

# SOCIETY OF HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

<b>President:</b>	Willie Brooks	Harpenden Common
<b>Captain:</b>	Richard Blanchflower	Brookmans Park
<b>Vice-Captain:</b>	Neil Hewitt	Old Fold Manor
<b>I.P. Captain:</b>	Jan Cembala	Brickendon Grange
<b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>	Robert Howell	Arkley
<b>Hon. Secretary:</b>	Eric Diment	Aldwickbury Park
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Simon Tansley	Essendon
	Brian MacDonald	Harpenden Common
	Gary Rees	West Herts
	Peter Barnes	Hadley Wood
<b>Hon. Auditor:</b>	Melvyn Rose	Radlett Park

Another busy year for the Society and your Committee as we continue to move forward and develop the experience we provide for the membership. Following on from the success of online payments we introduced a choice of main course for the Annual Dinner which was also well received and for the eagle eyed of you who attend we now have a toastmaster a welcome addition which we will be continuing. As requested by the members we have increased our matches for 2020 as these seem very popular so please ensure you complete the relevant paperwork early for consideration to enable the provisional match matrix to be completed.

**Membership:** Current membership stands at 498 and we now have a database that supports GDPR and accurately reflects our membership and playing capabilities. In 2019 we continued to recruit new members, but your Hon Sec does rely heavily on the Liaison Officers and Clubs in the recruitment process and in 2019 there were 20 new members. Inevitably a few members due to age decided to leave the Society as they are no longer active golfers. It is also interesting to see a reversal in recent trends with the average age of Golf Club Captains declining. It is with great sorrow we record those no longer with us namely Rob Saffery from Arkley, Harry King from Whipsnade Park, Bryn Jones from Brickendon Grange, Bob Heath, John Byrne, Ernest Carrington, Ian Kinlay and Ben Brown from South Herts and finally Alan Watson of Mid Herts. Please let me know when colleagues pass away who are members of the Society, so our records can be updated. Honorary membership is available to members who are aged 75 and have been members for 10 years and becomes effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> January following your 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is incumbent on you to inform the Hon Sec. In 2016 the Committee agreed to raise the age of Honorary membership from 75 to 80 with effect from 2021 due to the age profile within the Society. Currently we have 95 Honorary members and this change in the constitution will be ratified at the AGM in April 2020.

**Crameri Cup:** Played at Porters Park which saw Paul Bryce and Alan Ragless from Panshanger Golf Club winning 4 & 3 from Robert Hewlett and Geoff High of Whitehills Golf Club. Many thanks go to Bob Howell for running this exacting competition very professionally and for him agreeing to run it again in 2020.

**Herts Salver:** Hosted by Brookmans Park which saw Justin Saunders from Porters Park finishing in first place ahead of James Lynch from Redbourn to win the Salver and progressing with the remaining top 16 finishers into the HGU Championship Final.

**Annual Dinner:** Another very successful evening at the Holiday Inn hotel, with 185 members and 20 guests being treated to the returning Martin Toal and Sally Potterton from our Jubilee Dinner. The evening also saw the introduction of a choice of main course, which will be continued. The venue is booked again for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**Clothing:** My sincere thanks go to Ray Johnson for running our clothing section again this year. He has continued to offer an excellent service, meeting the needs and expectations of the members and continues to manage the stock well and this year we extended the range with a new shirt, water/wind proof jacket and a Gilet all of which have proved popular.

### **Treasurer's Report 2019**

I am pleased to report another satisfactory financial outcome for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

Our income was similar to the previous year, the only exception being the surplus on meetings. We continue to hold the price to members although costs charged by host clubs are creeping up. The only significant variance was the 2018 Christmas Fayre with higher costs and the Spring meeting, which was poorly attended. In fact there was an aggregate 534 individual attendees at all our meetings, only seven down on 2018.

Expenditure was generally a little lower than last year with the exception of the 2018 dinner and the deficit on match fees. We deliberately enhanced the dinner entertainment with the return of Martin Toal and Sally. Their additional cost was funded out of the 2017/18 surplus and you can see this reflected at the bottom of the income and expenditure account. In addition, the meal was more expensive, having been held for a number of years.

Our match deficit was lower as in the previous year we sustained a heavy loss on the London Captains match, where it was cancelled due to the weather, but we had to pay for the untaken dinner.

So, in the year we made a modest surplus of £541 to which is added the £500 contribution to the 2019 dinner made from the previous year.

Our cash resources remain healthy with over £17k in the bank. It is not our intention to build this any further and to try and run your society at or near break-even; hence your committee's decision to not increase any prices paid by members in 2020.

My thanks to Melvyn Rose for auditing the records and obviously to our Secretary who does all the hard work collecting and banking meeting and match income as well as paying many of the invoices.

Bob Howell, Hon Treasurer

18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**From the Office:** The website [www.sohgc.co.uk](http://www.sohgc.co.uk) under the stewardship of Eric Wyllie continues to expand and develop so please use it for information, the changes to rules for 2019 proved beneficial to some and with the new world handicapping system coming into play in November 2020 there are bound to be more announcements. A recent addition is a gentle reminder to all members about our strict dress code both during and after matches or events, please uphold the high standards of our Society. Internet banking has proved popular, but any payments should be accompanied by an email to the Hon Sec and Hon Treasurer to assist them.

### **Captain's Report 2019**

I have enjoyed a great year as Captain of the society and my thanks to you all for your support. I hope you can attend my captain's day at Brookmans Park on 24<sup>th</sup> April to enjoy the hospitality and give me a good send off.

We could always do with a few more attending our meetings but both Spring and Autumn meetings at West Herts and Porters Park went well.

We also have several matches against other counties so don't be shy in putting your name forward-we do try and spread selection wherever possible.

This year saw us win the Triangular against Essex and Cambridgeshire at Royston. We finished runners up in the Four Counties match at Kidderminster against Worcestershire, Norfolk and Buckinghamshire but we retained the trophy in our match with Bucks. We also clocked up wins against London Captains at South

Herts and Suffolk at Letchworth. However, we came second in our match at South Beds against Bedfordshire whilst we drew with Northants at Northampton GC.

Our President Willie “brand new” Brooks entertained us regally at Harpenden Common on both his President’s Day and reception later in the year as did my successor Neil Hewitt in his vice captains’ day at Old Fold Manor-thanks to you both.

A highlight for me was the annual fixture with the Captain’s Club. At first, I thought my club would struggle to get 24 players but tremendous support from at least 14 past club captains and support work from BPGC captain Dave Lines saw a very enjoyable match which Herts Captains narrowly lost.

We had our annual fixtures against both the Herts Boys under 14 and under 16 teams and it is a pleasure to play with our county stars of the future.

I attended my first mixed weekend with my wife Mandy where we were made to feel very welcome thanks to organiser Phil Bibby. This was held at Stoke by Nayland which destroyed the myth that Essex is a flat county!

We also had our annual match with the Herts Ladies Captains at Aldwickbury Park who stepped in at late notice to help host this. The mixed invitation was once again held at Arkley and thanks to them for their hospitality.

Finally, some appropriate thankyou’s. Eric Wyllie does a great job organising our excellent website.

Bob Howell does a great job as Treasurer pursuing unpaid subscriptions like a bloodhound! You have been warned. My thanks also to all our committee members and my predecessor Jan Cembala for his wise counsel.

Finally, and most importantly to our Hon Secretary Eric Diment who has made my captaincy very straightforward. He has the patience of Job, particularly dealing with late cry offs and always has a smile on his face! Thank you, Eric.

Richard Blanchflower

## **Secretary’s Report 2019**

**Meetings:** This remains the biggest challenge for your Hon Sec with the enthusiasm of the core membership being the bedrock of the Society. I thank the Liaison Officers who do their best and in future years there will be far more targeted emailing to try and halt the reduction. We have seen new members attend meetings but unfortunately there has been a decrease in attendance; down for the second year albeit very slightly. Some events as in the past are extremely popular but others such as the Summer Meeting, now renamed Spring Meeting for 2019, has seen levels steadily decline. Moor Park has very kindly again offered to host the Inter-Club Salver in 2020 which should lead to a full house. I ask all Liaison Officers to double their efforts in asking our members to support all the events and if your club is willing to host an event in 2021 at a sensible price please let me know. Although the meeting and match lists have been circulated, they are attached again to these papers.

**2019 Match Fees and Selection:** The Committee have agreed to retain a £45 match fee for another year despite increased costs but with the pressure clubs are now under to increase their revenue streams I expect this will be the last year which we can maintain that level unless we decided to alter the format. The Committee would be reluctant to do that as its important we entertain our guests appropriately. With regards to Match selection this year I would ask you to apply by early March and all matches are open to everyone, young or old. The selection for the whole season will then be made and you will be notified in early April as to the provisional list via the match matrix which will also be available via the website. The more choice you provide the greater your probability of being selected and I look forward to welcoming new members.

**Meeting costs:** As mentioned previously the cost of food is still rising but due to careful negotiations the Committee have agreed again to hold Meeting Fees in general at £55 for another year, although there will be a slight increase for the Mixed Invitation. It is still my view that this is excellent value for two meals on most events, a round of golf and prizes. However, your continued support is critical to retain this figure.

**The Website and Clothing:** Thanks to much assistance and support from Eric Wyllie, we have seen the continued development of the website with even more information available. You are now able to see what's on offer and news reports which follow our various events; just google [www.sohgc.co.uk](http://www.sohgc.co.uk). Ray Johnson our Clothing Manager has served us well both at meetings and matches. He has been kept extremely busy by you all and especially the new members and please check out the new items.

**Payments:** I am pleased to announce to members that the online banking capability has proved popular again and I believe a benefit for the membership. It does, however increase the workload for the Hon Sec and Hon Treasurer, and I would like to remind everyone that any online payment should be accompanied by an email to assist in the auditing process. If you wish to pay by cheque that is fine but please write the events you are paying for on the back of your cheque. As in previous years the only cheques that should be sent undated are for the Xmas Fayre. All other events will be banked immediately so please no post-dated cheques as these may be returned to the originator.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank you the membership for your support.

I wish everyone a great golfing year in 2020

*Eric W Diment*

Hon. Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BRICKENDON  
GRANGE GOLF CLUB FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019**

The meeting commenced at 9.10pm

**PRESENT:** - Captain and Chairman, Jan Cembala, President Jim Smith, Hon. Treasurer Bob Howell, Vice-Captain Richard Blanchflower & Messrs, Hewitt, MacDonald, Rees, Tansley and Eric Diment Hon. Secretary. Plus 64 Members

**Apologies** were received from 10 Members.

**Notice convening the meeting was taken as read.**

**Minutes** of the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were confirmed and signed.

**Accounts** the accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and which had been seen by all members were proposed and seconded by and Willie Brooks and Ray Johnson for the meeting to adopt.

**Honorary Auditor** Melvyn Rose (Radlett Park) was thanked for his services and reappointed

**Reports:** The Captain's, Treasurer's, Committee's, and Secretaries reports were sent out in January and these were accepted by the meeting,

**Election of Committee Members** there was one nomination being Peter Barnes, Hadley Wood Golf Club. There being no other nominations he was duly elected.

**Election of Officers** for one year from May 2019

**THE PRESIDENT**, there was one nomination, Willie Brooks, Harpenden Common Club  
The meeting voted unanimously. Willie said he was 'brand new' and how proud he was to be the President and thanked the meeting for his election.

**THE CAPTAIN**, Vice-Captain, Richard Blanchflower having been elected in 2018 becomes our Captain under the constitution. He thanked Jan Cembala the outgoing Captain for his term of office and said he was honoured to be the Captain and would take his responsibilities seriously during his year.

**VICE CAPTAIN**, there being one nomination Neil Hewitt, Old Fold Manor Golf Club all were in favour and he was duly elected.

**HON. TREASURER**, there was only one nomination Bob Howell who was thanked for his hard work during the year and duly elected.

**HON. SECRETARY**, there was only one nomination Eric Diment who was thanked for his work during the year and duly elected.

**Any other Business** There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

EWD 28/4/2019