Minutes of the Club Council Meeting



Monday 24th November 2025 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room

	<u>Present:</u> Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Joan Armstrong (President) (JA), Club Captain Chris Rebanks (CR), Ladies Captain Pat Varty (PV), Club Vice Captain Mike Davidson (MD), Club Manager Tim Dykes (TD), Gavin Oliver (GO), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Richard Hellon (RH), Steve Ingram (SI) Derek Furness (DF), Kelvin Dixon (KD). Carol Slinger (Minutes secretary)	ACTION
1.	Apologies All present.	
	New Ladies Captain Welcome The Chairman welcomed Pat Varty to the Council in her role as the new Ladies Section Captain.	
	Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 27 th October and were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on Monday10th November 2025.	
2.	Matters Arising	
	 Matters arising from previous meeting 2.2.14.3 Future use of the flat. RH/TD to investigate rental options and advertise. Ongoing. 	RH/TD
	 2.2.14.5 Update on the possible installation of a webcam along with an update of our CCTV system. RH reported that a second quote has been received (£5,387 + VAT) RH & TD to continue to negotiate with the companies to determine the best option. 2.8.5 Removal of the benches from the course for winter storage. GO confirmed that 	RH/TD
	the benches had been removed from the course – Closed. 2.9.3 Review the handicaps of winners in the match play competitions. The Golf Committee Chairman reported that at the comps/handicaps committee meeting on 13 November 2025 it was decided that there should be no handicap adjustments for match play finalists as this was a different type of competition to strokeplay and	
	there was no evidence provided in the strokeplay handicap reports to back a handicap reduction for match play finalists (Also, see 9.2 below).	
	It was felt by the Council that players should have submitted a certain minimum number of competition cards in order to play match play events for prizes when playing in club competitions. This is to be discussed by the Golf Committee before next season.	
	2.9.4 Information made available to members on some basic rules of golf. DF has set up a sub-committee to look at possible solutions.	DF DF
	2.10.1 Quote for the gas fired back-up boiler for the Biomass. GO reported that a replacement boiler would cost in the region of £6,000 fitted. The Council agreed that RH and GO should, in the first instance, explore if the current back-up boiler can be	RH/GO
	repaired at a more reasonable cost. RH also reported that the biomass boiler appears to not be working well since its	
	recent service. TD to contact the service engineer.	TD

- 3.1 Response sent to Cumbria Ladies CGA regarding hosting the Championships in 2028. LB reported that he'd responded to the GLCGA & we will await any further response from them Closed.
- 4.1 Response sent to a member who suggested selling second hand golf clubs through the Pro-shop. **TD** reported that he'd responded to the member concerned Closed 5.1 Fire drill undertaken in the Clubhouse. It was agreed that a fire drill will be done as per the statutory requirement. There will be some fire drills organised over the next couple of months.

6.4 Feedback from the subcommittee regarding a balance membership and visitor tee times. **Carried forward**

6.8 Feeback from the Ladies Committee regarding entry fees for the Ladies Opens. PV reported that in response to the decision made at the last Council Meeting the Ladies committee have made an alternative proposal that the Ladies Opens entry fees should be set at a maximum of £22. However, after a discussion GO proposed that for parity all the 18-hole open competitions should be set at the same price of £25, this was seconded by CR, and when put to a vote the motion was carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention. The same formula for determining the value of prize funds will be used across all senior open competitions and in the case of Ladies Opens the Ladies Section will still receive their fee for running the competitions themselves.

7.3 Update on the introduction of EPoS cards. SJ reported that at the last Finance Committee meeting it had been agreed that the club would expand the BRS system to include an Epos system in the club shop which would not only satisfy some financial administration requirements requested by our accountants, but would also allow members to have their competition earnings added to a virtual wallet within the BRS system, and the funds in this wallet could then be used to purchase goods from the Club Shop. TD went on to explain that he had agreed with JWCL a method allowing the system to be expanded to bar & catering purchases. The extension to bar & catering purchases would need some "manual intervention" by JWCL but they were happy that they could cope with that. TD went on to say that the BRS system does not include an Electronic Membership Card, so we'll continue to explore finding a suitable solution for this. It is hoped to get this new system up and running during January 2025.

7.4 Gent's toilet light repaired. **RH confirmed that the light had been repaired - Closed.**

- 8.2 The winter programme of work on the course. **TD confirmed that the programme** had been distributed Closed
- 8.3 Update on the review of bunkers published. TD confirmed that this had been **Included in the winter programme Closed.**
- 9.1 Update on Yellow tee/Blue tee competitions from the Golf Committee. Some gents do not play in the blue tee medals on Sundays because they feel that it is too difficult. So, in order to give as many players as possible the opportunity to participate on Sundays, the full Council meeting on 26th August 2025 decided to hold a separate gents yellow tee Stableford on the same day as the blue tee competitions. Since then, some members have commented that having a yellow tee event would reduce the number of players playing from the blues thereby devaluing the blue tee competitions which are trophy events. Therefore, the Council referred this matter to the comps/handicaps committee for further consideration.

RH/TD TD/SJ/LB/ DF

SJ/LB/TD

A number of options were discussed by the comps/handicaps committee, including holding a yellow tee Stableford on the Saturdays before the blue tee medals. However, it was the general consensus that this would still reduce the numbers participating from blue tees on Sunday.

So, AS A TRIAL for 2026, the recommendation was made to hold the Lonsdale Trophy qualifiers and the final as a multi-tee event. Players will be allowed to participate and qualify for the final using either the blue or the white or the yellow tees (but not a combination of these on the same day). (Appleby and Seascale Golf Clubs operate multi-tee competitions). This trial will be analysed and reviewed after the final. In principle, all players will be equal regardless of which tees are used as their handicap index will give a different playing handicap depending on which tee they compete from. Hopefully this will increase participation numbers.

(The Inglewood Cup, America Cup, Presidents Putter, KM Graham, Quarry Cup will remain as blue tee events for 2026).

- 11.1 Details from the forums sent out to members. **LB reported that this had been done Closed.**
- 11.2 Plans etc. posted on the Clubhouse notice board. LB reported that the relevant documents in relation to the possible sale of some of our underutilised land had been posted both on the noticeboard and in the Ladies Locker Room Closed.
- 12.2 Junior Hub plaque and certificate displayed in the Clubhouse. **RH said that these** plaque and certificate were now displayed in the clubhouse Closed.
- 12.3 Discussion with the Junior committee to consider changing the junior training night in 2026. LB said that he had discussed this with the Junior Section but he and TD were asked to have further discussions with representatives from the Junior Committee Ongoing.
- 14.5 AGM reports to be sent to the Chairman. **TD confirmed that he will be working on the AGM report for distributing to the membership this week. Closed**

LB/TD

3. **Correspondence**

- A letter has been received from a member asking the Council to consider awarding an Honorary Life Membership to a long serving member who was named in the letter. After a debate the Council felt that it was unable to consider awarding any additional Honorary Life Memberships at the moment.
- 2. A letter has been received from a member in relation to the Course Winter Works Programme and the timetable of the recent forums held to discuss the possible sale of some of our underutilised land. It was agreed that LB would respond answering the specific questions in relation to some of the aspects of the winter works, and in addition would confirm that the Council felt that the dates and times selected were reasonable and would allow a good degree of flexibility for membership attendance.
- 3. A letter was received from a member with some suggestions in relation to tees and bunkers. LB reported that very sadly the member had passed away shortly after sending his letter, and he proposed that as a mark of respect the Council should delay consideration of the letter until the next Council Meeting.
- 4. A letter has been received from Peter Shearer in regard to the options being put to the membership in the upcoming vote in relation to the possible sale of some of our underutilised land. LB said that PS's letter and the Council's

LB

- responses had been included in the information sent to the membership last week. LB has also written to PS .
- 5. A letter has been received from Nick Birtle in regard to the proposed winter bunker works as well as some reflections about the possible sale of some of our underutilised land. LB reported that he had contacted Nick and it had been agreed that he and TD would meet with Nick later this week to go through his points.

4. Suggestions Box - None

5. **Health and Safety**

1. RH reminded everyone that all incidents that require First Aid must be logged in the accident book, however minor they seem.

6. **Finance**

1.

Bank balances as of: 17 th November	Compared to previous year:
2025	
PGC: £45,393.24	PGC: £11,608.03
Reserve Accounts	Reserve Accounts
35 Day A/C £ 12,932.80PGC:	35 Day A/C £51,951.50
95 Day A/C £54,477.53	95 Day A/C £51,921.17
Instant Access Deposit Account £73.08	Instant access deposit A/C £10,625.85
PGC Ltd: £27,743.05	PGC Ltd: £26,554.99
Cumberland BS £125,384.74	Cumberland BS £121,709.71
Total: <u>£266,004.44</u>	Total: £ <u>274,371.25</u>
Aged debtors: £1962.25	
Aged creditors: £29,238.63	

2. Current membership

Full: 377 Junior: 74 Seniors: 55 Cadet: 24

Over 80: 8 18-25 in employment: 9 5 Day: 47 18-25 in education: 13

2nd Club: 17 Social: 22

Country: 5 Low to modest income: 3

Total Membership 654 on 17th November

- 3. After feedback from the Junior Committee, the Council were asked to review the proposed subscription levels, agreed at the last meeting. SJ proposed, GO seconded, and all agreed that 11-14 years olds is £60, and 15–17-year-olds is £85.
- 4. SJ outlined details of the club's financial report for Y/E 30th September 2025 along with his financial report, which will be published to the membership later this week and which will be before these minutes are published.
- 5. SJ reported that we will need to fund the statutory annual fixed wiring inspection for the clubhouse in 2026, and this will be followed by the statutory inspection of our other buildings in 2027. The cost will be in the region of £3k per inspection.
- 6. SJ reported that the Finance Committee have agreed that the monthly subscription payment scheme for 2026 will again be provided to the membership by "Golf Credit"

7.	 RH reported that there had been an attempted break-in at the Club and fortunately the thieves hadn't gained entry. RH said that he has subsequently been looking at enhancing the security for both the cellar door and the front entrance. This would take the form of a roller shutter door in powder coated steel like those used in shops. A supplier has been contacted, and options will be costed and brought to the Finance Committee for discussion. RH said that further sound proofing is required for the function room if it is to be hired out as a conference facility to other organisations. Currently noise from the bar and kitchen detracts from the effectiveness of meetings and has led to loss of business. RH will look into this further. Further consideration is required to select suitable photos of the course for use in media and the Clubhouse itself. RH to look into this further. 	RH RH
8.	 Course The drainage work on the 2nd, 17th and 18th has now been completed. Most of the car park has been cleared and the remaining materials will be used when the greenkeepers work on the 4th. Further cleaning of the car park may be required. Direction signage is to be placed around the greens to protect the areas during the winter months. The winer works programme has started and paths are already under construction on the 10th & 15th holes. The winter programme will also include the 4th green being fitted with a new drainage system, as well as various bunker works throughout the course. The final extent of the winter works programme will be weather dependant. 	
9.	 The gent's presentation will take place after a shot-gun start competition on 7th December. The winners have been invited to attend. DF to cross check that entries made on the sign-up list correlate to those made on BRS. Various reports had been examined by the comps/handicaps committee at their meeting on 13th November and it was concluded that there were no adjustments required to any member's handicaps at the present time. However, a member can request an adjustment to their handicap at any time. Members can also make a request for the adjustment of another player's handicap at any time. All requests must be in writing giving reasons why a handicap adjustment should be made. 	DF
10.	 Communications/IT 3. TD reported that he is working with our marketing consultant on an update of the PGC website. It is hoped that it will be launched in the new Year. 	
11.	 Strategy SI thanked the Council for their input and support at the recent membership forums and the Council were pleased with the turn-out of over 200 members attending. Documentation has now been disseminated, and it is hoped that the vote will go out to the membership within the next two weeks. A letter has been received from C Graves in which he questioned if the forthcoming vote in relation to the possible disposal of some of our underutilised land should be based on a simple majority of those voting, or should it be based on the criteria of a minimum percentage of those voting needing to vote in favour to carry the motion. 	

- The Council considered this question and concluded that Club Rules only allow for voting results to be based on a simple majority of those taking part in the vote.
- 3. DF pointed out that some comments had been received from members stating that the club had no strategy. However, the club issued its strategy documents to members in July 2024 and SI pointed out that this would be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

12. Juniors – Update provided by Phil Park

The junior committee have arranged for some junior coaching at Penrith Golf Hub for separate age groups and ability and this will help maintain their interest and development from a golfing perspective during the winter months. The first session was on 10th December 2025 and was well attended.

The annual tri-golf tournament will take place at Penrith Leisure Centre on Friday 28th November 2025. There is always a very good attendance of primary school children from the Eden area. Penrith Golf Club will be providing help and support at this event with members of the junior committee and other club volunteers. All the support is very much appreciated.

Preliminary discussions have taken place with Eden Valley Schools Sports Partnership who organise the tri-golf with the possibility of hosting an **outdoor** tri-golf event at Penrith Golf Club in the summer months -2026. This would take place on the practice facilities and would be a great opportunity for the club to showcase their facilities and hopefully attract more junior golfers to the club. Further discussions will be progressed in due course.

Following the award of Junior Hub by England Golf/Golf Foundation a follow up meeting has taken place with the regional manager from the Golf Foundation. This was a very constructive meeting and will help the junior committee in planning junior coaching for 2026. There will be the opportunity of hosting a golf activators course at the club which is a short course (1 day) to provide those interested in junior golf with an introduction to coaching. It is hoped that some new members might be able to take advantage of this which would be of great help to the junior committee moving forward.

13. New Membership Review and Welcome

- a) Stephen Martin Full Member
- b) Leon Aikrigg 18 to 25 in Employment
- c) Bailey Potts 18 to 25 in Employment
- d) Jack Rylands Junior

14. **AO**B

- 1. LB proposed that Michael Williamson is re-appointed as our welfare officer, LB proposed, CR seconded and when put to a vote all present were in favour.
- 2. Work is ongoing with United Utilities regarding the sewer that runs across the practice area and down Green Lane. TD reported that United Utilities had identified that a larger grease trap is required in the drain from the kitchen.
- 3. LB gave a vote of thanks to Joan Armstrong, as the outgoing president, Club Captain Chris Rebanks, and all Council Members and the Minutes Secretary for their dedication and hard work over the year.

TD

4. JA said she would like to take the opportunity to thank the Chair and all the Council members, including the Club Manager. It had been an honour to be the first female PGC President, to work alongside such a hardworking Council, where individuals are able to freely express their opinions before voting on issues, often quite complex ones, but always with the very best interests of the membership and the Club's future at the core of any decision. She wished the Council and the Club every success in the future as it builds on the progress she had seen over the three years she had been in the role.

The meeting concluded at 20.15

Date of next meeting: TBC after the AGM