

Chairman Report 2022

In this report, I will look back over the golfing year and look forward to what is to come.

No doubt whilst golfing you will have seen many new faces as membership in 2022 has taken off, we now have over 300 full members a position we have not been in for some time, and hopefully we will retain these members for many years going forward and increase this number even more.

We are one of the friendliest clubs in the area, new members are made welcome along with the many visitors we have had, there have been many positive comments made by visitors which bode well for the future as word of mouth is one the best adverts ever.

The course has improved with fairways and greens in great condition, we have invested in the rake for the fairways and the watering system for the fairways and with their continued use will only see even greater improvement. Divot bags on stands were purchased and members should use these to help repair the course when they are playing a general round, we do have one member who has used the bags every time he goes out and unfilled divots after he has played are difficult to find. Picking from fairways and placing in the semi rough has been in place this winter and it is noticeable how much this relieves stress on the fairways and allows them to recover in the winter period. Thanks to Steve, Geoff and Neville for all their hard work is appreciated by the members, visitors and the committee.

The Committee was interested in obtaining the members views and we issued a questionnaire; the details of the returns are in the members section of the website and are worth a look. We have tried to use the results to enhance members enjoyment and will continue as we value your opinion, I would always recommend if you have a suggestion, write and let the Secretary know, unless we can take it to the Committee, nothing will change and that would be a shame.

A new Sub-Committee was formed this year as part of the questionnaire feedback to look at events and how we can bring members together for golf and that heralded the return of the Quiz, a Burns Supper, and the Comedy Evening. The Committee continues to discuss future events and we should see in years to come more non-golf related that members and guests can attend and enjoy. It's worth noting the clubhouse is open to all, not just golfers so if you feel an event is something your friends might enjoy bringing them along, the more the merrier.

There have been some changes in the running of the clubhouse, and we said goodbye to some familiar faces. We now have Paul leading his team of Sarah and Kiri and there will be additional help during the summer. We hope this year to steady the ship and maintain a balance between operational cost, opening hours and what we can offer, so there will be trials of food, drink and opening times. The first trial relates to the coffee machine, some committee members thought a more varied option of coffee would be appreciated by members, once the trial has been concluded we will decide on its success and let members know the outcome. Further trials will be carried out over the year so we can run things on

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your behalf, one important point if you have any suggestions, or concerns with any of the service let us know, we can only improve things for you with your help.

The Senior's section has set up a committee to manage their ever-growing numbers, it's a great section that supports the Club well and uses the clubhouse every Wednesday and Friday, they have a full season of friendlies and if you are over 55 you might want to get involved. The Ladies section as also added a sweep to their schedule on a Friday morning and this section is finally starting to see an increase in numbers.

Finally use the clubhouse after a game, it's a friendly enjoyable experience that allows us all to mix socially, golf is not just about nine, or eighteen holes, it's about the friends you make and the craic you have.

The gent's locker room has had some limited improvement and I would thank next year's captain Jeff Potts for the time he spent on this area. It's worth mentioning at this time we have not carried out any major improvements, as in September this year we renew the lease, so once we have that in place we can plan, not just the first few years, but for 25 years which hopefully will be the length of the next lease.

With the lease renewal in mind, we decided it was an opportune time that we should change the legal status of the Club and become an incorporated company limited by guarantee, an EGM was held where members voted in favour of this change. The change in status will occur later this year and allow us to manage the Club in a different way, we have better protection for the Committee members and will be able to raise money if required for changes or improvements to the course, clubhouse, or new machinery.

As part of the changes, we are to employ a new accountant to help us, the Committee felt the service we had received in the last two years had been below the standard of previous years and a change was required. At the time of writing this report the Statement of Accounts had not been received, we do intend to have these distributed as soon as we receive them. A final set will be prepared and distributed to members when we become an incorporated company.

Now to golf and let's start with the Captains v Chairmans Trophy, Gary and his team put up a valiant effort but were defeated, so a second win for the Chairman's Team and that has the tally at 2 wins/ 2 losses, so in my final year as Chairman it will be all to play for.

We had many highlights in the golfing year and I will leave it to Paul to set those out in his report, however as a player in the North Northumberland Open Days I think our win in the net section is worth mentioning. The last time we won this event was back in 1995, this year we had 4 net winners with Paul Clarke winning at Linden Hall, David Coates at Warkworth and Graham Pattinson at Dunstanburgh and Rothbury, these wins help the others contribute as it's the best 4 scores out of 8 counts.

I would also like to congratulate Wayne Gair who won the Howdens trophy as player of the year in the scratch league, we ended up 3rd in the Division 1 league, we did not do so well in

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the Members league, so if you are interested in representing the club contact the Match Secretary.

I would like to thank Gary and Sue for a great year of golf for ladies and gent's, and welcome Jeff and Christine as our new Captains and ensure them they will have all the support of the members and committee throughout their year.

This is an opportune time to mention the Committee and that all of them for their hard work, members should not underestimate how much time the Committee give up freely and willingly. One of the key Committee members is to step down this year after many years of service, George Douglas, he feels it his time to step down and an ideal time as we are changing to an incorporated company. George will be missed, and I am sure we would like to thank him for all his hard work, and I am sure he and Christine will continue to enjoy the social side of the club and a game whenever possible.

I am happy to announce that Tim Capron will become Treasurer and Paul Jackson will become Secretary, I am sure that you will wish them all success in these roles. Paul will also be responsible for running the bar/catering and the roles combine well operationally for the club.

Tim as Treasurer will ensure that make the necessary changes to comply with legislation as an incorporated company and forge a good relationship with our new accountant which will be good for future years.

To finish the update on the Committee, this is the last year that Tim and I will be standing for election so in 2024 we will need a Treasurer and a Chairman to help run the club. I would ask that anyone interested in these positions should come forward as early, to be part of the Committee would allow an efficient and orderly transition for the old to the new.

So, to finish a great year of golf, let's forget the poor weather at the beginning of 2023 and remember the heat and running links of summer 2022 and look forward to the same later this year.

Michael Lucas Chairman Warkworth Golf Club