

Minutes of 129th AGM of Co. Louth Golf Club

Friday 14th January 2022 at 7.30pm Via Zoom

The Chairman (Jack Gogarty) welcomed everyone to the 129th AGM and asked for a minute's silence for deceased members.

He then asked Oonagh Purfield (Zoom Technical Co-ordinator) to confirm the number of participants to establish the quorum. She advised the number present was 176. Oonagh then gave a brief explanation around the functions of Zoom so members could fully understand how to engage during the meeting.

The Chairman then thanked the Management committee for their outstanding dedication during 2021 and acknowledged outgoing officers Neil McMahon, Richard Murray, Paul Reilly, Carmel Kierans and Derek Carolan. He also thanked the Zoom technical team lead by Lady Captain Oonagh for all their hard work in setting up the Zoom meeting.

He then welcomed the incoming officers for 2022, Lady Captain Oonagh Purfield, Captain Nicky Smith, Lady Vice Captain Marie Maguire, Vice-Captain Ken Meegan, Hon. Treasurer Jim McMahon, Hon. Secretary John Brennan, and Course Convenor Barry Plunkett.

The Chairman then asked for the adoption of Standing orders. Proposed by Marion Agrios and seconded by Neil McMahon.

He then asked for the adoption of the minutes of the 128th AGM and the SGM and advised members, as they had been posted on the website, he was taking them as read. Proposed by Pat McCabe and seconded by Eileen Tully.

He then asked Neil McMahon (Hon. Treasurer) to present the accounts for the year end 2021.

Neil started by saying the accounts were published on the 23rd of December along with a detailed commentary note. On his review of 2021, he said entrance fees were exceptionally strong at 336,000 euro along with strong green fees in August, September (100K), and October. He then mentioned the various Government supports which were a big factor in keeping costs down but added that the financial result would not change the rationale for a subscription increase as the bottom line was flattered by these once off items – entrance fees (will not be repeated in 2022 due to ordinary category been closed), wage supports and less costs during lockdown. On his outlook for 2022, he said green fees will be unpredictable, no government support, course rent going up from 90,000 to 125,000, essential maintenance and upgrades required for clubhouse (Enhanced Pro Shop), course workers amenities and pressure on costs in general due to inflation. On the irrigation project he said 270,000 had been spent before the 31st of October and to date an overall spend of 769,000 out of the total budget of 1,277,000 or 60%. He also reassured members that the project was on budget and on schedule.

The Chairman then asked for any questions or comments,

Oliver MacEaney felt the works carried out in the Bar and function room were bad value and enquired about the tendering process for same.

Neil replied that all services and goods required by the club are costed and tendered within reason. Declan O'Brien enquired about the payroll figures for 2020 and 2021. He asked why the Government supports were not included which would then give an overall gross figure associated with wages. Neil replied that the Accountant Body recommend that they are presented like this.

Oliver MacEneaney then came back and asked if the tenders would be made available to the members. Neil replied that would not be an issue. Pat McCabe added that the members elect the management committee to run the affairs of the club and that the members should trust them when it come to areas like tendering for services provided to the club.

With no more questions the Chairman that asked for the adoption of the accounts. Proposed by Jackie Quinn and seconded by James Behan.

The chairman then asked for the appointment of the club auditors for 2022. Proposed by Seamus Keenan and seconded by Nicky Smith.

The chairman then asked incoming Lady Captain Oonagh to say a few words,

She said it was a true honour to be asked to become lady Captain of CLGC. She acknowledged Clarrie Reddan and Nancy Gannon who helped her development at an early age. She also thanked outgoing captains Carmel and Derek for there hard work along with Presidents Pat and Thomas. She welcomed all the incoming officers and said she was looking forward to working with them this year. She thanked Neil McMahan for all his input to the new club website. She also mentioned the Junior captains and committee and the great work they carry out. She wished Paddy McGuirk the best in his retirement and welcomed Scott and his team. She thanked Liam, Wayne, and the rest of the club staff and made special mention to Michael Devine. Finally, she wished all the members the best for 2022.

The chairman then asked Nicky Smith to say a few words,

He said it was a privilege and honour to be asked to be captain of CLGC and thanked Derek. He then wished all the outgoing officers of the men's and lady's clubs the best in their retirement and made special mention of the outgoing officers of the management committee. He then wished Paddy a long and happy retirement after 40 years of service to the club. He welcomed all the incoming offices to the various committees and said he was looking forward to working with them. He thanked Liam, Wayne and all the other staff and welcomed new Pro Scott and his team. He acknowledged the Junior committee and captains and finally wished all members the best for 2022.

The chairman then read out the nominations for the three vacant positions on the management committee,

Hon. Secretary: John Brennan Proposer: Thomas Collier Seconder: Thomas Morrissey

Hon. Treasurer: Jim McMahan Proposer: Neil McMahan Seconder: Richard Murray

Course Convenor: Barry Plunkett Proposer: Paul Reilly Seconder: Nicky Smith

As only one candidate for each position all were deemed elected.

The chairman then moved to the motion section of the meeting and explained how the first three motions were interlinked and therefore the rationale as to how they would be dealt with.

Motion 1 (Simple Majority)

That the annual subscription for 2022 and the annual subscription for 2023 will be,

Member	2022	2023
Ordinary	1,015	1,115
Veteran	495	545
Five Day	655	715
Lady Associate	545	600
Junior	135	150
Student	220	240
Intermediate	405	445
Pavilion	195	215
Pavilion-Plus	525	575
Overseas	630	700

Proposer: Neil McMahon

Secunder: Oonagh Purfield

Motion 2 (Simple Majority)

This is an alternative proposal to the €100 increase in 2022 and a further €100 in 2023 i.e. a permanent €200 increase in the annual subscription which is over 20%.

I wish to propose a €50 annual levy for four years beginning in 2022 and ending in 2025. All members with the exception of students and juniors will pay this levy.

This levy will bring in an extra €200,000 approximately to the club over 4 years. This in my opinion is a fairer 'across the board proposal' and I hope that the members will give it their approval.

Proposer: John Mullen (Baltray)

Secunder: Cathryn Collins

Motion 3 (Simple Majority)

Proposed subscription increase by the management committee shall apply for 2022

Proposer: Bryan Ronan

Secunder: Andrew Garvey

Motion 4 (Simple Majority)

That the approximate pin positions on greens be indicated by the colour of the flags as was previously the case.

Proposed: Murt O'Shea.

Secundered: Harry Collier

Neil McMahon then proposed motion 1. He said that Subscription levels had been flagged to the members at last year's AGM and then a detailed rationale was issued on the 1st of December. He then said the proposal gives certainty to members on subs for the next 2 years and that the increase represents an extra 78,000 for 2022 which then becomes 156,000 in 2023 if the motion is passed. He then summarised his key points which included the uncertainty around green fees, the P&L result without entrance fees and inflation/cost pressures for 2022. He finished by saying that he was

comfortable with Bryan Ronan's proposed amendment if that was what the members decided but reiterated the need for the 100 euro increase for at least 2022.

Oonagh Purfield (seconder) said she was happy to second the motion based on the rationale been put forward by Neil.

The chairman asked if there were any questions,

Declan O'Brien asked the chairman if there was any improvement in maximising green fee rates the club was receiving from visitors as this had been flagged at previous meetings. The chairman replied that bookings for 2022 were strong and that the premium rate has reached 200 euro which continues the upward trend on the rate, and that green fees represents only 8/9% of timesheets allocation.

Fred Greene started by saying that members could vote no to the motion as it represents a 20% increase in the sub rate. He said the management committee need to focus more effectively on the management of the finances as they stand. He also said that money was ringfenced in the bank for the rainy day and that significant monies are derived from members and green fees. He again said that the management committee must look at a more effective and efficient method of managing the club. The chairman replied that the option would be there to vote no to any proposed motion.

Pat McCabe had no difficulty with the increase but said it should be for 2022 only. He then felt that the intermediate rate was too cheap, based on the T&C's they enjoy and considered this a major anomaly in the overall membership categories. Neil pointed out that some will have to pay a transfer fee and that intermediate only applies until 30 years of age.

Liam Doran was concerned that Motion 1 and 2 could end up been voting on separately and this could lead to confusion among members. Richard Murray explained that the 2 motions were completely different funding models and therefore had to be voted on Separately. Liam Doran also felt that the playing membership time has increased considerably and asked in the event of a sub increase would green fee allocation be reduced. The Chairman advised that green fee allocation has come down from 15% to around 8%. Fred Greene also felt that the situation around Motion 1 and 2 was confusing and that one of them should be removed. Neil McMahan replied that a clear communication and explanation will be sent to all members before they cast a vote. Pdraig Duffy felt the motions were clear as Motion 1 and 2 were completely different and members will understand. John Mullen felt the income for 2021 was good but acknowledged the government support. He also said more time should be allocated to members and questioned whether the proposed sub increase would allow this to happen. He also said that Motions 1, 2 and 3 should be voted on tonight with the winner ultimately been voted on by members.

The Chairman then asked Bryan Ronan to propose Motion 3. He started by saying his motion was an amendment to motion 1 as it asked for the sub increase to apply for one year only. He then outlined various reasons as to why was there a need for the 2-year increase including CPI, projected inflation, wages, and the surplus been generated from increased green fee revenue. He also felt conversion of juniors to full membership might be impacted and pointed out the real-life challenges that members are facing. He then finished by outlining the challenges for the club but felt positive for the club finances in 2022 and on that basis asked that we see how the club performs in 2022 before applying any sub increase for 2023. Andrew Garvey then seconded the motion and agreed with Bryan that it was only necessary to increase the sub for one year.

The Chairman then asked Neil McMahan to reply. He complemented Bryan on his presentation and said he had no difficulty with increasing the sub for one year only. Fred Greene again questioned the confusion around the motions.

The Chairman then moved to the live vote which asked do you agree or disagree with motion 3. Using the Zoom voting tool, the result was 79% voting yes and 21% voting no. The chairman then

advised the members that Motion 1 has now been amended and therefore the proposed sub increase to be voted on tomorrow will be for one year only.

The chairman then moved to Motion 2. John Mullen proposed the motion. He started by saying his proposal would have less hardship on members and that the club was in a very good financial position. He mentioned that a levy would be for all members whereas a sub increase does not apply to some members of the club. Cathryn Collins seconded the motion and said she was happy to do so.

Niall Kerr said the handling of the two motions was confusing and that a clear explanation needs to be sent to the members explaining the situation and felt the voting window needs to be increased. John Mullen stressed again that his motion was an alternative. Pdraig Duffy felt motion 2 should be withdrawn. John Mullen disagreed and said it had merit. Liam Doran said some consideration should be given to motion 2 been remitted to the management committee. Murt O'Shea asked if the motions could be structured differently so members could be clear when voting. The Chairman then reiterated the 2 motions would be clearly explained before members voted.

The Chairman then moved to motion 4. Murt O'Shea proposed the motion. He reminded members of the original system with the previous Flag colouring. He also outlined the advantages of reinstating the system particularly for iron accuracy. He finished by saying he felt this would be of great benefit to the members. Harry Collier said he was happy to second the motion based on the reasons outlined. Bernard Woods felt this never needed to be put forward as a motion. Paul Reilly said the removal of the system was based on the advice of the course agronomist Re wear on the greens. Fred Greene asked could the members be provided with a daily pin sheet position note.

The Chairman then moved to AOB. He asked Des Rogers to go through his submission Re Solar System Evaluation. Des started by saying he had agreed to investigate a solar system along with Liam Murphy and Mahon Ronan. He showed various costs associated with electricity usage. He said the best available technology is Photo Voltaic panels which convert light to energy in the form of electricity. He went on to say an initial 30 panel system could be installed on the roof of the Clubhouse at a cost of 21K which would net the club 4K PA as an excess generation payment and at a further stage a 150-panel system installation could generate 50% of the club's present demand along with further grid payments. He finished by saying a comprehensive paper is planned to be circulated to the members with more detail of the proposed systems. The chairman thanked Des for his presentation and said further communication would be made available to members over the next few months. Michael Redmond said he had put in a system at his home and agreed with Des that it was the way forward.

Tom Garry asked was there any prospect of the club buying the course from the landlord. The Chairman replied that this subject had been discussed with the landlord and that the course was not for sale at present.

The Chairman then closed the meeting and thanked all the members for their contributions and engagement during the meeting.

Richard Murray
(Hon. Secretary)

CLUB AGM – 14th JANUARY 2022

VOTE RESULTS

Motion 1 (Simple Majority) - Amended

That the annual subscription for 2022 will be

Member	2022
Ordinary	1,015
Veteran	495
Five Day	655
Lady Associate	545
Junior	135
Student	220
Intermediate	405
Pavilion	195
Pavilion-Plus	525
Overseas	630

Proposer: Neil McMahon

Seconder: Oonagh Purfield

Amendment proposed by Bryan Ronan, seconded by Andrew Garvey was adopted by majority vote at Zoom meeting 14th January.

Votes For: 191

Votes Against: 213

RESULT: MOTION DEFEATED

Motion 2 (Simple Majority)

This is an alternative proposal to the €100 increase in 2022 and a further €100 in 2023 i.e. a permanent €200 increase in the annual subscription which is over 20%.

I wish to propose a €50 annual levy for four years beginning in 2022 and ending in 2025. All members with the exception of students and juniors will pay this levy.

This levy will bring in an extra €200,000 approximately to the club over 4 years. This in my opinion is a fairer 'across the board proposal' and I hope that the members will give it their approval.

Proposer: John Mullen (Baltray)

Secunder: Cathryn Collins

Votes For: 131

Votes Against: 261

RESULT: MOTION DEFEATED

Motion 4 (Simple Majority)

That the approximate pin positions on greens be indicated by the colour of the flags as was previously the case.

Proposed: Murt O'Shea.

Seconded: Harry Collier

Votes For: 369

Votes Against: 38

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED

John Brennan
Honorary Secretary

16th January 2022