**St Fillans Golf Club**
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 27th January 2018
1.00pm in the Clubhouse
**Minutes**

There were thirty-two members in attendance.

**1 Apologies for absence**:
 F Cunningham, R Graham, J Hall, B Montgomery, M Thomason

**2 Intimations of matters for AOCB** Appeal for Funds for Fairway Mower- G Hibbert

**3 Minutes of the last AGM (28th January 2017)** Correction: under election of Councillors and Officers delete 'Nominations for Council' and the five names.
These minutes were taken as read and passed nem conProposer: Fraser Ballantyne Seconder: Trevor Woodward
 **Minutes of EGM (29th April 2017)** These minutes were taken as read and passed nem con
 Proposer: Mike Calder Seconder John Wagstaffe

 **4 Matters arising** AGM 28th January 2017 None

 EGM 29th April 2017 None

 **5 Captain’s Report** - Ronnie Shaw

 Let me begin by thanking everyone for turning up today . Your interest and support is much appreciated.

 Sadly, once again I have to mention three members of the golf club who have passed away in 2017. Gordon Strong, as well as being club champion and past captain, Gordon always had a story to tell to give us all a laugh. Gordon was responsible for the 6th medal tee which makes that particular hole very challenging.
 Alex Green, a long term member of the club. Alex has left his mark on the course. The rhododendrons at the back of the second green were his responsibility. (St Fillans Amen corner)

 Last but by no means least, our greens convenor and my good friend, Stewart McNab.. Stewart’s contribution to the club was inspiring. As well as being adept at acquiring grants for the club he was directly responsible for over 160 trees planted all over the course. All will be greatly missed.

 Our memory of Bert Morrison will still be enjoyed by members and guests as they climb up to the third tee and get to rest on Bert’s Chair. We hope to invite June, Bert’s widow, later on in the season to unveil a plaque in Bert’s memory.

 As you will be aware our Green Keeper, Bill McWilliams, after 10 years as a loyal employee, has retired. We wish him a long and happy retirement and thank him for all his hard work over the years.

 Moving on - 2018 is a year of change for St Fillans. We have been very fortunate to acquire the services of John Myles, our new Green Keeper. John is very highly qualified and we are sure we will all benefit from his expertise. We wish him well, and welcome him to his new role at St Fillans.

 Our in-house catering has also moved on. Julie Murray (Nutritious and Delicious) and Jo White have taken on the role of feeding us, and all our guests over the coming year. We look forward to many lovely meals and wish them welcome.

 Season 2018 will bring many new challenges for the club. Our membership remains static. I am afraid this is a sign of the times, and reflects the diminishing interest in golf, by the younger generation. The Council closely monitor the various budgets and take action to make savings where possible.

 This year we have all the usual competitions culminating in our defence of the local Ryder Cup, from our friends down the road in Comrie. We look forward very much to the return match, and hopefully will retain the cup. My congratulations to both Graham Courtney, our club champion 2017, and also to Janice Whyte, our ladies champion. Well done to both.

 I would like at this point to thank Moss Pugh, David Sharp and Mike Calder for their contribution to maintaining the course over the past year. Also, to the lady members for maintaining the pots and garden around the clubhouse, which makes the surroundings very attractive, especially for our many visitors. A special thanks to Martin Saunders for removing the tree in front of the buggy shed. Quite a task! Convenors and Council Members work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the club viable and in business.

 Finally, a special thanks to our Club Manager, Gordon. As captain my role has been dependent on the massive contribution he makes to all issues of running the club. He makes our competitions very enjoyable occasions, and our social events would not be the same without his input. Many many thanks Gordon from everyone.

 We all look forward to the new season. Thank you.

**6 Financial Report** - Gordon HibbertThe Club Manager presented a summary of accounts for 2017. They showed a marginal decline in the Club's reserves of £1334.00. After the steady fall in the past few years membership numbers held firm at 135. The loss of our Caterer whose contract was not renewed was a cause of great regret but we have confidence in the appointment of our new caterer Julie Murray.

 Bill McWilliams , our Green Keeper for the past ten years retired and has been replaced by John Myles. who has come from Gleneagles Golf Course.

 With these appointments and the continuing support of our members the future is brighter than it appeared a few months ago.

**7 Set Annual Subscriptions** - Keith Stewart
 The Treasurer said that the modest increase in subscriptions was partly to keep pace with inflation but also the start of funding a four-year improvement programme that would address the course, course equipment and the fabric and furnishing of the Club House.

 The following subscriptions for 2018 were presented to the meeting:- Members £330 including £10 Voucher
 Seniors £170 including £10 Voucher
 Junior <14 £30
 14+ £50
 Student £165 including £10 Voucher
 International £200
 Social £20
 Country £180

 Proposer: Fraser Ballantyne Seconder: Jill Baillie

**8 Election of Auditors** John Bennett & Johnston Brown were thanked for their work in auditing the Club's Accounts for the past year and were unanimously re-appointed.

 Proposer: Jill Baillie Seconder: John Light

**9 Nominations for Council**
 None

**10 Election of Office Bearers**
 Nominations
 Club and Gentlemen's Captain: R Shaw
 Ladies' Captain: No candidate
 Gent's Vice-Captain: C Simmons
 Ladies' Vice-Captain: No Candidate
 Hon. Secretary: G Dykes
 Hon. Treasurer: K Stewart

 Proposer: Tom Mulligan Seconder: Ian Pinkerton

 The Secretary addressed the subject of succession planning for the Council. There had been little new blood on the Council for the past few years. Four members joined the Council in 2014 but only one remained; one had left the Club and the others are no longer with us. Another new member joined in 2016.

 Members were invited to attend a meeting to 'test the water' with the hope that they might be encouraged to put their name forward for election next year. Also in 2019 the Club would be seeking a Club Vice-Captain and it could not be assumed that a candidate would emerge from the current Council. Everyone involved, the Captain, the Council and the Club Manager were dedicated to ensuring that everything was done to provide the membership with a satisfying golf experience. Only the members could ensure that this continued.

 Martin Sanders left the meeting

**11 Any other business**

 **Gordon Hibbert** outlined the position regarding the Fairway Mower. The current one was old and had been kept going beyond its safety limits. It had to be replaced. A suitable model at a good price had been located and purchased from Scottish Golf Machinery. It would be paid for at the end of January. He warned that next year we would need a new Greens Mower. The essential acquisition of the Fairway Mower will severely deplete our reserves and members were asked to make a donation, where possible, to replenish funds.

 **Janice Whyte** asked why, if standards in the kitchen had been so bad, had the Caterer not been sacked. The manager expressed some empathy with that viewpoint but said that the Club walked the tightrope between providing the undoubted high quality catering for members and facing the difficulty of finding a satisfactory replacement at short notice which might have led to the closure of the kitchen mid-season. Catering facilities are a big factor in attracting and satisfying visiting parties. Lessons had been learned from the experience.

 **David Watt** expressed concern that the equipment had been allowed to deteriorate to the current state, reminding the meeting that ten years ago there was a rolling financial plan to maintain equipment standards. It was pointed out that in recent years the Club's liquidity precluded meaningful financial planning but that the Treasurer had intimated earlier that such a programme would be re-instated. The members were told that the new Green Keeper had stated a willingness to cut the greens with a hand mower.

 **Mos Pugh** emphasised the importance of course maintenance keeping pace as it took time to restore the course to an acceptable condition if it was allowed to get out of hand. He was assured that all funds raised by the appeal would be hypothecated for course machinery.

 There being no further business, members were thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed at 1.54pm