



**ARMY
GOLF**

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AGA/8/3

See Distribution

19 Jul 19

MINUTES OF THE AGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2019 HELD AT SAUNTON GOLF CLUB ON WED 10 JUL 19

Reference:

A. AGA/8/3 dated 26 Jul 18.

Present:	Lt Col (Retd) KL Seddon MBE BEM Maj Gen GP Hill CBE Maj R Pace R Signals WO1 DA Buckley AGC (SPS) Miss DM Walters Lt Col (Retd) SAJ Davis and 80 members of the AGA	Vice Chairman President Men's Captain Lady Captain Assistant Secretary Secretary	Chairman Secretary
Apologies:	Brig M Pullan MBE	Chairman	

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 High Handicap and Inter Unit Championship. He then gave a resume of the events that had been play thus far in the season. 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 2019 Inter Services at Enville GC in mid Sep 19 and hope that our rich vein of victories will continue this year. He asked the players to encourage others back in their units to join the AGA, whatever their handicap, and to enter the events. He said the Secretary would elaborate later in the mtg.	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 2018 Minutes (Ref A)	There were no matters arising. NFA	
4. AGA Appointments for 2019	The Secretary went through the appointments for the 2019 Season as detailed at Annex A.	
5. Finances		
6. AGA Calendars 2019 and 2020	<p>1. The Secretary reminded the Meeting of the remaining key events for 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Stableford at Whittington Heath GC 29 – 31 Jul 19. • Inter Regional Championship at Worksop GC 3 – 4 Sep 19. • Inter Service Championship at FHGC 15 – 19 Sep 19. <p>2. The Secretary briefed on the key events for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Championship at Little Aston GC 18 – 20 May 20. • Inter Unit Championship at Tidworth GC 11 – 12 Jun 20 • Army Championships at Saunton GC 4 – 10 Jul 20. • Army Ladies Championship at Saunton GC 7 – 8 Jul 20. • Open Stableford at Whittington Heath GC 3 – 4 Aug 20. • Inter Regional Championship at Worksop GC 8 – 9 Sep 20. • Inter Service Championship at Saunton GC 13 – 17 Sep 20. (Army Lead) 	
7. Lessons Learned (L2) 2017/18	1. Inter Corps Championship and Ballot. Secretary explained that there were no further L2 other than those put forward at last year's event to amend the balloting format for the Inter Corps Championships. He further explained that the new format had been approved by the ACGM in Mar 19 and would therefore be introduced for the first time in 2019.	Secretary Corps Secretaries
Item 7 continued	<p>1. Inter Unit Championship. The Secretary reminded the Members of the change to the Inter Unit format that saw the event run as a handicap event in an effort to increase the number of teams entering. Although 2019 saw a slight increase to 15 teams, four teams were from one unit. He asked all present to make a concerted effort to get a team of three players or encourage golfers within their unit to form a team and enter in 2020 at Tidworth.</p> <p>2. Army High Handicap Championships. The Secretary then asked all Members present to encourage one person from their unit to enter the competition. He suggested that there were far more golfers in the Army with a handicap of more than 16 and that if we all managed to get one golfer to enter the field would be full.</p>	All

Item (a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)	Action (c)
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 Ladies Captain briefed Members on all ladies golf matters and provided a resume of their season to date.</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 2020 Edition to be with the Assistant Secretary by end Nov 19.</p> <p>2. The Secretary then suggested that a survey may be issued to determine whether the magazine should become web based in the future with only a few hard copies being produced. More to follow in due course.</p> <p>3. <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	As a mark of his outstanding contribution and support to Army Golf over a considerable period of years, the President AGA presented Cpl Ben Churchill with a framed picture of Saunton Golf Course to mark his final year of Service and last time of playing in the Army Matchplay Championships. Cpl Ben Churchill should be considered as the most successful Army Golfer of the modern era, having won the Army Open 6 times and the Army Matchplay on 7 occasions. On behalf of the AGA and all Members present he was wished all the best for the future.	
11. Dates of Future Meeting	The Secretary said the 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held on Wed 8 Jul 20 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 2019 and the Inter Services</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 1900 hrs.</p>	

SAJ Davis
SAJ DAVIS
Lt Col (Retd)
Secretary AGA

Annexes:

- A. 2019 Appointments.
- B. 2019 Key Events.
- C. AGA Men's Captain's Report 2018/19.
- D. AGA Ladies Captain's Report 2018/19.

Distribution:

General Committee Members (on Website)

President

DASCB

AGA COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2019

Post	Incumbent	Remarks
President	IT Gen GP Hill CBE	
Hon Life President	Lord Houghton of Richmond GCB CBE DL	
Chairman	Brig M Pullan MBE	
Vice Chairman	Lt Col B Baldwin	
Tournament Director	Lt Col (Retd) KL Seddon MBE BEM	
Secretary	Lt Col (Retd) SAJ Davis	Permanent Post
Assistant Secretary	Miss D Walters	Permanent Post
Captain	Maj R Pace R Signals	
Vice Captain	Capt Jack Musgrove RA	
Team Manager	WO1 DR Sanby AGC (SPS)	
Lady Captain	WO1 DA Buckley AGC (SPS)	
Lady Vice Captain	Cpl K Woodward AGC (SPS)	
Ladies Team Manager	Miss D Walters	
Ladies Assistant TM	Sgt Z Burrell-Knipe RLC	
Development Officer Female	Maj GA Smith REME	

ARMY GOLF ASSOCIATION 2020 MAJOR EVENTS

Dates	Event	Location
18 - 20 May 20	AGA Open Championship	Little Aston GC
TBC	High Handicap Championship	TBC
11 – 12 Jun 20	Inter Unit Championship	Tidworth GC
4 – 10 Jul 20	Army Matchplay and Inter Corps Championships	Saunton GC
7 – 8 Jul 20	Army Ladies Matchplay Championships	Saunton GC
3 – 5 Aug 20	AGA Open Stableford Championship	Whittington Heath GC
8 – 9 Sep 20	Inter Regional Championship	Worksop GC
13 – 17 Sep 20	Inter Service Championships (Army lead)	Saunton GC

ARMY CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2018-19: MAJ R PACE R SIGNALS

Introduction

1. Frilford Heath Red course was the setting for the 2018 Inter Services Championships (IS). Following on from the previous year's success, and with the confidence of playing on a well-known venue, spirits were rightly high leading into the event. Although the matches didn't go strictly to plan, it was an indication of our strength in depth that we were able to pull out in both matches and win for the second year running. It was absolutely awesome to see the ladies team come out on top as winners also for the second year running. We look forward to Enville this year for the "treble double"!

South Africa Overseas Visit

2. A hugely successful Overseas Tour took place in South Africa this February. This was the first tour to be conducted in 5 years, a full report is included as a separate document. Of the twelve players on tour 11 were serving members accompanied with Lt Col (Retd) Paul Vernon. I must publicly thank Paul Vernon for all the work he did to ensure all the travel and bookings were both cost effective and of the highest standard. Quite simply without using Paul as our in-theatre organiser the tour would not have happened. We will look to tour again in 2021 and Lt Col Mick Burgess has kindly volunteered to organise this tour.

Army Matches 2019

3. The usual season opener is the Brent Knoll Bowl, a scratch foursome competition held at Burnham and Berrow GC. This year would see SSgt Andy Harriott represent the Army at his home club for the final time. Although we were beat in our first match by the slightest of margins, we would not be beaten again going on to win the plate competition. A welcome upturn in form in this high standard event. The event was dominated by the services with the Navy winning the consolation event and the RAF winning the main trophy. It is rare to have a hole in one at any time. The Army Team had two during this competition, Fus Jonny Stevenson holing his tee shot on the 14th during the practice round followed up by Maj Bob Pace holing out on the 9th hole during the first round. A quite unique weekend.

4. Our match this year against Dorset was brought forward in the calendar to enable us to play one of Dorset's finest courses, Broadstone GC. Sadly, it had the opposite effect, being that early in the year (early March) meant that the course had not really recovered out of winter and as a result the greens were in poor condition. This made no difference to the Dorset team who yet again brought out a very talented county team. With the Army team including a couple of debutants it was always going to be very hard. So it proved with the result being very one sided for the second year running. It was mentioned afterwards that Dorset would welcome the opportunity to play the Army at an away venue. This is something I shall take forward with options for Tidworth GC or the Army GC being the venue for 2020.

5. Little Aston Golf Club and in particular the club Capt Jon "Woody" Wood were excellent hosts for our friendly match in early May. This is a development fixture that affords the opportunity to play some of the up and coming players on an outstanding venue. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all who attended with some good golf on display. It was a close match with the Army team just running out as winners.

6. A new fixture for 2019 saw the Army Team play against East Lancashire Golf Association at Wilpshire GC. This new fixture allowed the team to play further north in England allowing the northern based players some respite from the continuous driving to Southern England. As it turned out the team comprised of players from all over the UK as always. The match was played in the traditional format of foursomes and singles and again was another opportunity to play some new faces along with some established first team players. A close fought match with ELGA just coming out on top. The hospitality and welcome received was first class and the whole team was a great

bunch, it is recommended that this fixture remain an annual event. The only area of concern is the lack of available military accommodation thus hotel accommodation was required.

Army Strokeplay Championships. 20-22 May 19

7. A strong field assembled for the Army Strokeplay event at the Nottinghamshire golf club, with only three regular Army players missing. With these three being arguably our better players, the field was open for a potential new winner. Cpl Ben Churchill in his last year of regular service was hoping to make this his final Strokeplay win and hold the title he won last year. As it turned out this course was very difficult for the majority of the players with water and internal out of bounds a feature on the majority of the holes. This left the strongest handicaps to fight it out for the title. Whilst Lt Col Mick Burgess managed to record a new course record during the event, it was still not enough to prevent Fus Lewis Phillips from gaining his first Strokeplay title. Thus, making the current holders of the two Army major trophies young private soldiers in the Infantry, a huge boost for the future of Army golf.

Coaching and Development – Enville GC 17/18 Jun 19.

8. In keeping with the same format as last year, the coaching and development activities were conducted internally within the Army Squad utilising the facilities at Enville GC, the location of the 2019 IS championships. As well as being a great opportunity for familiarisation of the course, a 2-day package was put together to bring 16 players together for a dedicated practice and development session. This was predominantly the squad that the Inter Services team will be selected from, thus barring a couple of players that could not attend the current strongest 16 players in the Army had two days of very useful development on a course that was new to almost all of us. This course is in excellent condition and is a great venue. The team as a whole were impressed with the layout condition and facilities on offer, the only down side being the accommodation location. RAF Cosford was used for these two days, but, this is not suitable for the IS. The roads surrounding the club and in the area in general, are very difficult to travel on, with many single lane roads between Cosford and Enville. It was only once this visit was undertaken did this issue arise. Thus, the men's team will now seek to find alternate accommodation much nearer to the club.

Kit and Equipment

9. PING continues to supply Team Army with excellent equipment and we have recently taken delivery of the new hardware for 2019, this includes the Camo designed bags. I feel these will be an excellent addition to our equipment fleet and these will be distributed to the squad for the IS in September. WO1 Sanby continues to provide an excellent level of support to the team with kit and equipment. His enthusiasm and forward leaning liaison with PING are no doubt the reasons why we continue to get great support from the company.

2019 Inter Services

10. On conclusion of the Matchplay event the squad for the Inter Services will be announced. Without prejudging the selection too much, this will be the final IS for Cpl Ben Churchill. Ben has been simply an outstanding golfer for the Army arguably one of the best ever! It would be remiss of me not to publicly thank Ben for all his many years of excellent golf in the red shirt. On behalf of all Army golfers I thank Ben for his contribution for the Army Team and indeed setting the standard for us all to chase.

Conclusion

11. Men's Army golf continues to be in a healthy condition, the qualifying criteria and field size for this event is testament to this. That said, I must stress that I want more players to make themselves available for the Army Team, currently I maintain a list of all players who I want to play or develop for the Army team. What surprised me last week with Diane's email was the list of players who did not have to qualify (i.e. below 4 handicap) of whom I have no idea about, this cannot be the case. I have included a contact sheet at the reception desk this week, if you want to play golf for the Army please fill this in so that I can monitor and invite you to future Army events. Clearly, I want the best players possible but everyone who is at this event is single figures or very close to, you are all eligible and

should be striving to represent the Army. In many ways' handicaps are irrelevant when playing for the Army, if you are good enough you will be selected regardless of handicap, but also, I want to invite up and coming players to our development matches. Please put your names forward.

12. Finally, Army golf never stands still and continues to grow. This year I have said goodbye on so many occasions to SSgt Andy Harriott, my previous Vice Capt. Andy retires after 35 Years' service, a large part of that has been on the golf course wearing red. We all wish Andy the very best in the future and hope to see him at the open events in years to come. Again, my heartfelt thanks to Andy for all he has done for Army golf. In his place as the Vice Capt is Capt Jack Musgrove who has been in post for all of this year. An excellent addition who has already in such short time given so much for the good and benefit of Army golf. And finally, in the role of development officer I welcome Lt Col Mick Burgess who will take on this role, as this year's events were already planned last year, Colonel Mick will really start to impact as we move forward into next year.

Major R Pace R SIGNALS
Army Men's Team Capt

**AGA LADIES' CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2019
WO1 DA BUCKLEY AGC (SPS)**

"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships." – Michael Jordan

1. For the second year running, the Army Ladies are the UK Armed Forces Golf Champions and this achievement is wholly down to the sheer talent, team work and dedication demonstrated by every member of the Army Squad. Our victory came in the form of an 11-1 win over the RAF on day one and an 8.5 - 3.5 win over the Navy on day two - scores which truly demonstrate the calibre of golfer we are now fielding.
2. The Ladies Committee has had one change, Sgt Kim Woodward has had to step down as Vice-Captain (because for some weird reason, she wants to be an accountant!) and has been replaced by SSgt Zoe Burrell-Knipe. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kim for all her hard work and effort over the past 18 months. We truly wouldn't have achieved what we have as a team without her - BK has some big boots to fill, which I am positive she will. Maj Gina Smith continues to work exceptionally hard in recruiting and development which I will discuss a little later and lastly but by no means least, Diane remains our rock, she is not just our Manager she is the foundation of the Army Ladies Team and most of all, our friend.
3. The 2019 Season began in March with our annual match against the Army Golf Club. This has always been an important fixture in our calendar as most of the Army Golf Club Team have served themselves and are usually members of the AGA. The match was **XXXXX**
4. Training, Recruitment and Development remain our main focus. We have now sponsored 2 of the Army Squad - Sgt Kim Woodward and LCpl Abi Kennedy to become qualified coaches and we have been regularly been putting them to good use. Not only have they been providing one on one coaching to our team players, but a "Tri-Service" Coaching session has recently been held for "new to golf" players which was a great success and 2 of the attendees have played in the Army Championships this week.
5. Recruitment continues to improve, and more and more golfers are being "captured" at the very earliest stages of their career. An example of this is Pte Niki Sutton who has been recruited from Phase 2 training at Worthy Down, plays off a handicap of 4 and whose home course is Frilford Heath! Through these efforts, should all go to plan and those selected for the Inter Service Squad be released by their Chain of Command, 2019 could be the first year where the Army Ladies Squad would consist of all single figure handicaps.
6. May saw our new annual fixture against Burnham and Berrow GC. This match is played by both Squad and AGA members providing an excellent opportunity for the higher handicappers to receive individual development from the more experienced players. The Match takes place over 2 days and is one of the highlights of the Ladies Calendar. The match was highly contended this year with the final score being **XXXXX**.
7. June saw 3 of the Army Squad represent the UKAFGA against the British Police. Selected to represent the Army were Maj Sue Lambert, LCpl Emma Dann and Tpr Beth Parker, all 3 of whom were presented with their Combined Service Colours post match. This is a testing fixture against a very experienced and highly skilled opposition - played off scratch. The result was **XXXXX**
8. Jun also saw a number of the Ladies take part in the annual AGA versus On Course Foundation Golf Match. The On Course Foundation are a charity whose sole purpose is to support injured veterans through the sport of Golf. An absolutely amazing day spent with inspirational individuals however, I think the competitive edge saw the better of WO1 Claire Ryding who scored an impressive 42 stableford points in the afternoon round - sombrero required I think.
9. July is a busy month for the Ladies with annual fixture versus the Saunton GC Ladies immediately prior to the Army Championships. This fixture has become one of our favourites, the

Ladies are exceptionally welcoming and the Devon tea post-match is definitely worth writing home about - even if we do have to pay for it each year as the losers! The score this year was

10. This year has seen a record number of entrants for the Army Championships. Although not massive numbers in comparison to the Men's competition - the numbers are an indication of how we have grown. In true Saunton style, the Final was a hard fought and exhilarating demonstration of some amazing golf. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] took the game to the [REDACTED] hole where [REDACTED] prevailed with a final score of [REDACTED] to become the Army Ladies Champion 2019.

11. [REDACTED] was the winner of the Bowles Trophy and [REDACTED] won the handicap competition for the Saunton Bowl, but my congratulations go to all players for not only the standard of golf, but the level of sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the week.

12. Our matches versus the British Police and the NAPGC in July and August respectively give us the opportunity to field our strongest team in preparation for the Inter Services in September. The matches are played off scratch and allow us to cement our pairings and build on an already strong team ethos. They are an invaluable test for the team and no doubt assisted us in our retention of the Inter Service Trophy.

13. September will see us 'go for the treble' at Enfield Golf Club. Although superior on paper, we do not take for granted that the RAF and Navy want to win and we will attack the championships with the same passion, commitment and pride that we have done previously. This is the one event of our year where golf truly becomes a team sport, we win together, or we lose together.

14. None of our achievements would be possible if it weren't for the support we receive - from our sponsors to the AGA, but most importantly it is to the players without whom we wouldn't have a Ladies section. From match playing to caddying, we are truly grateful.

15. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a big thank you to all Corps and Regional Secretaries; as well as AGA members, who continue to identify new golfing talent. I sincerely hope that you will continue to support the Ladies section as we grow from strength to strength.

16. We look forward to 2020 where we will start the season with an overseas tour to Orlando, the 16 players have been picked from both Regular, Reserve and Veterans who are both old hats or are completely new to golf and hope to kick start to another successful year of Army Ladies Golf where I hope to announce that we got the treble!