

SOCIETY OF HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

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

What a year for the Society and the population, little did we realise as we enjoyed our annual dinner at the beginning of March how much our lives would change over the following 10 months and the unprecedented circumstances that were looming over the horizon. Sadly, the pandemic put paid to most of our golfing events over the year, but we were fortunate enough to hold 3 small events, socially distanced at Old Fold Manor, Brookmans Park and Brickendon Grange and my thanks to all those who participated and for the clubs agreeing to host the events and support us.

Membership: Current membership has fallen again over the last year and now stands at 476 and my thanks go to our Honorary Treasurer who ensures we are GDPR compliant and the database accurately reflects our membership and playing capabilities. Sadly, the pandemic led to a poor response in terms of new members in 2020 as rightly everyone's focus was elsewhere. I would therefore ask all members to encourage their current and recent Club Captain to join us if they have not already done so. In recognition of the difficult times many families have experienced over the last year it has been decided that rather than list all those members who have sadly passed away in the last year we would like to acknowledge that the thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has lost a loved one during the year. Honorary Membership is still available for members but changes to the eligibility criteria means that you must now have attained the age of 80 and been a member for at least 10 years, the onus remains on the individual to notify the Hon Sec as we do not retain details of birthdays on our database.

Crameri Cup: Not Played in 2020

Herts Salver: Not Played in 2020

Annual Dinner: Another successful evening at the Holiday Inn hotel, with 170 members and guests being treated to the comic wit and entertainment of Ian Irving. Regrettably, the current circumstances of the pandemic and government lockdown has prevented this year's event from occurring, but the committee will look to hold a suitable event as soon as is practicable to do so.

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 following on from the new additions of 2019 we now have beanie hats available going forward.

Treasurer's Report 2020

Please see the attached report from the Hon Treasurer and accounts.

From the Office: The website www.sohgc.co.uk under the stewardship of Eric Wyllie continues to expand and develop so please use it for information, the continued changes during 2020 and inevitably for 2021 will mean this is a useful tool for everyone and details of the new world handicapping system which came in to play in November 2020 are available. 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 Secretary and Hon Treasurer to assist them.

Captain's Report 2020

The annual dinner back in early March 2020 was well supported by the members and my thanks to guest speaker Ian Irving and Doug Chalmers who proposed the toast to the Society. As we returned home little did we think that it would be almost 6 months before we were able to meet again for golf.

When restrictions on socialising were eventually loosened it allowed us to hold fairly impromptu meetings at Old Fold Manor in late August and my club Brookmans Park and Brickendon Grange in September. My thanks to the host clubs for permitting these to take place and to Eric for his enthusiasm in arranging these in difficult times.

Sadly, plans for a further meeting at East Herts and the Xmas Fayre at Old Fold had to be cancelled due to an increase on restrictions in socialising but the prospects of a return to normality in 2021 have increased as vaccinations are rolled out.

My thanks to you all for your support in my extended (not planned!) term as your Captain and I look forward to seeing you on the golf course sometime later this year.

Richard Blanchflower

Secretary's Report 2020

Meetings: So, a vastly different year than the one we all predicted in March 2020 as we held our annual dinner and looked forward to a full season ahead. Events were postponed or rescheduled for 2021 as the timeline during lockdown moved along but we were fortunate enough to hold 3 small internal meetings that were well supported by those members who felt that their health and the risk mitigation in place made the courses and venues safe. My thanks to all those who participated and to the venues, Old Fold Manor, Brookmans Park and Brickendon Grange for their warmth and hospitality.

2021 Match Fees and Selection: The Committee hopes 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 it is important, we entertain our guests appropriately. With uncertainty still surrounding much of the early golfing year it is impractical at this stage to circulate application forms for matches and meetings, but it is hoped to send out details in the foreseeable future although at the time of writing this it would appear that early events will see numbers radically reduced to comply with the pandemic guidelines.

Meeting costs: As mentioned previously the cost of food is still rising but due to careful negotiations the Committee hopes to retain the Meeting Fees in general at £55 for another year, although there may be slight increases as we return to golf in 2021. 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 is

on offer and news reports which follow our various events; just google www.sohgc.co.uk. Ray Johnson our Clothing Manager has served us well during a difficult year and has extended the range now to include a beanie hat. With events being scaled back due to the pandemic the stock levels have risen so please update your clothing at the first available opportunity.

Payment: I am pleased to announce to members that the online banking capability has proved popular again and I believe a benefit for the membership. However, it does 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.

World Handicap System: The Society will be adopting the WHS for all events in 2021 so members will be required to submit their handicap index to the Hon Sec for all future events when selected for matches or events. This will allow the course rating, slope rating and tee off the day to be applied on the course we are playing, and everyone will then be proved with a playing handicap for the event.

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

I wish everyone a better and safe golfing year in 2021 as we look to return to the new normal.

Eric W Diment

Hon. Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BRICKENDON
GRANGE GOLF CLUB FRIDAY 26th 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 27th April 2018 were confirmed and signed.

Accounts the accounts for year ended 31st 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