

Minutes of the Club Council Meeting



Monday 30th September 2024 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room

	<u>Present:</u> Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Joan Armstrong (President) (JA), Ladies Captain Bridget Coy (BC), Club Vice Captain Chris Rebanks (CR), Club Manager Tim Dykes (TD), Gavin Oliver (GO), Darren Whitfield (DW), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Gail Gravett (GG), Richard Hellon (RH). Carol Slinger (Minutes secretary)	ACTION
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Club Captain Nigel Scott (NS), Steve Ingram (SI).	
	<u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u> The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 3 rd September and were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on 17 th September 2024.	
2.	<u>Matters Arising</u> 2.2.2.2.11.6 Report on Junior funds. SJ - Carried forward. 2.2.6.1 Request for volunteers to help with jobs on the course and around the clubhouse. RH – Actioned, see point 7.8 below. 2.2.2.6.4 Review of the Central heating System and servicing of the boilers. RH/GO Meeting at 8.30 Wednesday 2nd October. 2.2.2.13.2 Possibility of the use of tokens to use in the range ball dispenser. Tokens can be used, however, TD reported that there are no tokens on site. TD to cost a card reader system for the dispenser. 2.2.2.2.13.6 Sub-committees’ names added to the website information. GG passed information to TD to upload onto the website. 2.2.2.6.14 Quotes for the drainage work on 17 th & 18 th fairways in readiness for the winter programme. GO is waiting for quotes from two companies. 2.2.2.9.3 Update on the course re-measurement, new cards and slope charts. TD reported that in addition to their current sponsorship agreement Mercedes have agreed to sponsor our scorecards and the tee marker boards. The cards and signs have been designed and are due to be printed. 2.8.1 Strategy developed for a more cross-membership representation on the Course Committee. It was agreed that this should now be taken forward to 2025. 2.14.5 Course etiquette footage on the TV screens around the Clubhouse. Check out what is available on England Golf. GG to add a link to the EG video on the PGC website. The video will not be added to the TV screens because sound would be needed and this was thought that this would be intrusive in the Clubhouse. TD to draw visitor’s attention to the video in their confirmation of booking emails, and a link to the video has been added to our website. TD/GG – Actioned. 2.14.6 Resourcing and placing a suitable sign to go on the 2nd tee boxes regarding the flag on the 15th being confused as the 2nd. DW to order a small sign to go on the front corner of the bridge over the ditch. RH to order. 2.14.13 Possibilities of reinstating the New Members Evening. LB/TD carried forward to the 2025 season. 3.1 Response sent to J Dent regarding ‘member tee times’ LB – Actioned. 3.2 Response sent to Mr Wilson regarding the rebuilding of the wall by the 12 th LB– Actioned.	

	<p>3.3 Response sent to D Harding regarding his concerns about drainage on the course. LB– Actioned.</p> <p>3.8 Response sent to CUGC regarding hosting the County Senior Championships in 2025. TD – Actioned.</p> <p>3.9 Response sent to B Lague regarding a benchmarking meeting. RH—Actioned, with a meeting being held on 30th September.</p> <p>6.4 Quotes for insurance. SJ/TD reported that the GCMA recommended Howdens Insurance Brokers, who quoted £14,637 which was approximately £2,000 less than the current company, Marsh. Marsh did reduce their price after discussions, but it was decided to move to Howdens, and to pay the premiums on a monthly basis instead of a one-off annual payment.</p> <p>6.5 Rebuilding the wall on the 13th along Salkeld Rd. LB has had discussions and if possible, the wall is to be rebuilt to a lower level.</p> <p>6.7 Quotes for a new/second hand sprayer for the greens. TD/GO have had two quotes to date; £7,900 and £10,150 both plus VAT. The specifications are to be checked before purchase. TD to review with the head Greenkeeper.</p> <p>7.1 Valuer engaged for the trophies. NS – Point 7.6 below.</p> <p>7.3 Sign for Cumbria Clocks ordered. RH – Actioned.</p> <p>7.4 Quotes for a recycling bin for the front of the Proshop. TD – Carried forward.</p> <p>7.5 Small old litter bins to be removed from the course. GO - ongoing.</p> <p>7.6 Meeting held with Fairways Catering. SJ/RH/LB/TD Actioned, see point 7.1 below.</p> <p>7.7 Advert on Golf Club Stewards website to be placed. RH Actioned.</p> <p>8.1 Discussion regarding the amount of overtime used by the Greenkeepers. TD – See point 8.2 below.</p> <p>11.1 Meetings held with members who requested more information on the Club Strategy Document. SI & LB Actioned.</p> <p>14.2 Meeting held with the EG Safeguarding representative. TD – Actioned, with new information posted on the main notice board.</p> <p>14.4 Research into other clubs offer with regards to their Proshop. TD see point 14.1 below.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A letter has been received from David White, the main points of which questioned the actions of the Council in relation to the resignation of Fairways Bar & Catering, and the provision of SKY TV in the Clubhouse. As agreed, LB has responded to David to confirm that as previously notified to the membership, the Council tried to reach an agreement with Fairways Bar & Catering to allow them to continue at the Club, but the final terms put forward by them were financially unacceptable, so their resignation was accepted. LB also informed David that the Council had discussed the subject of SKY TV on a number of occasions, but that both it and Fairways Bar & Catering felt that the monthly subscription cost of £700 could not be financially justified. 2. Letter of thanks received from Appleby Rotary Club for hosting their Golf Day at PGC. 3. Letter from Patrick Tolley requesting support for Hospice at Home charity event. It was agreed to send a 4-Ball Voucher. 	

	<p>Following the interviews, the interview panel recommended that subject to the agreement of final terms, the Club should enter into a three-year partnership contract with John Watt & Son Ltd of Carlisle. A further discussion took place regarding the proposal put forward by John Watt & Son Ltd and RH proposed that the Club should formally enter into the partnership agreement with John Watt & Son, this was seconded by GG and when put to a vote, other than one abstention, the vote was carried. It was agreed that the Interview Panel would meet again with John Watt & Son again to finalise the agreement.</p> <p>2. RH has looked through the future catering bookings on BRS and has contacted some of the customers regarding their bookings. It is hoped that all current bookings can be covered by the incoming caterers.</p> <p>3. <i>Engie</i>, are the current contracted electricity suppliers and RH has asked the Ombudsman to intervene as their billing for the Hoggust has been charged on the wrong tariff, and despite several attempts to resolve the matter Engie failed to do so. The Ombudsman has recommended to <i>Engie</i> that they give us £200 in compensation and in addition they should issue a backdated refund based on the difference between the tariff charged and the correct one. To date no refund has been received.</p> <p>The Ombudsman stated that they were unable to do anything about the contract which was set up to run from October 2022 to March 2027 unless it can be scrutinised and found to be faulty in some way.</p> <p>4. The tub chairs in lounge are in desperate need of recovering or replacing. RH has been quoted an approximate recovering cost of £260 per chair. The House Committee are to look at what fabrics are available and will report back.</p> <p>5. RH reported that a new electric door is being fitted this week to the Greenkeepers shed. There are also some new security cameras to be fitted to both the sheds and the hoggust.</p> <p>6. An antiques valuation company has hired the function room for 2 events in the coming months, and they have been asked to provide a price for a valuation of the club trophies for insurance purposes.</p> <p>7. The pile of gravel on the car park has been removed.</p> <p>8. The Council would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped around the clubhouse and course over the year. Their work is much appreciated and has helped us to maintain the facilities in better condition as well as improving the overall presentation of the club at minimal cost.</p>	<p>LB/SJ/JA/S J/TD</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p>
8.	<p><u>Course</u></p> <p>1. A review of the Greenkeepers' staffing levels has identified that we are "over staffed" and GO proposed that we should make an appropriate reduction to the current level of staff members, this was seconded by CR and all agreed that in the best overall interests of the Club we should investigate how a reduction in the number of staff members could be achieved. TD will seek advice on how to proceed with this from our external HR Consultants.</p> <p>2. In preparation for January's salary review, the Greenkeeper's contracts will be reviewed and revised to provide a more sustainable pay structure. TD will seek advice from our HR Consultants regarding how to proceed with this.</p> <p>3. Michael Pinner has provided a design for the work which is required around the 6th green and 7th tee box. There will be some temporary changes put in place on</p>	<p>TD</p> <p>TD</p>

	<p>the course over the winter months while work is done on the 6th, 7th & 10th holes. Members will be sent an email with more details in due course.</p> <p>4. As the grass sown on the new mounds on the 18th fairway is now well rooted, it will be mowed to a lower level.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Golf</u></p> <p>1. It was agreed that the 2024 AGM will take place on Friday 6th December, at 6.30pm, followed by a dinner and trophy presentation.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Communications/IT</u></p> <p>1. One of the points suggested by members during the review of the Strategy Document was that the Council should consider producing a regular Newsletter. The Council agreed that it would aim to produce a quarterly Newsletter, and if there is anyone within the membership who would like to assist with this task then it would be much appreciated if they could contact any Council member to offer their services.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Strategy</u> - No report</p>	
12.	<p><u>Juniors</u></p> <p>1. A letter has been received from the Junior Section expressing concern regarding the delivery of coaching services for our junior members by our Club Professionals. LB said that the position in relation to our Club Professionals is currently under review, and once this is resolved then he and TD will discuss the matter with the Junior Council. The letter also raised the subject of safeguarding at the Club, and TD reported that he'd had a meeting with England Golf and that where required our policies and procedures have been updated. TD has also agreed to help the Junior Section with safeguarding issues and in addition he has been in touch with our Welfare Officer regarding safeguarding.</p> <p>2. The minutes from the Junior AGM are posted on the members area of the PGC website.</p>	
13.	<p><u>New Membership Review and Welcome</u></p> <p>1. William Thompson – Full Member</p> <p>2. Anne McAlea-Mattinson – Full Member</p>	
14.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>1. TD reported back on some research which he has done on the Pro-Shop facilities at some other clubs within the county, and he said that the general trend both locally and nationally is to bring Pro-Shops inhouse, with those working in the shops becoming direct employees of the Club. The Council agreed to investigate this further and have discussions with Wil Marklew to see if he would be interested in becoming a club employee and running the Pro-Shop on our behalf. The role in the shop would also include the management and administration of club competitions, as well as providing additional general administration assistance to the Club Office. Taking the role inhouse should prove to be more financially sustainable for the Club as it will retain all profits from the shop, which would make a significant contribution towards the wage costs involved in bringing the shop inhouse.</p> <p>2. LB reported that two further high-quality developers have approached PGC in relation to some of our landholdings which may possibly be available for a housing development, and these companies have been asked to provide further outline</p>	LB/TD

	<p>details of their proposals. LB went on to say that at the moment there are meetings planned for the 8th and 9th October with two of the other interested parties, as well as a meeting with a company who have expressed an interest in acting on our behalf as a Land Agent in the land sale process. A meeting with the PGC Trustees has also been arranged so that they can be appraised of the current position in relation to the land.</p> <p>3. It has been noticed that some of the 'Hot Deals' on Golf Now for our green fees are priced at a very low level. These deals have come about because the organisation who offers these deals also provides the BRS software that we use. Additionally, they also host our Club Website. Without these deals the cost to the club would be in the region of £3,000 per year for the provision of the software and website, and TD said that there was a maximum of two "Hot Deals" per day and that they are not always used. TD said that the system produces an "Annual Usage Report" so he'll analyse this at the year end to ensure that we're still financially better off by agreeing to the "Hot Deals". TD will also investigate if we can apply a higher green fee figure to the deals being offered.</p> <p>4. LB reminded Council Chairs that they will need to produce reports for the 2024 AGM in time for them to be circulated to members with the AGM agenda.</p> <p>5. BC asked the Council, on behalf of Isobel Williams if she could plant daffodil bulbs in the grass bank alongside the white/yellow tee boxes on the gent's 1st tee. Isobel had already checked this with the Head Greenkeeper. The Council had no objections.</p> <p>6. The Council has been made aware that a number of inaccurate and untrue posts are appearing on social media in relation to the departure of Fairways Bar & Catering from the Club. Consequently, the Council would like to make it clear that Fairways Bar and Catering resigned from their position and were not dismissed. The Council would also reiterate that it tried to reach an agreement which would have allowed Fairways to remain at the Club, but the proposal made by Fairways was not financially viable and would have involved additional costs to the Club in the region of £10k per annum.</p> <p>7. It was agreed that the Eden Valley Mixed Golf Tournament in 2026 could be held between 19th-21st August.</p>	<p>LB/SI/GO</p> <p>TD</p> <p>All Chairs</p>
	<p><u>The meeting concluded at 21.30</u></p> <p><u>Date of next meeting: Monday 21st October at 6.00pm in the Blencathra Room</u></p>	