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AGA/8/3

See Distribution

1 Aug 18

MINUTES OF THE AGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2018 HELD AT SAUNTON GOLF CLUB ON WED 11 JUL 18

Reference:

A. AGA/8/3 dated 21 Jul 17.

Present:	Lt Col (Retd) KL Seddon MBE BEM Maj Gen GP Hill CBE Maj R Pace R Signals Miss DM Walters Lt Col (Retd) MK Allen and 80 members of the AGA	Vice Chairman President Men's Captain Assistant Secretary Secretary	Chairman Secretary
Apologies:	Brig M Pullan MBE WO2 DA Buckley AGC (SPS)	Chairman Ladies Captain	

Item (a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)	Action (c)
1. Introduction	The Vice Chairman welcomed all to the Meeting. He apologised on behalf of the Chairman for his absence due to work commitments. The AGA was in fine fettle and there was a really good buzz at the events, with high levels of attendance except for the Inter Unit Championship. He was delighted with the numbers for Saunton, a record for the Championships, the pyramid of players with lots of new faces, many regular attendees and some returning after a break. Saunton was booked until at least 2022. He wished both the Men's and Ladies' teams continued success in the 2018 Inter Services at Frilford Heath GC (FHGC) in mid Sep 18 following excellent victories in 2017. He asked the players to encourage others back in their units to join the AGA, whatever their handicap, and to enter the events, especially the Inter Unit Championship.	All
2. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Ref A)	The Minutes of the previous Meeting, Reference A, were agreed, by those present, as a true record.	

Item (a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)	Action (c)
3. Matters Arising from the 2017 Minutes (Ref A)	There were no matters arising. NFA	
4. AGA Appointments for 2018	The Secretary went through the appointments for the 2018 Season as detailed at Annex A. He would be retiring on 11 Oct 18 and asked all to welcome his successor, Lt Col (Retd) SAJ Davis, when he visited future events.	
5. Finances	<p>1. Assistant Secretary said the Account showed a small excess of some £335 income over expenditure. She said that the Chairman was determined to maintain the high standards of venue, competitions and development.</p> <p>2. The Vice Chairman thanked the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for their hard work on the Account, particularly the Assistant Secretary for her meticulous book-keeping.</p> <p>3. The Secretary said that sponsorship was becoming increasingly difficult and the ASCB had generously stepped in to replace both Marshalls and Vauxhall in 2018. A new sponsorship model for the ASCB was being put in place for 1 Jun 19, which would have implications for team Army; further details to be briefed later in the year.</p>	
6. AGA Calendars 2018 and 2019	<p>1. The Secretary reminded the Meeting of the remaining key events for 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Stableford at Whittington Heath GC 31 Jul – 1 Aug 18. • Inter Service Championship at FHGC 9 – 13 Sep 18. • Inter Regional Championship at Worksop GC 26 Sep 18. <p>2. The Secretary briefed on the key events for 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Championship at The Nottinghamshire GC 20 – 22 May 19. • Inter Unit Championship at Catterick GC 11 – 13 Jun 19 (Centenary). • Army Championships at Saunton GC 6 – 12 Jul 19. • Army Ladies Championship at Saunton GC 9 – 10 Jul 19. • Open Stableford at Whittington Heath GC 30 – 31 Jul 19. • Inter Service Championship at Enville GC 15 – 19 Sep 19. • Inter Regional Championship at Worksop GC 25 Sep 19. 	
7. Lessons Learned (L2) 2017/18	<p>1. Inter Corps Championship and Ballot. The Vice Chairman said that he, with the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary had spent some considerable time looking at options to get more teams into the Championship. In sum he proposed that the 2019 Inter Corps ballot will change, subject to final approval by the 2018 AGA Annual General Committee Meeting on 11 Oct 18. Corps may enter a B team as before, but the ballot will take place at the 2019 AGA AGM on Wed 10 Jul 19.</p>	Vice Chairman Corps Secretaries

Item (a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)	Action (c)
Item 7 continued	<p>If 13 x Corps A Teams enter then 3 teams will be drawn to take part in the main event. Any other B teams balloted out will play in a team Stableford event, comprising two rounds; one on Thu 11 Jul 19 and the other on Fri 12 Jul 19 to be played on the East Course from 1030 hrs each day. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team and to the top three individual combined scores. The entrance fee per team will be abated by 50%. Corps Secretaries will be notified of any changes following the 2018 AGCM.</p> <p>2. Inter Unit Championship. Members were reminded that the 2018 event was changed from a scratch event to handicap in an effort to increase the number of teams entering. Only 12 teams participated, the same as 2017 and interestingly 3 of the 4 teams that got through to the main semi-finals did so in 2017. The Vice Chairman asked all members to encourage their units to support this event especially in 2019 as it will be the 100th event.</p>	All
8. Army Team Matters and Reports 2017/18	<p>1. The Men's Captain summarised his report, which is detailed at Annex C.</p> <p>2. The Assistant Secretary gave the Ladies Captain's report, detailed at Annex D. The AGM wished the Ladies Captain a speedy recovery from ill health.</p>	
9. Communications	<p>1. <u>Through-the-Green Magazine.</u> The Assistant Secretary said that the 2018 Magazine had been well received and she was praised for her hard work. She reminded all that it was the AGA members' magazine and called for articles for the 2019 Edition to be with the Assistant Secretary by end Nov 18.</p> <p>2. <u>Website.</u> The Assistant Secretary said that the Website was working well and was delighted that a huge number of players had entered the Championships via the Website. Further updates will be made in due course.</p>	All
10. Any Other Business	There was no AOB.	
11 – President's Remarks	<p>The President echoed the Vice Chairman's opening remarks and said he was rather disappointed that he had been unable to attend some events due to his busy work schedule. However, he was delighted with the Championships, the numbers attending, the most friendly atmosphere and the standard of golf. It bodes well for the future. He asked all to encourage their golfers back in barracks to support the AGA events as there is much for all to participate in, especially the Inter Unit Championship. He wished both Army team success in the 2018 Inter Service Championships and looked forward to seeing the teams there. Finally, he thanked the officials for their hard work both back in the office and at the events; it was hugely appreciated by one and all.</p>	

Item (a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)	Action (c)
11. Dates of Future Meeting	The Secretary said the 2019 Annual General Meeting will be held on Wed 10 Jul 19 at Saunton GC.	All
12. Chairman's Final Remarks	<p>The Vice Chairman thanked everyone for a very constructive meeting. He wished both Team Captains the very best for the rest of 2018. Finally he bade farewell to the Secretary, who was leaving his post on 11 Oct 18 after 13.5 years as Secretary AGA & AWSA and wished him well in retirement. The Secretary thanked the Vice Chairman for his generous words; the time had gone in a flash and it had been a wonderful end to his Army career. He had made a huge number of friends, not only Army golfers, but also at the various Clubs, Saunton, Little Aston, Frilford, Worksop and Whittington Heath in particular. He will miss the banter and especially Saunton week, which was a truly special event; he hoped to be back for the 2022 Championships. Finally he thanked the key officials and especially Diane and Wendy in the office for their invaluable support during his tenure. He wished all well and hoped that Army golf would continue to be one of the major sports in the Army.</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 1830 hrs.</p>	

M K Allen

M K ALLEN
Lt Col (Retd)
Secretary AGA

Annexes:

- A. 2018 Appointments.
- B. 2019 Key Events.
- C. AGA Men's Captain's Report 2017/18.
- D. AGA Ladies Captain's Report 2017/18.

Distribution:

General Committee Members (on Website)
President
DASCB

AGA COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2018

Post	Incumbent	Remarks
President	Maj Gen GP Hill CBE	
Hon Life President	Lord Houghton of Richmond GCB CBE DL	
Chairman	Brig M Pullan MBE	
Vice Chairman	Lt Col (Retd) KL Seddon MBE BEM	
Secretary	Lt Col (Retd) M K Allen	Permanent Post
Secretary wef 11 Oct 18	Lt Col (Retd) SAJ Davis	Permanent Post
Assistant Secretary	Ms D Walters	Permanent Post
Captain	Maj R Pace R Signals	
Vice Captain	SSgt A Harriott AGC (MPGS)	
Team Manager	WO1 DR Sanby AGC (SPS)	
Lady Captain	WO2 DA Buckley AGC (SPS)	
Lady Vice Captain	Cpl K Woodward AGC (SPS)	
Ladies Team Manager	Ms D Walters	
Ladies Assistant TM	Sgt Z Burrell-Knipe RLC	
Development Officer Female	Maj GA Smith REME	

ARMY GOLF ASSOCIATION 2019 MAJOR EVENTS

Dates	Event	Location
TBC	High Handicap Championship	Kingsthorpe GC
20 – 22 May 19	AGA Open Championship	The Nottinghamshire GC
12 – 13 Jun 19	Inter Unit Championship	Catterick GC
6 – 12 Jul 19	Army Matchplay and Inter Corps Championships	Saunton GC
8 – 10 Jul 19	Army Ladies Matchplay Championships	Saunton GC
30 & 31 Jul 19	AGA Open Stableford Championship	Whittington Heath GC
15 – 20 Sep 19	Inter Service Championships (RN lead)	Enville GC
24 & 25 Sep 19	Inter Regional Championship	Worksop GC

ARMY CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2017-18: MAJ R PACE R SIGNALS

Introduction

1. The 2017 Inter Service Championships were a resounding success, excellent performances against both RN and RAF ensured a convincing win for the 2nd time in 3 years. The team went into the event high on confidence. Almost a full squad was available to choose from, which included the addition of our reigning Army Champion and Inter Services Strokeplay Champion, Pte David Blick. This added to an already very strong team and finally we were able to demonstrate this with two relatively comfortable matches. On a sad note, the outgoing Army Capt, Maj Danny Saunders and incoming Army Capt, Major Bob Pace were both unable to play through career course and injury respectively.

Brent Knoll Bowl – 23/24/25 Mar 18

2. High in confidence after a strong finish to 2017, the Brent Knoll Bowl was a strong lesson. Knocked out early by the RN (who would go on to win the event) we had to settle for winning the consolation competition. A tough lesson considering the final was contested by the Navy and the RAF. That said it remains an excellent Foursomes competition and gets us started early in the season. Fortunately, the Vice Capt, SSgt Andy Harriott is a member at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club and has been able to book the Dormy House facility for future years, this is a great facility that makes the administration of the team very easy.

Army vs Hayling Island – 8 Apr 18

3. The match at Hayling in early April was played in some very miserable weather, ably led by the Vice Capt. A good blend of experience and developing players gave a good account of themselves against a strong club side. The match was closer than the score suggests with Hayling running out 5-3 winners having taken the morning matches by 1 point with the same result in the afternoon.

Army vs Dorset County – 15 Apr 18

4. This year the fixture was played at one of Dorset's finest venues, Ferndown GC. Sadly though we were only able to play 9 holes foursomes on the Alliss course in the morning with 18 holes singles played on the main course in the afternoon. This was quite frustrating as the singles did not start until 1400hrs, for a venue so far south and with many travelling from the north, consideration must be given in future years to the timings and composition of the team. As usual Dorset use this fixture as an opportunity to play some of their strongest players, this coupled with a few Army players in indifferent form meant it was to be a very one sided match. The final result being 10 – 2 to the hosts.

Army vs Little Aston GC – 6 May 18

5. Little Aston Golf course was bathed in glorious sunshine in early May when a development squad played against the scratch team of Little Aston. This enabled the Capt and Team manager to get a close look at some of the newer players who are breaking into the Army Team. In the end this was a very close match where the team went down by a very small margin of 6.5 – 5.5. There were some very encouraging performances throughout the day with WO1 Ansell and SSgt Harriott remaining unbeaten throughout the day. As usual the hosts were awesome in their welcome and hospitality towards the Army Team and perhaps next year the choice of refreshment at half time should be a careful consideration.

Army Strokeplay Championships. 21-23 May 18

6. Frilford Heath Red Course was in excellent condition in preparation for the hosting of the Brabazon Trophy immediately after the Army Strokeplay event. With two of the top players missing from the field (Blick and Bradley) it was a particularly open event this year. This was even more so

after an opening +8 round from the multiple winner and favourite Cpl Ben Churchill. Stepping up to the challenge came the Infantry in the shape of Slater, Phillips and Stevenson, Slater setting the early pace. It was refreshing to see so many of the previous generation of Army Golfers in attendance with Snape, Patterson and Woolsey all playing very well and at the top of the leaderboard. However, the +8 round was to prove to be a blip and normal service was resumed by Churchill with rounds of -3, level par and an excellent closing round of -5 which confirmed him as the Strokeplay champion.

Coaching and Development – Frilford Heath GC 19/20 Jun 18.

7. In a change from previous years, the coaching and development activities were conducted internally within the Army Squad utilising the facilities back at Frilford Heath. A 2-day package was put together to bring 18 players together for a dedicated practice and development session. The first morning was spent in both discussion and in the practice areas honing skills and discussing tactics and the mental side of matchplay. All this was in preparation for the Inter Services back at Frilford in September. 3 rounds of varying formats followed allowing all the players to interact with each other and essentially learn from one another. It was felt that this was a very good package which could be built upon for future years. Currently, discussions are taking place with a highly rated coach (Liam James from the Robert Rock Swing Academy in Litchfield) regarding the possibility of putting together bespoke packages for season 2019, which will cater for 3 sessions. The first two will be for the wider Army squad with the final session being geared around the Inter Services squad, it is hoped that these will take place in Enville Golf Club (venue for 2019 IS). Only preliminary discussions have taken place and should the package be affordable and offer value for money then the Capt will seek to take this forward.

Kit and Equipment

8. WO1 Sanby has done a fantastic job with his relationship with PING and already we have in place our clothing for the IS for 2018 as well as looking out to 2019. The exact sizes will be adjusted once the squad is announced but at least we have put aside an order where it is envisaged that 80% of the order will hit the right size. This year has seen a minimum spend on clothing along with our normal order of balls, together this brings the total spend close to our projected budget. This is without any personal contribution that is yet to be finalised.

Overseas Tour

7. The plans for our overseas tour to South Africa are well advanced. Authority has been given by both the AGA and the ASCB to conduct the tour and currently the application for Army Sports Lottery funding is to be submitted imminently. An itinerary is shaping up and indeed deposits have been paid for our accommodation within George. Lt Col (Retd) Paul Vernam is very kindly conducting all South Africa in theatre planning and organising and has put together an excellent package of matches and venues. The 12 players have been selected and deposits have been paid, the Army Capt is now desperately trying to bring the personal contribution costs down with as much external financial support as possible.

2018 Inter Services

8. On conclusion of the Matchplay event the squad for the Inter Services will be announced. Whilst we lost an excellent player in Cfn Watkins earlier this year, the form and performance of up and coming players is very encouraging. The selection will always be based on those players in form and who are able to perform at the highest level. This year will be a very difficult selection with so many very good category 1 players available for selection.

Summary

11. Mens Army golf could not be in a healthier condition; all major competitions are oversubscribed and the depth of talent on show is simply outstanding. Whilst there remains a healthy confidence it will be a controlled optimism and self-assurance that the team takes forward to the IS in September, taking absolutely nothing for granted.

Major R Pace R SIGNALS

**AGA LADIES' CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2018
WO2 DA BUCKLEY AGC (SPS)**

As predicted by my predecessor, Capt Gina Smith, I will open the AGA Ladies Captains Report for 2018 with the statement '**Following on from our success at the Inter Services.....**'.

Committee Roles

The New AGA Ladies Committee are now firmly established and include myself as Captain, Cpl Kim Woodward as Vice-Captain and Capt Gina Smith has assumed the role of Development/Reserves Manager. Diane and BK remain our 'go to' Management Team – and without them, we would not achieve what we do, maintain what we do and enhance what we do.

Matches

The 2018 season was scheduled to begin in March with the annual match against the Army Golf club however, due to adverse weather, namely the course was covered with 2ft of snow, this fixture had to be cancelled at short notice.

Our annual Trevoise Golf Match has unfortunately been discontinued, however, this was rapidly replaced by a fixture against Burnham and Berrow which took place in May. The home team were exceptionally welcoming, and the course was in fantastic condition. The match was closely fought with the Army Team winning 3-1.

In June, we were proud to have Kim Woodward named as the UKAFGA Team Captain for 2018 and to lead her team to success in the match against the British Police. Alongside Kim, the Army Ladies also fielded Capt Kate Law, Sgt Becky Mercer and Abi Kennedy; impressive as this accounted for 50% of the team. The UKAF players proved too strong for the established Police Team and came away winning 7½ - 4½, special mention should go to Abi Kennedy who managed a 3/2 win in her scratch singles match over a 1 handicapper.

Recruitment and Development

In view of declining numbers in attendance of the Spring, Summer and Autumn Meetings, the Committee decided that we needed to tap into the geographical resources the AGA has to offer. To that end, contact was made with the Regional Secretaries who were very receptive to the Ladies section competing in their events. This will ensure that the Ladies will have the ability to attend more events in their own geographical locations and the opportunity to meet other members of the AGA.

Recruitment and Development are very much on top of our list of priorities at present and we aim to invest in a few of the Army Team players, likely to be Kim Woodward and LCpls Abi & Kirsty Kennedy in a bid to get them qualified as Level 1 coaches. It is our intention to put them into practice over several weekends, across various locations for the newer members of the AGA Ladies and higher handicappers. Kim has already conducted a very successful session in the Midlands.

We continue to recruit passionately and have tapped into the Army Reserve where we now have several players who play regularly in both matches, competitions and Inter Services. We have also been in contact with 'Women in Golf magazine'; the UK's biggest selling golf magazine for female golfers, who are very keen to run an article about the Army Ladies Golf Team. This is something we will pursue in the "off season".

Kit and Equipment

On behalf of the Ladies Team I would like to thank WO1 Dave Sanby for all his hard work with PING in securing a superb agreement on the supply of the Army Team kit. It was very well received by the players and long may it continue.

2018 Inter Services

The team will be announced after the NAPGC match on 22 Aug 18 although we are aware of a couple of potential availability issues. We hope to be able to address the majority of these prior to the announcement. If all players are available it will be a tough decision to select the 9 to compete at Frilford.

Summary

The Ladies Team is in a good place and hard work over the last few years is now paying off. While golf is very much an individual sport most of the time, it has become increasingly evident that every player in the squad plays for each other; an important development which contributed in no small part to our success of 2017. We are very much looking forward to defending our title in 2018 but complacency has no place in our preparations.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martyn and Diane for their ongoing support, advice and expertise. I would also like to extend a big thank you to all Corps and Regional Secretaries; as well as AGA members, for continuing to identify new golfing talent within units and supporting them throughout the golfing calendar. I do hope that this continues and I look forward to opening next year's AGM with the words 'Following on from our successful retention of the Inter Services Title.....'