



Minutes of the Club Council Meeting

Monday 8th January 2024 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room

	<p><u>Present:</u> Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Joan Armstrong (President) (JA), Club Captain Nigel Scott (NS), Ladies Captain Bridget Coy (BC), Club Vice Captain Chris Rebanks (CR) Gavin Oliver (GO), Darren Whitfield (DW), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Richard Hellon (RH), Steve Ingram (SI). Carol Slinger (Minutes secretary)</p>	ACTION
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u> Gail Gravett</p>	
	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u> The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 15th November were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on 29th November.</p>	
	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions.</u> The Chair welcomed the new Council Members to the meeting and reminded all Members that they are on the Council to represent all members of the club in making decisions, that they should all feel free to participate openly in discussions and that confidentiality must be considered wisely.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Structure of Committees</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RH asked if anyone would like to assist with Health and Safety since he is now Chair of House, no volunteers came forward, so he agreed to continue for the time being. 2. SI agreed to join the Golf Committee and take the lead role on the Strategy Committee. 3. Codes of Conduct were distributed to the new Council Members for signature. 4. The Chair requested that Chairs of committees give advance notice to their committee members as well as himself, the President, Captain & Vice Captain of when their meetings are scheduled to be held, this will then allow maximum attendance where possible. 5. The Chair also requested that Committee Meeting Minutes be distributed as soon as possible after the relevant meeting had taken place. This is to allow all Council Members as much time as possible to review those minutes in advance of the next Council Meeting. 	
3.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>2.2.7.4 Costings for repairs to the storage bays at the greenkeeper's shed. Additional quotes are being sought. GO Carried forward.</p> <p>2.2.5.2 Risk assessment of the Practice Area. Removal of picnic benches from the grass. GO Actioned.</p> <p>2.2.9.8 Club's policies and procedures in relation to the course updated. GO /LB Carried Forward.</p> <p>2.2.9.9 New information board, with attachable local/temporary rule boards be costed. Further research and costings required. GO Carried Forward.</p> <p>2.10.10 Pricing of a 40" monitor for the leaderboard in the lounge. A larger second-hand TV is in place.</p> <p>2.6.4 Review of the room hire payment process. SJ/RH Carried forward.</p> <p>2.6.7 Sponsor for a replacement Club House clock. BC/GG A site visit is arranged with a possible supplier/sponsor.</p> <p>2.8.2 A date set for a combined Ladies and Gents handicap review. DW Actioned.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GO/LB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SJ/RH BC/GG</p>

	<p>2.6.11 Gent's locker room lights and ceiling repaired from a historical leak. RH Actioned.</p> <p>3.1 Responses sent to development companies. LB Actioned.</p> <p>3.1 Checking the legality of the Booth Ventures agreement. - Professional advice in relation to the agreement with Booth Ventures has been taken, and after a discussion about the legality of the agreement, a unanimous vote agreed that in order to give the club maximum flexibility in relation to the possible re-development of the practice area we will inform Booth Ventures that we will not be progressing with their proposals. A communication reflecting this decision to be sent to the company.</p> <p>All agreed that the Club should hold exploratory talks with both Westmorland and Furness Council and the three building development companies who have shown an interest in purchasing some land on the practice area. LB/SI/GO</p> <p>3.3 Response sent to Dougie Parker LB Actioned</p> <p>3.4 Response sent to David Harding LB Actioned</p> <p>4.2 Emergency lighting checked. RH Carried Forward</p> <p>4.3 Buggy Park recharging sockets checked. RH Actioned</p> <p>6.2 Clubhouse Christmas opening time confirmed with the Catering Team. RH Actioned</p> <p>7.2 Discussion with Isobel Williams regarding her concerns about the approach to the 18th. Actioned – see Correspondence below.</p> <p>9.1 Email address set up for the incoming Club Captain. GG Actioned</p> <p>8.3 10-minute tee times start date, 1st January, agreed with the pros. LB Actioned</p> <p>8.4 Republication of the Winter rules. DW Actioned.</p> <p>12.1 Old gate and post removed from the back of the Clubhouse. GO Actioned.</p> <p>12.2 Reminder sent to Pros and Office regarding new members being ratified by the Council. LB Actioned.</p> <p>12.4 Reminder to the Valuer to come to the club to value the trophies. NS Actioned but will remind again.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>LB/SI/GO</p> <p>RH</p> <p>NS</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>1. Story Homes have written and requested a letter of support for their development of land opposite the Club on the western side of Green Lane. A positive response to be sent.</p> <p>2. Isobel Williams requested an amendment to the minutes of the Council Meeting of 15th November to clarify that she hadn't personally emailed the Council regarding concerns over the development of the bunker area on the 18th. It was agreed that the email in question hadn't been addressed to the Council, but that it had been incorrectly forwarded to the Council, and it was further agreed that the concerns raised in the email were made on behalf of the Ladies Committee and not Isobel personally.</p> <p>3. Don Pamphilon wrote to thank the Council for their hard work in 2023.</p> <p>4. Fred Harrison queried why the yellow winter tees were in the same position as the whites, making it a longer course. A response from the Course Committee to be sent giving the reasons.</p> <p>5. Dan Sencier explained that he has decided not to rejoin the Club in 2024 as he didn't feel that he had been made welcome when he joined the Club last year. LB has already written a reply to Mr Sencier, and we hope that he will re-consider his decision. Ideas were discussed which included the sending out of a welcome pack to all new members, a periodic welcome meeting and a round of golf offered with a Council Member, organised via the Pro's. LB to progress these ideas.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>GO</p> <p>LB</p>

	<p>6. Phil Hoyle sent in a letter regarding the qualification period that is being introduced for the over 75 years of age membership category. See point 6.3 below. A response to be sent to Mr Hoyle.</p> <p>7. Jim Young has written to the Council to propose that long-standing member, P J Taylor should be offered an Honorary Life Membership for his service and dedication to the Club over many years. LB asked for a vote of support for Jim's proposal and this was carried with 2 abstentions.</p> <p>8. Tony Mitchell-Harris commented on the safety of the steps on to some of the tee boxes, and LB has already written a response to Mr Mitchell-Harris. This has previously been discussed by the Course Committee and a quote and design for improving the steps on some tees has been received. The quote and design will be evaluated and if approved the first tees to be worked on will be the 5th and the 11th with others being assessed thereafter.</p> <p>9. The Cumbria Ladies County Golf Association asked if they could have courtesy of the course on a Monday in October 2025 for a competition which is to be held as part of their Centenary celebrations. All agreed.</p> <p>10. Michael Pinner who is a Second Club Member and who is a golf course architect has emailed and offered his assistance on course development matters. LB, GO and DW to arrange a meeting.</p> <p>11. Westmorland and Furness Council sent a notification letter regarding the development of 194 new houses by Story Homes.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>GO</p> <p>LB/GO/DW</p>																						
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Health and Safety</u></p> <p>1. The security and locking-up procedure is to be tightened up. RH proposed that keypads should be fitted on all entrance doors & he will get costs for doing so.</p>	<p>RH</p>																						
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>1.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="272 1122 1246 1585"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bank balances as of 31st December 2023:</th> <th>Compared to previous year:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PGC: £66,212.83</td> <td>PGC: £172,773.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Account £109.87</td> <td>Reserve Account £717.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35 Day A/C £50,228.20</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>95 Day A/C £50,205.78</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total: £166,756.68</td> <td>Total: £173,491.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PGC Ltd: £16,953.48</td> <td>PGC Ltd: £13,894.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumberland BS £118,595,21</td> <td>Cumberland BS £116,808.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total: £302,305.37</td> <td>Total: £304,193.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged debtors: £1,750.80</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged creditors: £13,207.56</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. The members' EPOS card system is going to be reviewed and discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting and then brought to the next Council meeting.</p> <p>3. In January 2023 the Council had agreed that a 30-year qualification period should be introduced for members to be able to qualify for the over 75 years of age membership discount rate, and at that time it was agreed that the Council would bring this forward to the 2023 AGM for approval. It was agreed that this subject hadn't been discussed at the AGM and therefore the qualification period could not be introduced this year. Consequently, any existing members who were over 75 years of age on 1st January 2024 will be entitled to receive the discount. However, it was agreed that the age discount would not apply to any new member who joins the Club in 2024. LB said that he'd researched a number of other golf clubs within Cumbria and</p>	Bank balances as of 31 st December 2023:	Compared to previous year:	PGC: £66,212.83	PGC: £172,773.25	Reserve Account £109.87	Reserve Account £717.86	35 Day A/C £50,228.20		95 Day A/C £50,205.78		Total: £166,756.68	Total: £173,491.11	PGC Ltd: £16,953.48	PGC Ltd: £13,894.65	Cumberland BS £118,595,21	Cumberland BS £116,808.06	Total: £302,305.37	Total: £304,193.82	Aged debtors: £1,750.80		Aged creditors: £13,207.56		<p>SJ</p>
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	<p>the only other Club he could find that offered such a discount was Carlisle, and they had a qualification period, but he wasn't able to determine what that period was. DW said that he too had done the same research and with the same results, and he had even checked some clubs outside the county. It was agreed that the Council would give this subject further consideration.</p> <p>4. The policy for green fees at Charity days and Sporting days were discussed. Historically the Club has had two Charity days each year and, going forward, the fees will be negotiated with each party. Sporting day fees will be as published.</p> <p>5. SJ said that our staff pay reviews should take place on 1st January each year, and he proposed that for all eligible staff, a 5% rise should be awarded. All agreed.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>House</u></p> <p>1. The question of the status of a co-opted member of the House Committee has been raised, in that his membership of that Committee may break the Council's Code of Conduct because his business has been awarded some of the work in the Clubhouse refurbishment. All agreed that there is no issue as quotes for the work in question had been obtained from other companies, the work was awarded according to the best value and no works have been awarded inappropriately.</p> <p>2. The sewer pipe between our boundary and the centre of the road on Salkeld Road has collapsed and this has been confirmed by a camera survey carried out by Andidrain. Unfortunately, the sewer is "unadopted" and it is therefore our responsibility to repair it. The collapsed section is in the grass verge on Green Lane and LB is using his contacts to get a cost for the repairs. SJ to enquire if this is covered by insurance.</p> <p>3. A member raised the lack of a shelter in the designated smoking areas. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that this is not a priority at present, but the House Committee will keep it under review and look for a cost-effective solution.</p> <p>4. Dad's Army have requested a trophy cabinet to be placed in the Clubhouse. The Council agreed that this is a good idea and once the refurbishment is completed it will be considered further.</p> <p>5. There is concern about the cost of electricity in both the Clubhouse and the Hoggust. House and Finance Committees are to look at ways to make savings.</p> <p>6. The current service contractors for the biomass boiler are not continuing to provide such a service. However, another potential contractor has been identified. Considerable maintenance work on the whole heating system is needed but can be deferred until the spring.</p> <p>7. RH asked the Council for suggestions for the name of the new lounge area. One of the suggestions put forward by the House committee was the '1890 Lounge'. The Council unanimously agreed on this name.</p> <p>8. There is a meeting with a new internet provider planned for next week.</p> <p>9. After discussing it with John Sheffield, the Junior Notice Board has been removed from the interior window area of the Pro-shop. A space has been allocated for Junior notices on the main notice board in the middle corridor.</p>	<p>LB/SJ</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH/SJ</p> <p>LB</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Course</u></p> <p>1. By the end of January, it is hoped that the drainage on the three greens being worked on at present, and the bunkers on the 11th and 13th will be finished.</p> <p>2. The drain at the front of the 2nd green is being opened up and a new drain laid.</p> <p>3. There will be an attempt to control the mole infestation as soon as possible.</p>	

9.	<p><u>Golf</u></p> <p>1.The implementation of 10-minute tee times reduces the amount of tee time available by 20% on the short winter days and this has led to complaints about members not being able to get onto the course, so it was agreed to rescind the decision to adopt 10-minute intervals and we will revert to 8-minute slots.</p> <p>2.Concerns were raised at the AGM by Jim Young in relation to consistent slow play, which was of a particular problem when visiting parties were on the course. The Council accepted that slow play was a problem and that there was a fine line to tread between the requirements of members wishing to play golf at a reasonable pace against allowing visiting parties on the course who bring in much needed income. The Council agreed to give this further thought, but members will be reminded to keep their pace of play up, to move on after looking for a lost ball for a maximum of 3 minutes, and be ready to tee off promptly etc. The possibility of seeking volunteers to act as Course Marshals on days where there are large visiting groups and societies was discussed, and LB to email the membership to ask for volunteers.</p> <p>3.The Lady Captain thanked the Council for allowing a Shotgun start for the ladies Christmas competition in December, and asked if the same arrangement could be approved for 2024. All agreed.</p>	LB
10.	<p><u>Strategy</u></p> <p>1.The SWOT analysis information to be taken forward by the Strategy Committee.</p>	LB
11.	<p><u>Juniors (reported by Phil Park)</u></p> <p>1.The Junior Committee, together with other club volunteers, assisted Eden Valley Schools Sports Partnership run the annual tri-golf tournament at Penrith Leisure Centre. 150 school children from primary schools across Eden participated resulting in a very successful and enjoyable day. The winners will proceed to the County Finals to be held in 2024.</p> <p>2.England Golf have just announced that the Girls Golf Rocks programme will again run in 2024. This is aimed at girls between 5 and 18. They have also now added another dimension by introducing the Golf Rookies programme which is aimed at both boys and girls aged between 5 and 18. Given the lack of take up with Golf Girls Rocks over the past couple of years the Rookies programme offers a wider opportunity and the Junior Committee will now consider the best way forward and make the appropriate application to England Golf in due course.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Membership approvals</u></p> <p>Erica Russell, full membership – No objections Graham Elliott, full membership – No objections Colin Mattinson, social membership – No objections Harry Lockerbie, junior membership – No objections.</p>	
13.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>1.The selection process for a Vice Captain for 2025 will be commenced by the President who will email the membership to ask for nominations.</p> <p>2.It was discussed whether or not the Ladies, Dad’s Army and Junior Committee Meeting Minutes should be published on the website. At present the Ladies circulate their minutes to everyone in the section by email, and the Ladies Committee feel that there is no need to publish the minutes on the website. The Dad’s Army and the Junior Committees will be asked if they would like their minutes to be published on the website. LB said that he felt that as the Club Council were solely responsible for</p>	JA

	<p>the overall management of the Club, then only the minutes of the Club Council need to be published on the website, but consideration will be given to the wishes of the Dad's Army & Junior Committee's. All agreed.</p> <p>3.LB said that under the Complaint & Disciplinary Policy we need to appoint an Investigating Officer and P J Taylor has volunteered to undertake this role. LB asked for a vote to be held ratify this appointment, and the vote was carried, with one abstention.</p> <p>4.LB said that we also need to ratify a pool of panel members as required under the Complaint and Disciplinary Policy, and the following members have agreed to be members of the panel - K. Dixon, J. Graham, J. Jackson, S. Nicholson, D. Ramsdale, and P. Shearer. LB asked for approval for the members of the panel, and this was carried unanimously.</p> <p>5.LB asked if the location of Club Policies and Procedures should be published on the "public" area of the website, or should they be moved to the "Members Area" where only members could view them. All agreed that they should remain as they are in the public section.</p> <p>6.The Council agreed that the appointment of a Club Manager should have a more thorough discussion once there is an overall future club strategy in place.</p> <p>7.LB reminded everyone that we have two vacant positions on the Council, but we haven't received any interest from anyone in the membership who wishes to join the Council. It was agreed to keep these vacancies under review.</p>	
	<p><u>The meeting concluded at 21.35.</u></p> <p><u>Date of next meeting: Monday 29th January at 6.00pm in the Blencathra Room</u></p>	