

Minutes of the Club Council Meeting



Monday 26th February 2024 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room

	<p><u>Present:</u> Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Joan Armstrong (President) (JA), Ladies Captain Bridget Coy (BC), Chris Rebanks (CR), Gavin Oliver (GO), Darren Whitfield (DW), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Gail Gravett (GG), Richard Hellon (RH) Steve Ingram (SI). Carol Slinger (Minutes secretary)</p>	ACTION
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u> Club Captain Nigel Scott</p>	
	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u> The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 29th January were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on Wednesday 7th February.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> 2.3.2.2.7.4 Costings for repairs to the storage bays at the greenkeeper’s shed. Additional quotes are being sought. GO To be carried over to the Autumn. 2.3.2.2.9.8 Club’s policies and procedures in relation to the course updated. GO /LB. Actioned and LB has forwarded to GO for a final review before bringing them back to the Council for approval. 2.3.2.2.9.9 New information board, with attachable local/temporary rule boards to be costed. Further research and costings required. Images are with AST Signs and the designs should be back this week. GO will circulate to the Council for comment. Also GO and GG to look at getting a sponsor. 2.3.2.6.4. Regular meetings scheduled with those involved with room hiring. LB to hold the first meeting with the staff on Monday of next week. RH has done a quick audit on the use of the BRS function over the recent weekend bookings and noted that the agreed procedure was not being followed so LB will follow this up at the meeting. 2.3.4.2 Remedial work on emergency lighting booked in with electrician. RH Actioned. 2.4.4 New members pack review and process. LB & GG to look at the viability of a “New Members Folder”. 2.6.2 EPOS Card feedback from Finance meeting. SJ Carried Forward. 2.7.2 Update on the collapsed drain on Green Lane. LB reported that the initial drain collapse had been repaired, at a cost of approx. £5,500+VAT. There is, however a second, similar collapse further along the drain. A quote to replace the whole drain section from the current collapse to the end of Green Lane is £23,500 + VAT. The Council all agreed that the second collapse should be repaired on a similar basis to the first one at a cost of £5,500 + VAT, particularly as repairing the whole drain would involve needing to excavate a high section of the verge on Green Lane, as well as needing to support a boundary wall on the adjacent field which is owned by others. 2.7.5 Assessment of the energy used in the Hoggust. RH Carried Forward 2.7.8 New internet supplier for the clubhouse. LB reported that a 4G router is now in place, but there isn’t a significant improvement in the internet signal. The company are going to dial into the system to see if they can improve the speed and bandwidth. 3.1 Responses sent to: 3.1 Fred Hill, 3.2 W&FC., 3.3 Allan Ellison, 3.4 Stephen Allen. LB has responded to all and had a discussion with Stephen Allen after his initial response. 3.5 Communication with a potential new member regarding Low-income subscription. SJ. Actioned.</p>	<p>GO/GG</p> <p>LB/GG</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>LB</p> <p>RH</p> <p>LB</p>

	<p>4.1 Quotes for a stand for the dishwasher. RH Carried Forward</p> <p>6.2 Notice board space required by each section reported to RH. The notice boards, in the main areas of the clubhouse, have been tidied up and all sections have been allocated space.</p> <p>7.4 Follow-up visit by STRI scheduled. GO Will arrange for late March/April</p> <p>7.5 Grit/sand swept up on the car park. GO to remind the Greenkeepers.</p> <p>13.4 Content for the videos forwarded to RH. Ideas were discussed and RH asked for photos etc. to be forwarded to him. All</p> <p>13.5 Answer 'phone message updated. It was agreed that the message was suitable, so no change is required.</p> <p>13.6 Compressor engineers contacted. RH Actioned, with the engineer attending this week.</p> <p>13.9 The parameters for the low to moderate income memberships category are more clearly defined. SJ sent out a draft statement prior to the meeting, which was agreed by all.</p> <p>13.10 Review of the Club Code of Conduct and Dress Policy. All Carried Forward.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>GO</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>																						
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>1. Allan Ellison – Regarding the marking-out of a new bunker on the 18th fairway which he said has caused considerable concern amongst the membership. This action was part of the development process for the 18th fairway in preparation for discussion at this Council meeting. – See point 7.9 below, for more detail. LB to respond to Allan Ellison</p> <p>2. Pat Mattinson – Regarding membership categories. LB to respond to Pat Mattinson</p> <p>3. David Coombs-Ballard – Asked for a 4BBB voucher for charity competition at his club. LB to respond asking for a reciprocal arrangement if requested.</p> <p>4. Ian Andrew – Same request as 3 above, with same response.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>LB</p> <p>LB</p> <p>LB</p>																						
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Health and Safety</u></p> <p>1. Earlier this month, a near-miss incident on car park was reported by Allan Ellison. It was agreed that the wall between the two car parks should be lowered towards the junction to improve visibility, a 'Give Way' sign erected, and a 'Give Way' white line marked across the exit from the members car park.</p> <p>2. During week beginning 19th February there was an annual Health & Safety Audit carried out by Citation. Overall, the feedback was complimentary, with some areas of excellence commented upon. There are, however, some additional risk assessments and actions required.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>All</p>																						
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>1.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="379 1585 1187 1995"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bank balances as of 26th February 2024:</th> <th>Compared to previous year:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PGC: £23,244.18</td> <td>PGC: £319,637.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Account £105,157.68</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>35 Day A/C £50,373.52</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>95 Day A/C £50,395.06</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total: £205,926.26</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PGC Ltd: £20,352.96</td> <td>PGC Ltd: £18,854.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumberland BS £118,595.21</td> <td>Cumberland BS: £116,453.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total: £368,118.61</td> <td>Total: £454,945.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Aged debtors: £ Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Aged creditors: £17,555.57</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. The value of membership subscriptions requested for payment in January was £365,000. To date £285,000 has been received. 16 Members have resigned, for various</p>	Bank balances as of 26th February 2024:	Compared to previous year:	PGC: £23,244.18	PGC: £319,637.44	Reserve Account £105,157.68		35 Day A/C £50,373.52		95 Day A/C £50,395.06		Total: £205,926.26		PGC Ltd: £20,352.96	PGC Ltd: £18,854.71	Cumberland BS £118,595.21	Cumberland BS: £116,453.18	Total: £368,118.61	Total: £454,945.33	Aged debtors: £ Nil		Aged creditors: £17,555.57		
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	<p>reasons, which haven't given cause for concern. There is approx. £65,000 worth of subscriptions yet to be paid and these members are prevented from signing into BRS. It is thought that the recent wet weather and subsequent course closures may have contributed to the slow payment of subscriptions by some members, and SJ will keep this matter under review.</p> <p>3. To date, 120 Members have opted to use the Direct Debit Scheme.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>House</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Security locks are being fitted to the Gents locker rooms so they can be more secure in evenings. 2. Repainting the Gents locker room has been estimated at £600, which is to be discussed further at the next Finance Committee meeting. 3. The House Committee is working on an outline plan and costings to upgrade the rear entrance to the function room and the patio area. The Council also asked RH to look into costing a 'facelift' refurbishment of the main lounge, particularly regarding either recovering or replacing the tub chairs. 4. RH has met with Chris Malpas to assess the condition and servicing of the Biomass Boiler. Some work is required, but it should be okay until the summer months. 5. The Council thanked the House Committee for all their hard work on the excellent quality of the refurbishment of the function room and 1890 bar and lounge. 6. There have been good reports on the quality of Sunday lunches with a steady flow of bookings. 	<p>RH</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Course</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All turf has now been reapplied to the 3rd, 13th and 17th greens. We are really pleased with the early signs of how this has taken. These greens have now received fertiliser and a top dressing and we hope to get them back in play as soon as possible. 2. The remaining greens have all received a solid tine. A week has been set aside at the beginning of April to hollow core and top dress all the greens. However, the Course Committee and Head Greenkeeper agreed that it would make sense for this to be done as early as weather conditions allow. So, if we get a spell of weather where we feel it can be done then we will halt all ongoing projects to complete this work, then return to other work. 3. The ongoing mole problem has now been addressed, with 14 traps set and 4 moles caught to date. 4. The branch collection is ongoing but is nearing its end. Six further trees have been identified on the 13th as being dead and will need to be removed. All other tree removal either storm damaged or planned has now been completed. 5. The tree which has been removed from between the 7th green and the 8th tee was removed to increase light to the ground, therefore encouraging more grass growth. It is an area with considerable foot fall and trolley parking. 6. The Council were assured that the wood from the felling of trees was distributed fairly. 7. There was a discussion about the environmental impact of removing trees from the course, with the possibility of planting a tree for each tree felled. Environmental factors to be added to the Course strategy. 8. All drainage work has now reached its conclusion. Along with the planned drainage work on the three greens mentioned above we have also repaired the drain in front of the 2nd green which was causing significant problems during the wet weather and we also decided that we would install a further drain round the back of the 17th green 	<p>LB/GO</p>

where it gets particularly wet. SI reported that there is still considerable soft ground in front of the 2nd and the 6th. It is being closely monitored.

9. The work on the mounds on the approach to the 18th green will now take precedence. Following a meeting that DW, GO & LB attended with Michael Pinner, a golf course architect and a Country member of PGC, it was decided that the mound on the left as you approach would be made particularly penal, with uneven, thick lies. Whilst the right-hand side would offer more of an undulating fairway type cut that would act as the “bale out” option.

The Course Committee also feel that we should incorporate a small fairway bunker on the left-hand side of the fairway at about 250yds from the white tee. It is felt this hole offers very little risk against reward, especially from the tee. By having a bunker placed here it is felt that it would provide the longer hitters with something to think about. Either take on the bunker up the left-hand side, bringing the out of bounds more into play, or lay back and leave a longer more difficult approach. DW and Tim Dykes hit a series of drives from the white markers on the summer tee in order to decide where the best position would be for the bunker in relation to where the longer drives would land. This ties in with the mounds in the sense that you either take on the bunker on the left-hand side or play up the right-hand side which brings the out of bounds into play. It should be stressed at this stage that this bunker is intended to catch the bigger hitter/lower handicapper and not to catch the shorter hitters. It is also felt that removing the existing bunkers on the approach to the green may affect the course rating, so we would like to add a further hazard. This is borne out in the competition playing data that DW has provided to the Council in relation to the further back the hole is played from the easier it becomes. For example, blue tee events that are in many cases avoided by higher handicappers and also include scratch events such as the Whitelaw and Club Championship, the hole plays Stroke Index 18. Whereas in yellow tee events (Dads Army) it plays around its stroke index as on the card.

BC raised concerns from the Ladies Section regarding the bunker placement/timing of construction and also that no measurements were made from the red tees. DW stated that this was an error on their part.

A discussion took place regarding the Course Committee’s proposal for the construction of the new bunker, and it was unanimously agreed that the construction of the bunker would be considered as a major change to the course, and as such it must be approved by the Club Council before any works could commence. Following those discussions, and after having been reassured that the construction of the new bunker would not impact on any other outstanding work on the course and that everything will be completed before the start of the playing season, then the Council were all in favour of the inclusion of the bunker on the 18th fairway in order to retain some of the difficulty of the hole. However, it was further agreed that the Course Committee would send a communication to the membership to notify them about the construction of the new bunkers and the reasons behind it.

10. Once the work on 18th is complete, the bunkers on 13 and 11 will be reinstated.

11. It is our intention to rope off further areas around the course that are becoming increasingly worn from traffic.

12. A discussion took place regarding the placement of the winter mat on the 15th.

Further thought will be given to it in order to preserve the summer tee during the winter period.

13. It has been suggested that a drain be laid on the 4th along the entrance road where water lies. This is where the telephone and internet cables are currently buried. If an

	<p>alternative internet supply is sourced and a new cable laid, then a drain may go in as part of next winter's schedule.</p> <p>14. LB reported that Jon Davidson had not had a response from the Course Committee to an email sent regarding points raised in the STRI report. GO to respond accordingly.</p> <p>15. The Greenkeepers have reported an incident where a member was aggressive towards them. Members are asked to take note of our Code of Conduct, which expects that staff and other Club members are to be treated with respect, and the Council will take action against anyone who is reported to have breached the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>16. LB asked if the area around the Greenkeepers Sheds could be tidied up. GO to speak to the Greenkeepers.</p> <p>17. It has been reported that the Greenkeepers have had loud music playing while they have been working on the drainage work. GO was asked to have a word with the Greenkeepers.</p> <p>18. A revised design for course bins is being worked on. The new design will include a modification so that the lid is not so easily blown off. Once made, the first bin will again be used as a field trial until around Easter. The cost of the new bins should be available for the next Finance Committee meeting.</p> <p>19. LB reminded the Course Committee that they should notify himself, the President, Club Captain and Vice-Captain of upcoming Course Committee meetings so that they had the opportunity to attend.</p>	<p>GO</p> <p>GO</p> <p>GO</p> <p>RH</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Golf</u></p> <p>1. Andrew Sowerby, Kathryn Bulman and Ruth Coleby have attended a WHS seminar at Carus Green. Essentially there are a few tweaks to the system but nothing that the player has to do. It will all be done electronically. Due to a new playing formula, players at Penrith will probably find their playing handicap increasing due to the difference between course par and course rating. An email will go out to playing members before the start of the season.</p> <p>2. The Captains Drive In/Presentation Day - Emails have been sent to the 2023 Trophy Winners and the event will be open on BRS soon. The entry fee will be £10 and this will include a St Patrick's Day lunch prior to the presentation of 2023 trophies.</p> <p>3. Course statistics show that some stroke indexes do not accurately reflect the difficulty of the holes from some of the tees, so this may need to be looked at a later date.</p> <p>4. All competitions can now be found on the club website.</p> <p>5. The delayed final of the 2023 Scratch League will now take place on Saturday 23rd March at Cockermouth Golf Club.</p> <p>6. On the weekend of the men's county championships being held at Penrith, PGC members can play Brampton with courtesy of the course. More information on how many tee times are available and how to book them will be available nearer the time.</p> <p>7. It was agreed that the entry fees for the upcoming Greenkeepers Revenge competition will be donated to the Junior Section. The date will be advertised shortly.</p>	<p>DW</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Communications/IT</u></p> <p>1. The Cumbria Clock Company (CCC) are kindly donating a clock for the front of the clubhouse. GG circulated the design and it is believed to be a GPS clock that will be illuminated. CCC have asked for some signage to acknowledge their donation, GG and BC are to discuss this further with the company.</p> <p>2. Our main sponsor, Mercedes of Carlisle, have asked for a shotgun start to their golf day on Wednesday 17th April. All agreed that, as this date is before the Wednesday medal</p>	<p>GG/BC</p>

	<p>competitions start, and because Mercedes make a substantial financial contribution to the club then their request will be granted. The shotgun start will be at 1.30pm, which will be after the completion of the Ladies Past Captains Competition which is also being held on that day.</p> <p>3. An advert has been placed in the Bunkered magazine in support of PGC being recognised as one of the best courses in the UK with green fees of under £100.</p> <p>4. The Eden Valley Mixed Golf Tournament has been named as one of the best 6 Mixed Format Golf Tournaments in the UK by Today's Golfer magazine.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Strategy</u></p> <p>1. The Strategy Committee had their first meeting in February and are reviewing some historical documents before their next scheduled meeting.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Juniors</u></p> <p>1. After discussions with England Golf and presenting the relevant evidence, the club has once again been awarded SAFE GOLF accreditation. This has to be renewed on an annual basis. The accreditation principally means that the club has met the standards set by England Golf to safeguard the welfare of children and young people as well as adults at risk. It is a vital component to the programme of junior golf at the club.</p> <p>2. The Junior committee have also been successful in an application to England Golf to be included in the newly launched Golf Rookies programme. It is similar in format to the Golf Girls Rocks initiative which the club has previously been involved in but the Rookies programme is designed to attract both boys and girls aged 5-18 to play and enjoy junior golf. There are a number of administration issues to complete now but England Golf will provide a marketing package to support the Rookies programme so it is hoped this will also complement our own junior coaching as well.</p> <p>3. The junior coaching programme will commence on Monday 8 April 2024 and run on Monday evenings until the end of September. Juniors to arrive for registration at 5.30pm and the coaching will conclude at 7pm.</p> <p>4. The Junior committee would like to place on record their sincere appreciation to Javid Latif, past captain for his significant donation to the junior section to assist with both the promotion and development of junior golf at the club.</p> <p>5. The Council have received a request to purchase some team shirts for the Juniors. As stated in point 8.7 above, it was agreed that the income from entries into the Greenkeepers Revenge will be donated to the Junior Section, and this request should be more than sufficient to purchase the shirts.</p> <p>6. A request was received from Barry Rogers for some extra funding for the Junior Section, but the Council felt that this request would also fall within the funds being donated under point 8.7 above.</p>	
12.	<p><u>New Member Review</u></p> <p>1. Marion Donnelly - Full member David Hedges – Full member Nick Capron – Full member Adrian Watson – Full member</p> <p>2. In future this review will be completed electronically so as not to delay new members' ability to play.</p>	
13.		

