



Minutes of the PGC Council Meeting

Monday 6th February 2023 at 19.00 in the Blencathra Room

	Present: Les Balmer (LB), Joan Armstrong (JA), Javid Latif (JL), Nigel Scott (NS), Steve Johnson (SJ) John Taylor (JT), Gavin Oliver (GO), Darren Whitfield (DW), Gail Gravett (GG), Richard Hellon – vi video link (RH), Phil Crudge (PC)	ACTION
	Apologies Liz Horlacher	
1.	LB opened the meeting by saying that he had called this special meeting to discuss the current “disciplinary matters”, and in particular to review the disciplinary complaint that had recently concluded after having gone through the appeal process. LB went on to say that he had asked PC to attend the meeting in his role of Disciplinary Secretary so that as specified in the Disciplinary Procedure he could provide us with a summary of the issue, a summary of the process that he followed and details of the sanctions imposed against the respondent.	
2.	PC provided an explanation of the issue leading to the disciplinary complaint, and he went on to say that he had followed the Club’s Disciplinary Procedure (Version 1 Dated 17 th February 2021) which had been approved by the Management Committee of the day. PC then gave more details of the actual process that was followed, including the appeal process, and he then confirmed that the sanction imposed against the respondent was suspension from membership of and attendance at the club for a period of six months, along with a ban from holding any office within the club for a period of three years, the commencement date of the sanctions being 24 th January 2023.	
3.	PC said that in some of the correspondence received from the respondent and their representative that there seemed to be some concern about him representing the Complainant in the disciplinary hearings. However, Appendix 1 of the Disciplinary Procedure clearly says in Clause 3 that “The case against the Respondent will be presented by the Disciplinary Secretary, together with relevant evidence, including witness evidence, if appropriate”. Therefore, the Disciplinary Secretary must represent the Complainant in all hearings.	
4.	A lengthy and open discussion then took place in relation to the complaint and the sanctions imposed, and whilst not all members of the Council necessarily agreed with the verdict and sanctions, or indeed were content with the whole disciplinary process, some members felt that the complaint had been processed correctly through the Club’s Disciplinary Procedure and that both the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee had reached the same verdict and sanctions. LB said that he couldn’t see anything within the Disciplinary Procedure which would allow the Council to interfere with the process undertaken, and neither could he see anything which would give the Council any authority to amend the sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary and Appeal Committees. LB and some others thanked the Disciplinary Secretary for his hard work, diligence and professionalism.	
5.	LB said that the respondent had sent the Council an email in which he said that he wished to invoke Rule 11 (a) of the Rules of Governance of the Club and appeal to the membership against his removal from the Club. However, the Council were in agreement that Rule 11 (a) only applies to someone who has had membership refused or removed, therefore an appeal under this rule is not allowable as membership has only been temporarily suspended.	
6.	LB said that a number of complaints had been made against the actions of the Disciplinary Secretary by the respondent, but that the Council had concluded that the Disciplinary	

	<p>Secretary had acted in an exemplary manner and that no rules had been breached, and this conclusion had been notified to the Respondent in an email dated 19th January.</p> <p>However, following a further lengthy discussion, and with the agreement of PC, it was agreed that we should appoint an alternative Disciplinary Secretary to hear the remaining complaints.</p> <p>Various options for an alternative Disciplinary Secretary were discussed, and these will be explored.</p> <p>PC said that he had already identified three members who would be willing to sit on the next Disciplinary Committee and the Council were in agreement that these members should form the committee if they were still willing.</p>	
7.	<p>LB said that in some of the communications received from the respondent(s) there seemed to be some concern that there was a vendetta being waged against them, but LB said that he wanted to state quite clearly that this Council were totally impartial and would remain so.</p>	
8.	<p>LB said that there were a number of items of outstanding correspondence in relation to disciplinary matters that needed replying to, copies of the original correspondence having previously been distributed to the Council members.</p> <p>DW said that he felt that many of the items raised in the correspondence had already been discussed by the Council and had been included in the minutes of meetings, so he suggested that we just respond to the correspondence referring to the appropriate minutes.</p> <p>LB will review the correspondence and respond as & where necessary.</p>	LB
9.	<p>The meeting concluded by the Council agreeing that the disciplinary complaints have taken up an extraordinary amount of its time since the Council was appointed, and it is hoped that we can now concentrate on matters pertaining to the golf club and its facilities, in particular to rectifying some matters that have been neglected in recent years.</p> <p>The Council also want to remind members that it is committed to moving the Club forward and that applications are still invited from the membership for the two vacant positions on the Council for the roles of Chairman of House and Council Member.</p>	

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm