

Rabbits

PIKE HILL GOLF CLUB RABBITS SECTION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – no actual meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Pike Hills Golf Club Rabbits section is scheduled to take place on Monday 22 February 2021. As required by the constitution, I hereby give 4 weeks' notice of the meeting. The constitution makes no provision for what to do in the event of a pandemic, and there is no way that a meeting will be possible under the current restrictions. This notice serves as an indication of the matters to be addressed, and I invite comments that can be taken up by the committee. Comments to Paddy Neligan, paddy.neligan@btopenworld.com

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the AGM held 24 February 2020 are available on request; contact Paddy Neligan, as above

2. Definition of a Rabbit golfer. With the introduction of the World Handicap System, the previous definition needs to be revised. Following wide consultation, the Yorkshire Rabbits Golf Association (YRGA), has produced this new definition:

“for the purpose of the Yorkshire Rabbit Golf Association, a Rabbit Golfer shall be a male playing member of the age of 18 years or over with a Handicap Index of 15 or greater.”

The Harrogate Area Rabbits Golf Association (HARGA) has agreed to adopt the same definition.

The implication for Pike Hills members is that those members with Handicap index of 13.5 – 14.9 who have a course handicap of 16 or 17 from the yellow tees at Pike Hills will not qualify as Rabbits in the future. (We argued in vain for the limit to be set at HI 14 rather than 15).

Entry to YRGA and HARGA competitions will require a handicap index of 15.0 and above.

3. Election of Officers 2021. Normally the previous year's captain would stand down and hand over to the vice-captain. As the 2020 season effectively did not happen, the existing captain and vice-captain, Chris Johnson and Peter Grainger respectively, have been invited to continue for another year in those roles, and have agreed to do so.

Secretary: Paddy Neligan, having served 4 years, agrees to continue.

Treasurer: David Snape has served his 3 year term, but has been prevailed upon to continue for another year in these difficult times.

Chairman: Nigel King has agreed to continue.

Fixtures secretary: Phil White had intended to take over the role last year, but was unable to do so because of serious and protracted illness and treatment. In his absence, Paddy Neligan fulfilled the role. We hope that Phil will be well enough to play golf, and to take up this role when golf eventually gets under way again.

Committee: Tony Chapman and Ian T Smith both resigned from the committee during 2020. There are 3 vacancies on the committee. This is not a sensible time to be recruiting, but if any member is interested in joining the committee, or can recommend another member, please contact Paddy Neligan.

4. Treasurers report

Accounts available on request. With almost no activity in the year, no social events, no Open Day, no income and little expenditure, there is nothing to report.

Both YRGA and HARGA subscriptions have been rolled forward to 2021.

It seemed superfluous to audit the accounts, and the year 2020 will be conflated with 2021.

5. Captain's report

The Rabbits season never got started. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions imposed on golf and hospitality, all Pike Hills matches and competitions were cancelled apart from the Captain's Away Day, held at Kirkbymoorside GC on Wednesday 16 September. 16 members

played in the Kirkbymoorside Rabbits Open day. While the KM hosts did a wonderful job in putting on the event in the circumstances, and made us as welcome as possible, it was not possible to have a dinner or prize-giving.

6. Competitions report

The 2020 YRGA competitions, the Fowler trophy and the Thornton trophy were both cancelled.

Against the odds, HARGA completed 3 competitions towards the end of the season:

The Past President's trophy held at Wetherby GC on 9 September. Pike Hills was represented by Granville Miller (the donor of the trophy) and Paddy Neligan, whose combined score of 63 gave them second place behind the winners, Knaresborough on 65 points.

The Autumn festival at Bedale GC on 12 September. Our team of 3, Granville Miller, Nigel Jones and Paddy Neligan did not feature in the prizes this time.

The Presidents prize, held in conjunction with an informal dinner at Easingwold GC on 9 October.

Once again, Paddy Neligan represented PH and did not win.

2021 Competitions are obviously still in doubt, but are scheduled as follows:

- 16 May HARGA Spring festival at Otley GC, team of 4
- 24 June YRGA Thornton trophy, Harrogate Golf club (not 21 June as in Pike Hills diary) team of 2
- HARGA Past Presidents trophy tba
- HARGA Autumn festival tba
- HARGA league. We are drawn in Section A with Bedale, Harrogate, Masham, Oakdale, Ripon and Thirsk/Northallerton. Matches, home and away, 2 players per team, to be played between 1 April and 31 August

Pike Hills competitions 2021.

i. 10 July Rabbits Annual Stableford. Entry qualification will be a Handicap Index of 15.0 and above. Maximum stroke allowance will be 30 strokes for those with higher HI.

ii. 11 September Millennium trophy. Entry qualification will be a Handicap Index of 15.0 and above. Maximum stroke allowance will be 30 strokes for those with higher HI.

iii. Rabbits KO cup remains in doubt. A decision will be made after the Government's next review of restrictions. Time is needed for 5 or 6 rounds before the end of September, depending on entry, and players need time to organise each match only after they know their opponent from the result of the previous round. If the start is delayed much beyond April, the timetable will be tight. If it does go ahead, entries will be invited in the pro-shop rather than on the Rabbits noticeboard. Entry qualification will be a Handicap Index of 15.0 and above. Maximum stroke allowance will be 30 strokes for those with higher HI.

7. Rabbits Open Day 2021

The Open Day 2020 was cancelled in spite of Ian Smith's best efforts and one rearrangement.

The date for 2021 is Thursday 1 July. A decision on whether or not to proceed will be taken in the light of Government pronouncements on COVID restrictions and common sense. At present we have no organiser. If anyone would like to volunteer to organise the Open Day, please contact paddy.neligan@btopenworld.com

8. Entertainments report.

There were no social functions in 2020 as a result of the pandemic and associated restrictions.

The 2021 pre-season dinner, scheduled for Friday 19 March will not take place. It is unlikely that regulations will allow such a gathering by then, and even if they did, members are unlikely to want to risk it.

It is a long time since we had a social function, and it would be good to have a get-together before November if circumstances allow. Nigel King has agreed to organise a function at relatively short notice in the summer if and when we can.

The presentation dinner is scheduled for Friday 12 November. We can be reasonably optimistic that it will go ahead, and that we might have played some competitions in order to have presentations to make.

Paddy Neligan
Secretary, Rabbits section