



2021-01-19

President's Annual Report for 2021

Intro.

In my "Welcome back from the Summer Break" – greeting in September 2020, I stated my ambition in pursuance of the objective of the NATO Golf Club, - given the ongoing COVID pandemic: ***Have fun and take care!***

In these times, the latter is a prerequisite for the former, and I think this motto will stay with us for yet some time.

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 will remain my primary focus throughout my tenure.

Now, this clear objective has been challenged by the COVID Pandemic in 2020, to say the least. COVID-19 has made a deep impact on all of us, and has also had its consequences for our NGC golfing events this season. 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.

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.

The Executive Committee.

Following the hand over from Arvid Halvorsen, the Executive Committee, is currently composed by:

- **Max A.L.T. Nielsen, as President,**
- **Rich Froh, as our Treasurer,**
- **Michael Center, our Captain,**
- **Wolfgang and Katrin Wien, as our Property Managers,** and finally,
- **Anne-Claire Bremard, as our Secretary.**

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



2021-01-19

Now first and foremost, our dedicated Treasurer, Rick, has willingly accepted to continue another year, for which I am truly thankful. Michael has been an invaluable Captain, and even more so during a challenging year. As we are increasing the number of activities in the coming year, a position as Assistance Captain will be introduced. Moreover, it is not likely, that the UN will let us keep Michael indefinitely, so we also have to seriously consider transition in the Captains position.

Due to work related issues, and a fortunate promotion for Wolfgang, The Wiens are leaving the Bruxelles area for Berlin. Finally, Anne-Claire has seen a considerable increase in her occupational workload, and it is necessary to release her of her secretary functions as well.

Following the reports from our Executive Committee, I'll come back to you and ask you to confirm the new EC as follows:

- President: Max A.L.T. Nielsen (Re-election)
- EC members: Rick Froh, Michael Center (Re-election).
- Appointment of at least two new members to the EC (*To be nominated*).

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

Highlights from 2020.

On the golfing, the COVID restrictions limited the possibilities to play green fee and arrange for social events in connection with our competitions. This of course 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 congratulate our 2020 Club Champion, Beni Gonzalez-Aller, who not only had the lowest gross score, the lowest net score in Category 1, but also fewest putts. A worthy new champion. Let's give him a challenging 2021! [Cat 2 (16-24): Katrin Wien/Cat 3 (25+): Philip Leyde] ([2020 Club Championship, A new Champion is crowned. \(natogolfclub.org\)](https://www.natogolfclub.org/2020-Club-Championship-A-new-Champion-is-crowned))

Internally, the EC has continued the work of the previous EC in making the **NGC website a One Stop Shop** for all, covering most of our interactions with members. When completed, it will provide us with numerous advantages: You will 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.



2021-01-19

Data Privacy Note.

More use and focus on IT and automation naturally brings into question, cyber and privacy. Over the summer, the EC has discussed the value of a Privacy Note covering the NGC and its members. After thorough discussion, the EC decided, that even though the NGC is not required by law to have a GDPR policy per se, we still found it of value to be able to tell and demonstrate to our members and beyond, that the NGC does not collect or maintain other information than is required to keep the books for the NGC membership, and only for so long, it is required. Nor do we share this information with anyone outside the NGC.

A specific issue was addressed concerning the use of member photos from our events on the NGC website. We came to the conclusion that it was safe to consider such authorisation granted from NGC members that participate in our events and pose for photo sessions during these events, e.g. during prize giving etc.. Let me underline, that anyone, who does not want his or her event photos uploaded, can simply inform any of the EC members, preferably in writing, following which all pictures of the said person will be deleted.

Following this AGM, you'll find the Privacy Note at the front of the NGC website.

Trophies.

As most of you have experienced, quite a few of our trophies have been around for a long, long time. Some are just old, but others are also considerably worn. The EC is therefore in a process of evaluating what trophies to retire, and replace by new. First trophy in this process was the NATO Cup, which to no surprise also was won by Beni.

We are much aware that as we proceed, we have to take due care of the history of each trophy, and again it is our decision to dedicate an area of the NGC Website to exactly this purpose, so as the old and engraved trophies retire, we do not lose sight of previous champions. This is work in progress, which we will complete this year.

Ambitions for 2021.

My ambitions for 2021 – beyond what's already mentioned above -, include on the one side a considerable increase in the number of scheduled events, and a on the other side a transition of our events into a new calendar. The additional events, - currently 19 events to be found on the website -, should provide all members with a fair chance to enjoy their membership, - the game of golf, and the social side of the NATO community. The new season schedule, running from Summer to Summer, instead of from December through November, should both



2021-01-19

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 new 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. The Captain will follow up on this issue in his report.

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.

Economy

The initiative of re-scheduling the NHC competition season is 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. Details to be covered by the Property Managers written report.

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.



2021-01-19

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!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Max Nielsen".

Max A.L.T. Nielsen

President

NATO Golf Club