

**The Motor Trades Golfing Society  
Annual General Meeting  
26 March 2004  
St George's Hill, Weybridge**

**Minutes**

The President Tony Worthy was in the chair and was accompanied by the Golf Manager, Ray Fisher and Lionel Squire, who acted as Secretary. Thirty seven members were present in total.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from committee members B Lowe and M Evans.

**Minutes of Meeting Held on 7 March 2003**

These were agreed as a true record and signed as such by the President. Geoffrey Dove claimed that he had previously raised concerns about the possibility of ladies being invited to become members.

**Matters Arising**

**Committee Structure.**

Should read as "Immediate Past President plus the two most recent Past Presidents."  
(GD)

**Surplus Funds**

Concern expressed about unnecessary surplus funds. (AW)

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Proposal to hold an exclusive lunch had been scrapped in favour of engaging a prestigious speaker for the annual dinner. Henry Blofeld booked.

**Subscriptions**

To be fixed at £50 without rebates, this for administrative simplicity. There was a comment from the floor that the financial health of the society should obviate the need for a £50 subscription.

John Feltham asked if MTGS could subsidise fees at some of the more expensive courses. The society already subsidises seniors.

M Newman suggested that late cancellations should forfeit entry fees. RF said that refunds are only given if the society receives one.

### **Lady Members**

L Squire outlined the case for admitting ladies to the MTGS which centred around:

- 1) There are now women in prominent positions within the industry.
- 2) MTGS is a golf society, not a men's club.
- 3) It is illegal to discriminate on various grounds, including sex.
- 4) Professional women are a part of life.
- 5) MTGS needs to reflect the changing society in which we live.
- 6) Other societies are up to date eg Byfleet Rabbits and Tablers Society (BRATS) which currently has a lady captain.
- 7) Unless constituted as a private men's club, MTGS should admit suitably qualified women.

A heated debate followed, during which various arguments, both for and against, were aired. In summary:

- 1) MTGS should endorse. The oil industry golf society has admitted women. MTGS cannot flout the law. (J Bamberg)
- 2) G Dove expressed his dissatisfaction with the current direction of the society eg one society now rather than two, the loss of Dickie Mobbs, extra meetings and the move of the AGM away from the Royal Thames Yacht Club. He disagreed with the presentation made by LGS. He had spoken to the R&A, who "will not pontificate on societies." He claimed that the Equal Opportunities Commission had stated that 100% male membership was in order. He also said "One lady member will change the rules, don't spoil the society."
- 3) The name of the society is MTGS. The industry has changed for the better, the motion should be supported. (This comment was made by an un named member with nine years membership.
- 4) M Humphrey asked why there had been no postal ballot.
- 5) RF urged the meeting to "forget the legal issues and vote on the proposal."

The following comments came from the floor:

- The society "is not broken, why fix it?"
- Set up a separate ladies section.
- Set up a ladies division.
- If there is no constitution why change anything?

Finally, the meeting voted by fifteen to nine to reject the proposal, (only about eight per cent of the membership had decided this important issue.)

### **President's Report**

The President's report was outlined in full on the society's web-site.

In summary Tony Worthy had enjoyed his year and thanked the members for their support. He was particularly grateful to Ray Fisher for his support and thanked Brian Lowe for his contribution as Dinner Secretary. The golfing season had enjoyed mainly good weather but this had not reflected in the society's results. Tony praised the efforts of the helpers at the various meetings.

### **Golf Manager's Report**

This report was also reproduced in full on the web-site.

In summary:

2004 was a learning curve with new management and the newly amalgamated society. Membership is healthy at 179. 2003 was a good year financially. The dinner made a small loss. The new £50 subscription will add about £5,800 to income and 2004 is expected produce a similar financial position.

GD asked where the £600 reserve for cups and trophies had gone. RF confirmed that the amount had been taken back into funds.

The accounts were proposed by Geoffrey Dove, seconded by Ron Young and approved by the meeting.

R Young was proposed as Honorary Auditor by Tony Worthy and seconded by John Thompson. He was elected unanimously.

### **The Millenium Trophy**

Was awarded to John Lindblom, for outstanding service to the society. Proposed by Tony Worthy and seconded by John Thompson.

### **President 2004**

Nick Kingsbury was unanimously elected.

In his acceptance speech he expressed pride in his appointment. He welcomed everyone to St George's Hill and stated that the committee's priority was to serve the members. He was looking forward to the season and especially the President's match at Trevoise.

### **President-elect**

Peter Featherstone was proposed by Lionel Squire, seconded by Tony Worthy and elected unanimously.

### **Any Other Business**

There was a discussion on the location of the AGM and whether or not two rounds of golf could be included in future. 27 holes is however the norm for St George's Hill and we had received a special price as we were sharing the course with two other societies. The AGM had been moved to the new venue and included with the Spring Meeting in an effort to increase attendance.

T Madden asked that the new format be retained and said that it had been "the best and most contentious AGM" he could remember. The society needs debate he added.

Another member suggested that an 18:30 start for the AGM be tried.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11:45.

**LGS/MTGS**