

Minutes of the Club Council Meeting



Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room

	<p>Present: Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Joan Armstrong (President) (JA), Ladies Captain Liz Horlacher (LH), Club Vice Captain Nigel Scott (NS), John Taylor (JT), Gavin Oliver (GO), Darren Whitfield (DW), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Gail Gravett (GG).</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Apologies Club Captain Javid Latif, Richard Hellon</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Minutes of previous meeting The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 10th August, were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on 25th August. The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 14th September, were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on 25th September.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Matters arising 25.5.5 Update on the internet providers – Fibrus. LB reported that he had spoken to Fibrus today and they were still unable to confirm if and when they would be able to provide a high-speed internet connection to the club. However, EE may have a high speed “5G mobile” connection that would be suitable so he will make further investigations. 2.7.3 The agronomist’s report circulated. GO – See Course section below. 2.7.3 Meeting for the agronomist to speak to members. LB – Ongoing. 2.7.4 Costings for repairs to the storage bays at the greenkeeper’s shed. GO - Ongoing 2.10.2 Junior committee representation at Council meetings. LB reported that he had agreed that the Secretary of the Junior section (Phil Park) would be responsible for bringing relevant matters forward to the Club Council. 3.1 Risk assessment completed for the practice ground where the picnic benches are located. RH & LB – See Health & Safety section below. 3.2 Larger bins purchased to cope with increased rubbish on busy golf days. RH - Ongoing 4.2 Review of keyholders’ procedures. RH - Ongoing 5.2 Review of membership categories. SJ – See Finance section below. 6.1 Caterer’s contract signed and returned. LB reported that the contract had been signed and returned. 6.5 Costings for the refurbishment of the bar, lounge and corridor. RH - Ongoing 6.6 Reintroduction of the discounts for members by using the EPOS cards. RH - Ongoing 9.3 Contract between Mercedes of Carlisle drawn up and signed. GG & SJ – GG reported that the contract had been signed and the sponsorship payment made. 11.4 New signs on the 17th tee boxed (to ring the bell), and for the practice area. LH RH & SJ – All in place and complete</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Correspondence None</p>	

5.	<p><u>Health and Safety</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contact made with Beacon Fire & progress has been made regarding the outstanding work required on the fire alarm system. 2) Risk assessment of the Practice Ground has been completed and recommendations will follow. 3) Larger bins have not yet been sourced for busy golf days. 4) Key holders' procedure has been reviewed, but not yet published. 5) A new layout for the car park has been prepared and will need to be agreed by the Council before being implemented. 	<p>RH</p> <p>RH/LB</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p>														
6.	<p><u>Disciplinaries</u></p> <p><u>None</u></p>															
7.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="272 667 1246 1043"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="272 667 788 734">Bank balances as at 31st August 2023:</th> <th data-bbox="796 667 1246 734">Compared to previous year:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 741 788 775">PGC: £29,827.86</td> <td data-bbox="796 741 1246 775">PGC: £145,192.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 781 788 815">Reserve Account £150,000.00</td> <td data-bbox="796 781 1246 815"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 822 788 855">PGC Ltd: £100,843.90</td> <td data-bbox="796 822 1246 855">PGC Ltd: £96,137.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 891 788 958">Cumberland BS £118,595.21 (including recent receipt of interest)</td> <td data-bbox="796 891 1246 958">Cumberland BS £116,462.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="272 965 1246 999">Aged debtors £4,776.35 as at 18th September 2023.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="272 1005 1246 1039">Aged creditors £15,582.36 as at 18th September 2023</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SJ reported that Natwest have now paid interest on the Reserve account, and the sum of £2,760 has been added into the PGC Ltd account, which now stands at £168,249.33 as at 18th September 2023. 2. SJ said that in order to ensure that the Club is getting the best returns on its money he's investigating high interest accounts with both existing and new institutions. 3. The matter of 2024 subscription rates and green fee rates was discussed, and it was agreed that further investigation into the existing membership profiles and green fee rates and numbers would be made before further discussions could take place at the next Finance Committee meeting. 4. It was agreed that we will review how many charity days we have each year and how much income they bring to the club. 5. DW said that there seemed to be confusion about how members could spend their winnings from club competitions, and it was agreed to investigate this further. 6. SJ reported that the level of the club's insurance premiums had risen substantially, but that much of the increase was as a result of increased levels of income and wage costs. It was agreed that whilst the renewal of the policies had taken place SJ would see if any retrospective premium reductions could be negotiated. 7. LB asked SJ if our insurance policies still covered our members for public liability claims, and SJ confirmed that the cover was still in place. 8. SJ reported that due to remedial works needed on the extraction canopy in the kitchen the cost of the new ovens, warming drawers and extraction canopy had 	Bank balances as at 31 st August 2023:	Compared to previous year:	PGC: £29,827.86	PGC: £145,192.05	Reserve Account £150,000.00		PGC Ltd: £100,843.90	PGC Ltd: £96,137.81	Cumberland BS £118,595.21 (including recent receipt of interest)	Cumberland BS £116,462.16	Aged debtors £4,776.35 as at 18 th September 2023.		Aged creditors £15,582.36 as at 18 th September 2023		<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ/LB</p> <p>SJ/LB</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>
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	<p>now risen to £15,974 including VAT. Following a discussion, it was proposed that the Club accept the quotation, and when put to a vote the proposal was carried.</p> <p>9. SJ said that he'd arranged a demonstration of the BRS EPOS system on 10th October.</p>	SJ
8.	<p><u>House</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New charges have been implemented for the hire of the meeting and function rooms. 2. Due to holidays no further progress has been made with the proposals for the refurbishment work. 3. The club now directly employs our cleaner rather than her working through a contractor. 4. A new process has been implemented for ensuring that all bookings are processed through the BRS system. 5. LB said that Ricki had reported that a minor confrontation between two guests had taken place at a party on the previous Saturday evening, and the person who instigated the confrontation has been told that he is no longer welcome at the club. 6. LB said that Ricki had confirmed that Atlanta has resigned and that she'll be leaving his employment in mid-October. Atlanta will also vacate the flat and the intention is that Tom (the chef) will take over its occupancy. 	RH
9.	<p><u>Course</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GO reported that Dan Simpson has accepted the position of greenkeeper, and he'll start with us on 2nd October 2023. 2. GO reported that Evie Black has accepted the position of Apprentice/Trainee greenkeeper, and she'll start with us on 9th October. Following the successful completion of her probationary period she will be enrolled in an appropriate Apprenticeship Scheme. 3. GO reported that following the receipt of the STRI Agronomist Report a meeting of the Course Committee along with LB & SJ had taken place, and a programme of winter works had been agreed, this will include drainage improvements, bunker improvements/redevelopment and works to winter tees and greens. DW said that the proposal for the cross bunkers on the 18th fairway is to replace them with a raised "hazard area" where natural grasses and heathers would be allowed to grow and flourish. 4. GO said that overall the STRI report had been very positive, and that it would be used as the basis to future improve the condition and quality of the course, but it had to be accepted that many of the issues highlighted in the report were as a direct result of very high course use, and we'll need to look at ways of reducing levels of usage by both golfers and buggies etc. 5. It was agreed that a full copy of the STRI Report would be made available to all members. 6. The STRI Report recommended the purchase of various new items of course machinery, and following a discussion it was agreed that investment in the course was essential. GO said that the cost of the new equipment would be in the region of £35k, and in addition the Club would also need to replace our existing greens mower very soon and this would be at a cost of £46k plus VAT. It was proposed that the Finance Committee be allowed to proceed with 	LB

	<p>arranging the purchase of these items, and when put to a vote the proposal was carried unanimously.</p> <p>7. GG & NS said that they'd noticed that the surface of some of the fairways seemed to be very wavy and uneven, and that perhaps the blades on the mower needed resetting. GO said that he'd discuss this with the Head Greenkeeper.</p> <p>8. LB said that all the Club's policies and procedures in relation to the course would need to be reviewed, and he agreed to provide GO with copies of the documents so that the Course Committee could review them.</p> <p>9. The location of the Information Board which is situated beside the men's first tee was discussed, and it was agreed that it's in the wrong position as it's not visible to anyone playing from the ladies tees, so it was agreed that the board should be moved to a more suitable position.</p> <p>10. NS said that he'd noticed that the door on the electricity meter cupboard was missing again, GO said that he'd get this repaired ASAP.</p> <p>11. NS asked GO to look at the policy for how many times the pins are moved on the greens during the playing season.</p> <p>12. JT said that the Council had previously agreed to remove the "blue barrier gate" at the Club entrance, but this has not yet been done and it has not appeared as a Matter Arising in subsequent minutes, so we need to be careful not to miss things like this. GO said that the barrier will be removed by the greenkeepers when time permits.</p>	<p>Finance Comm</p> <p>GO</p> <p>LB/GO</p> <p>GO</p> <p>GO</p> <p>GO</p> <p>GO</p>
10.	<p><u>Golf</u></p> <p>1. The PGC team which won the scratch league will be playing in the county finals at Stoneyholme this coming Saturday, and the Club would like to thank the team sponsors MKM for their support.</p> <p>2. There have been a few issues in recent weeks where competitors have not been able to complete their rounds due to weather conditions etc, and the correct process was not applied in relation to handicaps. However, the correct procedure has now been identified and this procedure will be followed in the future.</p> <p>3. The "Father and Son" trophy has not taken place since 2019 and it was the intention to run the competition recently, but no entries were received. After a discussion the Council was reminded that the competition had in the past been open to fathers playing with their sons or daughters, so it was agreed that this competition should be re-classified and open to both sexes, and the name should be changed to something along the lines of "Parent & Child".</p> <p>4. DW said that it had been a problem to get all the events played this season, so the Golf Committee would be looking at alternative options for 2024. DW went on to say that some of the competition rules on finals day needed to be looked at, in particular we need to look at ways to get the America Cup and Church Cup completed on finals day rather than them having to be re-played on a later date if they ended in a draw on finals day.</p> <p>5. DW said that the new format of holding a presentation on Finals Day had been a tremendous success and we should definitely look to carry this on in the future.</p> <p>6. DW said that a number of members had raised concerns about the pace of play and players not being able to get off the first tee at their allotted time, &</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>DW</p>

	<p>to help resolve these issues it was agreed that we would move the intervals between tee times from eight minutes to ten minutes.</p> <p>7. DW said that the number of visitors on the course is also a problem for members, so it was agreed to look at ways of reducing visitor numbers whilst not having too big an impact on club finances, so this will be considered again when SJ & LB have reviewed green fee rates etc.</p> <p>8. DW also raised the subject of senior open competitions as well as charity competitions, and following a discussion it was agreed that all senior open competitions must be held on Thursdays, the normal day for Dads Army, it was also agreed that as part of their review of green fee income LB & SJ would look at the amount of charity days held at the club.</p> <p>9. DW said that there were issues when setting up bogey competitions on the Golf Genius software, so this needs to be resolved.</p> <p>10. DW said that the new TV leaderboard was a success, but some people had said that they couldn't read the leaderboard in the lounge area without disturbing people on nearby tables, so it was agreed that we would look at having a second leaderboard in the bar area.</p> <p>11. JA asked if the Golf Committee could look at having a new "Presidents Competition" which would be open to players of all sexes. JA said that she didn't want to encroach on the existing Presidents Putter competition but have a new separate competition.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>LB/SJ</p> <p>DW</p> <p>DW</p> <p>DW</p>
11.	<p><u>Communications/IT</u></p> <p>1. GG reported that the Club had achieved £8,840 in sponsorship this year, and that the Sponsors Day was being held on Friday 30th September when seven teams of sponsors would be playing.</p> <p>2. GG said that the new Mercedes sponsorship signs would be going up shortly, and JT said that he felt that the "Eden Valley" sign was in the wrong place because it was "in play", and it should be moved. It was agreed that further thought would be given to re-positioning the sign, perhaps closer to the entrance to the clubhouse or car park.</p>	<p>GO/RH</p>
12.	<p><u>Constitution</u></p> <p>1. JT presented the Council with a copy of the proposed "Complaint and Disciplinary Policy/Code and Procedure for Club Members and following a vote it was unanimously agreed to adopt the policy. LB will get the new document added to the website and have the existing Disciplinary Policy and Procedure and the Grievance Policy removed from the website because the new document replaces them both. LB he will also send an email to the membership enclosing a copy of the document.</p> <p>2. JT then gave an up-date of the position in relation to the preparation of the new "Rules for the Governance of the Club" and he said that the Constitution Committee would be finalising the recommended document over the next few days, and this would be discussed and hopefully agreed at our next Council meeting.</p> <p>3. A discussion then took place about how the new rules should be notified to members, initially for their input/comments, and then for their approval via a vote, and this process will be agreed at our next Council meeting.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>JT</p>
13.	<p><u>Strategy</u></p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LB said that he'd been able to find a template strategy document and that he and GG would continue to work on the document. 2. LB said that the Strategy Committee needed everyone's help to come up with a vision for the future, so he will be sending out a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) Analysis questionnaire to all Council members to complete. 3. JT said that he felt that in the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th August the ongoing work of the Constitution Committee was being blamed for the inaction of the Strategy Committee. LB said that this was not the case, it had been the Strategy Committee's intention to hold a special Council meeting during W/C 21st August, but he had personally decided to postpone that meeting so that the Council members could concentrate their minds on the proposed new rules for the governance of the Club. 	LB
14.	<p><u>Juniors</u> Nothing to report</p>	
15.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was reported that next years 4 Eden fun day on the practice area would be held on 19th July, and the booking has been entered on the BRS system and the caterers and professionals are aware of the event. 	
	<p><u>The meeting concluded at 9.20pm</u> <u>Date of next meeting: 11th October 2023 at 6.00pm in the Blencathra Room</u></p>	