

**Minutes of the Nineteenth Annual General
Meeting of**

Norwood Park Golf Club Members

held on

**Thursday, 11th January 2018 in the Club
House,
Norwood Park Golf Centre**

Paul Thornton
General Manager
26th January 2018

**Minutes of the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of Norwood Park Golf Club
Members**

Held on

Thursday, 11th January 2018, 7.30pm in the Club House, Norwood Park Golf Centre

Attendees

Paul Thornton (Chairman / General Manager), Jackie Macey (Golf Development & Marketing), Grant Lee (Head Greenkeeper), Paul Inman (retiring Gents' Captain), Karen Thomas (retiring Lady Captain), Denis Jepson (incoming Gents' Captain), Christine Green (incoming Lady Captain), John May (incoming Gents' Vice-Captain), Debbie Knox (incoming Lady Vice-Captain), Dan O'Malley (incoming Junior Captain), Sarah Woolley, Sandra Beckett, Ron Beckett, Gordon Green, Lynne Inman, Mick Wilkie, Ray Hall, Andy Barksby, Jon O'Malley, Steve Buckle, Philip Scruby, Antony Woolley, Tim Tunnicliffe, Claire Wilson, Alan Knox, Simon Dickens, Neil Bolton, Carol Thornton, Marco Kefer, John Barrow, Harold Hemsall, Peter Lennard-Jones, Geoff Oliver, Martin Rosillo, Jonathon Hickman, Peter Fairhall, Paul D Jackson, Graham Kirk, Janet Harbord, Sandra Bowen, Tom Bowen, Meg Maunder – 42 people.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Sir John Starkey (President), John Round (Seniors' Captain), Rob Macey (Head Professional), Tanya Wainwright, Jon Milner, Mark Loghan, Paddy Whur, Nik Linley, Ian Mitchell.

2. Chairman / General Manager's report

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the 2 outgoing Captains Paul and Karen on a brilliant year, particularly on the fund raising front.

2017 was another successful year for NPGC with membership continuing to be very strong. Much of this is down to the 'Golf Development' work that we do here and I have to particularly thank Jackie Macey and Richard Strange for their work. The Get Into Golf initiative has worked well for us and continues to provide many of our new members; the important point here is that most are new golfers, thereby growing the game, as opposed to people joining from other golf clubs.

Personally, 2017 was the best year for me as I finally became a dad – Matthew was born on 8th May and as soon as he can walk he'll be our youngest member!

In terms of membership numbers, we have 763 members, 102 of which are female; compared with this time last year, we have 18 more members overall.

The growth has been spread across all membership categories and we have again restricted 7 day memberships over the winter months due to the fact that there is so much pressure on tee times, especially at weekends.

There are always improvements to be made both on the golf courses and in the clubhouse areas e.g. Grant and team have embarked on a particularly ambitious winter programme this time which we'll hear more about in his report.

We are about to change the software we use here in order to improve the range of services available to members – more about this in the next 2 weeks.

We are also in the running for another National award: England Golf Most Welcoming Club. We are down to the last 4 and the winner will be announced at the awards ceremony in London on 22nd February.

Finally, a couple of thank yous:

Thank you to the team here, clubhouse staff, greenkeepers and pros shop staff. There is a great team of people here doing some excellent work.

And a big thank you to you the members for your custom and support and have a great 2018.

Questions:

Meg Maunder asked if the new software and members' area of the website could have more information; this was in light of the fact that some members who are not Facebook users miss out on some information.

The Chairman replied that it is never the intention to exclude members from any information and added that important information is always emailed to members anyway. He also mentioned the Blog that is on the members' page of the website. The Chairman concluded by saying that Meg's point will be taken on board and that the new software will definitely give members more information.

3. Captains' Reports

3.1 Lady Captain

Top table, Captain, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentleman.

I'd like to present my Lady Captain's report for 2017.

The year started out with the drive in in January. Myself and Paul were well supported with the Captains versus Vice Captain's competition. After nearly putting the ball in the pond on the 9th, having seen everyone standing around the green in the distance I did manage to get my drive away for the drive in. We raised over £500 that day which was a fantastic start to our fundraising efforts for our chosen charities, Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance and The British Heart Foundation.

In February we had a ladies social evening with over 40 ladies attending and as a warm up to the start of the golfing season I arranged some fun social competitions, a Spring Waltz and an Easter Egg Texas Scramble. These competitions proved popular with the ladies and we had over 40 ladies playing in both.

At the end of March we had a Rhonish fashion show in the club house, with the new spring range being modelled by some of our lady members.

There has been several National competitions this year organised by England Golf that we have entered as a club the Australian spoons, The Ladies Coronation Foursomes and the Ladies Ping Better Ball.

In May, Norwood Park hosted the annual Spring Meeting of the Notts County Vets Ladies Golf Association. Meg Maunder was Lady Captain this year and it is traditionally held at the Lady Captain's home club. 156 ladies played on what was the hottest day of the year. Kerry Holden, supported by Sarah Woolley, our Club Vets Rep and many of our lady members, put on a wonderful half way house serving cream teas making a welcome break in the searing heat.

At the beginning of June it was Captain's Day. A glorious day, and myself and Paul greeted everyone on the first tee before then playing ourselves. This year we had a record number of ladies playing in Captain's day; 24 ladies which was fantastic.

In June the ladies section went on an exchange day to Lingdale Golf Club in Leicestershire and a few weeks later, 40 ladies join me for my Captain's away days to Belton Woods.

In August myself and Paul had our Captain's Charity Open.

An amazing amount of money £ 3923.66 was raised for our charities, Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance and The British Heart Foundation. A big thank you to everyone that supported the event, playing in the competition, baking cakes, helping out on the cake stall and buying raffle tickets. A big thank you as well to those juniors who supported the day, with the 'Junior Challenge' on the 5th.

The ladies have had lots of success this year in the NCLGA leagues. The Bronze team won 5 ½ out of their 6 matches and won their division, so are moving up to division C next year and will be playing Worksop, Coxmoor and The Nottinghamshire. The Silver team have also had a successful year, holding on to their place in division C and will be playing Coxmoor, Notts Ladies and Selby next season. I would like to thank Audrey MacMillan for organizing the Silver Team this year and thanks to everyone that has played in the Bronze and Silver matches. A great year for Norwood.

The Ladies Section have also had several friendly matches against other clubs and this year we have seen many of our newer lady members playing in these alongside more experienced players. Thank you to Christine Green, my Vice who took charge of organising the friendlies for me.

This year Norwood got through to the third round in the Ladies Interclub, but then unfortunately lost 2 down to Mapperely at Worksop. A great effort though by Audrey and Lynne, Claire and Sandra, so well done ladies. Thanks to Lynne Inman for you your hard work organising the interclub.

Success was also seen in the Taskers this year. This is an interclub competition for ladies over 50, with a handicap of 28 or lower. The first round is played home and away, the subsequent rounds being the luck of the draw. The competition is played as singles match play in teams of 7 The first round was against Retford and Norwood won 6/1 at home, and 4/3 at Retford. We had a home match against Keddleston in the 2nd round and managed to beat them 5 and 1/2 to 1 and 1/2. This saw us through to the last 16 teams left in the competition and we were drawn against Lees Hall in Sheffield. It was a nail biting match only to be lost 4 and 3. This was the furthest we had ever been in the Taskers competition so well done to all those ladies that played. A big thank you also to Sandra Beckett for organising the Taskers.

I'd like to thank Richard Strange who has done a fantastic job again this year running Pink Ladies sessions on a Friday and Saturday morning, and thanks to Pink Ladies many of the ladies have gone on to become active members within the ladies section. The par 3 club which is run by Gordon and Christine Green on a Wednesday morning is now in its 5th year, and has gone from strength to strength with 42 regular members of which between 20 and 30 turn up every week. Highlights of the year have been a Burns celebration with haggis, tatties and malt whisky served after the golf, an Easter fun competition, a home and away match against Ramsdale and an Away Day at Rutland Water. (This time the weather was dry!) The Par 3 Championship and Knockout are now well established. The year was topped off when 36 members played a Texas Scramble and then sat down for the club's 5th annual Christmas dinner and prize presentation."

Finally, December saw our Annual Presentation Evening which was held up at the Hall. It so lovely to present all the winners with their trophies and nice to see everyone dressed up as opposed to in golf gear. It was a bit chilly though so thermals and layers may have been a better option. The charity auction raised over £2000 and thanks to Gordon Green who stepped in last minute to run the auction.

That weekend the snow arrived which meant that our ladies Christmas 3 clubs and a putter competition had to be cancelled, but we still all enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner cooked by Rene and Lucy and some fun games afterwards.

Over the year, myself and Paul have raised £12,100 for our charities. The juniors have also raised £380 for Reach which was Junior Captain Corey's chosen charity. Thanks to everyone for their kind generosity and a big thanks to those juniors who have supported us at our fundraising events. The highlight or should I say crazy moment of our fundraising efforts was the 54 hole challenge. When I first suggested the idea to Paul one day in the car park, Lynne looked at Paul and laughed, saying 'he gets tired after 9 holes and needs a sit down', but we did it and got pretty wet along the way, and thanks to everyone's generosity in sponsoring us and to the caddies that walked around with us keeping us going, we raised over £1000.

Finally, I would like to thank Grant and the team of greenkeepers for all their hard work for keeping the course in such good condition.

Lucy, Rene and the bar staff for your fantastic catering.

Rob and Jackie and all staff in the pro shop for all your support. Richard Strange for all his hard work with the Pink Ladies and coaching sessions. And Paul Thornton for all his support this year.

It's thanks to such an amazing team that makes Norwood Park a fantastic golf club.

Finally thank you to Captain Paul Inman for a great year as fellow Captain and to Christine Green my Vice for being so supportive.

I would like to wish Denis, Christine, John and Daniel O Malley all the best for your year as Captain for 2018.

3.2 Gents Captain

Top Table, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to give a brief overview of the year, without going into the weather conditions in too much detail, and try not to repeat too much covered by our Lady Captains already.

I have tried to follow as much of the golf the club has been involved in wherever possible. I was banned from attending a ladies bronze match by the lady captain as she was afraid I might freak them out. I also failed to play a match with the seniors as I didn't really have time and Harold always seemed to be over subscribed.

The men's summer league (formerly sponsored by Southwell Autos, and now sponsored by John Harrison) only had limited success this year, winning only 4 matches and finishing 4th in the league, but on a positive note, we had 36 players represent the club in this competition, and the 6 lost matches were all very close. Next year there will be many more experienced players to choose from. Many thanks to all the players supporting the club and especially Rob, Tom Warnock, Mark Todd and Richard Farr for giving their time to partner me in these matches.

The men's friendly matches fared a little better, winning 5 of the 7 matches played, with 1 loss and 1 half in the other two matches. Again, we had around 30 members contributing to the teams and I thank each and every one of them for giving up their time and contributing to some very enjoyable matches.

The scratch team had another satisfactory year, and although not challenging for top spot, comfortably secured their place in the top division for another year. Well played to all who were selected to represent this team and good luck for next season.

The men's inter club team had a great run this year. A close opening match against Retford at Ramsdale came down to the last hole of the second match before victory was secured. The next round was against the Nottinghamshire at Mapperly, which proved a very one-sided affair which we won very comfortably. Then came the semi-final against Stanton, again at Ramsdale. We were in touching distance of a place in the final but after 21 holes the teams could not be separated. The replay at Coxmoor was always slipping away and unfortunately Stanton held on to reach the final.

The mixed team did not fair quite as well as the men, and after a very narrow win after 21 holes against Rufford at the Nottinghamshire, the team fell at the second hurdle, losing the eventual winners Worksop at Searly Park.

I wish all the players selected to represent the club in the 2018 competition all the best. We have been knocking on the door of winning one of the inter-clubs over the past few years with finals for the ladies and mixed and semi-finals for the men, and I am sure we have the players to go all the way in the near future. Let's make this the year.

The mixed section had a very full program this year playing 13 matches, with new fixtures with Rufford, Newark and Bondhay. There were over 50 members representing the club in these matches with a creditable 10 wins and 3 losses, but the results are of secondary importance in these matches as it is an opportunity to forge relationships and friendships with other clubs. 2018 has a full fixture list organised, again with 13 matches, and the mixed section goes from strength to strength, due in some part to the strength of the ladies' section and the work by Richard Strange with the Pink Ladies. Many thanks to Peter and Jan Lennard-Jones for steering this ship.

The open competitions were all very well subscribed this year by both members and visitors. I do not intend to revisit these but I thank all members who bring visitors on

these days as it is a great opportunity to showcase our wonderful facilities to golfers from elsewhere.

I would like to mention just 2 of the opens; the Captains Charity open, as from Karen and my position the support for all the initiatives on the day were outstanding, so thanks to the all the support on the raffle table, the ladies providing cakes and goodies at halfway, the juniors on the 5th hole, not forgetting Lynne for providing the watch for the green challenge run by the juniors, and Rob and Jackie for the superb prize table, all of which helped to raise an outstanding sum of around £3000. Along with all that we had two hole in ones that day. One on the 5th from a member of the overall winning team and 1 from our very own Alan Knox, who at that time was holing out from everywhere.

The other open I would like to mention is the Seniors open. Pete Fairhall and myself decided we would both invite one guest to join us. I invited Terry Marshall, currently Captain at Sleaford golf Club. Terry and I arrived about the same time and went to the club house for a coffee where we compared notes of the previous weekend when we had both had Captains day. It came time to get ready for golf, and with less than 10 minutes to tee time there were 3 of us on the putting green and no sign of Terry. I spotted him coming across the courtyard, still in his "civies" and pulling a trolley, not what I expected. I asked "is everything alright?" to which he replied that following his Captains day his boot of his car was still full of beer, and his golf clubs were in his garage. He had hired a half set and trolley and still in his civie clothes we set off. Terry won the nearest the pin on the 5th and made a 2, and then holed in 1 on the 17th.

My away day was at Lincoln Golf club at Torksey. The day ran very smoothly and we were looked after very well, and I am sure everyone who went had a good time. The ones who ventured into Lincoln for the rest of the night awoke on Saturday morning with sore heads I believe, no sympathy! Many thanks to Denis for his organisation of this event.

Captains day saw the biggest competition field at Norwood, the weather was superb and Rennie barbequed in the courtyard in the evening and many people stayed on to create a very warm and welcoming atmosphere to finish the day off.

A few thankyou's;

I would like to give my personal thanks to the great work Gordon and Christine have put into the Par 3 club, which moves from strength to strength thanks to their energy.

Grant and his team of green keepers who always seem to be able to present the course in such great condition and keep the course playable when others around have to close.

My good friends in the bar and kitchen. It has been a difficult year as I have not done as many shifts a usual but they have covered my absence without complaint.

Denis, Karen and Christine for the support all year, Rob, Tom Warnock, Mark Todd and Richard Farr for partnering me in the Summer League matches and the rest of the players supporting the team matches. Paul Thornton for always having an open door to discuss ideas and supporting our charity challenges, and of course along with Simon Dickens for giving me this opportunity. Lynne for taking the Summer off work to support me, not may wives would do that. Finally, to all the members, for their support through

competitions, opens, matches, charities and following my rambling blogs on facebook. I have had a great year and I hope you all have also.

Finally, I would like to give my best wishes our incoming Captains, John Round for the Seniors, Dan O'Malley for the juniors and of course Denis and Christine and their respective vice captains. All of you just remember there are a host of memories to be made during the year, so make them yourselves and don't let them be made for you. If you blink you will miss it.

4. Head Greenkeeper's report

Grant Lee gave his report as follows (each point was discussed):

- Gents 18th tee has been re-done: the tee has been re-positioned, raised and levelled out; drainage and irrigation has also been improved. A tee mat (like the one on the 6th tee) will be installed by next winter.
- There is a general long-term plan to improve all tees.
- The back of the 13th green has been raised and the left side has been levelled; this should make the green much easier to hold and allow more hole locations.
- The right side of the 15th green has been improved to allow more hole locations.
- A similar fertiliser programme to last year is continuing which involves the application of Compost Tea (this adds biology to the soil structure adding a more natural / organic fertiliser for the soil's food web) and Farmura 10 which is composed of low manure and seaweed (which is, again, organic).
- A new alternative tee is to be constructed on the 12th hole for ladies and gents; this will be positioned further to the left and will play around 130-150 yards over the water.
- Thank you to my team for their hard work this year and also to the members for their support and input.

Questions / comments:

Lynne Inman asked if the paths were going to be re-instated once the work has been completed and the long fescue grass in front of some tees has become too long. The Head Greenkeeper replied that the paths will be done and that the grass would be thinned out.

Philip Scruby asked if the 18th tee lower branches could be removed and a discussion took place regarding the trucks that have crossed the 11th fairway. Matting could be used instead of sand paths and the Head Greenkeeper will look into these points further.

Discussions took place relating to the improvements made to the 13th green and when the green will be back in play. The Chairman explained that the green will be back in play in May and that it was still possible to run qualifying competitions with one temporary green in use.

Lynne Inman asked when the work will be done to improve the ladies' tees. The Chairman and Head Greenkeeper said that, over time, all tees will be improved.

Steve Buckle said he was pleased to hear about the new tee on the 12th hole and that this should significantly improve the hole.

Ray Hall asked if there were any plans to add more 'Black' tees. The Chairman said not at the moment as each time more tees are added, the course SSS needs to be re-assessed and score cards changed etc.

Meg Maunder asked if more ladies tees could have steps installed and for more benches on the course. These points will be looked into. Meg also said that the feedback about the course had been very positive from her Lady Vets Captain's Day in May.

Ron Beckett asked if the new 12th tee would cause an issue relating to SSS and overall course length. The Chairman said we would be losing around 50 yards off the total and so would have another 50 yards 'leeway' and so should not cause a problem.

Jon O'Malley congratulated the greenkeepers on the work they do to present the courses.

Philip Scruby asked if the Head Greenkeeper had all the machinery he wanted. The Chairman replied that the Head Greenkeeper nearly always has his requests fulfilled for new machinery and that we have as good a fleet, if not better, as any golf course.

Janet Harbord stressed the need for improving the 'sloping' ladies' tees. The Head Greenkeeper said it was on the plan to address this.

Gordon Green said that one tee that did need steps was the 8th on the par 3 course as it is probably the steepest climb of any tee on either course. The Head Greenkeeper agreed to look at this.

Antony Woolley congratulated the greenkeepers on the vast improvements made on the par 3 course in particular.

5. Professional's Report

The Chairman gave Robert Macey's report as follows:

My apologies for not being able to attend.

I would like to wish the incoming Captains Christine, Denis, John & Dan all the very best for 2018, rest assured of our full support from all the Pro Shop Staff

Many congratulations to Karen, Paul, Harrold & Corey on such a successful year, especially with all the money raised for the Charities

Special thanks to all our sponsors for Charity Day & our Junior Competitions - Rob Squires, Mark Sanders, Jon O'Malley, Mark Thomas.

Golf Development – yet another successful year with various GET INTO GOLF programmes run by PGA Award winning Coach Richard - supported by England Golf & The Golf Foundation, introducing many new golfers & new members to the club. Vast majorities regularly take part in the on-going rollup sessions, Par 3 Club, Pink Ladies etc.

Our Junior Programme continue to introduce many often very young golfers, which will be our members of the future no-doubt, some of who have had tremendous success both at County & National level.

Our out-reach work in schools & communities programmes supported by NCC & the Golf Partnership once again continue to flourish, we work with many disabled groups & special schools throughout the county. This year we have formed partnership with local Adult Care homes too. Championing our mantra “Golf for All”

Our Family fun day proved very popular again with over 1000 people attending despite the weather! This event is very important to us within the Community & highly regarded by all the associations we work with. The army of volunteers on the day were tremendous ...

Our Par 3 Club has been a real success story, mainly due to the enthusiasm shown by our faithful organizers Christine & Gordon – a vital stepping-stone in our Golf Development Plan.

We welcomed Mick Heron to our Pro Shop Team last season & said a fond farewell to Mark Todd who is doing very well in his new job at Cobra /Puma HQ in London. Tom Warnock started his 3-year PGA Degree, he is working really hard & supported by myself, Richard & PGA Paul – things have certainly changed since I did mine 36 years ago!!!!

We are very excited to have been nominated for England Golf National Award ‘most welcoming club’ the icing on the cake to be recognized in this way with special thanks to our County Development Officer Emily Cheshire & Matt Bloor for nominating us! “

We have many new plans for the coming year, including re-developing the Custom Fitting Service we offer including offering a state of the art TRACKMAN Coaching & Custom Fit experience – the nearest system being The Belfry.

Personally I have received 2 great honours this year, being voted PGA Midland Pro of the year across 7 counties voted on by my fellow peers & becoming PING England Custom Fitter of the year – a great way to celebrate 25 years in business Maceys Golf store ... thank you all for supporting ‘your local’ “
Rob Macey

6. Election of Captains and Vice Captains for 2018.

Karen Thomas introduced Christine Green as the new Lady Captain and presented her with the captain’s badge.

Christine responded by saying:

Top table, Captain Paul, Incoming Captain Denis, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you Karen.

About 6 years ago I came up to Norwood Pro shop to buy a pair of shoes because Gordon had just taken up golf the previous month and I thought I would just walk round with him for the exercise. Jackie was in the shop and said "Aren't you going to play golf?" "No", I replied "I'm only going to walk round with Gordon. She said; "Pink Ladies tomorrow, here's a 7 iron, come along".

Well, I did and now here I am Lady Captain of Norwood Park, who would have believed it, when all I wanted was a pair of shoes!

Norwood Park Golf Club is probably one of the very few clubs where that could happen. The enthusiasm and friendliness of everyone, the Management Team, the Pros, Shop Staff, Ground Staff, Catering and Bar Staff and, of course the members are what makes this club what it is.

I am extremely honoured to be Lady Captain of Norwood Park and am looking forward to the year.

Congratulations Paul and Karen for a very successful year and I think that you will be a very hard act to follow.

The Captains' Charities for 2018 are Notts/Lincs Air Ambulance and Beaumont House Community Hospice. Both very worthy causes so we are hoping you will support them with as much enthusiasm as you usually do.

I wish John Round, Senior Captain and Dan O'Malley Junior Captain all the very best for this coming year and hope you enjoy it too.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to my Vice Captain, Debbie Knox.

I'm really looking forward to working with you Debbie, and I'm sure we shall make a great team.

Thank you.

Paul Inman then introduced Denis Jepson as the new Gents Captain and presented him with his Captain's blazer.

In responding, Denis said:

Top table, Past Captains, Ladies and Gentlemen

Paul Thornton said that I didn't need to make much of an acceptance speech and so I haven't prepared anything and will keep it brief.

A friend of mine recently said that I'll make a great Captain and whoever is Captain after me, it will be like following Alex Ferguson. I'd therefore like to introduce David Moyes as my Vice Captain!

It is an honour and a privilege to accept this jacket and the position of Club Captain for 2018.

Many congratulations to our outgoing Captains, Paul and Karen, for another successful year at Norwood. I would also like to offer my support to our Junior Captain, Dan O'Malley, and also to John Round the incoming Seniors Captain.

Christine has already highlighted our chosen charities for this year and that just leaves me to introduce my Vice Captain – Mr John May.

Thank You

7. Closing comments and Close of meeting

The Chairman gave the closing comments of the meeting as follows:

He wished Denis and Christine well for their year as Captains.

He also wished John Round as senior Captain and Dan O'Malley as junior Captain well.

NPGC is a stand out club and it is thanks to everyone who is here tonight who has made it what it is: a fantastic golf club.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:35p.m.