



2022-04-29

## President's Annual Report for 2021

### Intro.

Almost a year ago we convened the NGC annual general meeting (AGM) virtually via ZOOM due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was initially scheduled for January 29th 2021. And here we are, one year later, - once again mainly due to COVID-19 Restrictions -, we are finally in a position to convene our AGM in person.

I believe most of us still are a bit "COVID-hang-over" from all the restrictions, but I also believe, we are looking towards better circumstances. And not the least: the summer period, great weather and more golf!

The objective of the NGC, "**.. to promote the technical, health and social aspects of the game of golf, by providing the opportunity ... to play golf regularly in Belgium or periodically abroad**" is clear, and remain my top priority.

COVID-19 has again in 2021 had its consequences for our NGC golfing events. Restrictions put in place to keep us all safe and sound have limited our ability to not only conduct competitions per se, but more importantly is has put explicit limits to on our ability to meet, have a drink or a meal, and socialize.

As I stated a year ago, it is my conviction that what makes NGC special and different from a local golf club, is the possibility to get to know other people from the NATO community, see one another outside the confinements of our organizations, and meet and greet spouses, dependents etc.. In short: All members of the NGC should have a fair chance to get out, play golf, have fun, compete and socialize.

And I am determined to keep working towards this aim, and the coming season looks promising.

### The Executive Committee.

As foreseen at the 02 June 2021 AGM, due to expected rotations and fortunate promotions etc., we've had some re-appointments to the Executive Committee. As of today, the EC is composed by:

- **Max A.L.T. Nielsen, as President,**
- **Rich Froh, as our Treasurer,**
- **Darryl Rupp, our Captain,**
- **Ricardo Guerreiro, as our Property Managers.**

Unfortunately, currently the important position as **Club Secretary is vacant.**



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According to our constitution, all positions must be elected or re-elected each year.

Now first and foremost, our dedicated Treasurer, Rick, has willingly accepted to continue yet another year, for which I am truly thankful. Darryl Rupp have picked up the great work of Michael Center, who as our Club Captain, and fortunately, Ricardo Guerreiro, who volunteered to help us as the Property Manager, has also accepted to continue throughout the 2022 season. This February, at very short notice, our Club Secretary, Don Schroeder, had to relocate to Japan thus leaving this position vacant for the time being.

Following the reports from our Executive Committee at the AGM, I'll ask you to confirm the EC as outlined above and ask you to appointment at least one new member to the EC (*To be nominated*).

Following the AGM, the EC will constitute itself and update our website accordingly.

### **Highlights from 2021.**

On the golfing, the COVID restrictions limited the possibilities to play green fee, but also to arrange for social events in connection with our competitions. This in turn limited the chance to fulfill the social objectives of the NGC, which I truly regret. Amongst those was the cancellation of the France Away.

Luckily, ingenuity from our Captain managed to replace most of the affected events with alternative formats, Skins Matches etc., and these events were supported by quite a few golfers. Thank you all for your support in this endeavor.

Today, let me limit myself to a few highlights.

Sunday the 24th of October, on a cold dark morning at La Tournette, 16 brave NATO golfers took on the IGC in our annual IGC match play competition. A fantastic day, which ended in a 10 1/2 points tie between the two teams. With this tie, NGC retained the cup for an excellent 5th year in a row.

Also, as a specific highlight of 2021, we all need to congratulate our 2021 Club Champion, Darryl Rupp, who not only had the lowest gross score, the lowest net score in Category 1, but also fewest putts. Absolutely a worthy new champion. [Cat 2 (16-24): Michael Center]. ([Club Championship Results \(natogolfclub.org\)](https://www.natogolfclub.org))

On 10 July, as we our 2020-2021 season came to a close, we held our Closing Cup, which Berit Nielsen won, but also crown our new NATO Cup Champion, Darryl Rupp. Equally important to our NGC objective, we finished the day with an NGC BBQ at the home of President and Mrs. Berit. A great number of members attended, including those unable to play in the Closing Cup. Wonderful just for once to see everyone together, as things slowly returned to normalcy for a while.



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On 24 November the NGC joined the Staff Center Open Day, a Sport Event at the NATO Staff Center, and spend the day promoting the NGC. Luckily, the Sport Event took place during the month of the NATO Charity Bazaar, and a lot of new potential members stopped by, and challenged themselves on the putting greens. Again, I have to thank the Executive Committee dearly for the effort they put into this, and also for the great support from the NATO Staff Center and our member, Nero Sena, to make this event successful.

Internally, the EC has continued the work of making the **NGC website a One Stop Shop** for all, covering most of our interactions with members. By now, it has provided the Club and Members with numerous advantages: You always know where to look for anything that has to do with NGC activities: Right at your fingertips for most members with a smart phone. To the extent possible, this will be expanded to include payments for tickets for our golf event, annual subscriptions and memberships, and purchases from our shop. This process, over time, will also reduce the work load on the EC through automation, where possible.

### **Ambitions for 2022.**

My ambitions for 2022 – pending continuous positive developments on the COVID-19 front - include more social functions on the top of a solid schedule of events evenly spread throughout the golfing season.

The events can all be found on the website providing all members the possibility to look and plan ahead, and have a fair chance enjoy their membership, the game of golf, and the social side of the NATO community.

As discussed during the 2020 AGM, the new season schedule, running from Summer to Summer, instead of from December through November, should give us better weather and social conditions for our NGC Championships and season finale, and take into account that many members arrive or leave us during the summer period. We believe that the Summer-to-Summer schedule may allow more members to compete throughout and thusly complete the entire season, if they so desire. Finally, it would intuitively invite new members to join us as soon as they arrive, instead of waiting for the start of the next season by December or the New Year.

Additionally, the EC is looking into the opportunity to offer training sessions and pro-clinics for members to join like any other NGC event. This would provide members without a personal club or trainer an opportunity to work on their game, or simply a chance for anyone to enjoy multiple aspects of the fascinating game of golf.



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## **Economy**

The initiative of re-scheduling the NGC competition season was followed by the introduction of 12 month rolling subscriptions. Irrespective of the current very low membership fee, we do not want anybody potentially considering not to join, simply because the season soon may be coming to an end.

The economic status of the NGC will be covered by the Treasurer following the Captains report. All in all, the economy is doing well, and at this time the EC does not see a need to suggest and adjustment of the membership fee.

## **Kit status**

The supplies of merchandise/club kits have been refreshed during the year, and our stocks are fine, but we are indeed looking into new inventory. Details will be covered by the Property Managers written report, but if you have any ideas on what to carry in our shop inventory, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **Engage with the Executive Committee.**

In as much, as the Executive Committee and President hold the responsibility to keep NGC interesting and relevant to members, we welcome ideas and inputs from all members on how to improve the NATO Golf Club. On the webpage you can easily find us all (<https://www.natogolfclub.org/about>) and please don't hesitate to write us a note, if you would like to share thoughts or simply bring something to our attention. We'll keep pursuing the NGC objective, and do our utmost to provide ample opportunities to play golf and/or compete, and enjoy the great company inside the NATO community.

If you happen to know anybody, who possibly would like to join us, please refer them to the NATO Golf Club homepage or any member of the Executive Committee.

**Finally**, many, many thanks to my fellow Executive Committee members for their stewardship and support during a very different and challenging 2020.

**Stay safe and healthy. Happy golfing!**

Sign.

Max A.L.T. Nielsen  
President  
NATO Golf Club