

INTRODUCTION

Overstone Park, like most other organisations in the country, has gone through some extraordinarily testing times this year. Not just during the first lockdown when we lost a huge chunk of revenue, but also during the phased return of our business. The health and safety of our staff, members and other visitors has been paramount in all our commercial planning and in many respects it has been like starting a new business all over again, but with the added burden of Covid restrictions.

During lockdown the owner of the site decided to close the hotel side of the business due to the expected sharp downturn in the activity of the commercial traveller. This has been borne out since as more and more people continue to work from home. He is yet to decide what will happen with the actual buildings.

Golf across the country has enjoyed something of a resurgence following its return on 13th May. The number of members rounds increased significantly over the Summer compared to last year and we tried our best to ensure everyone was able to play as much as possible.

Once again the course has been superbly maintained by Lawrence with what was for a large part a reduced team. At this point I must say thank you to the volunteers who helped out at the most difficult times.

Luke's first year as Golf Manager has been one he will not forget but he managed the whole operation very well in at times the most difficult circumstances.

I would just like to say a quick word regarding the society days. During this Summer we had to concertina in the golf days due to the lost seven weeks which resulted in customers moving their original dates. This brought in some much needed revenue through green fees and secondary spend in the bar and restaurant. I know this caused some pressure on tee times and we have now agreed on a policy going forward which Luke has outlined in his report.

Unfortunately we are now in a second lockdown and the future once again uncertain. At the time of writing I am hoping that we will be able to reopen the course on 2nd December and welcome our members back. Hopefully the same will apply for the clubhouse and the leisure facilities. Whenever we do reopen we will be doing our best to provide all our members with the best product we can.

Can I say thank you to Jim Morton for his term as club captain and to the rest of your committee for their efforts in this very difficult year, and for explaining to me some of the subtleties of a golf club and its membership which I might otherwise have missed.

Because of the Covid Rules your Members Management Committee, on which I sit, has elected to run the Annual General Meeting by Email (through the Overstone Park website) and on Facebook. Whilst not ideal I support the initiative and hope that as many members as possible take the time to read the documents, raise questions and vote on the propositions.

I hope you all manage to stay healthy and hope to see you soon.

Kevin Donoghue
Resort Manager. Overstone Park Leisure

DRAFT MINUTES OF 19TH (2019 - 2019) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Draft minutes of the last Annual General Meeting can be [found here](#).



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2019-2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear members.

By now you will have been advised that due to the Covid 19 Pandemic we will not be holding the AGM in the normal manner and it is our intention to follow the principal as noted in the November newsletter and as posted in the Roundel.

Attached to this page are the following reports for your review and subsequent action as noted again to the right. Please take time to read the reports, raise questions and finally vote. Thank you.

Your Committee.

1. Introduction by Overstone Park Leisure.
2. Draft Minutes for the 2018-2019 season.
Matters arising from the minutes and suggested changes to the Constitution are detailed in appendix A.

3. Captains report.
4. Lady Captains report
5. Seniors Section report
6. Course Managers report
7. Operations managers report
8. Treasurer's report

Appendix A .

Matters arising from the minutes and suggested changes to the Constitution.

Appendix B.

Suggested amended Constitution.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to the Covid restrictions on holding meetings and for the safety of all the members this year's AGM will be run differently. The committee are proposing the following:

Phase 1. By week ending 22.11.20 Reports, including last year's minutes, will be provided by the elected officers for circulation on email and facebook together with details of propositions that require members to vote on. These will be available for 1 week.

Phase 2. By week ending 29.11.20

Members will then have 1 week to ask questions of the officers by either email, facebook or in writing. **All emails please to chrishoy7@gmail.com**

Phase 3. By week ending 06.11.20

Officers will then provide answers over a 1 week period by email and facebook

Phase 4. By week ending 13.12.20

Members will then have 1 week to vote on the propositions by filling in a voting slip available from the pro shop.

Phase 5. By week ending 20.12.20

The results will be made available to all members on the notice board in the Roundel.

Whilst this may seem protracted we believe this format will give all members a fair and equitable opportunity to participate in the AGM.

Your Committee.

Whilst we will be seeking to maintain these dates with the latest Covid lockdown and the pressures it is now placing on people please bear with us if things slip a little but we will keep you advised.

CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT 2019-2020

I think it's fair to say that when I took over as Club Captain last December and proudly looked at the Club Captains board little did I give any thought to the events that followed.

Covid 19 ripped through the Country and decimated the clubs diary of events and, working with OPL , how it affected the club and how we could operate. I'm sad to say, we are not out of the woods yet!

I hope we, as your Committee, have managed to fulfil your expectations as best we have been able, but, whilst our golf may have suffered it pails into insignificance compared to the huge loss of life, some of whom may be relatives and friends, to this dreadful pandemic which is affecting the world over. Let us all remember them and pray that we will be able to return to normality as soon as possible.

The restrictions and limitations that the Covid rules placed on the club meant that we lost many of our trophy and weekly competitions and in particular the shotgun starts, beloved by most members as the best social events of the year. These had to be converted to a full day competitions which whilst not ideal did have the benefit of much larger fields and better prizes. But it came at a cost to all the committee members and the helpers who had to work long hours. My thanks goes to all those who played their part but in particular I want to praise the Secretary Chris Hoy, the Treasurer Averil Sutcliffe and the Lady Captain Lorraine Betts for their dedication to ensuring all the events ran as smoothly as possible. We are indeed lucky to have them.

I would also like to thank the members themselves for their understanding of the situation but in particular to their generosity over the year in supporting the fundraising efforts to raise monies for the Captains Charities, Kids Aid and the Junior Scholarship. Many of the planned events had to be postponed but despite this we raised a magnificent £6000. Well done ! Congratulations goes to all the competition winners over the year and in particular the major trophy competitions which we were able to hold. Those of you who were present will not forget the final day of the Club Championship with Richard Dalton winning over Taylor Sargeant with the last putt on the last hole after a play off in the twilight.

We are indeed blessed, and the envy of many clubs, with our junior section who go from strength to strength under the guidance of Asy Ho, Dave Godwin and Brian Mudge. They have been a credit to the club wherever they have competed and have achieved many notable successes including Mark Stockdale being crowned County Junior Champion and Baylie Pyke playing in major competitions throughout the country. Many of the Juniors have now achieved handicaps to allow them to compete in our main competitions so beware! We must also thank The Tim Stockdale Foundation for choosing our club which provides funding to the best Juniors for elite coaching.

I must of course mention Lawrence Ryan and his team in continuing to provide us with a golf course to be proud of. Despite loosing the majority of his staff during the pandemic (and with some assistance from a few members) they have kept us playing. I'm sure everyone will agree that apart from the very poor state of the bunkers they have done a great job. In one competition each year we collect donations for Lawrence to spend on the course. This year we raised £357 which will be spent on additional trees around the course.

In November we move into the new World Handicapping System which will be an interesting period for members to get to grips with. Our new Handicap Secretary, Tony Osborne, will be on hand to help out all members during this transition period. We also welcome James Barker as Competitions Coordinator to strengthen the Competitions Committee to ensure all events run smoothly.

Until you have been involved in being a part of running the club you do not realise how much work goes on in the background to ensure the members have the best experience possible. It doesn't always go right but I can guarantee you its not without trying. I am indebted to all those who assisted over the year which must include my wife, and last years Lady Captain Shirley for her support. I have enjoyed my time immensely.

Whilst I will still be on the Members Management Committee next year can I ask you, the members, to give all your support to next years Captains, to all the Committee members and other helpers to make the 2020- 2021 a great success. I know they will work tirelessly on your behalf.

Best Wishes, keep safe and enjoy your golf.

Jim Morton Club Captain. 2019-2020

LADY CAPTAINS REPORT 2019-2020

Hi Everyone,

What a strange year this is, in more ways than one. I started the year as Vice-Captain, but through work commitments the incumbent Lady Captain, Gina Collier felt it necessary, with regret, to resign, so I agreed to take over for the remainder of the 2019 - 2020 year before my official role for the 2020 -2021 year. I would like to thank Gina for her early work and smoothing the path for me.

The Covid virus caused many changes to how we play our golf and lots of competitions had to be cancelled: The Ladies Open, Cecil Leitch, Vets, Eclectic to name just a few but let's hope next year all competitions will resume.

Of the competitions we were able to hold all were well supported.

Regretfully the Ladies Away weekend was cancelled but we still managed to hold an away day at Lutterworth Golf Club, which was enjoyed by an impressive turnout of 22 members. Leomelia Davis just won out over Gill Hodgson and Chris Gore, Chris losing out on countback. The longest drive prize went to Kerry Hambleton and the nearest the pin was myself, thanks to a Mulligan.

As most of the ladies said they would like to play the course again, I will aim to book another day there next year. I propose to also run 2 or 3 other away days next year, instead of a weekend away. Hopefully by then the Country will be emerging from Covid.

The fund raising went well; members are so generous with lots of donations, raffles, cake-making, selling of golf balls etc. The final amount raised is expected to top £6000.00

The Tuesday morning roll up sessions (well not really a roll up anymore as, because of the virus we book tee times) is going really well with at least 16 ladies playing every week. Many of the ladies now have their Handicap and can now play in competitions. It is also a pleasure to see some of the junior girls playing in our competitions; they are such lovely young ladies. They go from strength to strength and are our future; it is important that we continue to give them our support.

Finally, I would like to thank the Ladies Committee for all the hard work they do and the support they have given me, and lots of members who have also been so very helpful.

Thank you all so very much.
Happy golfing and stay safe.

Lorraine Betts
Lady Captain.

SENIORS SECTION REPORT 2019 - 2020

This has not been a great year to be Seniors Captain – it seems I have had all the challenges without the fun things to offset them!

Initially, we had the request from the Club, for the senior's section to be opened up to the Ladies. The committee and I voted overwhelmingly to accept them into our group but as you can imagine, that was not without controversy. It has, however, been a painless transition and we now have two lady senior members.

There were some extensive discussions between the Seniors section and the Club who wanted the Seniors to change our membership criteria in terms of handicap, from 28 to either 36 or 54, but with no extra tee times available.

This was refused strongly and, sadly, we are now in a position where we have closed our books to **all** new members due to active membership numbers exceeding tee times available (even before the Covid effect). I much regret, things will remain this way until we all return to something approaching the old normality!

Then came Covid 19!

The Seniors decided to cancel our Ladies Night, because the risk to an aging population was considered too great; we then missed out on our entire match fixture list for the season as all the clubs locally joined us going into lockdown and finally, we had to curtail our away break by over 50%!

We also sadly lost three of our members, one to Covid and one to a heart attack and one to cancer; all three will be greatly missed by all who knew and played with them and our sympathies go out to their families and friends. Let us just remember Alan Wright, Frank Sumner and Richard Parkinson. Not the most auspicious Captains year, but one we will all remember!

Like the Club, we do not plan to hold a General Meeting this year (we couldn't as things stand anyway!) but I have been asked to continue as Seniors Captain for another year which I have agreed to do so long as our excellent committee continues, intact, too, and the membership, are happy for me, and the team to do so. I regret, therefore, you look as though you have to put up with me and the team for another twelve months!

Of all the things I missed, the most telling was our regular, twice weekly roll-ups and the ensuing banter. I will continue to promote our cause for more tee times but until we all feel it safe to do so, proper roll-ups and changing room gatherings will have to take a back seat – rather we play some golf than whinge over lost privileges! (To this end I would like particularly to thank Philip Clapson who has made a fantastic job of managing the tee times Luke has made available for us – Thank you Philip).

I would also like to thank Tony Richardson, Peter Thorpe and Philip, for continuing to encourage members to participate in our own and Club competitions under trying conditions. I think it unlikely we will get “match day” block bookings for seniors any time soon, but I will continue to encourage the club to extend our tee times as soon as the rest of society gets back to work!

Most of you will have read and be eagerly following, the club Facebook information concerning the new World Handicap System, Slope index and other changes which come into force in November. I have no intention of explaining it here but would encourage all Seniors to follow the Facebook info and get your qualifying cards in as quickly as possible, before weather and course conditions makes it too difficult to run qualifying comps. Thank you all for your support this past, difficult, twelve months and hope for your continued support going forward.

Dick Chapman
Seniors Captain, November 2020

COURSE MANAGERS REPORT 2019 -2020

It has been a very busy year with a lot happening on and off the course. I am extremely pleased and proud with what has been achieved by the staff in such unprecedented times.

Unfortunately, our staffing levels were somewhat reduced because of COVID and the lockdown with much of the country feeling the same financial burden and uncertainty about the future. Some great volunteering from some members has been fantastic and helped enormously through some difficult months. Which just goes to show how many people care about the golf course and site at Overstone Park.

The course has been very consistent with lots of positive comments and feedback received from members and visitors from around the county. Presentation and quality of the greens has been my main aim again this year, something which I

think we have achieved. Golf and the membership have seen a vast increase since the return from lockdown which I know may have impacted on some of our operations. This has made carrying out work on the course even harder. However hopefully as restrictions ease, we can return rakes and divot boxes to tees and bunkers to improve these areas. In the meantime, if golfers could try to repair footprints and use mats on par 3 tees only, that would go a long way to improving areas.

Lastly thank you for all the help and support from Kevin and the management team, course staff, committees, and membership in what has been such a difficult and rapidly evolving place to work. I am sure we all hope 2021 will be a little more normal all round.

Lawrence Ryan
Golf Course and Lodge Landscape Manager

GOLF MANAGERS REPORT

As you can imagine this year has had many ups and downs: contending with lockdown for 3 months, to reopening golf and it being as busy as it has been.

This year we have seen a decrease in society's and visitors rounds; this may come as a surprise to many of you, but the reason you may have thought we had more is because, following the lockdown, we had to reschedule golf days that were cancelled due to restrictions, and fit them into a smaller period of time. Whilst it may have looked like more golf days, our figures show otherwise.

On the other hand, we have seen members rounds increase massively. From May to September 2019 we saw 9,549 members rounds. This year we have seen that figure rise to 14,345 and consequently tee times have been harder to get than ever before.

On the shop side we have seen a decrease in sales. Needless to say, this is down to the shop being closed for a longer period of time, stock being harder to get hold of due to the high demand and the uncertainty of the current economic climate. We expect that next year we will see a rise in shop sales again.

Over the last few weeks OPL and the Committee have been looking to find ways to allow us to get more people on the golf course over the Winter months. On our return from this second lockdown the shop staff will be hot on the case of members not cancelling tee times when they are not going to play, and will be looking to join up members with members to try maximizing the slots available.

For next season OPL have made the decision not to allow visitors or golf days before 12.00 at weekends save for exceptional circumstances. I know many of our members don't agree with golf days, but they are a crucial part of our business. Nevertheless, our priority will always be the members and I am happy to talk to any of you about issues, concerns or solutions you may have.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all the members for respecting and honouring the rules we have set out this year and hopefully we will be back to normal soon.

Stay safe and see you soon
Luke Barney - Golf Manager.

TREASURERS REPORT 2019 -2020

The financial year has traditionally run from 1st January to 31st December, roughly in line with the Captains' year in office, but, because the AGM is held in the first week of December each year, this has meant that the audited Accounts could not be reported until the following December. It is now proposed that the audited financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019, which were completed as normal, together with figures for the nine month period to 30th September 2020 which are in the process of being prepared, will both be available for presentation to this year's AGM.

We have two sources of income with which volunteers are able to run the Golf Section. A percentage of competition entry fees is retained to buy prizes, present awards, entertain major prize winners at Presentation Evening, and to donate the sum of £500 to the Captains' Charity each year. The second source is support funding from Overstone Park Limited, to help with the administration expenses incurred in running the Golf Section, such as Honorary Secretary stipend, printing, stationery, computer maintenance, etc.

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019, audited by Norman Davis, have been displayed on the noticeboard in the Roundel since March this year. The surplus retained from the activities for the year was £143, which, when added to the funds accumulated over previous years, resulted in a Balance Sheet total of £5519.

The draft Accounts for the nine-month period to 30th September are currently with the Auditor, and are expected to be completed by 21st November. There was exceptionally high participation and positive support from the members for the competitions which were able to be held, resulting in much increased entry fees, more and higher value vouchers paid out, and also leaving a greater amount of the retained percentage mentioned earlier. On the other hand, the cancellation of Presentation Evening and a large reduction in other expenditure normally incurred in presenting awards, together with lower administration costs, has resulted in an anticipated surplus for this period in the region of £900. The audited Accounts for this period will also be displayed in the Roundel as soon as the Club re-opens, and additional copies of both sets of accounts will be available for collection.

Going forward, it is proposed that the fiscal accounting year will run from 1st October to 30th September, enabling scrutiny of the audited Accounts at least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting each year.

Averil Sutcliffe

APPENDIX A

Resolutions requiring members to approve / reject.

Support or rejection of the resolutions will be via a voting slip available from the pro shop during week ending 13th December 2020

Approval of the previous minutes

Resolution 1. To approve the previous years minutes and the appointment of Norman Davis as Club Auditor. Matters arising from the minutes.

1. Accounting year.

In the past accounts have been finalised following the change of Captains in December. This meant that we were not able to present the full accounts at the annual AGM. The Members Management Committee (MMC) following advice

from the Treasurer have agreed to change the accounting year to the end of September and the accounts presented in this years AGM represent this change.

Resolution 2. To approve the change of the accounting year.

2. Gender references in the Constitution.

Following a question by Roz Macdonald the Members Management Committee agreed to review the wording of the Constitution to make clear that the post of Club Captain is open to all genders. A draft of the proposed changes is included in the AGM package of documents for members review. Subject to any comments received from the members (and subsequent changes to the draft Constitution by the management) the proposed amendments to the Constitution will be the subject to a vote to change the Constitution.

Resolution 3. To approve the changes to the Constitution wording on genders.

3. Other changes to the Constitution.

The Management Committee also agreed to review the Constitution to consider if there was any opportunity to change the Constitution to perhaps better reflect and improve how the club and its Committees operate. Whilst draft suggestions have been discussed by the MMC the additional pressures put on all committee members as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic we propose not to table these for discussion at this AGM. Your committee will however continue to explore ideas for presentation during the 2020/2021 season.

Election of Officers

The AGM requires that members agree to the election of the Officers for the 2020 / 2021 season. The posts for election are as follows:

Club Secretary. To re-elect Chris Hoy as Club Secretary

Club Treasurer. To re-elect Averil Sutcliffe as Treasurer.

Club Captain TBC (note. Should there be no applicants the role will be carried out in accordance with the Constitution rules)

Club Vice Captain TBC

Ladies Captain Lorraine Betts

Ladies Vice Captain TBC

Resolution 4. To approve the election of offices for the 2020 - 2021 year.

Accounts for the year 2019 - 2020

The Treasurer has presented the accounts for the reported period in her report.

Resolution 5. To approve the accounts for the 2019 - 2020 year

Changes to the Constitution as a result of England Golf Policy recommendations.

To protect the reputation of members and club, its vital that we are compliant and aware of any changes to the law. It is the clubs intention to follow the guidelines recommended by England Golf in this respect. The three main policies that we will seek the members approval on are:

A. Disciplinary Regulations.

Clause 9 of our Constitution calls on the Club to follow the England Golf procedures in respect of disciplinary matters. England Golf have now updated their procedures, details of which can be found at the [England Golf website](#). The principle change is the requirement to appoint a Disciplinary Secretary as a first point of any complaint who will decide

on the most appropriate course of action. He (or she) will be empowered to either: Dismiss the complaint.
Deal with the matter informally.
Refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee.

Suggested amended wording of Clause 9 is indicated in a draft of the Constitution included in the AGM package of documents for members review.

The MMC have considered possible members who they felt would be appropriate for this role and subject to ratification by the MMC, Stephen Moore has agreed to take on the role as the first incumbent.

Resolution 6A To approve the changing of the wording of clause 9 of the Constitution to reflect England Golf guideline policy.

B. Safeguarding Regulations.

As from January 2021 it is a requirement that all affiliated clubs of England Golf agree to be bound by the “ENGLAND GOLF SAFEGUARDING REGULATIONS 2020” which can be found at the [England Golf website](#). Overstone Park Leisure and the Golf Club’s present Welfare Officer, Gina Collier, have been working hard to obtain England Golf approval to the club’s safeguarding policies. At present the Constitution does not make any reference to safeguarding and for the Members Management Committee to appoint a suitably qualified Welfare Officer. The MMC are seeking approval to amend the Constitution to include a section regarding safeguarding. A draft of the suggested changes is included in the draft constitution for members review.

Resolution 6B. To approve the introduction of a clause in the Constitution to cover England Golf Safeguarding Regulations.

C. Equality and Diversity Policy.

The Equality Act 2010 provides protection from discrimination in relation to certain “ Protected Characteristics”, namely:

Age
Disability
Sex
Sexual Orientation
Race
Religion or Belief
Marriage and Civil Partnership
Gender Reassignment
Pregnancy and Maternity

England Golf is committed to the promotion of the Equality Act to all affiliated clubs. Our present Constitution has no references to the Act. The MMC are seeking to include a section within the Constitution to cover the act. Details of England Golf policy on [Equality and Diversity can be found here](#). A draft of the wording is included in the draft constitution submitted to members review.

Resolution 6C. To approve to introduction of a clause in the Constitution to cover equality and diversity.

APPENDIX B

The constitution with the proposed changes can be [found here](#).