Club.

Treasurer Hilary will present the finances and it is heartening to see a return to a small surplus again. We will continue to maintain tight control on operating costs.

During the year we addressed the bar situation and redundancy terms were agreed with Kieran.

Delia also retired at the end of March and we revised the office arrangements.

I wish to join with President Declan in thanking staff and all those who contributed to the club in 2016.

I especially want to thank the members of the management committee, Ger, Liz and Hilary for their work and input on behalf of the Committee during the year.

Both Declan and Siobhan had a very successful year and will be taking a well-deserved break.

I wish incoming officers John, Chris and Collette well for the year ahead and look forward to working with you on the Management committee in 2017.

Treasurers Report:

The Hon Treasurer reported that the Accounts for the year reported a profit of €23,097 for the year compared to a loss of €1,651 in 2015.

Income for the year at €719,911 which was an increase of €43,733 on the previous year, the main factor being an increase in subscription income of €46,847.

Expenditure for year €687,814 compared favourable to a figure of €677,829 in 2015, €9,000 was transferred to the Course Development Fund from the surplus of €32,097 .

The Balance Sheet for the year very similar to the previous year with cash balance of €42,422.

The Treasurer's report was adopted by the meeting and was proposed by Donal Hickey and seconded by John Hunt.

Motions:

Motion 1

This motion approving the annual subscription for 2017 was proposed by Hilary Madden and seconded by Tony Long. In proposing the motion Hilary outlined that there was no change to subscriptions for the coming year. Members who pay their annual subscription by 16th Jan will be entered in a free draw. The winners of the draw will be entitled to free subscription and levies for 2018, there will be 5 prizes.

With effect from 1st December an existing member who introduces a new member to the club in 2017 will be entitled to a reduction of €100 on their subscription in 2018 if that new members renews their subscription in 2018. Special offers not included.

The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

Motion 2

This motion approving the membership levy for 2017 was proposed by Hilary Madden and seconded by Tony Long. The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

Motion 3

The Capital Budget for 2017 was proposed by Hilary Madden and seconded by Tony Long. The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

Motion 4

The motion – The Members approve a revised Constitution for the Club. The motion was proposed by Tony Long and seconded by Hilary Madden. The motion was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

Course Development:

Ger Hayes spoke about the Course Development compiled by Ken Kearney. A copy of the report is available from the website.

There was an overall feeling at the meeting that the plan was excellent and the committee were congratulated on bringing the plan forward.

It was agreed that work on the lakes on the 9th and 18th holes would go ahead this year. Any substantial changes to the course would be discussed at the AGM prior to that work being carried out.

Declan Murphy thanked Vincent McDwyer and John O'Connell on their hard work on the course during the year.

AOB:

Bob Dempsey asked if paths could be laid so that buggies could be used all year.

Evelyn Lambe asked if there was a plan to enhance the car park

Jim Robinson said the system to notify member when the course was closed was very 'hit and miss' at present and wondered if there was any plan upgrade this system.

Nora Quinn suggested that all committee members attend the St Patricks Day parade.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm