



MINUTES
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
ELY GOLF CLUB
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
4:30 p.m. – Ely Golf Club

Meeting called to order by President Clewett at 4:32 p.m.

Attendance: Members Present: Kurt Soderberg. Board Members Present: Len Clewett, Frank Guldbrandsen, Linda Enquist VandenBranden (EVB), Scott Drechsler, Adam Hagin, and Lori Casey. Absent: Louie Gerzin. Employees Present: Tim Cooper and Justin Hirdler.

Minutes of September 6, 2022 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously. (m) Guldbrandsen, (s) EVB.

Reports:

Manager (Tim Cooper): 1. 2023 was overall a very good year for the clubhouse. We are up financially in almost every category. Once again, the club lucked out with employees. In light of staff shortages everywhere we seem to always be able to staff the clubhouse. I believe we had a really good team this year. Let's cross our fingers for next year. 2. We had some issues with 16 to 18 year old kids abusing carts and the course. I talked to a couple of them myself and am hoping the issue is solved. 3. The new POS software was quite the pain to learn and train employees but after almost a full summer it seems to be working well. The best part is we do not have to change again next year. 4. I pre-ordered some specific merchandise for next year that might fall into a supply chain issue. 5. This year on heavily attended days, we ran out of carts many times this year. Also, on tourney days we sometimes struggle to have enough carts. We might want to consider the pros and cons of another leased cart or two? 6. The raising of our green fees and cart rentals was a success this year. As far as I know not one person complained. 7. I stopped ordering all perishables for the year to reduce waste. With that said your favorite beverage might not be in stock. Also, no merchandise or clothing will be purchased for the rest of the year. 8. I would like to thank all the members for their patronage and support to the club! Let's have a great winter and an early spring! Comments: The board thanked Tim for running a successful night tournament, helping with all other events, and for his expertise managing a well-run clubhouse.

Motions: 1. "Require all rental cart drivers to be 18 years or older." Discussion: many other courses require drivers to be 18 years of age. Cart and course damage this year was caused by students under the age of 18. Motion passed unanimously. (m) Casey, (s) EVB.

2. "In 2024, add two motorized carts to the present fleet per manager recommendation." Motion approved unanimously. (m) EVB, (s) Guldbrandsen.

Superintendent (Justin Hirdler): 1. Have not noticed any further damage on the course-the youth damage issue seems to be solved. In a week or so the maintenance staff will be punching and verticutting turf areas as part of winter course preparation. I will notify Casey as to which days the course will be closed so members may be notified. One of our staff members has returned to school so hopefully Sam and Mark are still here to help with winter preparation. 2. Renovations of several tee boxes, fixing roots especially under tee boxes #5 and #6 and trenching work on holes #6 and #8 are items on my list to accomplish. Irrigation on four has been a struggle this season. It will be torn apart again and hopefully repaired. It really needs to be re-routed to avoid the leak. Hole #9 forward tee box area is another continuous irrigation struggle. Course closure in 2023 will be whenever the weather dictates a closure. 3. Hole #9 will need a new design for flowers. Moving the advertising sign to make it more visible is not cost effective. State Farm will receive another year of advertising on this hole. Casey will send the Beautification chairs a note regarding plant placement. 4. Justin thanked the Commercial League for the purchase of a weed Wacker (trimmer). Comments: Soderberg added the greens are very good and knows of several players who appreciated having the benches returned to the grounds. The board praised Justin for his

course maintenance again this season. The greens continue to be the best in this area and visitors and members remark on how “true” the greens are putting.

President (Len Clewett): 1. Thank you: (a) Hirdler and Cooper-the course, clubhouse duties and budgeting were well done again this season. (b) EVB for completing important tasks regarding securing hole, scorecard and tournament sponsors and successfully running four of our tournaments. (c) We are fortunate to have numerous volunteers. Curt Johnson and Bob Artisensi put numerous hours assisting with course maintenance-tree removal, clearing, etc. Appreciation also to the beautification committee, other course volunteers, youth golf coaches, helpers, league chairs and employees. 2. The clubhouse deck is near completion. Thank you to a large project crew including designers, builders assistances and tree trimmers: Scott Magie; Curt Johnson; Warren Nikola; Ward Patterson; Brooks Shepard; Sarah Clewett; Tim Cooper; Dan Perko; Rich Dunstan; Dave Janeksela; and Chris Norman. The deck will be a bit over budget. Materials were purchased locally with a better warranty at 25 years and the railing will be cable system. [A huge thanks from the board to deck chair Len Clewett.] 3. Financially it has been a good year for Ely Golf Club. We have more members and income has increased more than in 2023. Looking ahead we have work to do on tee boxes, improve/replace the outside bathroom on hole four and irrigation work throughout the course-especially by hole four. 4. After discussion, the board postponed taking any action on adding a vinyl floor to the ladies’ room until they check with a floor professional. Drainage and not having a level surface may be a barrier. The Ladies League requested permission from the manager to finance and make cosmetic changes to the bathroom. They propose adding a vinyl floor, accent furniture and updating the wall covering.

Treasurer and Events (Linda Enquist VandenBranden): Finances: Increases in Green Fees 13.7%; Membership 17.8%; Food/Pop/Water 22.6%; and Rentals 21.9%. The club had predicted a 10% increase in income but are happy to report the total income increased 16.2%. Thank You: 1. Bob Artisensi, Len Clewett, and Kurt Soderberg for their financial leadership (the board thanks EVB as well). 2. Ely Area Golf Foundation Board (EAGFB) for their upcoming endowment. 3. Town of Morse and Fall Lake Townships for donations to support golf in Ely. 4. Sponsors of scorecards and hole ads. Financials on pages 3-4.

Events: Tournaments have been successful this year. We made a profit of approximately \$1,700.00. The Night tournament may have a new tournament date next year, it presently competes with another local event. Thanks to all the sponsors, players and volunteers who help with the tournaments.

Ely Area Golf Foundation Board (Kurt Soderberg): Committee consisted of Barb Soderberg, Chair; Kurt Soderberg, Steve Hall, Ruth Logar and Gary Klug. Kurt Soderberg, on behalf of the EAGFB summarized the dissolution of the committee and stressed the need for Clewett and Cooper to contact Barb Soderberg to finalize the fund transfer. Their committee is glad the Ely Board made a resolution to utilize the principle to improve and maintain essential course and playing conditions.

Reports Submitted – included below

Election Results: Member Kurt Soderberg counted the ballots-verified by the board secretary. Clewett thanked Frank Guldbrandsen for his three-year commitment as a Board Members. He did not seek re-election. Four members placed their name on the ballot. Seventy ballots were cast, 135 ballots included two votes and 5 ballots had one vote-no write-ins. Len Clewett was re-elected and Dave Schmidt earned the second seat. Both will serve a three-year term ending after the annual meeting in September 2026. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all willing to run for a board position.

Next Meetings: Annual Meeting: September 2024 – day to be announced next summer.

Reorganizational meeting: October 10th, clubhouse, 4:30 pm.

Regular Board meeting: October 10th, clubhouse-following the reorganizational meeting – 4:50 p.m.

ASSETS - Balance Sheet Document	Jan - Sept 11 2023	Jan - Sept 11 2022	Difference
Checking Account	\$78,367.47	\$60,209.98	30.2%
Capital (Mower Purchase)	\$24,020.02	\$43,789.85	-45.2%
Savings Account	\$43,479.61	\$43,195.23	0.7%
Youth Savings	\$7,352.10	\$7,352.10	0.0%
Cash on Hand	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.0%
Petty Cash	(\$1.00)	(\$1.00)	0.0%
TOTAL CASH-SAVINGS	\$154,218.20	\$155,546.16	-0.9%
PROFIT & LOSS COMPARISON			
	Jan - Sept 11 2023	Jan - Sept 11 2022	Difference
INCOME			
Green Fees Total	\$74,222.60	\$65,277.46	13.7%
Total Leagues & Donations	\$2,970.87	\$6,520.30	-54.4%
Membership			
Adult	\$32,252.83	\$25,740.39	25.3%
Couples	\$18,377.00	\$13,446.00	36.7%
Other (Incentive, etc.)	\$17,801.55	\$20,894.72	-14.8%
Student	\$2,328.00	\$944.00	146.6%
<i>Subtotal Membership</i>	\$70,759.38	\$61,025.11	
Youth Program	-\$186.36	\$647.50	128.8%
Cart Rental	\$9,886.36	\$8,260.00	19.7%
Trail Fees	\$9,556.58	\$7,300.00	30.9%
Total Membership	\$90,015.96	\$77,232.61	17.8%
Pro Shop	Jan - Sept 11 2023	Jan - Sept 11 2022	Difference
Total Spirits	\$14,573.98	\$11,668.48	23.3%
Clothing	\$4,420.03	\$4,531.80	2.5%
Food	\$1,575.50	\$1,363.88	15.5%
Pop-Water	\$4,464.28	\$3,562.57	25.3%
Merchandise	\$8,977.64	\$7,200.76	24.7%
Hole Sponsors	\$1,395.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Score Card Sponsors	\$240.00	-\$840.00	128.6%
Total Pro Shop	35,646.43	27,487.49	27.60
Rentals	\$44,473.29	\$36,494.69	21.9%
Tournaments	\$12,738.93	\$11,084.58	14.9%
Total Income	\$260,254.44	\$223,892.43	16.2%
Total Cost of Goods	\$19,252.94	\$23,416.71	17.8%

GROSS PROFIT	\$241,001.50	\$200,475.72	20.2%
EXPENSES			
Clubhouse-Payroll, Supplies, Etc.	\$71,594.64	\$70,363.10	1.8%
Grounds-Payroll, Supplies, Repair, Etc.	\$93,878.84	\$87,500.01	7.3%
Projects	\$3,414.26	\$128.72	2552.5%
Rental of Golf Carts	\$14,657.70	\$11,700.00	25.3%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$183,545.44	\$169,691.83	8.2%
Net Ordinary Income	\$57,456.06	\$30,783.89	86.6%
Net Other Income/Expenses- Examples: Raffle \$5,000; Fall Lake Township\$700; Morse Township \$500; other.	\$7,375.87	\$7,465.96	-1.2%
NET INCOME (as of Sept 11, 2023)	\$64,831.93	\$38,249.85	69.5%

Ely Women's Golf – 2023 Co-chair Michelle Young

The women's golf group has 41 members and welcomed a number of new members to our league this year. We were an active group playing on Mondays with a shot gun start at 4 pm followed by supper in the clubhouse with a typical departure time of 7 pm. Tim Cooper led a well-received chipping clinic on August 7th prior to our tee time with 16 of our members participating. Our year ended on August 28th with the annual Golden Gal scramble which was cut short during play due to a thunderstorm.

We have established an email address for our league to maintain the continuity of communication due to our annual leadership changes. The address to use for Ely Women's Golf is: elywomensgolf@gmail.com.

In addition to our league payment to the club of \$500 we have remaining memorial funds (\$8,100) from Royleen Tipton to improve the forward tee on hole #6. A tribute rock is being engraved and additional landscaping/beautification is being coordinated by Mary Mills and Ruth Logar with the club.

The annual meeting of the group voted/approved to update the clubhouse ladies' bathroom. The project has received positive endorsement from Tim Cooper and we have requesting approval from the Club Board of Directors before proceeding with the project. Upon approval the ladies will be replacing the carpeting with vinyl flooring and painting. The work to be done by volunteers during the off season.

The co-chairs for 2024 are Mary Casey-Levar and Deb Mickelson. Diane Thompson will serve as treasurer.

Beautification Committee – Chairs Barb Soderberg and Karen Dahl.

The board approved \$200 for the purchase of flowers for the big round garden, flagpole garden, hanging flowers by the clubhouse door and patio pots. The Couples and Ladies Leagues donated funds to help with cost as well. Volunteers are mostly members from the couple's league. The volunteers donate the flowers on their assigned holes and are responsible for watering. The clubhouse cares for plants near the clubhouse. Volunteers: Diane Vertin; Nancy & John Hanson; Mary Beth & Brooks Shepard; Len and Sarah Clewett (2 holes); Jo and Kevin Lawler; Barb Hall; Michelle & David Young; Diane Thompson; Ruth Logar; Mary Levar; Sylvia LeMaster; Karen Dahl and Barb Soderberg.

Couples League – Kurt Soderberg

The Couples League began preseason play in May and opened the regular season on June 2nd, 2023 and ended on September 1, 2023 when our tee time block ended. Smaller groups of couples will continue to play during the fall with regular tee times. After a great deal of discussion, our tee time block prior to our 4:00 pm start was scaled back to allow more play by others. We believe we can work with this change. The league also worked with the clubhouse to open tee times during our reserved league time as long as league play was not impeded. Non-

league individuals, although following our league groups, may be able to tee off sooner than in previous years if space is available.

We had 16 paid member couples this season, with others past members and guest joining us periodically. The league is actively recruiting new members, and gained two new couples this season. We typically filled at least five to six holes with our modified shotgun start. We plan to play again next season with more activities in the clubhouse after our rounds, as well as dining out in local restaurants from time to time.

The league members remain active in all aspects of the Ely Golf Club, from coordinating the flower beds on the course to active membership on the Board, Board Committees, and had several chairs and representatives on the Ely Area Golf Foundation Board. Due to dissolution of the EAGFB a large endowment is being passed to the Ely Golf Board this season.

Youth Golf Report – Len Clewett

The 2023 youth golf camp was held June 13-16 with 35 participants, including 20 first timers. Tim Cooper, Frank Gulbrandsen, Jo and Kevin Lawler, Ward Patterson, Brooks Shepard, Kurt Soderberg, Ray Theobald and David and Michelle Young volunteered their time as camp coaches. Karen Dahl and Diane Vertin provided treats for the youth on Friday. Kurt Johnson provided over 300 experienced balls for the youth camp. Len Clewett organized the camp assisted by Lori Casey.

The youth were provided putting, chipping and swing skills training during the four-day camp. Ten older youth participated in a course etiquette discussion which allowed them to play without an adult. Seven new sets of clubs were purchased in 2023. An estimated 10 sets will be required in 2024 to replace older sets. The youth golf checking account ends the year at approximately \$7,000.

2023 Handicap Committee - Lori Casey

Fifteen members of Ely Golf Club purchase MGA memberships with access to the GHIN System. Committee: Chair Jim Townsend, Barb Soderberg and Lori Casey (non-voting member). Local Rules may be found on the club website-menu "Course". More members have USGA handicaps but purchase their membership elsewhere.

Ely Area Golf Foundation Board - The foundation was incorporated in 2004 with objectives to improve and support Ely Golf Club golf along with promoting the sport as a recreational activity. There have been several donors to the foundation who supported the club and its activities in three general categories above \$10,000, \$5,000, or \$1,000. Donations were invested and its successful growth has provided essential capital to our club. Donors are recognized on plaques inside the Ely Golf Club. In past years the Foundation Committee has been extremely active soliciting contributions. However, in the last few years donations have declined, volunteer committee members find it difficult to monitor the fund properly due to their own time commitments, knowledge and loss of John Sadler. The fund has been invested with Edward Jones for several years and recently Sadler has been their primary fiduciary member. Considering all the present events, the Foundation Committee made the unanimous decision to dissolve. Based on their bylaws, funds must be transferred to the Ely Golf Club. In preparing for the transfer the golf board adopted a resolution to manage the investment fund.

Senior Men's League - The league is chaired by Dave DuFresne. It has approximately 22 members. Each week players participate in a scramble event. After golf Ronnie DuFresne prepares a delicious meal. There are usually five or six groups teeing off on Wednesday's at 3 pm. Members have the opportunity to enter the Range Senior Golf League events. That league is made up of nine small towns in Northeastern Minnesota. During the season each town hosts a four-man scramble event. Ely sr. men host their tournament in early August at our club.

Commercial League – Approximately 81 members participate in the Commercial League. Brian Olson is the chair. Weather dependent, sixteen events are played on Monday evenings beginning at 5:15 p.m. Individual players are part of a team sponsored by a local business. Yearly, the league generously provides project volunteers and monetary gifts to the club and also supports the Superintendent with equipment purchases.