

# **Lincolnshire Freemasons Golf Association 2023 AGM**

**held at Lincoln Masonic Centre**

**on Friday 26 January 2024, 7.30 pm**

## **Item 1 - Opening**

Chairman W Bro Terry Little opened the meeting at 7.30pm

In attendance were:

- Mick Wright
- John Day
- Terry Little
- Eric King
- Kevin Sharpe
- Barrie Graham
- Steve Spavin
- John McArthur
- Ian Cumber
- Graham Brader

## **Item 2 - Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

Minutes of the 2022 had been circulated, a few amendments were made as per item 3 below and the minutes then approved.

## **Item 3 - Matters arising from the 2022 AGM Minutes**

The Chairman commented that Item 12, that the Centenary planning meeting date should read “Wed 18 January 2022” and requested the 2022 AGM minutes be corrected, which the Secretary agreed to do. The Chairman also commented that the PGM had mentioned to him previously that, “...he would like to see all proceeds going towards the 2025 Festival”, comments which were made at the AGM in Lincoln on 27 Jan 2022. The Secretary acknowledged the comments, but expressed his view that this was a matter for the committee to decide upon and would be discussed later in the meeting. The Chairman and Secretary both agreed that no previous proposal or vote regarding the monies going solely to the 2025 Festival had been received or taken.

#### **Item 4 - Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer John McArthur presented his general accounts for approval for the year and separate accounts for the Seacroft event which showed a surplus of £5,099.39 after expenses (accounts attached). Distribution to be discussed later.

Other events generally ran at a small loss this year. The Treasurer stated that there had not been any membership fees charged over the last 2 years. Matter to be discussed later.

General Account:

The net deficit from 'normal' operations was £200.

Seacroft:

The surplus from Seacroft was £5,099. The Chairman wished to thank the organising Committee, the people that also attended and helped on the day and all those that took part in making the Association's Centenary event such an outstanding success. The Chairman also wished his thanks to be recorded to JM for the work he'd done managing the Seacroft accounts.

Discussion took place regarding "no shows" – people who had booked into events and did not turn up and then after the event had not paid their fees for the day, which has cost the Association money. Recommendations are made in item 5 below.

Trophies - the Treasurer raised the issue of transporting trophies to and from Grimsby which was costly in terms of travel costs and time.

Discussion took place regarding a small £5 membership fee to help us cover expenses. Recommendations are made in item 5 below.

Discussion took place regarding prizes – suggestion for a raffle and for members to bring a raffle prize e.g. a bottle of wine.

The Treasurer closed by stating that we have approximately c.£600 working capital for 2024.

The Chairman wished his thanks to be recorded to the Treasurer for his work during the year which was echoed by all present.

#### **Item 5 - Matters arising from both accounts including distribution of Monies from Centenary Event**

Discussion took place regarding whether a membership fee should be charged and how else we should raise funds to cover the costs of engraving, fetching and then returning the trophies. It was proposed by Barrie Graham and seconded by Ian Cumber that a £5 membership fee be obtained from members playing in 2024. This membership fee is to be

requested and paid by the member at the first game that they attend during the year. A vote took place and the proposal was carried.

In order to negate the costs from “no shows”, it was agreed that it should also be made clear to members that when booking, that payment was due to the Treasurer at the time of booking, not at the event. This will also be put into the Association’s web page by the Secretary, under the ‘Events’ section and made clear on events booking forms.

The Secretary also requested that we run a raffle at events to raise money, members were asked to try to remember to bring a raffle prize with them to the event.

Distribution of Monies from 2023 Centenary event discussed under item 12 below.

### **Item 6 - Secretary’s Annual Report**

The Secretary had distributed his report which was received by all members.

The Chairman wished for his thanks and those of the committee to be recorded for all the hard work that the outgoing Secretary Mick Wright had put into the Association over the last 12 years, this was echoed by all present.

### **Item 7 - Matters Arising from Secretary’s Report**

There were no matters arising.

### **Item 8 - Correspondence and Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Dave Wheeler, Jez Hyland, David Carter, Keith Sale, Tony Reeve, Paul Doughty, Mick Holmes, Howard Wroot, Tim Hodgson, John Lambert, Gary King, Barry Harriman, Peter Brooks, Dave Stiff, Ray Wade, John Kennedy, Paul Ellis, Tony Reeve.

Correspondence from W Bro Paul Ellis and W Bro John Lambert had been distributed to the Chairman and the Secretary prior to the meeting stating, their support for a proposal if issued, for 100% of the proceeds of the Centenary Event to go to the Province. No amendment regarding this matter was raised at the AGM.

### **Item 9 - Election of Officers**

The Secretary had declared that he wished to stand down at this year’s AGM. He proposed that Barrie Graham take the role of Secretary. There being no other proposals for the role, Barrie Graham was duly elected and confirmed as Secretary.

The existing Officers below indicated that they were willing to stand and were duly elected as follows:

- Chairman - Terry Little
- Vice Chairman - Eric King
- Treasurer - John McArthur
- Assistant Secretary - John Day

General Committee:

- Mick Wright
- Steve Spavin
- Graham Brader
- Paul Doughty
- Mick Holmes

The following members were not present but were contacted by the Secretary and confirmed that they also wish to remain as members of the General Committee:

- Keith Sale
- Giovanni Viscomi

The Treasurer John McArthur raised the question of Auditors for the Association, as none had been appointed. It was agreed that auditors should be appointed and that the Treasurer and Mick Wright would approach suitable member to act as such. If they were not successful, they would inform the Secretary and he would request that the Secretary email the membership for volunteer auditors to step forward.

#### **Item 10 - Golfing Program for 2024**

Discussion took place regarding the number of events and their formats. It was agreed that most of the competitions should be solely for Freemasons, as we are the Masonic Golfing Association, but that one or two should be open to non-Masons.

John Day commented on the increased costs of golf post the pandemic (mainly due to course materials, food and wage inflation), and a suggestion was made that moving forwards we look to seek pricing for 18 holes of golf and a one course meal following the game. Members would be free to buy their own pre-match food/coffee. It was hoped that this would help to keep the costs of the package down and hopefully increase attendance at future events.

Discussion also took place as to whether we should have a separate Spring and Autumn competition and what formats these should be. The following was agreed:

- Spring competition (Thonock GC - Gains.) - individual men's event (medal & stableford prizes) likely to be 23/05/24 or 10/05/24, John Day to confirm date and costs.
- Summer Competition (South Kyme GC) – Combined better ball stableford (Mixed or Men’s) in June 2024 – John Day to confirm date and costs.
- Autumn - a men's better ball pairs stableford - venue and date tbc, potentials venues mentioned were Sudbrooke Moor/Sleaford/Belton Park/Stoke Rochford – John Day to investigate availability and costs and advise.
- The John Day Trophy - Lincs Province vs Notts Province - at Lincoln GC (Torksey) likely 23/08 – date confirmed, John Day to advise prices.
- The Derbyshire vs Lincolnshire (Mick Wright Trophy) is also being confirmed, MW commented that Derbyshire’s committee was struggling for members at the moment, and he would report back to John Day Comps Sec when he had any news.
- The Six Counties competition is also being confirmed (we are to be invited to play this competition although there is some question as to whether it will take place this year).

Discussion took place about having an additional competition in summer, and it was agreed that we would look to do this. John Day has a good course in mind south of Lincoln, for which he will investigate prices and availability and liaise with the Secretary.

John Day also asked if members would object to playing a 9 hole course (2 rounds thereof) and members present said they had no objections.

### **Item 11 - Trophies and replacements**

The “Roy Spavin Trophy” to be repaired if possible. Treasurer and Steve Spavin to investigate.

Discussion took place regarding approximately £5 to be added to cost of the day to contribute towards running costs and assist with future donations to charity.

A donation was offered by Kevin Sharpe for 7 cases of wine (6 bottles each). The Chairman and all those present expressed their thanks for his generosity.

### **Item 12 – Distribution of monies raised at Seacroft**

Opening the discussion, the Chairman wished to express his thanks to all that took part on the day and those involved in organising and running it. A great success.

Discussion and debate took place regarding the distribution of monies raised. Various members submitted their views. There was a difference of opinion as to where the monies raised from Seacroft were to be donated, half to the 2025 Festival and half to local charities, or all to the 2025 Festival. Those offering views with respect to each distribution were heard.

GB offered his view that the aim was to raise money for local charities as well as the MCF and he supported this view still. This was supported by W Bro Steve Spavin. The Chair also commented that by selecting a single hospice and donating more than £1,000, the value of the donation would then hopefully be matched by the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the MCF, hopefully realising an additional £2,549.50, which clearly would have more value for the recipient than splitting the half share donation across four or five hospices. A proposal from GB was put to the committee that we make a 50:50 split to the Festival and a single hospice in Lincolnshire, with the specific hospice to be decided upon by vote. A vote was taken on the proposal for this 50;50 split and was unanimously supported.

A proposal was then put forward by the Chairman to determine which specific hospice should be supported and unanimously accepted. A committee vote was taken as to which of the 4 hospice centres, Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Lincoln and Grantham would benefit (the Butterfly Hospice in Boston was excluded due to the recent £70,000 donation from the Lincolnshire Province). The results were as follows:

Grimsby – 0

Scunthorpe – 4

Grantham – 0

Lincoln – 4 (the winner, with a deciding casting vote from the Chairman)

A cheque for £2,549.50 to the 2025 Festival from the Charity Golf Day funds raised at Seacroft will be presented at the Provincial Meeting in May. The Secretary will liaise with the Chairman and Treasurer with regards to the arrangements for the donation to St Barnabas Hospice, a registered charity in Lincoln.

### **Item 13 – Appoint a Captain for annual matches**

Following discussion, W Bro Steve Spavin proposed that the Captain should be (in order of precedence) the Chairman, the Vice Chair, or another member in their absence. This was unanimously accepted.

### **Item 14 - AOB:**

The Secretary proposed that a £5 membership fee be formally requested from members at each event, seconded by W Bro Ian Cumber, this has been discussed earlier in the meeting but had not been formally agreed. A vote was taken and unanimously agreed.

### **Item 15 – Chairman’s closing remarks**

The Chair thanked all present for attending and for their input to a productive meeting.

A letter from David Carter in the Provincial team re Light Blues Golf Society and whether we’d like to support them. Discussion took place regarding the nature of the organisation, sentiment being that really, we should have wherever practical all Provincially related golf associations operating as part of the Lincolnshire Masonic Golf Association. It was agreed that the Chairman would telephone the organiser of the Light Blues Golf Society to discuss the matter and invite them to all our events, preferring that wherever possible there would be mutual support through the LMGA rather than this being diluted with other ‘Provincial’ golf societies.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.15 pm.

Proposed as a true record by:

Seconded by:

Signed by the Chairman:

Date: