

**WRAG BARN GOLF AND COUNTY CLUB
MINUTES OF THE 22 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

HELD ON SATURDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2012

Present:	Mr M Bowes	President
	Mrs S Manners	Ladies President
	Mr T Manners	Chairman
	Mr S Wallace	Outgoing Captain
	Mr H Patel	Incoming Captain
	Mr S Griffiths	Incoming Vice Captain
	Mrs T Lee	General Manager/Secretary

34 members signed in their attendance.

The President Mr M Bowes declared the meeting open and on behalf of the Board welcomed everyone to the 22nd Annual General Meeting of Wrag Barn Golf Club

Apologies

Received from: Jenny and Jeremy Stenhouse, June Ruckert

Minutes of Last AGM 2010

The minutes of last year's AGM were proposed and agreed.

Matter Arising from the Minutes of 2011

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 2011.

Chairman's Report

See attached

Captain's Report

See attached

Election of Officers

Officers whilst not mentioned at the AGM have been elected.

Members Resolutions (submitted in advance)

No Resolutions received

Incoming Captains Closing Speech

See Attached

The President closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.45pm

DIRECTOR AND COURSE MANAGERS REPORT 2012

Another eventual year has been completed at Wrag Barns' evolution.

It's been a busy one on the course with a nice crop of new members if you'll excuse the agricultural term.

Its good to have fresh faces on the scene and it certainly injects more energy into all aspects of life for the club, which will also help us to look forward, with confidence for the coming year.

Subscription renewals are going well although there are still a few outstanding. At the moment Tracey is taking new members on a one out - one in bases, which should fill any vacancies which become available - I would envisage the list becoming closed fairly soon which is a terrific testament to a successful club in difficult times.

I'm not claiming much of the credit for this happy situation. It's a team effort. I do think we are extremely lucky here to have a great team led by our manager Tracey; she does a brilliant job with great enthusiasm, which filters down through every layer to everyone who works or plays at Wrag. We all owe her huge thanks.

2011 was a good year for home grown talent in the golfing world, with Luke Donald topping the rankings and our Irish cousins scooping the 2 majors. British and Irish players have never been so prominent in world rankings. Closer to home in the amateur game the Wiltshire team managed to win the English County Team Championship for the first time in 85 years of trying. This is a fantastic achievement made all the sweeter for us by the fact that 2 of the 6 players playing for Wiltshire started their golf career here at Wrag Barn.

Ben and Josh Loughery were practically born here and it gives us great pleasure to see them doing so well in such a competitive arena. It should inspire the current players in the junior section - who knows where tomorrow's stars will appear. Our Junior Section has gone from strength to strength and much praise is due to all those who have given their time over the years to help make it what it is today - an important part of our club - and the breeding ground for tomorrows stars.

So a big thank you to Richard Ward and his brilliant band of helpers, who made last year another very good one for the section and I'm sure this year will be just as good.

I would also like to acknowledge the great work done by our Club Captains last year. From the management's perspective, it has been a pleasure to work with Hement, Hazel and Norman. They have all put in a huge amount of time and effort in leading their respective committees, which ensures that we have all been able to enjoy lots of well organised events throughout the year.

COURSE REPORT

I have been quite pleased with the general condition of the course this year. Even now in the depth of winter, it's still looking pretty good.

The green keepers have been able to make some improvements to several of the steps onto the tees and also most of the paths have received attention. Although not

massively significant, I believe these little things make a big difference to the overall appearance of the course.

Over the next month or two they will be turning their attention to the bunkers, which need some renovation. There are 55 of them off the top of my head and it's surprisingly difficult to keep them maintained. Some of them have drains which need regular clearing; Most of them need to have new sand. We will do our best to have the work completed before the end of April, by which time I hope the weather will have warmed up enough to get the grass growing.

By then we will be feeding the tees and fairways to help them get over the wear and tear of the winter. We are hoping to introduce a new idea to Wrag in the spring. Some of you may have seen it in operation at other clubs. It's very simple but the best ideas often are. We will provide a number of divot filling bags at or near the tee for the fairway we want to treat. Players will be asked if they would be so kind as to pick up one of these bags and use the contents to fill some divots on their way to the green. Now obviously some of us spend more time on the fairway than others but I think this system will help to get those divots repaired relatively painlessly. The seniors have expressed a willingness to try it out and hopefully others will follow their example.

Maybe if we left some rakes in the bunkers, we could get people to rake them as well. I'll be asking you to cut the green next!

Speaking of which, I thought they played well last year. As you may remember, we did the main aeration on the first two days of junior week. Hollow coring and sand filling, which all went very well, with a minimum of fuss

This year, I would like to bring the operation forward to the spring again. I think the greens have taken a bit of a hammering this winter due to the relatively mild winter. It's going to take a month or two for the greens to recover their condition after this cold snap, so I think we should use this early window to get some more sand into the surface as soon as we are able. Obviously a lot depends on the weather, ideally it would be best if we could deep scarify in March and maybe do some coring as well if we are able.

We will give you as much notice as possible and will try to minimise disruption.

It is important that we continue to aerate and top dress with sand as much as possible. It will pay dividends in the long run and I can't see any reason why the greens should not be every bit as good this year as they were last.

I know Neil and the lads will do their best to present the course to the very high standard we have come to expect.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

President, Chairman, Past Captains and Fellow Members

It is almost to the year since I stood up to make my opening speech as Club Captain and here I am standing up to say a few words before the year comes to an end. All Past Captains have said this and I am no exception; yes, the year has just flown by and, I am glad to say that it has been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences that I could have had.

At the beginning of the year I mentioned that my aim was to have fun and I invited you all to join me in doing so. Fun I certainly have had and I trust you all shared in this and had fun too.

The Curry and Quiz night just about warmed up the atmosphere, followed by, to the annoyance of all, a miserable wet and cold morning in mid-July brightened up by a full house at the Presentation night and concluded by the grand finale at the Last Supper. If you did not have fun between these events, well.....

Your continued support for all the Charity events during this year has been fantastic, enabling me to present a cheque of £7,534.35 to The Prospect Hospice.

It has been one of the best years this Club and its members have enjoyed. Not only has the course played the best I have known, but the on course successes by the Loughery brothers, winning the Ron Buthlay Cup, and The Ladies at the County Scratch Knockout to mention but a few, have really brought Wrag Barn into the limelight this year.

I take this opportunity to thank Helen, Norman and Callum, the members of my Committee, the Past Captains, Richard Ward and his team, Tim, Verity, Tracey and rest of the Management team and last but not least you, the members, for all your support during the year.

Ian Ridsdale ably assisted by Richard and David have changed the pro-shop beyond recognition, and their assistance with various events during the year is greatly appreciated.

During the year, comments have been made that I must have a very understanding wife. Kalpana is not a golfer but a keen gardener. We therefore, had a pact in that she will dig up our garden and I will try not to do the same to Tim's grounds. The results were obvious; Kalpana's efforts resulted in beautiful colours and aroma in my garden and nothing but headache for Tim and his men.

Kalpana, I know it comes to you as a shock, but I have managed to get you some flowers and I hope I have managed to get right ones.

I wish a very enjoyable year to Juliet Platt, Mike Sheppard and Matt Mumford.

It has been my honour and privilege to have been your Captain through 2011 and it gives me great pleasure to pass on the responsibility and jacket on to your Captain for 2012, Steve Griffiths.

Congratulations Steve

INCOMING CAPTAIN'S SPEECH

Mrs Manners
Tim and Verity Manners
Mr President
Past Captains
Fellow members

Before I go on to say a few words I would like to make a small presentation to Hemant and his wife Kalpana.

I recall about 18 months ago the phone call I received from Hemant asking would I like to become Club Captain. I immediately thought to myself yes but shortly thereafter thought to myself what have I agreed to this time?

From that time since I have experienced a mixture of emotions ranging from immense excitement to down right apprehension as I look to join the 800 other Captains the club has! Nevertheless, I can say without doubt it is both an honour and a privilege to be elected as Club Captain of this wonderful club.

I joined just over 10 years ago, and I am indebted to the Highworth Bandits for allowing me to join their merry group and there by introducing me to Wrag Barn. I never thought that one day I would be standing here as the new Captain!

I would like to congratulate Hemant on an excellent year and wish you well as you go on to enjoy the sabbatical. My Vice Captain, Ivor Whinney and my committee are looking forward to a busy but enjoyable year working on behalf of the membership. I would also like to welcome those new members onto the committee.

I am delighted to be joining forces with the Ladies Captain, Juliet Platt, to raise money for the Seve Ballesteros Foundation which is working in partnership with Cancer Research UK to beat brain cancer. In a year in which many other events will take place up and down our land including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics I hope you will be able to support me and the Club by participating in as many Club competitions and social events as possible throughout the year. As Seve himself once said, "I'm here because golf is my sport and I like to compete ...Just by being here I'm already beginning to win".

I could not take on this role without the support of my wife Karen. I am lucky to have such an understanding wife, I am sure that her patience will be tested over the coming 12 months.

As captain I believe in being upbeat despite the difficult times we live in. We have many things going for us as our venue continues to receive high praise. To wet your appetite a little further we have some exciting events planned and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, both on and off the golf course, as the year progresses. The encouragement and support I have received from the Past Captains and members has been overwhelming.

I would like to wish Mike Sheppard, Seniors Captain, Juliet Platt, Ladies Captain and Matt Mumford, Juniors Captain all the very best for their year and I look forward to working with them

Golf is a great game but taking up this Captaincy of is the icing on the cake. I intend serving the members to the very best of my ability and I wish you all a successful and fun golfing year in 2012.

I hope to see you at my Drive In tomorrow!

Thank you