**THE BUYING AGENCY GOLF SOCIETY (TBAGS)**

**MINUTES OF THE 23rd AGM, HELD AT HOUGHWOOD GOLF CLUB ON FRIDAY 19th OCTOBER 2018**

**Present** – Keith Pope (President), Archie Moore (Chairman), Mike Geraghty (Fixture Secretary & Handicap Secretary), Ray Palin (Captain), Graham Bolton, Simon Brown, Len Laithwaite, Rod McClelland, Alan Phillips, Mike Rust & Dave Teggin (11 members in total)

**Apologies** – Apologies were received from Ted Birch, Alec Campbell, Ian Dunn, Dave Hutton (Competitions Secretary), Paul Jenkins, Steve Moglione, Michael Peers, Doug Reid, Denis Ruane (Treasurer) & Stephen Sage (Secretary).

**Welcome & opening remarks**

The meeting opened at 15. 15. The Chairman welcomed all members to the 23rd AGM & read the apologies. He hoped that despite the poor turnout everybody had enjoyed their golfing day. He asked for a volunteer to take the minutes (in the absence of the Secretary & the regular minute taker Denis Ruane) & Alan Phillips kindly volunteered.

**Captain’s Report**

The Captain made an oral report, starting by thanking all members & especially committee members for their support & assistance during the year. He was pleased to report that it had been an excellent & very enjoyable year, aided by the excellence of the fixture list & the superb tour to mid Wales, & thanked Mike Geraghty & Stephen Sage for their efforts in this respect. The Captain noted that the attendances for events was good, albeit that we had fewer members this year & that there was healthy competition for all of the trophy events.

The Captain had decided to stand down after one season but emphasised what a privilege it was to have been captain of such a good society & wished the incoming captain an enjoyable season.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing captain which was endorsed by all present.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer had circulated his written report prior to the AGM so that although he was absent from the meeting members had been able to read & digest his comments.

The Chairman outlined the main points of the report. The surplus for the year was £115, which although down on the previous year (£764) was an acceptable outcome. During the year the new shirts had been subsidised & we were operating with three fewer members (21 as opposed to the previous 24).

The President highlighted that the Treasurer had stated that reserves were now at the high level of £2284 & that in his opinion the society only needed to retain between £1200 - £1500 to operate successfully. The President commented that informal discussions had taken place between committee members over the year about the best & fairest method of reducing the reserves & that the proposal is that we transfer an appropriate sum to help subsidise the tour in 2020 (which will be TBAGS 25th anniversary). There would be more detailed discussions about tour proposals later in the meeting but members were pleased to agree that a reasonable figure from the reserve, circa £1,000, would be set aside to a fund to subsidise the 2020 tour for the benefit of all members (exact sum to be agreed at a later stage after the Treasurer has had an opportunity to consider further).

The other proposal from the Treasurer that annual subscriptions should remain at £40 & the prize money supplement per fixture should remain at £2.50 per head was unanimously agreed.

Treasurer’s report was proposed by Mike Rust & seconded by Graham Bolton & adopted unanimously.

**Fixture Secretary’s Report**

The Fixture Secretary had previously circulated a paper to all members noting that as a mature society we had now played at 16 of the top 20 rated courses in the NW of England, with three of the remainder being championship courses with prohibitive green fees for a society. He suggested that although he had requested that members advise him of the usual three courses to retain & three courses to drop (only a small number of members had responded by that stage), there is no point in change for the sake of it. The fixture list is very strong & takes account of cost, geographical spread of members & travelling time & all members were delighted to endorse the suggestion & thanked the Fixture Secretary for his sterling efforts.

**Handicap Secretary’s Report**

The Handicap Secretary distributed a paper outlining the performance of all members during the season, noting an extensive range of measures & ultimately the change in handicap over the season. He noted that only eight members had managed to reduce their handicap over the season. He also concluded that the change agreed at the last AGM, to move to a process of Competition Scratch Scores (CSS) to assess future handicaps, had not made a massive difference to the end result but that in all probability members now considered that we had a more equitable process.

The Chairman thanked the Fixture & Handicap Secretary for his good work again managing both roles.

**Competition Secretary’s Report**

In the absence of the Competition Secretary the Chairman outlined the details of the paper distributed earlier. The Competition Secretary noted that it had been another successful season with good competitions running. The competition winners are;

**Chairman’s Challenge – Steve Moglione**

**Captain’s Knock Out – Graham Bolton**

**Pairs Plate – Graham Bolton & Mike Geraghty**

**Order of Merit – Dave Teggin**

**President’s Putter – Graham Bolton** (won on the day)

The only down side was that several competition deadlines had been breached & on occasion left to the last possible moment to play. The Competitions Secretary proposed that in future if any round of either knock out competition had not been played within a calendar month of the original deadline both players (or all four in the pairs) would be disqualified. This proposal generated the longest discussion of the evening with a number of different points of view expressed. However ultimately members agreed that this should be adopted so that at least there is absolute clarity about the rule with no exceptions.

The proposal from the Competitions Secretary was seconded by Mike Rust & passed unanimously.

Graham Bolton thanked the committee for allowing the final of the Captain’s KO competition to be played in Spain this season, after the published deadline.

**Tours 2019 & 2020**

The President briefly expanded upon the paper written by the Secretary regarding the proposals for the 2019 & 2020 tours.

2019 – The Secretary proposed that he further consider two courses (one night) in Nottinghamshire, Hollinwell & Sherwood Forest, both of which had been recommended by Graham Bolton. This was agreed.

2020 – As this will be the “Jubilee Tour” it is suggested that we should do a two night, three course tour, subsidised to some extent from society funds (see Treasurer’s Report). The Secretary had outlined three potential options & asked for the meeting to state a preference of the top two options for him to investigate further. The options were 1) Scotland & Cumbria - Southerness, Powfoot & Silloth recommended; 2) Celtic Manor (Wales) – three on site courses with one base & 3) Republic of Ireland – three quality courses south of Dublin & County Wicklow.

After an inclusive discussion it was agreed that although a very attractive option in many ways we should exclude Ireland because of the additional logistical & cost implications. The Secretary will therefore be asked to fully work up the other two options for further discussion, with the footnote from the meeting that the Scotland/Cumbria option may be preferred on the basis that many of the members have not played at least two of the courses mentioned.

The President thanked the Secretary for his work on the proposal so far.

**Election of Officers**

The Chairman outlined that with the exception of the Captain, all of the officers were prepared to stand for re-election.

The President proposed that the officers be elected en bloc, as follows

**Chairman – Archie Moore**

**Secretary – Stephen Sage**

**Treasurer – Denis Ruane**

**Fixture Secretary – Mike Geraghty**

**Handicap Secretary – Mike Geraghty**

**Competitions Secretary – Dave Hutton**

This was seconded by Alan Phillips and passed unanimously.

There had been one nomination for the position of Captain for 2019, Dave Teggin, proposed by Ray Palin & seconded by Stephen Sage. **Dave Teggin** was also elected unanimously.

**Any Other Business**

The Chairman thanked the outgoing captain for his unstinting work during the year & the President thanked all of the committee for their diligent contributions during the year.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending & closed the meeting at 18.20