Minutes of the Club Council Meeting

Tuesday 26th August 2025 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room

	Present: Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Joan Armstrong (President) (JA), Club Captain Chris Rebanks (CR), Ladies Captain June Doyle (D), (MD), Club Manager Tim Dykes (TD), Gavin Oliver (GO), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Steve Ingram (SI) Derek Furness (DF), Kelvin Dixon (KD).	**ACTION**
1.	**Apologies** Mike Davidson, Richard Hellon	
	Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 30th June and were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on 14th July 2025. The meeting scheduled to be held on 28th July 2025 was cancelled because the Council were not quorate on the evening.	
2.	**Matters Arising** 2.2.2.2.2.9.1Costing for a welfare unit for the greenkeepers. LB to provide more information on the types of units that are available. **– LB said that no further progress had been made yet, so the matter is ongoing. – LB/GO** 2.2.2.2.11.1 Update on meetings held with the parties who are interested in developing the land. Appointment of a specialist advisor. – **See Strategy Section Below** 2.2.2.2.11.1 Committee Chairs to come back to SI with responses to the main themes raised by the membership in the 2025 survey **– See Strategy Section Below** 2.2.2.2.14.6 United Utilities' review our request for them to adopt our sewer; onsite visit arranged. **TD reported that Andidrain have been appointed to carry out a survey of our sewer system as requested by United Utilities, and the survey will be completed soon.** 2.2.5.1 Circulation of the reviewed car park risk assessment to Council members. **This has been completed – Closed.** 2.2.6.3 Feedback from the meeting held with JW Catering. **LB reported that a summary of the meeting had been distributed to all Council members. However, he said that there are still a number of issues to be resolved, so a further meeting will be held with JW Catering Ltd.** 2.2.8.5 Divot seed boxes on the 10th & 14th tee boxes in place and filled. – **GO said that the divot seed boxes had been put on the tee's, but a predicted by the Head Greenkeeper they had not been a success because the seed had germinated in the boxes, and in some instances the boxes had been left open by members and the boxes had flooded due to rain – Closed.** 2.2.14.4 Update regarding correspondence section of the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th February (3.4). **LB reported that this matter is being dealt with under the Club's Disciplinary Policy, and the Investigating Officer has asked that further details are not discussed at the present time.** 2.3.1 Update on the appeal against the banning of a member as a result of a complaint received from JWCL. **TD reported that the member was now back at the Club having served his suspension period - Closed.** 2.3.2 Update on the letters regarding the Clubhouse opening hours. **LB reported that Clubhouse opening hours had formed part of the discussions with JW Catering Ltd**	

	detailed above, and that they would also form part of the ongoing discussions with them. 2.5.1 Fire alarm call points replacement prioritisation. **LB said that RH had reported that this is ongoing.** 2.7.1 EPOS card update. – **See Item 3 of Finance Section below.** 2.7.4 Boiler in the flat repaired. **GO reported that the repairs had been completed - Closed.** 2.7.5 Area around the coffee station in the foyer reviewed and costed. **LB said that a quotation had been received to build a cabinet to house the coffee machine, but following a discussion it was felt that it was too expensive - Closed.** 2.7.6 Replacement of the round tables for the function room and sale of small oblong stables. **LB said that RH had reported that the tables had been purchased, but the oblong tables remained to be sold.** 2.7.7 Chest freezer replacement with upright freezers in the kitchen. **RH has said that this will be considered at a later date as part of proposals for kitchen improvement plan - Closed.** 2.8.4 Investigation into removing the tree stumps around the course. **GO reported that the Head Greenkeeper would hire-in a stump grinder at the appropriate time – Closed.** 2.9.1 Revised Buggy policy sent out to members. **DF reported that the policy had been issued to the membership – Closed.** 2.14.4 Posts erected to stop parking in the space by the putting green. **LB said that RH has purchased the posts and they now need to be installed, & GO said that he'd help doing this – Closed.** 2.14.5 Cooker replaced in the flat. **This has been done – Closed.** 2.14.6 Four-ball voucher sent to Windermere GC**. TD reported that the voucher has been issued – Closed.**	
3.	**<u>Correspondence</u>** 1. LB reported with regret that he had received a letter from Christine West tendering her resignation from the Club Council due to a number of personal circumstances. LB said that Chris will be sadly missed by the Council, her input and views were always well balanced and considered, and all those present wished to thank Chris for her hard work and commitment during her time on the Council. 2. An email has been received from Allan Bewley regarding some difficulties that he and his playing partners had encountered with the BRS system whilst trying to enter competitions. LB said that the issues had been investigated by TD and Wil Marklew, and he had responded to AB accordingly. AB had also highlighted problem with his competition record on the England Golf App, and LB said that he'd asked WM to investigate and resolve the issue. 3. A letter has been received by the Club Manager from a member raising concerns about the quality of our bunkers and about the number of trees on the course that have been marked with paint. TD said that he had responded to the member to confirm that his concerns regarding the bunkers would be passed to the Head Greenkeeper, and since responding to the member the greenkeeping team have put more sand in some bunkers. TD said that he had also responded to the member to answer his detailed questions in relation to the trees, also confirming that any work to fell trees will not be commenced until 2026, and that in advance of any works commencing a report will be issued to the membership.	

	4. An email has been received by the House Chairman from a member regarding a number of issues that he was unhappy with in relation to the bar catering arrangements at the recent Greystoke Football Club and Wetheriggs Football Club golf days. The member also raised concern regarding bar opening hours and the lack of a club EPOS system. RH raised the members concerns about the arrangements at the golf days with John Watt Catering Ltd and has subsequently responded to the member. RH also responded to the questions raised regarding bar opening hours and an EPOS system, and the current position on these matters are recorded separately in these minutes. 5. A letter has been received from the organisers of the Eden Valley Mixed Golf Tournament in which they said that based on the success of the EVMGT they would like to seek the Council's approval to hold a further "one day" competition in 2026. It would be called "EVMGT66" and would involve approximately 50 mixed pair teams playing at three separate courses, one day on each course. Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed to approve this request. 6. LB said that a further email had been received from Booth Ventures relating to their earlier proposals made to the former Management Committee in relation to our practice area. LB said that it looked like Booths were trying to put pressure on PGC as they'd spent a considerable amount of money (allegedly £17k) in formulating their proposals. However, LB went in to say that the Council has already rejected Booth's proposals and advice received some time ago was that the contract entered into with Booths was not enforceable, and he confirmed that he has written back to Booth's to confirm yet again that PGC will not be proceeding with their proposals. 7. A letter has been received from CUGC in which they thank PGC for hosting the recent Senior's County Championship. 8. A letter of complaint has been received from a visitor alleging that he and his son, a junior member, were unacceptably confronted on the course by one of our members. Following receipt of the detailed letter of complaint, and due to its potential seriousness LB & TD took the decision that the member concerned should be suspended from the club whilst investigations into the incident took place. Following that decision correspondence was received from the member making counterclaims against the visitor, so TD has written to the visitor and informed him not to return to the Club until further investigations are made, although his son will be allowed to play as normal. LB said that the matter will now be dealt with under the Club Disciplinary Policy and will be passed over to our Investigating Officer. It will therefore be inappropriate to give any more detail or discuss the matter any further.	
4.	**<u>Suggestions Box</u>** 1. A suggestion has been received that members should receive a 10% discount in the club shop. However, following a discussion it was felt that it would not be appropriate to offer such a discount as it's important that the shop returns a profit for the benefit of the whole membership.	
5.	**<u>Health and Safety</u>** 1. PAT testing is being arranged for November 2025.	

6. **<u>Finance</u>**

1.

Bank balances as of: 18th August 2025	Compared to previous year:
PGC: £5,703.90	PGC: £6,211.50
Reserve Accounts 35 Day A/C £52,639.54 95 Day A/C £53,302.01 Instant access deposit A/C £560.46	Reserve Accounts 35 Day A/C £51,182.64 95 Day A/C £51,441.25 Instant access deposit A/C £30,572.82
PGC Ltd: £87,221.46	PGC Ltd: £42,856.66
Cumberland BS £125,384.74	Cumberland BS £121,709.71
Total: £324,812.11	Total: £303,974.58

Memberships

Full: 367 Junior: 65
Seniors: 56 Cadet: 23
Over 80: 8 18-25 in employment: 7
5 Day: 47 18-25 in education: 12
2nd Club: 18 Social: 21
Country: 5 Low to modest income: 3

Total Membership 632 at 18th August 2025

2. SJ reported that RH & MD had met with John Griffiths who has successfully helped other clubs in the town achieve some grant funding. JG had explained during the meeting that funding bids would need to be tailored to meet the demands of the funders in relation to environmental sustainability, inclusion and diversity, and the engagement of the wider community. JG also noted that our healthy financial situation would not help with any bids made. However, it was felt that we should still try to secure funding for specific projects.
3. TD said that the subject of EPOS cards had formed part of the meeting that had been held with John Watt Catering Ltd (see House Section below), but the original company who we were hoping to partner with now seem to be no longer interested. The main problem is that we need a card which is compatible with the separate till and EPOS system used by JWCL, and which is also compatible with BRS etc, and it's proving very difficult to find a solution. He said that JWCL had also sourced someone who could supply us with membership cards, but it wasn't certain at this stage if those cards were a suitable solution.
   Following a discussion, it was agreed that we would again approach BRS to see if it would be possible to find some sort of solution using their card system. SJ/TD
4. SJ gave a brief outline of his initial thoughts on a new membership fee structure which would make the transition from junior to senior membership more reasonable and affordable. He said that he would bring his firm suggestions back to the Council in the coming month(s). SJ
5. GO said that our rough cutter is now ten years old and the Course Committee would like to look at replacing it. We currently have a demonstration model on trial and its cost is in the region of £50k plus VAT, but we would receive something like £10k in part-exchange for our old machine. SJ asked GO to obtain written quotations and bring those forward to the Finance Committee for consideration.

	6. LB said that the buggy that we use on the practice area for ball collection is becoming unreliable and is currently broken-down and awaiting delivery of a new starter motor which is on "back order", so it might be that we'll need to find some sort of replacement for the buggy at some point. 7. SJ reported that the successful holding of the EVMGT had again brought very substantial revenue to both PGC and JWCL. CR went on to say that on the presentation night the club was "buzzing" and the number of compliments received about both course and clubhouse were exceptional. Everyone present wished to place on record their gratitude for everyone connected with the organisation of this excellent event.	GO
7.	**<u>House</u>** 1. A discussion was held in relation to the recent Greystoke Football Club and Wetheriggs Football Club golf days, and whilst it was acknowledged that there had been some issues at both events, it was felt that they were both important events for the club. TD reported that he's going to put some proposals together for different package options for next years events, which would eliminate some of the problems encountered this year. It was also agreed that the club would put some strict provisos and conditions in place with the organisers for next year's events. 2. LB said that a review meeting had been held with JWCL in July and that RH had forwarded everyone a copy of his notes from the meeting. One of the subjects discussed at the meeting was bar opening hours, and it was acknowledged that we need to find a solution to having the bar open longer during the summer, but it was also acknowledged that extending the bar opening hours also has to be economically viable for JWCL. JD said that a number of members had mentioned to her that other clubs were encountering the same issue as us, where their bar opening hours were being reduced because of viability. It was agreed that we should hold a further meeting with JWCL to see if a mutually beneficial solution could be found. 3. TD reported that Wil Marklew had now ended his tenancy of the flat, although he still needed to remove some of his possessions. All agreed that we would now need to give thought to the future best use of the flat. 4. LB said that the House Committee want to progress the idea of increasing social membership numbers, and prior to the meeting he forwarded everyone a draft design for a poster that they would like to issue. Subject to a couple of minor changes everyone present felt that the poster was excellent. The current cost of a social membership is £50 per annum, and SJ said that in his opinion that was too cheap. 5. DF said that he'd been approached by a member who might be willing to serve on the House Committee, so he will pass the members details to RH. 6. LB said that the Council would like to thank Stephen Armistead who had on three separate occasions very kindly arranged for us to be able to use his vehicles for the free of charge delivery of our new furniture. RH will write to SA to express the club's thanks.	RH/SJ/LB/TD All RH DF/RH RH
8.	**<u>Course</u>** 1. GO said that he was going to call a Course Committee meeting to finalise the programme of works for the winter. He said that there would be two major elements to the works, firstly the re-drainage of the 4th green, and secondly extensive bunker renovation works would also be a priority. It's also intended to	

	improve the drainage along the side of the road adjacent to the 4th hole, but our telephone cables run along the side of the road so we'll need to identify their exact location before any works can commence. GO also said that whilst the drainage works are being completed on the 4th green then the intention is to use one of the holes on the practice fairway as a replacement hole. 2. JA said that the course had been in excellent condition all year, and all agreed that this was down to the hard work and commitment of our greenkeeping team under the direction of Head Greenkeeper Robin Little and Club Manager Tim Dykes, so a special thanks go to all involved. 3. DF said that he felt that we would need to keep the membership informed of the situation with the drainage works that will be started soon by our external contractor. TD will issue an appropriate notice to the membership once we have the start date confirmed by the contractor. 4. DF asked what the situation was with the intended tree removal work, and in particular the larch trees. TD said that we are to delay the works to the spring of 2026 because there are no suitable external contractors available until then. In addition, we have also received specialist advice that the delay until early 2026 is also ecologically much better. 5. DF said that he's like to propose a meeting to review the 2025 season and to discuss the winter layout. GO said that this will form part of the next Couse Committee meeting.	GO TD TD GO
9.	**Golf** 1. DF said that the August Bank Holiday open competitions had all run very well and thanks should go to everyone involved in their organisation, including TD, the shop staff and first tee starters. DF went on to say that in recent years the Q Cup had been poorly supported, so in an effort to improve participation it had been opened up to both male and female golfers this year, and that decision was vindicated by the entry being full. DF said that he'd received a couple of negative comments from members who objected to the inclusion of female golfers because the competition was traditionally for male golfers only. However, the consensus of the meeting was that the Q Cup should continue to be open to both male and female golfers. 2. CR pointed out that entries for the blue tee competitions on Sunday's are not as well supported because some members feel that is too difficult to play from them. Following a discussion CR proposed that in 2026 on the days of Blue Tee competitions a totally separate supplementary stableford competition should be run alongside allowing members to play from the yellow tees. Following a debate the proposal was seconded by KD and when put to a vote the proposal was carried with six in favour, one against and one abstention. 3. DF said that he'd recently tried to run a number of additional competitions on Saturdays, but they had been poorly supported. He went on to say that he'd try to schedule the Saturday competitions differently next year in a hope for an improvement in participation. 4. SJ raised the subject of the qualification requirements for club knockout competitions, and a discussion was held around entrants to the knockout's either needing to meet either a maximum handicap limit requirement or alternatively having to have competed in a minimum number of "counting competitions". It was agreed that this matter would be considered by the Golf Committee at their next meeting.	DF DF DF

	5. A discussion was also held regarding the requirement for knockout competitions to be held on finals day, and it was agreed that unless in exceptional pre-agreed circumstances all finals must be played on finals day. One exception given as an example was the case of someone who has qualified for more than one final being allowed to play the second final on a different date. 6. GO asked what the intention would be for a trophy presentation night to be held in 2026, and he said that he felt that a presentation night in early autumn might be worth exploring. It was agreed that the Golf Committee would consider this at their next meeting, and it was also suggested that as golf becomes more integrated and inclusive, then at some point a joint gents and ladies presentation night might be an option. 7. DF said that he was working on putting together a programme of winter competitions for 2025/2026.	DF DF
10.	**Communications/IT** 1. DF asked what we could do about getting the results of the August Bank Holiday Open meeting and the PGC knockout results published in the C & W Herald and on social media. He also asked if we could get the results published in the Northern Golfer magazine. TD said that he'd give DF the contact details for our Social Media advisor who could arrange to publish the results for him, but as far as the Northern Golfer magazine goes TD said that there was a charge and that it was quite expensive.	TD/DF
11.	**Strategy** **1.Possible Sale of Surplus Land** LB said the he, MD & SI had held a meeting following the last developer presentation, and their recommendation was that before proceeding any further the Council should seek outline approval from the membership for the Council to proceed with the appointment of a specialist consultant to give independent advice on the bids received. He said that as part of their recommendations a number of membership forums would be held in mid-October before proceeding to an electronic vote to seek membership approval to proceed. Assuming membership approval a consultant would then be appointed to evaluate the bids received and following that the Council would then notify the membership of the consultant's recommendations and subsequently hold a second electronic membership vote to seek membership approval relating to the sale of the land. In the interim period emails will be sent to all of the interested parties notifying them of the Council's intentions. Following a discussion the Council agreed to proceed with these recommendations. **2. 2025 Survey – Summary of Responses** Prior to the meeting LB issued a draft "2025 Members Survey - Summary of Responses" document and asked for approval for the document to be issued to the membership. The document was approved and will be issued.	LB/SI/MD SI/LB
12.	**Juniors** Updates received from the Junior Committee are detailed below. The Junior Captain George Parkes held his captain's event on Monday 28th July 2025. The format included competitions to suit all abilities and was well supported by members of the junior section. George has been a very visible and active junior captain and should be warmly congratulated on his efforts.	

	Thanks to Aqua Pura for suppling water to the juniors for this event which is very much appreciated. Recent discussions have taken place between the Junior Committee and Council to discuss ways of improving the profile of the junior section together with identifying any other suitable volunteers to come and assist with junior coaching. Some useful and practical ideas were suggested which will be the basis of further discussions going forward. Eden Valley Schools Sports Partnership have requested the support of Penrith Golf Club at their annual tri-golf event to be held on Friday 28th November 2025 at Penrith Leisure Centre. This is always very well supported by primary schools in Eden and suitable arrangements will be co-ordinated to provide the necessary support from the club. The junior AGM and presentation of trophies will take place in the club house on Monday 15th September 2025 following coaching. It is expected to commence at 6.45pm. Generally, the junior coaching has gone well during the summer months with only one session cancelled because of adverse weather. There are still some junior competitions to complete. Junior team fixtures have concluded. It has also been good to see both SIXES and NINES competitions held to provide an opportunity for all juniors to take part. The junior committee will be discussing ways of sustaining some junior coaching during the winter months following the work undertaken at the HUB last winter.	
13.	**New Membership Review and Welcome** 1. J. Dulson – Full 2. C. Forster – Full 3. T. Hodgson – Full 4. O. Parsons – Full 5. L. Robinson – Full 6. P. Cuff – Full 7. L. Appleton – Full 8. K. Addison – 2nd Club 9. M. Glynn - 2nd Club 10. H. Terefenko - 2nd Club 11. J. Pigney – 18 to 25 In Employment 12. J. Pennington – Junior 13. H. Abbott – Junior 14. L. Yerkess – Junior 15. . McCullock – Junior 16. H. Fisher – Junior 17. J. Turner-Robinson – Junior 18. D. Adnan – Cadet 19. S. Hilditch – 5 Day Off Peak 20. W. Bentley – 5 Day Off Peak 21 A. Dargue - 5 Day Off Peak	

14.	**AOB** 1. LB reported that over recent months we have been having problems with some of the club buggies, and that currently one of them is out of service due to problem with its battery. Unfortunately, the company who originally supplied the buggies has gone into liquidation, so we can't get them to come and repair it. Additionally, the buggies aren't a common model so we're struggling to find anyone else to who would be able to make the repairs. An additional complication is that a former committee entered into a finance hire agreement for the buggies with a separate financier, so we're tied into paying for the buggies regardless of their condition for a further 18 months. 2. LB and TD reported that our social media profile has greatly improved, and on Google we are now third on the list of places to play golf in the lake district and ahead of Windermere and Carras Green. We are also 2nd in the search for 'where to play golf in Cumbria'. Up until a few weeks ago we didn't even appear on these listings. 3. JA said that she currently sends cards of condolences to a member's bereaved family as a personal initiative. Following recent conversations with the in-coming President, JA proposed for the sending of such cards and messages be more formalised, whilst still retaining a personal message from the President on behalf of the Club. TD to investigate the printing of such cards." 4. DF said that he understood that the greenkeeping association (BIGGA) hold a number of trade shows each year, and he wondered if we should encourage our greenkeepers to attend. TD said that they do attend some of the industry trade shows, but that there is no reason that they couldn't attend BIGGA events, subject to prior approval by the Head Greenkeeper and Course Committee. TD also said that the greenkeepers had in the past asked if the club would be willing to pay for them to become members of BIGGA, so it was agreed to investigate this further to see if such membership would be an advantage, and if so, at what cost. 5. LB said that RH had asked if the club should consider installing a "live weather cam" so that members and visitors alike could see what the weather conditions were like before setting off for the club. LB said that this had been considered in the past but was discounted due to our poor internet connection speeds, but as that issue has now been resolved then it may now be possible to install a camera. TD said that he is currently reviewing the effectiveness of our CCTV system, and he agreed to investigate the possibility of a web cam as part of the review. 6. TD reported that Story Homes will soon be installing the Sales Office for their Fairways Development our car park, as previously agreed. He said that it would be necessary to remove a couple of tree branches to enable the delivery vehicles to get access to the site. He also said that Story Homes have already paid the agreed rental fee. 7. JD said that the Ladies Section had received a communication from England Golf regarding some changes to their Safeguarding Guidelines. TD said that he would be discussing the requirements directly with England Golf, and that any required changes would be put in place. 8. JA said that she'd recently noticed that the use of mobile phones in the clubhouse was becoming more common, and she asked that some more notices be placed in the clubhouse to remind both members and visitors of the club's policy in relation to mobile phone usage.	TD (item 3) TD (item 4) TD (item 5) TD (item 7) RH/TD (item 8)

	The meeting concluded at 8.15pm Date of next meeting: Monday 29th September at 6.00pm in the Blencathra Room.	