



Club AGM 2020

Maurice Salzmann – President's report

It has been an honour to have been President of Exeter Golf and Country Club and I hope that I will be judged as having done a reasonable job of trying my best to reflect and represent what I hope I have understood correctly of the needs, interests and aspirations of its varying section members.

To state the obvious, it has been a different, and difficult, year for all of us.

I have actually been in post for just shy of 14 months, the AGM having been moved from the previous start of January to late February. And it is intended that this should now be on-going for future years. Apologies to those who may regret this break with tradition but, speaking as one who has always been happy to review and evolve working practice according to need, the change does make sense. To me at least. Christmas and New Year are normally busy times when we all have a lot to occupy ourselves already, without also having to co-ordinate the arrangements for an AGM. More pertinently, the shift to being run nearer to the financial, rather than calendar, year allows the President and his, or her, Club Committee to interact consistently with the Board up to the point of new subscription decisions for the end of March rather than change and only fully come into the discussions late in the day.

Despite all the limitations imposed courtesy of the coronavirus pandemic I believe you can see from the golf, tennis and squash and racketball sports section reports, that you should have had a chance to read, how they have remained buoyant. With good membership numbers retentions despite the restrictions, and excellent underpinning coaching and player development structures. Their profiles, achievements and ambitions all remain high with every hope to further build on these as we are hopefully allowed to emerge into a new normality and continue to develop the Club's facilities, membership, sporting successes and reputations.

By no means was it a vintage year for charitable fund raising. However, during the Summer break between lockdowns it did prove possible to run men's and ladies' President's golf days and, with many thanks to the generosity of the players in response to being fed and watered on the 8th tee, I did manage to raise a good sum of money which was passed on to Hospiscare. This wasn't my originally nominated charity but I felt it appropriate to make the change in response to circumstance. Given the limitations over the year of being able to fully use up my annual subscription benefit for sponsorship of events and prizes across the Club I will be making an additional personal donation to Taw Coronary Care Unit Trust Fund at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital for purchase of another comfy bedside patient chair.

My thanks go to this year's Club Committee for their inputs and support. Notably, but not only, Gael who never shies away from providing me with guidance as all good wives do for their husbands. At this point I am sure that it would be traditional to produce a large bouquet of flowers. But this year being

what it is you will just have to trust me that this will happen at some appropriate point and I will then just have to face up to her questioning what I have done wrong this time to justify me giving her them.

Best wishes to incoming President Vic. Enjoy your year in office. I'm sure you will.

Well done to Chris Jones and his staff for their management of the Club and its facilities within the limitations of the ever changing restrictions we have had to live with.

Well done also to Club Chairman Will Gannon for the regular members' e-mail updates explaining what was happening and why. Some may not immediately recognise this, but the information is there to be read. Finally my best wishes go to the Board of Directors for the undoubtedly hard decisions they are having to make for us over the short to medium term in trying to secure and develop the facilities and financial futures of Exeter Golf and Country Club as it plans to recover from the adverse operational consequences of Covid.

Stay safe.

Vic Fox – President

Proposed – Roger Ellis

Vic has been a member of our Club for 45 years. He has been a keen, active, and charming contributor throughout. Vic was an excellent cricketer in earlier years until he realised that his bowling skills were struggling! So he took up golf instead, together with his wife Mary, who I know will be a great support throughout his year.

Having been in business during his working life, I am sure he will have a balanced and good understanding of the many facets of our special and excellent Club.

I have no hesitation in proposing Vic to be our President this year.

Seconded – Liz Turner

"I have known Vic for about 40 years through work and golf. I am happy to support his nomination as I feel he has all the relevant attributes to give full commitment, time and enthusiasm to the role of Club President. I have no hesitation in seconding Vic as President and wish him a very successful and enjoyable year."

Vic Fox – acceptance report

Thank you to Roger (Ellis) and Liz (Turner) for their proposing and seconding of me to be your President for the coming year 2021, and the support I have received from many members. It is a huge privilege for me, and I hope I am able to rise to the challenge of representing the Club and you, the members. I will do my very best.

Before I say any more I would like to thank Maurice for the way he has been able to deal with the difficulties of this last year as President. Like all of us, he could not have imagined this would be a year with no socialising, not even a beer or a glass of wine after a meeting. They were almost all on Zoom, so thank you, Maurice, and I hope that you will be able to enjoy your golf and tennis this year.

I joined the Club in 1975, along with Mary, my wife. Since then I have served on the Seniors' Golf Committee, and had the privilege of being the Seniors' Golf Captain, and am also currently on the Golf Pro-Am Committee. As you might imagine, I have seen many changes over the years, leading to where we are today, or perhaps I should say to where we were this time last year before Covid came into our lives. Like all of us, I am hoping this year will return to some normality, and that we will be able to enjoy our sports and other activities. It will be a difficult year with the Club having suffered a loss of revenue, which surely we are all aware of, but if we all pull together we can return the Club to those pre-Covid days. This means we can all enjoy our sports, and socialising, and continuing to build on friendships old and new.

I hope, as President, I will be able to play my part in it, and I look forward to the coming twelve months.

My Charity for the year is the Exeter Foodbank. This is a local organisation helping those most in need who are unable to put food on the table, and this year the Exeter Foodbank has experienced a greater demand from families from all walks of life.

Max Goodison – Vice President

Proposed – Les Nicks

Max Goodison is a popular member of the club's tennis section having joined it around 10 years ago. As an accomplished player with over 40 years' experience, he has played in our club's tennis teams ever since joining. In addition, he has been a Devon County tennis team member for the over 50's, the over 60's and is currently Captain of the over 65's. He keeps young and fit through his tennis and still having a child of school age.

Max is semi-retired from a career in financial services, specialising in technology in the banking sector. He is now a part time lecturer in the Business School at Exeter University

In 2012 Max was invited to join the club's Board and served on it for 7 years.

I first met Max when attending Board meetings as Club President and I am very confident that he will make an excellent Vice President in supporting our next President through what will inevitably be a difficult time for the club and most importantly, it's members.

Seconded - Carol Horgan

I have pleasure in seconding Max Goodison as Vice President of the Club and wish him an enjoyable and successful year.

Club Committee – Luke van Zijl

Proposed – Mark Starling

Please can I propose Luke van Zijl for the vacancy on the Club Committee.

He is an active family member, who makes use of many aspects of the club (rackets membership, sports bar, family hospitality areas and the swimming pools) and is therefore in an ideal position to comment on them.

He is a firm supporter of developing the Club's facilities and I have always found him constructive in his views on how this can best be achieved.

Luke will be a great asset to the Committee.

Seconded – Manish Gandhi

I am delighted to second Luke Van Zijl for the club committee. He is an avid all-round user of the club. He has a young growing family, and will be a tremendous asset to the club committee for contemporary relevant ideas for the club's development. I am glad that he has stepped forward and volunteered for this position, bringing in much needed 'young blood'.

I am very happy to provide additional support if required but have no hesitation whatsoever in recommending Luke. He has great character.

Club Committee – Hannah Oram

Proposed – Alex Dolphin

I would like to propose Hannah Oram to be a member of the Club Committee. I have known Hannah for six years, as a fellow mum and good friend. She would make an excellent committee member for many reasons.

Hannah is an active and energetic person who takes a keen interest in the local community. She is passionate about health and well-being and actively promotes these. She is a friendly, kind and generous person who gets along well with others. She is intelligent, thoughtful and a good listener. These qualities would be beneficial in the role as a Club Committee member.

I would thoroughly recommend Hannah onto the committee.

Seconded – Dayna Ivory

I would like to second Hannah's application for club committee member. I have known Hannah for many years as my husband worked with her and her husband Richard at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital many years ago. Our children are now in the same class and so I have had an opportunity to get to know Hannah more over the past 6 years. She has been active in the school representing the class at the school PTA meetings and we have worked together in reproducing schoolchildren's artwork on the school's Recycling shed. She cares about people, is socially and environmentally aware of our impact and has energy and enthusiasm to take on new challenges.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need further information. Our family have been members for several years since moving to a neighbouring property of the club and so we are invested in ensuring it's continued success.