

## Secretary's Report

It is not normal for a Secretary's Report to be made at an AGM, but we live in exceptional times and it does no harm to look back to last April and forward to next April. The Financial Report made by the Financial Director only covers the 2019/20 Financial Year.

As you know I took over from John Stokes when he unexpectedly resigned – of course he left everything in good order. The Clubhouse was virtually finished when I took over, but it was eerily quiet because it and the course was closed due to Covid-19. We had already decided not to furlough the Greens staff which meant that when the course did open again it was ready for play straight away.

When the course did re-open, initially there were restrictions in play and on the course, and we were forced to have a tee booking system for the first time - thanks to Derek Bates and others we were able to adapt the Howdidido system for our use and they also helped Members where necessary. When we could accept Green Fees again the booking operation was then based in the Office, causing considerable strain initially, and my thanks go to Steve and Mel for their help in the office and those who manned the Starters table. I also have to mention John Wegner whose practical help every day was invaluable.

The Clubhouse was allowed to re-open in May with restrictions, which meant that the kitchen and more importantly the Bar could re-open, which provided us with some much needed additional income. In this period we also received a Grant from Canterbury Council and the Government announced that the Business Rates for the current year would reduce to nil. This greatly improved our financial position for this current year.

Unfortunately, we have still not been able to use the clubhouse for Matches, Club social evenings or parties for non-members (and even Annual General Meetings!), which overall has greatly reduced our income. This is not likely to change in the near future and we cannot realistically budget for any improvement next year.

So we have reached November and things have quietened down in the office and we can think again about the future. We will have a new President and Secretary soon and I hope you will give them the support they will need at this difficult time.

Financially I think we will be OK this year, and the main problems will come from April 2021 onwards. We have a substantial loan secured by the Club House in West Cliff, we will probably have to start paying rates again, and we will not get another Grant, but my main concern is the 25% discount in Subscriptions rates offered to existing Members last March when the epidemic was at its worst. This equates to a reduction in Income of c £40/50 K and I do not believe the Club can afford this next year. We need to discuss the alternatives available

And let's hope that in 2021 we can hold a wonderful celebration party in our fantastic new clubhouse (after we have had a grand opening of course).