

President's Annual Report for 2018

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the NATO Golf Club will take place on Friday 25th January 2019 at 1900 hours in one of the function rooms of the new NATO Staff Centre. The short meeting will be followed by a dinner. The NGC Secretary will send out a letter regarding the AGM details shortly and the letter will also be posted on the NGC website, ngolfclub.weebly.com.

As many of you know, our Captain position has been vacant for over a year. This past year the members of the Executive Committee (mainly Rick Froh) filled in as Captain as best we could but it is not sustainable in the future. I have to step down as President in 2019 because I must return to the US for a new assignment in the U.S. State Department. In addition Nikki Hayes must step down as Secretary due to personal reasons. We therefore need nominees for the positions of President, Captain, and Secretary. The two remaining members of the current Committee are willing to stand again for their positions (Rick Froh as Treasurer, and Luc Vandewinckel as Webmaster). All positions must be elected or re-elected each year, so we can accept nominees for those positions as well. And finally, we need to confirm Katrin and Wolfgang Wien as the new Property Managers. By our Constitution, any member may serve on the Committee but the President must be a Regular Member - that is someone serving on a NATO Staff or in a National Delegation. Nominations for any of the Committee posts are to be sent to the Secretary by 21st January 2019.

Allow me to draw your attention to two important points with respect to the current state of the NGC:

1. Your current Executive Committee carried a full planning schedule in 2018 under staffing limitations (15 events). We experienced several event cancellations due to lack of interest (3).
2. The proposed 2019 Program of Events/Fixtures is based on a full Executive Committee (14). If we are unable to fill the Executive positions this month, the number of fixtures will need to be scaled back.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at this important NGC Club event, where we combine business with pleasure. To help us run your Club, we value and need your opinions and contributions. Commitment to the NGC is our number one agenda item going forward for 2019.

Highlights from 2018:

Established an agreement with La Bawette to serve as the home course for the NGC providing reduced membership and green fees for NGC members.

Winners: Celtic Quaich (Jeff DaRin), St. Valentine's Massacre (Robert Draper and Wendy Bashnan), Turkey (Men Dick Zandee, Women Naomi Bedford), Barry Car Trophy at the Opening Cup (Jeff DaRin), Nations Cup (Team USA), Hackers v NGC & MUGS (NGC & MUGS), Tim and Gaby Waugh Open (?), President's Cup (Wendy Bashnan), Club Championship (Jeff DaRin), NGC v IGC (Tied, NGC retains), and Christmas Cracker (David Taylor).

Critical Discussion on the Future:

We have a great group of NATO golfers who are fun to be around and enjoy the fellowship. We are fortunate to have a dedicated Executive Committee who are passionate to support the NGC. We organized a challenging series of events through the Executive and member-sponsored events and we grew the club with almost 10 new members. We are financially stable. This coming year will be the 30th anniversary, but we all have a role to play to get there.

Our ability to get more than 8-10 golfers on the course during events is a continual problem and challenge going forward. For 2019 we are proposing 11 NGC events and 3 non-NGC annual events, such as the Zottegham Open, IT Golf United, and the ADIF Golf Tournament. We have been approached by other several golf groups to participate in competitions, but I am hesitant to take on more with the current poor showings for NGC events.

As our previous president, EJ Herold, pled last year, I request each of us commits to three things: 1) join the Executive Committee (it is not laborious and the Executive is very supportive to each other); 2) make a personal commitment to seek out at least two new players for our club; and 3) record the dates (or weekends) for our 2019 fixtures in your agendas now, with the intent to play at least half of them. As ever, your Executive needs your feedback. If we miss the mark, don't vote with your feet, talk to us! Please email your ideas to us at ngc.golfclub@gmail.com. Finally thanks to my fellow Executive members for their stewardship and support, Rick, Nikki and Luc. And welcome Katrin and Wolfgang to the Team. They are much welcomed and needed reinforcements

Happy golfing!

Wendy Bashnan
NGC President