

**Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the North West Manchester Golf Association
held at Whitefield Golf Club 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 18th March 2009**

There were 42 attending

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Past Presidents: Trevor Hocking, Peter Doyle, Dennis Alexander, Phil Goodall & Mike O'Brien & from the Captain of Whitefield (Joe Lee)

Minutes

The minutes of the 42nd AGM were taken as read. Acceptance was proposed by Alf Garrod, seconded by Terry Brown and approved unanimously. They were signed as a true record by the President.

Matter Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report on 2008

The Hon. Treasurer presented the Association's accounts for the year to 28/2/09.

There had been receipts of £7708.95 & expenses of £7714.19 giving a Loss of £5.24 on the year.

This was due to a number of factors: in 2007 there had been 333 entrants to events which had fallen to 271 in 2008. The year had been OK financially but we do need more entrants in 2009. Worsley joining the Association should help.

The Association had cash as follows: £504.40 in Current A/C & £640.92 in Deposit A/C as of 28/2/09

He expected no unusual expenditure for the 2009 season other than 1 representative match to host.

On a proposition by Terry Brown, seconded by Wayne Lawrence the accounts were accepted unanimously.

Secretary's Report on 2008

The Executive met 9 times during the season. Points discussed were:

- Insurance of trophies & Mis-laid trophies
- Subscriptions & Competition entry fees
- How to improve entries to our events & participation at the presentations
- Admission of clubs into the Association
- New Web Site

Mixed Championship held 11th May at Prestwich:

won by a couple of local dignitaries -31 couples played

Championship held 29th June at Whitefield

There were Popular winners of all three trophies. 76 played for the Association Trophy & 48 for the Commonwealth Trophy.

Millennium Trophy held 9th July at Prestwich:

Prestwich got their name on the trophy (AGAIN) scoring 123 pts from Whitefield on 118. Individual winners were Alan Batton & Wayne Lawrence of Whitefield with 43 pts. - 48 club dignitaries played on the day.

President's Scratch KO on 23rd July at Whitefield

The final was contested by -1 & +1 handicaps.

Losing semi finalists were both +1 handicaps (Neil Self & Craig Cuthbert)

Fourball Trophy held 3rd August at Stand:

Won by two local lads with Ian Watson & Nick Waring of SwP & Craig Cuthbert & John Liwosz (Pr) on same score as the winners (44pts) Only 68 couples entered.

Annual Match v ELGA held 30th August at Stand:

Not our finest performance as we went down 11 ½ to 6 ½

Perhaps we need just to play foursomes as we won those 4 - 2 in the morning.

Seniors' Trophy held 5th September at Rochdale:

I think all that can be said is "Not the finest day for playing golf." (More from the President.....44 couples contested this Trophy.

Golf League:

Rochdale 39 Swinton Park 38 Stand 30 ½ Prestwich 28 Whitefield 26 ½

Snooker League:

Stand 31 Prestwich 28 Rochdale 28 Swinton Park 17 Whitefield 16

Snooker KO held 26th February at Prestwich:

Trophy won for 3rd year by Brian Sweeney of Swinton Park 3 frames to 1 from Dave Hartley of Rochdale.

On the JUNIOR FRONT

Junior Team Trophy held 18th May at Rochdale: Was won by Rochdale on 412 with Stand on 441, Swinton Park on 468, Whitefield on 496 & Prestwich unable to raise a team

Individual winners: Tom Parkinson of Rochdale best gross (72); Adam Mitchell of Swinton Park best nett (0-14) with 66 & Reuben Thompson of Rochdale best nett (15-28) with 62.

The Secretary's Challenge held 23rd July at Whitefield: The final was contested by Jason Pilkington of Rochdale & Phil End of Whitefield. The losing semi finalists were: Sean Willis (Stand) & Mark Stephenson (Rd).

Junior match versus BDGA held 27th August at Swinton Park: The morning foursomes were halved 3-3. In the afternoon Bury were much too good for our lads running out comfortable winners 11 ½ to 6 ½ .

Junior Match versus ELGA held 11th August at Rossendale: While the morning foursomes were shared 3-3 ELGA were just too strong in the singles and won by 9½ to 8½. It has to be said that this day wasn't the best for golf & the lads who completed their singles certainly deserve dry clothes from now on!

Fixtures for 2009:

Please see our new web site WWW.NWMGA.CO.UK If you have any comments we would be really interested.

The Secretary's report was accepted on a proposition by Irvine Caplan & seconded by Neville Dennis

President's Report

They say that as you get older the years pass quickly; nothing is more truthful than if you are president of the NW. I cannot believe that it is a year since I stood before you accepting this great honour.

I knew following Neville Dennis was going to be a hard act to follow. And in the end I didn't attempt it. Each and every president has done the role in his own inimitable style. I did the role in the way that suited me and I hope that my colleagues have found that acceptable.

I have had an absolute ball and in various speeches I have made mention of the respect and courtesy that has been shown to me and it has been an absolute pleasure being your president. I have to say that given the opportunity of doing it again I most certainly would not hesitate.

Lynda might have something to say about it though. That's another matter.

When I took on the presidency I was given a list of particular directions of what has to be done by myself and the manner in which they should be done, but I was told above all "do it your way", and enjoy it. And I have certainly enjoyed it. For those of you who are not particularly familiar with the events that the president takes part in, it is basically split into two: that's attending the golf events which in some instances are very exciting, and also a number of social events. There is also the snooker which I have alluded to in several of my speeches and enough said about that. With your indulgence I will highlight a few of the golfing events and also the social occasions, some of which have been exceptional.

North-west mixed 11th May Jean Nutter Lady Captain of Prestwich, Jack Wilcox

Millennium trophy @ Prestwich 9th July won by Prestwich taking the trophy from Rochdale.

In between I attended as guest of honour together with my wife Lynda the Prestwich centenary dinner on 24th May, what a lavish occasion in that superb marquee.

August gave us the 4ball at stand – won by Billy Minor and Tim Ashwin.

Together with the annual match against ELGA played at Stand, we started well but ended up coming 2nd in a 2 horse race.

The senior trophy at Rochdale played in horrendous conditions was a great victory for the Captain of Swinton Park, Dave Torkington and his partner Mike Turner.

Several junior events were also attended including matches against ELGA and the BDGA – victories eluded us but the occasions are special and continue to give our young golfers superb competitive experience.

History was made with Rochdale winning the NW golf league, their 1st victory finishing a point in front of Swinton Park. Stand won the snooker league with the snooker KO winner being Brian Sweeney of Swinton Park for the third consecutive time.

Other highlights for me personally was attending the north west club dinners accompanied by the captain of WGC, Joe Lee. Unfortunately a "pink period" stopped me attending Swinton Park's dinner.

Comment [DRN1]: Actually Rochdale won the league in 1992!

This year sees an additional club within the association, Worsley re-joining. We are all delighted and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship.

It would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the presidents' trophy winner Jay McGarvey of Whitefield who beat Gary Spann of Stand, and the junior KO winner Jason Pilkington of Rochdale who beat Philip End of Whitefield.

Working with the lady president, Joy has indeed been a delight – she even offered to give me dancing lessons. I declined gracefully to allow her and Ken to take part in their practising for Strictly Come Dancing.

The year for me would certainly not have gone as smoothly without the help, guidance and council of your secretary David Nicholls. As many of you know he is a stickler for the detail and I certainly have been kept on my toes throughout the year but he has done it in a way which I have found helpful and beneficial.

A special mention has to be made rightly so of the NW representatives who on behalf of the clubs in the association make certain that teams are advised, notice boards have the appropriate details on and they make the nwmga tick. Representatives thank you. To those past presidents who have represented me on occasions I am indeed indebted to you.

Thank you is a word used very readily I know, sometimes without the sincerity behind it. My thank you to you all is from the heart. My year has been exceptional – ignoring the breaking of my thumb and subsequent surgery. As I said at the start of my speech, given the chance of doing it again, I would not hesitate. My hope is that your new president has a superb year. He will certainly get my support and that of all the past presidents and the whole of the nwmga membership.
Thank you

The President then announced that in deciding who he should choose for the Personality of the Year award he weighed a number of factors, but the deciding factor was the enthusiasm and effort shown by our newest NW officer – Alan Batton. Alan in accepting the trophy said that he was stuck for words, even after giving up smoking for 14 weeks & 1 day! He loved the NWMGA – many thanks.

To elect an Honorary Treasurer for the ensuing year

It was proposed by David Nicholls that Alan Batton become Treasurer for the ensuing year.

John Hardman seconded the proposition. The nomination was unanimously accepted. Alan thanked those present.

To elect an Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year

It was proposed by Tom Walker, seconded by Ken Whitehead that David Nicholls continue in office.

This was unanimously accepted. The Secretary thanked everyone for their continued support..

Any Other Business

The Secretary advised the meeting that due to the re-election of Worsley that Rule 3 would require rewording. This was accepted by the meeting by a show of hands.

The President offered the meeting the opportunity to discuss any other business, but there being none, the meeting adjourned for Dinner at 8 p.m. There were 41 diners.

To elect a President

Phil Carter, Captain of Prestwich, advised that the council at Prestwich had spent many hours trying to think of a person who would be courteous, a good representative of the Association, someone who would be respected & would follow in the steps of the previous NWMGA Presidents from Prestwich, so it was with great pleasure he proposed Tom Walker to be President of the NWMGA for the ensuing year.

Geoff Holden, President of Prestwich seconded the proposal.

This proposition was accepted unanimously. On receiving the badges of office from outgoing President Geoff Sable, Tom Walker accepted the nomination. He then presented Geoff with his Past President's tie & lapel badge.

The new President said he hoped he would be as good a President as Geoff. He thanked the Past Presidents of Prestwich & Prestwich GC for putting him forward for this honour – it is an honour. He realised that clubs in general were struggling & he hoped that the NWMGA would be able to keep all the Association clubs going.

Past President Geoff Sable then proposed a toast to our new President.

A few humorous stories were put forward by David Nicholls, John Parkinson & Lol Flower to the amusement of the diners.

The Secretary brought the evening to a close advising that the executive would meet at Whitefield GC on 14th April.