



**Minutes of the AGM held at The Civil Service Club**  
**13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ**  
**on Monday 5th February 2024**

**Present**

Committee

Rob Seeley - Captain  
Fiona Watson – Vice-Captain  
Nick Archer – Treasurer  
Neil Meixner – Secretary  
Ken Adams – Young Person Guru/ Deputy Secretary  
Jason Wood – Committee / Past Captain  
Neil Blundy – Committee / Entertainments  
Malcolm Marshall – Committee / Deputy Treasurer  
Apologies  
Darrell Lewis – President  
Matthew – Jones - Committee

Members in attendance were: - Steven Barker, Terry Dobbins, Joel Evans, Raja Flora, Ben Hurworth, Geoff Green, Martin Howie, Jarlath Rooney, Christopher Sunderland, Gavin Tuck, Will Evans, Jon Bray, Iain Stevenson, Ian Abley, Bernadette Barker, Andrew Hardy and Ro Harper.

Apologies were received from James Barrett, David Bennett, John Biscoe, John Bush, John Campbell, Gary Dann, David Dickinson, Aidan Mahoney, Michael Foster, Steve Haley, Digby Hebbard, Michael Salmon, Aaron Hughes, Steve Hurworth, John Marsh, Bill Merry, Robert White, Chris Anderson, Oliver Tobin, Chris Yates, Luke Croll, Matthew Stylianides, Matthew Caldecourt, Noel Greig, Gavin Travica, Richard Piggott, Will Higgins and Michael Trott.

The Secretary opened the meeting at 18.35.

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were unanimously agreed.

## **2. Matters arising**

None.

## **3. Captain's Report**

Rob Seeley said it had been an honour and a privilege to be the EPiC Captain for 2023. He remembered listening to Jason Wood last year and his thoughts this year echoed Jasons', in that he had gained so much from being Captain and really getting to know many more members particularly those who toured. Rob went on to detail the highlights of the various events dwelling particularly on the BAGS victory at Knebworth, his defeat and subsequent sulk at losing to Raja Flora in the knockout and the enjoyment of the Tour to Lisbon. He also thanked The Secretary for his support and wished the incoming Captain Fiona Watson all the best for the forthcoming year!!

If you'd like to see Rob Seeley's full report, use this link! [Captains Report](#)

## **4. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary offered his report as read, re-emphasising Rob's comment by saying that attendances had been up, to 122 member attendances over the 5 major events excluding Letchworth against ~98 average in previous years. The Secretary highlighted Nick Archer (Finance), Chris Sunderland (Now Social Media Chairman), Aaron Hughes (Social Media Committee) and Digby Hebbard (Knock-out Competition) for their help this year and reminded members present of the need for prompt payment of their subscriptions and event fees.

Finally the Secretary thanked Rob for being a really proactive and supportive Captain!!

If you'd like to see Neil Meixner's full report, use this link! [Secretary's Report](#)

## **5. Membership**

Membership at the end of 2023 stood at 70. The Secretary informed the meeting of the 11 new members joining in 2023. A very warm welcome to Bernadette Barker, Mark Barnard, Jon Bray, Matthew Caldecourt, Noel Greig, Dan Harrison, Ro Harper, Will Higgins, Richard Piggott, Gavin Travica & Chris Yates who all joined EPIC in 2023. The Secretary reported that since the turn of 2024, 4 additional members have joined (Will Evans, returning, James Varley, Clark Lee and Garry Fairbairn) making our current

membership 74 and all time high!! Well done to all those who sponsored the new intake.

Ro Harper, Will Evans, Bernadette Barker & Jon Bray were welcomed in person, and all gave a short introductory speech.

We have had several retirees (Paul Ibson, Richard Bartholemew, Mike Naylor, Richard Hodgetts and Graham Howe who will be particularly missed as he was very active and supportive). We wish them well for the future.

## **6. Treasurer's Report, Charity & Accounts**

The Treasurer offered the Balance Sheet as issued but outlined the following key messages: - The finances were sound with a modest profit (£2820) at the end of the year. The Treasurer informed the meeting that the over £2000 had been raised for the Presidents Charity, the BHF, from the Ball Sweep and he proposed a £1000 top up from profits which was unanimously approved.

Terry Dobbins asked if there was a policy on the amount of cash retained and the Treasurer responded that all EPiC do is keep sufficient funds as working capital. Any other excess funds are donated to charity.

## **7. 2024 Subscription**

The committee suggested the annual subscription remain at £50. There was a discussion on whether the society should offer new and under 35 members a reduced or free period on joining. This was rejected overwhelmingly.

**Members are reminded to send their payments to Nick Archer as soon as possible and to annotate them so we know what they were for and where they came from**

**ALL members should endeavour to introduce at least one, preferably young, new member to the Society.**

## **8. 2024 Programme**

The Secretary presented a slightly amended programme. There was a general discussion after which the following was agreed.

- a. The BAGS match would be at Ashridge 9am Tee and the price would be increased to £90 (still heavily subsidised as the cost to EPiC is £123).

- b. The Captain's Day would be at Harleyford and the Presidents Cup at Berkhamsted.
  - c. Following an appeal lead by Andrew Hardy, the meeting unanimously agreed we should reintroduce early tee times for some events and the Secretary undertook to do so for 2025 in any case, but would approach Berkhamsted or Sandy Lodge to see if either of these events could be brought forward in 2024.
- For the sake of good order here is a link to [Programme 2024](#)

**Please put these dates in your diaries.**

## **9. Succession Planning**

There wasn't an overwhelming stampede to assist the secretary immediately, but the offers by Ken Adams to organise the Ashridge event and from Rob Seeley to do the same at Letchworth were gratefully received.

The Secretary was also appreciative of the offer of Neil Blundy to take on the Secretary role when he retired. This is great news.

The Secretary also announced that Chris Sunderland had agreed to chair the "Social Media Committee".

## **10. WHS System Update**

### **a. New Playing Handicap**

The Secretary presented the paper to the AGM and after a little discussion it was approved unanimously.

### **b. EPiC Penalty Proposals**

The Secretary presented the paper to the AGM and after a little discussion it was approved unanimously.

## **11. Website, Social Media etc**

### **a. Website**

The Secretary informed the meeting that Jim Harvey had agreed to continue to fund and run the website despite now not being a member.

However, after some discussion on having a financial platform on the website it was agreed that the Secretary would approach Jim Harvey and ask him to transfer it to Long & Partners where Neil Blundy had very kindly offered the services of Aaron Hughes and Dominic Fleming who would update and run it in the future.

## **b. Social media:**

The Secretary introduced the new Chair of the Social Media Committee and asked him to update the meeting.

Chris Sunderland said something like this

We hope you have found the social media updates useful, we want to ensure that the members get the most out of it, so as much as giving a report, I would also like to pose some questions and make some general comments:

Linkedin: We are up to 159 followers, as you can imagine interest spikes when we post, which generally is one or two posts in the run up to an event, with the follow up report.

Over 2023:

292 reactions (likes), 15 comments, 27 shares of posts, Impressions (times it appears in a persons LinkedIn page) was on average about 700 – this is just being seen, people may just keep scrolling.

Content engagement, i.e click through to the reports etc, at worst circa 10 at best 40. I can't see a pattern on why..

Questions and comments:

- We now have ability to received messages.
- Would the membership like to see other golf related posts? In the form of information on the courses we are about to play, media news such as Rahm going to Liv etc?
- I know most of the members will by now know each other, but as a relative newbie I'm a little unsure what each person's business does. I had considered using LinkedIn to do a bi-monthly "meet the member" series, just a simple slide with a paragraph on what that members business does. However, I'm conscious that unless we use a closed group message, which requires members to be following the page, this may increase the number of undesirables trying to join.... As an alternative, this could be done by email to the membership circulating a one-page document setting out how you can help and potentially do business with other members – thoughts?
- Use of video: we have previously posted pictures taken at the various events, it has ben shown that video is more engaging. I would like to trial use of video, some short views of the course, someone teeing off, perhaps an approach shot and a putt finishing with the awards. All can be done quite easily and well on an iPhone. However, I have no idea how to stitch

them together... any member who has capabilities that could help if its trialled at the first event?

- Are there any other channels you would like to see our content on? Other than LinkedIn / Instagram?

In due course we will be cross referencing the followers against members, and dropping a line to those that may be interested but not joined yet to try to open up communication (with the committee & AGM consent).

As always, we repeat the message "to like and share posts" (Thank you to the few that do) and please do bring to the attention of contacts in the industry you feel would be a good potential member.

Instagram: At present only used to post event reports etc. It is hoped to raise the EPiC profile in 2024.

## **12. President's Thoughts**

Unfortunately, Darrell Lewis was unable to attend at the last minute, so we were not blessed with any pearls of wisdom this year.

## **13. Appointment of Officers, Vice-Presidents, and Committee**

The Committee proposed that the officers for 2023 be as follows: -

Fiona Watson – Captain  
Matthew Jones - Vice-Captain  
Darrell Lewis – President  
Nick Archer – Treasurer  
Neil Meixner – Secretary  
Vacancy – Committee / Deputy Treasurer  
Ken Adams – Committee / Deputy Secretary  
Neil Blundy – Committee  
Robert Seeley - Committee / Past Captain  
Jason Wood – Committee

The appointment of the Officers and Committee was carried unanimously.

The Secretary noted that there was a vacancy for the Deputy Treasurer position.

## **14. New Captains thoughts and Tour Update**

Fioan Watson said (or said something like this!!)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was initially introduced to EPiC by Nick Archer (through a mutual networking group — Herts Interact). Then Neil Meixner looked after me in my first round at Sandy Lodge in July 2019, after which I joined.

Joining EPiC was really the start for me in taking golf more seriously and even though I was very conscious that my level of playing needed to improve, I've always been made to feel welcome. I like to think that my game is improving (although I think I enjoy the company too much at times and need to concentrate more).

We have a great programme for 2024 starting with the BAGS match at Ashridge in April, and I'm determined not to end the winning streak that Jason and Rob have set over the past 2 years.

We have some of usual favourites including Moor Park and Ashridge, a new course which is local to me at Harleyford near Marlow, and revisiting Sandy Lodge which I'm looking forward to playing at again.

After my first tour last year to Lisbon which I really enjoyed, especially the last day (even though I would have played better left-handed) — but a beautiful course and Rob was great company, as well as being a great captain last year.

This year we have Marrakech to look forward to, staying at the all-inclusive Kenzi Club with 3 different, amazing courses to play. Numbers are close to 16 which is a nice, manageable number and will be an amazing tour. With the courses and hotel looking amazing and great value — something a bit different.

I've enjoyed numerous great events with EPiC, it's been a great environment to entertain clients and contacts, and I've really enjoyed getting to know the members.

I'm very proud and excited to be your captain this year and thank the committee and Neil Meixner especially all the help and support in getting this year's events organised.

We want to continue to grow and improve for our members and welcome any feedback and suggestions to enable us to keep you all happy.

## **15. AOB**

The outgoing Captain asked that committee meetings be booked as the programme is finalised each year so the committee members may make a

special effort to attend. This was unanimously agreed. The Secretary would schedule the 2024 dates asap.

**There being no further business, the meeting was closed at approximately 20:30.**

Following the Dinner, Replica Trophies were presented to all winner's present by Captain Rob Seeley

The Bush Trophy presented to Neil Blundy by Rob Seeley in President Darrell Lewis absence.

**Presidents Cup - Geoff Green**



**Autumn Cup – Iain Stevenson**



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**Recessionary Bowl – Jason Wood**



**Bush Trophy – Neil Blundy**

