

Minutes of the Club Council Meeting



Monday 30th June 2025 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room

	<u>Present:</u> Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Joan Armstrong (President) (JA), Club Captain Chris Rebanks (CR), Club Vice Captain Mike Davidson (MD), Gavin Oliver (GO), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Richard Hellon (RH), Derek Furness (DF), Chris West (CW). Carol Slinger (Minutes secretary)	ACTION
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Ladies Captain June Doyle (JD), Club Manager Tim Dykes (TD), Steve Ingram (SI), Kelvin Dixon (KD),	
	<u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u> The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 19 th May and were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on 6 th June 2025.	
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>2.2.2.9.1 Costing for a welfare unit for the greenkeepers. LB to provide more information on the types of units that are available. LB reported that quotes in the region of £10,000 including VAT had been received and handed the details of one unit to GO. Further details are being sought and other options explored.</p> <p>2.2.5.4. Community Engagement First Aid session organised for members. RH said that St John Ambulance had said that there is a long waiting list and they would be in touch should availability arise.</p> <p>2.2.11.1 Update on meetings held with the parties who are interested in developing the land. Appointment of a specialist advisor. LB reported that a further proposal has been received from another interested party, and a date will be arranged for them to present their proposals to the Club Council and Trustee's. LB said that it's important for the Club to receive professional advice in relation to all the bids received, and he confirmed that he, MD & SI were to meet and discuss this, but he expected that probably three consultants would be approached and a choice of our preferred consultant would be made from those three.</p> <p>2.2.7.2. Members who might be able to assist with grants/fundraising. RH, MD and John Griffiths are meeting to progress.</p> <p>2.2.11.1 Committee Chairs to come back to SI with responses to the main themes raised by the membership in the 2025 survey. All Chairs – ongoing.</p> <p>2.2.14.6 United Utilities' review our request for them to adopt our sewer; onsite visit arranged. LB – ongoing.</p> <p>2.8.6 Drop Zone at the approach to the 2nd green is to be reviewed. Email to members. KD Closed.</p> <p>3.1 Response sent to Matthew Berrisford. LB Actioned and closed.</p> <p>3.2 Response sent to a member who complained about foul language being used in the clubhouse and an email to be sent out to members reminding them that foul language is not acceptable. LB/TD Actioned and closed.</p> <p>5.1 Review of the car park risk assessment. RH completed a new risk assessment and will circulate it to Council members.</p> <p>6.3 Meeting with JW Catering to discuss poor turnover earlier in the year. SJ said that the level of turnover achieved in recent weeks was much improved but he RH & TD are holding a review meeting with JWCL management on 17th July.</p> <p>8.4 The grass on the 13th fairway strimmed. TD has actioned & this is part of the works being done around the pond - Closed.</p>	<p>GO/LB</p> <p>LB/MD/SI</p> <p>ALL Chairs</p> <p>LB</p> <p>RH</p> <p>SJ/RH/TD</p>

	<p>8.5 Divot seed boxes on the 10th & 14th tee boxes. GO to check if both boxes are in place and refilled.</p> <p>9.1 Introductory lesson voucher included in Welcome Packs. TD Actioned.</p> <p>12.1 LJB to discuss coaching personnel with the Junior Committee. LB & TD have a meeting with members of the Junior Committee arranged for 2nd July.</p> <p>14.4 CR met with a member referred to in correspondence section of the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th February (item 3.4). LB Reported that a letter had been sent to the member on 18th June requesting clarification from the correspondent. To date no response has been received. The Council agreed that a further letter should be sent to the member confirming that the Council considered it in everyone's best interest that this matter is brought to a conclusion as early as possible, and should nothing further be received from the member by 9th July then the matter will be considered to be closed.</p> <p>14.5 New lock fitted to the forestry gate. Lowther Estate has fitted a new gate, and lock. Closed</p>	<p>GO</p> <p>LB</p>												
3.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>1. A Letter of complaint has been received from John Watt Catering Ltd. (JWCL) relating to a member using foul and abusive language against their staff at a recent function. Due to the nature of this complaint the matter was dealt with quickly by the Council and Club Manager, with the member concerned being issued with a two month ban from the clubhouse and course. LB confirmed that the member had appealed against the decision made, and the matter had therefore been passed to our appointed Investigating Officer for consideration under our Disciplinary Policy</p> <p>2. LB reported that TD had received emails from two members regarding the opening hours for the bar and catering. The Council are working with JWCL on a solution and it is an item on the agenda for the meeting with their management team on 17th July. LB/TD to communicate this to the membership. Additionally, we are researching the bar and catering hours of other clubs in the locality.</p>	<p>LB/TD</p> <p>SJ/RH/TD</p>												
4.	<p><u>Suggestions Box</u> - None</p>													
5.	<p><u>Health and Safety</u></p> <p>1. During a routine fire alarm test this week faults were identified in two of the fire alarm call points. The points were replaced by Beacon Fire but it is apparent that all the call points are dated and will need to be replaced at some point. The Council asked RH to prioritise and replace where needed.</p>	<p>RH</p>												
6.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>1.</p> <table><tr><th>Bank balances as of: 23rd June 2025</th><th>Compared to previous year:</th></tr><tr><td>PGC: £5,387.46</td><td>PGC: £10,824.85</td></tr><tr><td>Reserve Accounts 35 Day A/C £52,424.53 95 Day A/C £52,994.34 Instant access deposit A/C £34,498.26</td><td>Reserve Accounts 35 Day A/C £50,910.02 95 Day A/C £51,095.33 Instant access deposit A/C £35,514.96</td></tr><tr><td>PGC Ltd: £87,882.61</td><td>PGC Ltd: £60,425.80</td></tr><tr><td>Cumberland BS £125,384.74</td><td>Cumberland BS £121,709.71</td></tr><tr><td>Total: £358,571.94</td><td>Total: £330,480.67</td></tr></table>	Bank balances as of: 23 rd June 2025	Compared to previous year:	PGC: £5,387.46	PGC: £10,824.85	Reserve Accounts 35 Day A/C £52,424.53 95 Day A/C £52,994.34 Instant access deposit A/C £34,498.26	Reserve Accounts 35 Day A/C £50,910.02 95 Day A/C £51,095.33 Instant access deposit A/C £35,514.96	PGC Ltd: £87,882.61	PGC Ltd: £60,425.80	Cumberland BS £125,384.74	Cumberland BS £121,709.71	Total: £358,571.94	Total: £330,480.67	
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	<p>2. Memberships</p> <p>Full: 360 Junior: 55</p> <p>Seniors: 56 Cadet: 20</p> <p>Over 80: 8 18-25 in employment: 6</p> <p>5 Day: 45 18-25 in education: 12</p> <p>2nd Club: 14 Social: 20</p> <p>Country: 2 Low to modest income: 3</p> <p>Total Membership 601 at 23rd June 2025</p>	
7.	<p><u>House</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The company who the Club & JWCL were hoping to work with on developing an EPOS & fob system appear to have lost interest and are not responding to communications. This matter is on the agenda for discussion at the meeting with JWCL on 17th July. 2. At the Finance committee meeting it was agreed that the intruder alarm system will be extended to include the Ladies locker room but the date to do that will be delayed until the next financial year. 3. RH reported that the refurbishment work to the main lounge area is now completed, other than some artwork/photographs to be fixed to the walls. The work was completed under budget. 4. The central heating boiler in the flat has developed a leak. GO to investigate and quote for repair. 5. It was agreed that the area around the coffee machine in the foyer looked untidy, so we will look to see if it can be improved. 6. The 10 large round tables used in the function room are coming to the end of their life. RH to obtain a quote for replacing them with some 5' and 3'6" tables and report back to the Finance Committee. There will be some oblong wooden tables redundant which will be sold. 7. JWCL have requested that the chest freezer currently used in the kitchen is replaced by two upright freezers. Item to be discussed at the meeting being held with JWCL on 17th July. 	<p>SJ/RH/TD</p> <p>GO</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>SJ/RH/TD</p>
8.	<p><u>Course</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There have been some excellent comments received from members and visitors regarding the condition of the course and the Council would like to thank the Club Manager and all the Greens Staff for their hard work which is valued and appreciated by all. 2. In principle, the level of essential tree felling has been agreed and we are waiting for the consultation period on the felling licence to be completed. Trees to be removed have been provisionally marked with green or red paint. However, the final decision regarding which trees to fell will be taken later this year when the work will be part of the winter program. Felling contractor to be confirmed. However, the membership will be kept fully informed of the proposals. 3. The Electricity Board are to remove some trees adjacent to the boundary wall which runs behind the wood to the right of the 17th fairway as the trees are interfering with the power cables. 4. RH asked if tree stumps around the course could be ground down. GO to investigate. 	<p>GO</p>

	<p>5. Phase 1 of the clearance around the pond between the 13th and 14th has been completed by the Greens Staff and Volunteers. The Volunteers' Day in July will continue to clear the area, thus making the pond more of a feature on the course.</p> <p>6. DF raised the importance of keeping members informed of work going on around the course, and it was agreed that we would continue to notify the membership of anything significant which was happening or due to be happening on the course.</p> <p>7. Members have asked for the mounds on the 18th fairway to be trimmed. This will be reviewed, but in the meantime, players are required to treat the mounds as a hazard and play accordingly.</p> <p>8. One member has asked for regular stimp meter (speed) readings for the greens. This was deemed to be unnecessary and time consuming for the green keepers.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Golf</u></p> <p>1. It was agreed that to qualify for the Mid- Amateur Championship a players Handicap Index should be 7.7, therefore the minimum Playing Handicap granted would be 10.</p> <p>2. In accordance with the rules of golf, the Council has produced a policy regarding the use of buggies in competitions. DF to email details to members.</p> <p>3. DF raised a query about the rules for entry into the 'Father and Son' trophy so that it could be modified to include other pairs where a suitable relationship exists e.g. Father and Daughter, or Mother and Son. LB agreed to look into how the competition was administered in the past, and following the meeting can confirm that in recent years we have run two separate competitions, a Father & Son Trophy and a Family Trophy with the following entry criteria</p> <p>Father & Son Trophy - Only Father & Sons are eligible to play in this competition.</p> <p>Family Trophy - Entry to the Family Trophy is open to any combination of; Parent/child, Grandparent/grandchild, siblings, male or female. (but not father & son) Adopted, fostered or stepchildren or grandchildren are all included in the criteria for both competitions.</p> <p>Both competitions will be played as Foursomes, with handicaps calculated on the day.</p> <p>4. Update from the minutes of the Competitions and handicaps meeting on 11th June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DF to add Simpson and Yeates (19+ handicaps), Alan Kitchen Memorial Trophy, Men's Foursomes and Grouse Foursomes to playing calendar. • The Mallinson Veterans Trophy is also to be included in the calendar. It was agreed that this should be scheduled for Thursday 31st July as a stableford off yellow markers, open to ALL gents aged 55+ (not just dads army members), tee bookings available all day. This decision was made in order to be as inclusive as possible and give as many seniors as possible the opportunity to play in the competition. • Members must adhere to World Handicap Scheme rules. All scores must be recorded on a player's WHS record for all counting competitions (home and away). Members are reminded that ALL general play rounds must be booked BEFORE play and ALL general play scorecards MUST be returned after play. Penalties can be applied if rules are not adhered to. • Players must abide by the rules of golf and scorecards must be completed in accordance with the rules of golf. Players are encouraged to download the "R&A Rules of Golf app". If there are any issues or queries relating to the rules, players 	DF

	<p>should seek clarification from the Director of Golf in the first instance. Any specific issues can be relayed to members via email or on the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers are needed to take rules qualifications and be rules ambassadors for men's, ladies' and junior sections. • Players are reminded that all knockout matches must be played by the deadline date and the winners(s) must be entered on the draw sheet by the deadline date, otherwise all players will be disqualified. 	
10.	<p><u>Communications/IT</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CW reported that content has been sent to The Herald for publication, but it doesn't often get included. Any news of special events should be sent to TD to forward with the hope that it will get published in future. However, it was agreed that only "significant news" would be put forward for publication. 	
11.	<p><u>Strategy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In SI's absence nothing was discussed in relation to strategy other than the items included in Item No's 2.2.11.1 above. 	
12.	<p><u>Juniors</u> – Report provided by Phil Park</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Junior Fundraiser was held on 9th /10th May 2025. There was good support from members. A number of the holes were kindly sponsored on the day and a raffle was well organised by the Lady Captain. Just over £800 was raised for the junior section so a really big thank you from the junior committee to all who took part. 2. The Junior Committee would also like to pass on their thanks to the Council for now agreeing to pay for meals following junior matches and also the purchase of the sports tops for the junior team. 3. A junior information page has now been prepared to insert into the new member information pack. 4. Junior coaching has been well attended to date and a further session is taking place at the HUB for members of the junior team under the guidance of Andrew Pickering, Golf Professional. This is to consolidate the coaching that occurred during the winter months. At times this year the junior committee has been stretched covering junior coaching and it is understood there will be further discussions on this matter which will be helpful to see if any other members would like to assist with junior coaching going forward. 5. The junior open was held on Saturday 7th June 2025. Given that this has not been held since covid restrictions there was a reasonable entry and despite the incessant rain at times all the juniors enjoyed the competition. It has built good foundations for 2026 and a number of areas were identified where improvements can be made to both promote host future competitions. 	
13.	<p><u>New Membership Review and Welcome</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Alan Taylor – Full 7 Day b) Steve Hadlington – Full 7 Day c) Lee Edwards – PGA Member d) Katherine Barnes – Full 7 Day e) Tom Dent – Full 7 Day 	

	<p>f) Jo McInerney – Full 7 Day g) Penelope Bullock – 5 Day h) Andrew Swinbank – 5 Day Off Peak i) Simon Barnard – 5 Day Off Peak j) Declan Munro – Intermediate in Education k) Jack Wallace – Intermediate in Education l) Chloe Eskill – Junior 11 to 18 m) Nianh Carruthers – Junior 11 to 18 n) Giorgio Cardia – Junior 11 to 18 o) Theo Walker – Junior 11 to 18 p) Elliott Dent – Junior 11 to 18 q) Harry Walton – Junior 11 to 18 r) Alan Bell - Country s) John Greathead - Country t) Tom Maughan – Full 7 Day</p>	
14.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some members have queried why there was a ‘Reciprocal Agreement’ with Carlisle GC last weekend. LB confirmed that this was due to Carlisle GC being hosts to the County Championships over the weekend when their members were unable to get access to their course. When Penrith G C host a similar county event in the future then the arrangement will be reversed. 2. DF said that he been approached by a member questioning the “Golden Hour” tee times reserved on Saturdays between 12.00 – 13.00hrs. These tee times will remain to be reserved for members. 3. Some members have recently been acting as Course Marshalls and the Council would like to thank them for donating their time which is much appreciated and which is having a positive impact. If other members would like to help out, then please contact TD to add your name to the rota. 4. The car park space alongside the practice putting green is to be closed off to allow easier access to the course by buggy users. Post(s) will be erected in due course. 5. The cooker in the club flat has developed a fault and needs replacing. The cost of a new cooker would be in the region of £400 to £500, but we have been offered a “nearly new” cooker for £200. All agreed that this was a good offer and should be accepted. 6. JA, asked on behalf of KD, if Penrith would give a 4-ball voucher to support a Hospice Charity Day at Windermere GC later this year. It was agreed that a voucher would be provided and LB will ask TD to arrange. 	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>LB</p>
	<p>The meeting concluded at 20.08 hrs</p> <p><u>Date of next meeting: Monday 28th July at 6.00pm in the Blencathra Room</u></p>	