



# CLOVELLY COUNTRY CLUB

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEN'S GOLF SECTION HELD AT CLOVELLY ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 AT 18:36

**PRESENT:** J. Ackerman (President), R. Pilkington (Chairman), D. Thompson (Vice-Chairman), W. Good (Treasurer), C. Small (Governing Body) R. Goveia, B. Muzzell, C. Goldsbury, S. Thomas, T. Rogerson (Vice – Presidents), A. Keable (Ladies Captain), J. Hall, C. Malyon, B. Jenkinson (Ladies Committee) and 34 other members.

### **1. Notice Convening the Meeting**

Assistant Golf Manager, A. Erasmus, welcomed everyone in attendance and declared the meeting open. A quorum was confirmed.

### **2. Apologies**

A. Erasmus announced that he had received apologies from 29 members.

### **3. Confirmation of Minutes**

A. Erasmus confirmed that the minutes of the Men's Golf AGM of 2024 had been displayed on the board and sent to all members over email. They were accepted as read and true and an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposer: S. Thomas

Seconder: D. Eisenstein

### **4. To Consider Proposals and Resolutions**

There were no proposals or resolutions received.

### **5. Captain's Report by Allan Johns**

*Good evening, everyone.*

*Thank you for attending the 2024 Men's Golf Committee AGM this evening and for providing me with the opportunity to report back on my 1st year's activities as your Men's Captain of this prestigious "sliver of paradise". - Clovelly Golf Club.*

*Before proceeding with my report on what has been a roller coaster of year, I would like to recognise our esteemed Trustees, Vice Presidents and our spirited President, Jonathan Ackerman, along with the members of my supportive Governing Body under the Chairmanship of Rob Pilkington and*

*Treasurer, Wizz Good. I would also like welcome the members of my committee, Geordie McIntosh, George Fletcher and James Eckley along with John Spyker, Aiden Erasmus and Mike Michell, who continue to diligently provide knowledge and assist the committee in delivering on its goals. And not forgetting a special welcome to Paul Stoner, our General Manager.*

*But most importantly, I would like to acknowledge and thank all 1550 plus members, both local and travelling swallows, who enthusiastically continue to show their support for Club Clovelly.*

*My name is Allan Johns – your Club Captain for 2024/25 and no, unlike Wednesday and Saturday prize-giving, you will all be delighted to hear that by popular demand, I am not going to start with a joke. but rather go directly to the tee with the presentation of my 2024 report.*

## **Objectives**

*Taking over the reins from Dave Thompson and his team soon made me realise what a daunting task this was going to be. A club with so much history, and being surrounded by so many previous captains, made the shoes even bigger to fill.*

*That said, and having spent 3 years serving under two previous Captains on the Men's Committee, my strategic approach was to build on what worked, avoid making any drastic, controversial or contentious changes and to rather focus on four key areas where I believed our committee could take a fresh approach, add value and improve our member experience both on and off the course and at the same time, continue to grow our future golfers. The goal was to deliver an improved golfing experience for all, whether through league, social golf or for our visitors with a view to keeping Clovelly the preferred club of choice when playing in Cape Town. And with a large portion of our members in the 55- 69 age category, we identified the need to extend our marketing reach to younger members who will hopefully remain, thereby helping to sustain the club for years to come.*

*The Portfolios identified by the Committee as key areas to be addressed were namely:*

- 1. Junior Golf Development - driven by James Eckley with support from MichellGolf.*
- 2. Clovelly Caddie Programme - held and continued by my Vice-Captain Geordi McIntosh.*
- 3. Course Conditioning and Range Monitoring - held by George Fletcher with support from John Spyker and Aiden Erasmus.*
- 4. League Golf, Club Champs & Handicapping - held by me, with the support of Paul Stoner, John Spyker, Aiden Erasmus and our League Home and Away Captains.*

*I am delighted to report, that our overall Report Card indicates we have made much progress towards achieving these goals and hopefully I can continue this success through 2025.*

*So how have we done? I believe our report card indicates that as a committee, the team have achieved an "A" in all areas.*

*Our Junior Golfers and League Players all delivered above expectation and did the club proud, and our caddies also went on to achieve golfing success in the Caddie League and continue to look professional in their new work kit donated by Under Armour after being secured by our Vice-Captain, Geordi McIntosh.*

*Our weekly competitions are always fully subscribed and the committee's suggestion to ask members to sponsor nearest the pin prizes has been a great success, so much so that our members continue to attract corporate sponsors for our weekly Competitions. Thanks to all the members who have contributed especially Steven Guild who has attracted some great sponsorship for Clovelly.*

*In addition, we were able to secure a generous sponsorship from Adidas, which helped the club deliver one of the most thrilling and exciting Club Champs for many years, on a course that was fantastically conditioned despite the winter challenges we had faced.*

*But let's drill down into the detail little more.*

### **Junior Golf Achievements.**

*Our Juniors continue to thrive. The camaraderie and competitiveness continue to grow amongst this core of enthusiastic players. These youngsters display true Clovelly manners and respect both on and off the course and I am proud to have them as Clovelly members. They are a credit to the club, and I am of the belief that they will go on to do big things for Clovelly.*

*This year, Fish Hoek High School identified and approved golf as an optional school sport, and after entering the Inter-Schools Competition for the first time, the team (all of whom are members at Clovelly), went on to win the Inter Schools Trophy. And the player of the year at Fish Hoek High School for 2024 was Zach Potgieter – Grade 8 u/15 WP Golfer.*

*One of the traditional Junior tournaments, the COBRA Cup, was resurrected in November, and thanks to the MichellGolf team of Dave Matthews, Alan and Mike Michell, a great event was hosted with our juniors. The Order of Merit this year went to Dean Saunders*

*Junior Club Championships: September saw our Juniors Club Champs take place and once again a big turnout with some truly wonderful golf displayed. It's amazing what a milkshake and a slice of pizza will do to attract our juniors!*

*WP Golf: One of the junior highlights of the year was the selection of 2 Clovelly players to represent Western Province. 10-year-old Luke Potgieter received his Provincial Colours and represented WP in the Under 13 Team. It was an honour to attend this memorable occasion with his parents and congratulations go to Luke – who incidentally I was drawn with in this year's club champs and who I had the pleasure of playing with. He has also been selected to represent Western Province U13 in the WP vs Boland friendly which was held in January.*

*But our Clovelly shining star of 2024/25 was Evan Marais, who moved up a notch to not only compete in provincial but also more national and international tournaments towards the end of the year. Despite playing in age groups way above his age, at 14 years old, he continues to improve in every tournament. Some of the results from tournaments Evan competed in this year.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Achievement / Result</b>
September	GolfRSA Dimension Data (u/15) Champs	Kingswood & George	25th
October	Junior Champs (u/19)	Strand	3 <sup>rd</sup>
October	Hermanus Junior Open (u/19)	Hermanus	1 <sup>st</sup>
October	Global Junior Golf International (u/18) Open	Devonvale	T6th
November	"A" Division Club Championship 2024	Clovelly	Runner up
At the close of the WP Junior Golf season for 2024	Order of Merit Western Province	Western Province	At age 14, he achieved 14th place even though he only started playing in the u/19 division half way through the year played.
December	WP Awards evening	Kelvin Grove	Received his medal of achievement and the 2nd League Winners Shield on behalf of Clovelly, the team in which he participated.
December	GolfRSA u/15 Tournament	Bloemfontein	T7 in tough conditions.
January	WP Golf vs Boland friendly	Paarl	Along with his fellow players Luke Jacobs and Zach Potgieter, Evan Captained the Western Province u15 Team

Going forward, Evan's goals he has his sights on:

- Top 8 Order of Merit in the u/19 group this year and thereby be selected to represent WP in the u/19 Inter Provincial Tournament in December.
- To complete his unfinished business and get his name on the Club Champs Trophy this coming year.

Moving on to our Caddie Programme; it was with great sadness that during my captaincy we lost two of our long-serving caddies for whom we held a memorial service. We said a sad goodbye to both Wiseman, who tragically died during the floods, and Maxwell, after a long illness. Both were well known respected caddies, and their popularity attracted many past and current staff from several golf clubs, as well as Clovelly members to the memorial service.

On a happier note, our very own Daniel Joseph representing Western Province, was the winner of the 2024 Champion of Champions Caddie National Tournament. A massive achievement. It turned out to be third time lucky for our 48-year-old Daniel, who showed true Clovelly grit having to fight on the final day to give him the winning title by two shots. Daniel attributed his success to his experience playing in the wind which picked up on the final day. This tournament is truly special to Daniel, and it meant the world to have all the caddies celebrate this win with him. He hopes to inspire even more caddies to participate in 2025.

### **Course Conditioning and Range Monitoring**

I want to thank our unsung hero George Fletcher, who behind the scenes has quietly gone about improving the course conditioning through sheer hard work. Fortunately, his Scottish demeanor meant he seldom spends money but gets down and does a lot himself. It's his keen eye for identifying areas requiring maintenance or improvement which is his main asset. He, along with an assistant, installed 1189 distance markers on the sprinkler heads. He was instrumental in ensuring the levelling of the 1st and 7th tee boxes and provided oversight on repairs and enhancements to several bunkers, notably those on the 2nd and 14th hole. He continues to ensure the Driving Range or "poor cousin" as he often refers to it, is groomed, and kept in shape. George continues to be a great asset to the committee and the club.

### **Club Competitions, Champs, League Golf, & Handicapping**

#### **Club Champs 2024**

This year we once again were fortunate to have the continued support of our key sponsors Peresoft and Lyall Morgan and Associates, and, along with our other sponsors, we were delighted to add the support from Adidas and Global Golf. This allowed our management team to deliver a truly professional Club Championships. We attracted 150 golfers this year, which included no fewer than 11 juniors. 9 in "A" Div, 1 in "B" Div and 1 in "C" Div. Feedback on this year's tournament over 2 weekends in November was very positive. And what an exciting finish and great display of golf it was, with playoffs in both "A" and "B" Divisions and true spirit shown in the "C" Division.

"A" Division saw our junior Evan Marais up against his old mentor Matt Mills in the final round which went to 2 playoff rounds before Matt took the "A" Division title. Our "B" Division saw Steve Thomas also go into a playoff against Neels Van Jaarsveld, who took the win on the 18<sup>th</sup>. In "C" Division, it was Roger Pinfold, last year's runner up, who played his consistent, hole by hole – tee to green golf to go on and win and achieve what he set out to do.

*Well played to all and special thanks to the members and family who turned up to witness the exciting finishes:*

### **Club Competitions**

*2024 Top 8 Match play which normally follows the Club Champs is in full swing as I speak, but the results from 2023 were;*

- *A Division: Matt Cooper; B Division: Greg Daly; C Division: Axel Zimmerman*

*Our Chammy Cup 2024 was won by Brett Ellis and Adrian Naude, and The Gus Ackerman Individual Match Play Trophy was won by Ron Dunn.*

*And this year saw the Under Armour 9-Hole Competition being won also by another Junior - Kiash Naidoo.*

*It's also worth mentioning that our Wednesday and Saturday weekly Comps and prize givings continue to attract good turnouts. As I stated in my opening, I know it's definitely not my "joke of the day" that brings our members back each week, nor the fact that I wear the hat of Handicapper, but hopefully we are doing something right and achieving one of our goals of delivering a greater golfing experience on and off the course for our members.*

*Speaking of Handicapping, since the inception 3 years ago of a Handicaps sub-committee, I am delighted to report back that we have achieved the target set by our previous Captain to reduce the number of HNA errors and incorrect score capturing from 37% to around 5%, thereby ensuring fairness and consistency for our members in all competitions.*

### **Golf Leagues:**

*As stated, this was also key area Clovelly wanted to improve on and thanks to the captains of each League side and their passion to win, we were able to deliver vastly improved performances. Notably, with the drive to grow junior golf, Clovelly also took a decision to strategically "blood" a few juniors and throw them into the deep end to play in the 2nd Challenge team. This was hugely successful, and the team went on to win the shield. A fantastic result!!*

*Our Harry Solomon, Masters & 1<sup>st</sup> League entrants all achieved Semi-finalists. Wonderful stuff. Our Mid-AM Team were finalists but lost out to Milnerton in a close game held at Metropolitan Golf Club. In a tough age group with excellent golfers, our Super Seniors were less fortunate but managed to complete all the group stages.*

*All in all, a massive success which we hope to turn into some silverware on our shelves this year. I would like to recognize and thank John Spyker, Aiden Erasmus and Paul Stoner for their support in managing the results and paperwork between the club and WP Golf. And to our captains of all teams who have given time and effort to keep our teams focused and competitive. Keep up the banter in those WhatsApp groups. Well done and thank you.*

### **Member WP Awards and Honours in 2024**

- *To Luke Potgieter who received his Provincial Colours and represented WP in the u/13 Team at the age of 10*
- *Evan Marais for his Medal of Merit and receiving the 2nd Challenge winners Shield*

- *Dave Thompson, for his achievement as Mid-Am Captain of WP and winning the 2024 Inter Provincial Tournament in East London.*

*Big congratulations to you all, and let's do it in 2025!*

### **Final Thank You's**

*Firstly, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge and thank Siyabulela, 'aka' Brian and his green keeping team for their efforts in what has been a tough year. Despite the huge challenges that they faced this year. Flooding, fires and failing infrastructure, they were still able to prepare and present a course to make us proud and one that brings visitors and swallows back year after year.*

*To Pete Flower who offers his expertise and assists with our river management maintenance plan, a big thank you. I look forward to continuing working with you both in 2025 and to giving our members even a better golfing experience.*

*Thanks must go to the very important Clovelly Team who pull it all together, Paul, John, Aiden, and the back-office team of Nekisha, Jessica, Keenan and Gail. Special thanks to the Lynn and Minicent, who keep the towels dry and the change rooms clean and tidy. Our friendly bookings and pro shop team, Simone, Katia, Nikki, Dillon, Fernando, Willamina, Sasche and Annette, for their ever-smiling approach to our members. Our friendly outside Ops Team and caddies, who continue to deliver on their mandates, and make our arrival, bag collection and cart provision a great experience. Halfway house and kitchen staff, Craig, Noel, Tebelo, Florence, Chevonne and their kitchen team. The Bar Team - Vivienne, Patience, Andy, Nono, Valencia, Chido and Pheli. Keep up the great work.*

*The rest of my golf committee and our Ladies Captain, Anne Keable, for putting up with my sometimes "long- winded" meetings. All of your combined passion and professionalism makes me be proud to be a "Clovellian" and your 2024 Captain. To Chairman, Rob, and the GB team, thank you for your leadership, support and commitment our men's committee over the past year. Let's make 2025 even better.*

*In closing...Clovelly Golf Club has so much to be proud of. Our business model has found the sweet spot, and our management team continue to look for areas of improvement. We remain a popular golfing destination for visitors to the Cape seeking some golfing fun. Our membership is highly sought after, and our challenge now is how to manage and blend our membership numbers with the number of rounds played. But the tweaking continues thanks to Paul and the Team.*

*I look forward to 2025 and my second stint as club captain, a position that I am privileged to hold. There is still lots to do to sustain the club, but as your Captain, I am energized and up for it and I look forward to doing this together with you all in true Clovelly spirit!!!*

*Thank you.*

*Allan Johns – 2024/2025 Club Captain*

## **6. To transact any other business**

6.2 Jonathan Ackerman thanked the Captain for an "unbelievable and inspirational" presentation and thanked the team for everything they are doing here. He is proud of Clovelly.

There were no other comments or questions. A. Erasmus thanked the members for attending the meeting and it was closed at 18:57