# NATO GOLF CLUB President’s Report 2023

The NATO Golf Club (NGC) continued to provide the opportunity for personnel associated with NATO to play golf regularly while interacting across the entire spectrum of our membership. As Max Nielsen pointed out in his Annual Report for 2022, the NGC is special in that it transects the entire NATO community, whether you are on the International Staff or the International Military Staff, in a mission or delegation, of supporting or working with NATO is some other capacity. The NGC builds those bridges, and allows for each member to have a greater awareness of everything that makes NATO the most successful Alliance in history.

My goal for 2023 was simply to provide the best opportunities to interact, get out and play golf together, and I believe we have accomplished that.

**The Executive Committee**

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 25 April 2023, the NGC quorum present confirmed the members of the Executive Committee which had to change due to personnel rotations. Jeff Smith assumed the role of Captain, and I assumed the role as President. Additionally, Ahmed Zinbi and Lars Koreman assumed the roles of Property Manager and Club Secretary respectively. Barbora Rychtarikova assisted both the Property Manager and the Club Secretary as necessary. And of course, Rick Froh continued his steadfast service as the Club Treasurer.

We will again need to make some adjustments to the Executive Committee for the next year. I’m happy to report that we have many new members who want to contribute to the success of the NGC and willing to help out in whatever way is needed to do so.

For 2024, I am proposing the following members and composition of the NGC Executive Committee, to be confirmed at the upcoming AGM on 18 April 2024:

**Club President: Arvid Halvorsen**

**Club Captain: Jeffrey Smith**

**Club Treasurer: Rick Froh**

**Property Manager: Jonathan Gunther**

**Club Secretary: Darryl Rupp**

**Additional Executive Committee Members to assist where needed:**

**Wolfgang Wein, Katrin Wein, Barbora Rychtarikova**

It is great to have so many members willing to be so involved in the success of the NGC!

**Highlights from 2023**

It was an exciting competition year for the NGC, with some very close finishes. I’ll just highlight a few things from the 2022-2023 season, and the start of the 2023-2024 season.

* Our outgoing President, Max Nielsen, was a man on fire with apparently a burning desire to win the President’s Cup! His play was outstanding and he had a fairly wide margin for the win.
* Ken Emerson won the Captain’s Cup, with an impressive net par score at a very difficult golf course, L’Empereur.
* Josh Ellwein became the new Club Champion and also won as the Category 1 Champion at the Club Championship played at Golf Chateau de la Tournette. With the whopping 7 points he gained at this competition, he made the race for the NATO Cup interesting which his final push to the Closing Cup.
* Josh Ellwein also won the Closing Cup, with continued great play.

At the start of the 2023-2024 season:

* Jon Gunther, a new member, walked away with the Barry Carr Memorial Trophy as the winner of the Opening Cup for the NGC.
* The Captain’s Cup as an event was moved to the beginning of the season, and occurred in October 2023. Chan Faymetta took home to cup by just two strokes over Ken as the defending champion.

I’m excited to see how the rest of the 2023-2024 season shapes up!

**Looking Forward to the rest of 2024**

My hope is that the next Executive Committee will be able to build upon what we currently have, and to gain more consistent involvement in NGC activities. To echo the words of our previous president, the turn out for our events and social activities remains modest. I believe that can be a focus moving forward, perhaps starting with communication and enabling NGC members to link up with each other outside of official NGC events.

We are planning a trip to commemorate the NGC 35th Anniversary this year, with new products and merchandise for those that are interested. More information on that will come out soon.

**Final Thoughts**

Everyone in the Executive Committee welcomes your thoughts, ideas, and recommendations. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time.

I extend my gratitude to all those on the Executive Committee this past year, and all of their hard work in support of the NGC.

I hope that all of the NGC members stay safe, stay healthy, and play as much golf as they wish!

Darryl Rupp

President

NATO Golf Club