



## Minutes of the PGC Council Meeting

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 19.00 in the Blencathra Room**

	<b><u>Present:</u></b> 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 (RH)	<b>ACTION</b>
	<b><u>Apologies</u></b> Liz Horlacher	
1.	LB opened the meeting by saying that the meeting had been called to try to agree a way forward in relation to the current disciplinary matters, and that the meeting should not go over old ground but concentrate on finding a solution that was in the best interest of the club as a whole.	
2.	<p>LB said that since our meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February a letter had been received (via the Club's solicitor) from the solicitors acting on behalf of one of the respondents involved in the current disciplinary cases, and in that letter, they confirmed that they intended to make two legal challenges against the Club.</p> <p>The first challenge is in relation to the actions of the Interim Committee where it appointed a Disciplinary Secretary to process a complaint through the Club's Disciplinary Procedure, where they argue that the Interim Committee were not voted in to office and so had no authority to act in such a way &amp; furthermore they argue that the disciplinary matter had already been resolved and should not have been re-opened.</p> <p>The second challenge relates to the alleged "Misuse of Private Information" in relation to the WhatsApp messages disclosed at the EGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.</p> <p>LB went on to say that the Club's solicitor had reviewed the legal challenges mentioned above and he felt that counter arguments could be made. However, LB said that if both sides resort to settling this matter using solicitors, then it could prove very costly, and he felt that we should try to find an alternative solution if at all possible.</p>	
3.	<p>An open debate then took place regarding the options available to us and during that debate DW made a suggestion of a possible scenario where compromises could be agreed in order to bring the current disciplinary matters to a conclusion, which would then allow the Club to move forward.</p> <p>RH said that he wasn't fully comfortable with the solution being suggested, but he realised that we had to bring these matters to an early conclusion, and he was prepared to make a compromise and accept the suggestion being made.</p> <p>LB said that he was of the same opinion as RH and that everyone involved would need to make compromises for the benefit of the Club.</p> <p>Following the debate a vote was taken on the proposal made by DW and on a show of hands the proposal was carried unanimously.</p>	
4.	<p>It was agreed that to move things forward separate letters outlining the Council's proposals would be sent to the respondents in the disciplinary cases in order to seek their agreement to those proposals.</p> <p>It was also agreed that should the proposals be accepted then the Council would need to explain the reasons behind the decisions reached to each of the complainants in the disciplinary cases.</p> <p>DW said that we would need to assure the complainants that the Council had taken their complaints very seriously, and that whilst the complainants may not be content with the outcome it was hoped that they would understand that the Council was working in the overall best interests of the Club.</p>	<b>LB/All</b>

5.	DW said that he strongly felt that all the membership should be reminded of what was expected of them as a member of the Club, and in particular that they must treat everyone with respect, courtesy and consideration both on and off the course. It was agreed by all that this would be a good step forward, but that it may take some time to achieve the improvements that we all wanted to see within the Club.	
6.	It was accepted that current Grievance and Disciplinary Policies and Procedures of the Club are far from ideal, and it was therefore agreed that the Constitution Committee would review these documents as a matter of urgency and come back to the Council with their recommendations.	

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm

Date of Next Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6.00pm