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CHARITY EVENING KICK STARTS YEAR FOR NEW CAPTAINS ALAN BAILEY AND ANGELA SIMPSON

On Saturday 2 December 130 members and guests joined Alan Bailey (Club Captain) and Angela Simpson (Ladies Captain) to mark the beginning of their year in office.

The evening included a 2 course meal and 2 excellent, varied performances from Jason Isaacs, N E premier swing vocalist and saxophonist. Between performances a raffle was held in aid of Alan's and Angela's Joint charity, The Alzheimer's Society.

Overall the event raised a fantastic £1175 for The Alzheimer's Society and Alan and Angela would like to thank everyone who contributed by way of buying tickets or donating prizes for their remarkable generosity.

They would also like to thank Lesley and the catering and bar staff for their hard work and for providing an excellent meal.

The launch event proved to be a great success, which will be followed by more entertainment and fund raising in 2018.



THE 59 CLUB

The 59 Club will commence at the beginning of January and will run for 20 weeks. The winning number will be the National Lottery Bonus Ball each week. For £20 the winner receives £35 – not a bad return. If you haven't chosen a number yet please see Angela Simpson or Jackie Price – there are only a few left. All profit will go to the Joint Captains' Charity – The Alzheimer's Society.

Good Luck everyone.



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AGM REPORT AND DECISIONS

Thanks to the 43 Members who braved the cold and dark to attend our annual AGM. Our accounts, minutes of last years AGM and Agenda with proposals were circulated prior to the meeting.

Members heard that this has been a good year for BAGC. We have seen continued improvement to the course and club house, ongoing modernisation of our systems including the new on line booking system, tremendous success across all our teams and players and a high level of satisfaction from Members and visitors. We have significantly increased our investment on “the course” whilst avoiding overdraft facilities. We have also managed some very challenging and complex issues such as the change of catering providers and new buggy arrangements. Thanks to all members of the committee, staff and the many volunteers who freely commit their time and energy to our club.

We continue to grapple with the many complex challenges facing all golf clubs in a positive and optimistic manner. These include issues such as “how to address falling membership, how to maintain investment without a huge increase in subscriptions, how to deal with changing demographics and an aging population and how to generate more income from under-utilised resource – course and club house to limit subscription increases?

We all look forward to celebrating our 125th anniversary in 2019 and invite Members to get involved initially by way of submitting ideas as to how we can make the most of the year.

In response to the presentations from the Committee Members a number of points were made with two in particular requiring further consideration.

- **On line booking system** - Whilst the benefits of this system for the club as a whole were noted some Members were concerned about:
 - Members who do not have easy access to a computer or other means of accessing the on line system are being disadvantaged. On busy days the “prime” times are taken. What can be done to prevent them feeling like “second rate citizens?”
 - What should be done about Members who do not keep to the allocated times, either by going off early (leaving spaces for others) OR signing up and not turning up to play. Members want the Committee to do more to monitor this matter and take action against inappropriate users.
- **Slow Play**

Some Members were unhappy with the content and tone of letters/emails they had received for slow play feeling that it was unjustified. It was pointed out that 2 competitions had been monitored by the games committee and anyone taking more than 3.45 hours had been sent an email about slow play. This had been done with an educational not punitive intention to remind everyone of the importance of keeping up with play. Hopefully all Members will support our efforts to ensure slow play is tackled.

All sub group reports were subsequently duly accepted.

Our outgoing Captain, Terry Stansfield presented a cheque to a representative of his chosen charity CHUFF (Children's Heart Foundation) for £2750.00 and thanked members for their generosity. He also introduced our Captain for 2018 Alan Bailey. He in turn introduced his vice-captain as Tony Davis.

Proposals

There were 5 proposals as the one relating to changing our social membership category was withdrawn.

- 1) Subscription Increase DECISION – Proposal Supported.**
- 2) Focus on Juniors DECISION – Proposal Supported.**
- 3) Focus on Female Members Decision – Proposal Supported.**
- 4) Rule 34 change Decision – Proposal Not Supported.**
- 5) Honorary Membership**

The proposal to grant Honorary Membership to Anthea Rowntree in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the club over many years was overwhelmingly supported.

GOLFING SUCCESS interview by Liz Bailey

Bishop Auckland Golf Club may not have very many lady members but we do have the two best players in the county in our young girls Jessica Hall and Briony Bayles. Both girls have continued to improve and succeed throughout the year but don't take my word for it, read the results for yourself.

Briony is the younger of the two girls and currently studying for her A levels in psychology, maths and further maths which she will finish next year. Despite working hard towards this she has still managed to fit in plenty of golf which brought the following successes:

Winner of the DCLGA County Championship 2017

Junior County Championship runner up

Finished 5th nationally in the Royal Birkdale Scratch with two rounds under par of 2 under and 1 under

Made it into the top 64 match play stages in the British Girls

Finished tied 13th in the English Girls Championship at Littlestone Golf Club

Made the cut at the Irish Girls Championship at the beginning of the year

Placed 14th in the Delamere Comboy Scratch in March

Finished tied 21st in the Scottish Girls Championship at Montrose Golf Club

Briony is also part of the Durham County Ladies Team and has started her second year of England Regional coaching. At the time of writing her handicap is +0.3. She has also most recently been elected Junior County Captain.

Briony's aspirations are to continue building on her success together with completing her A levels with the aim of signing up to go to university in America, hopefully with a scholarship.



Several colleges have already expressed an interest in her, offering her sponsored visits and she hopes to have made her choice early next year. I know she wants to study engineering at college but ultimately she wants to become a professional golfer and I'm sure she will succeed. She is under no illusion about how challenging it will be to achieve her goals – but she is willing to work hard for what she wants.

Jessica Hall has had what has been described as a breakthrough year. She finished her studies in the summer and left sixth form college to take a year out before going to America next September where she has gained a scholarship to Fresno State University. Her successes this year are as follows:

Won the Critchley Salver at Sunningdale

Finished 3rd at the Irish Girls

Holds 4 course records this year, including Royal Birkdale

Won Durham and North East Schools

Won the Junior County Championship

County Ladies Strokeplay Champion

DCLGA County Championship runner up

Finished 2nd at Northern Ladies

Won the Junior Championship at Brancepeth

Made the cut at both the British Ladies, 29th overall and 41st at British Girls

Came 8th in the English Girls

Won the Appleby Bowl

Won the Inter-Collegiate Tour finals at Moortown

Finished 18th at the Portugese Ladies

Qualified for the Faldo Series Grand Final in Abu Dhabi (from which she has just returned coming third)

Part of the Durham County Ladies Team

Reached 921 in the World Rankings

Jessica has also been awarded DCLGA Golfer of the year and now plays off +3.

Of her competing in the Final of the Nick Faldo Series, from which she only returned this week, Jessica said it was a great experience. The competitors all had the benefit of coaching sessions with Sir Nick Faldo himself and Jessica personally had a twenty minute session with him and his coach which she believes helped her to shoot her final round under par, finishing third overall. This was no mean feat after carrying her bag in heat of up to 34 degrees.

Beyond all this year's success Jessica is looking forward to joining Fresno next September but in the meantime she will continue her training and competing to consolidate her achievements so far.

I am sure you all wish both girls every success as they forge their golfing careers. . They both work very hard at training, physically and mentally for their golf and deserve the accolades they receive. Their future is bright – their future is Golf. Congratulations to both.

