



Minutes of the Club Council Meeting

Monday 29th April 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) Gavin Oliver (GO), Darren Whitfield (DW), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Gail Gravett (GG), Richard Hellon (RH), Steve Ingram (SI). Carol Slinger (Minutes secretary)	ACTION
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Nigel Scott	
	<u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u> The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 25 th March were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on Wednesday 10 th April 2024.	
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>2.2.2.3.2.2.9.9 New information board update. GO Stated that the board is nearing completion at a cost of £608 and that a sponsor is still being sought.</p> <p>2.2.2.4.4 Viability of a New members folder and marketing leaflets update. Ongoing.</p> <p>2.2.2.6.2 EPOS Card update. SJ stated that this project is on hold until the internet at the Club is improved.</p> <p>2.2.2.7.2 Update on the collapsed drain on Green Lane. LB thanked the Green Staff for the emergency work they carried out to the ditch on Green Lane. Contractors have now repaired the collapsed sewer.</p> <p>2.2.7.5 Assessment of the energy used in the Hoggust. RH Completed.</p> <p>2.2.7.8 Update on satellite solution for internet in Clubhouse. LB has contracted with Starlink to provide a satellite broadband connection and the equipment should arrive soon.</p> <p>2.4.1 Quotes for a stand for the dishwasher update. Ongoing.</p> <p>2.13.4 Content for the videos forwarded to RH. RH asked the Council to continue sending content to him.</p> <p>6.3 Estimate costing for a 'face-lift refurb of the main lounge. RH will provide a list of House projects, with estimate costs, at the August meeting when they can be discussed/approved, prioritised and worked on during the winter months.</p> <p>7.7 Environmental factors to be added to the Course strategy. GO/LB Completed.</p> <p>7.16 Greenkeepers Sheds tidied up. GO Actioned.</p> <p>3.4 Responses sent to LABGC regarding charity day and D Pamphilon. LB Actioned.</p> <p>4.1 Planters to be purchased. RH Actioned.</p> <p>4.3 Clubhouse Defib batteries to be replaced. Carried forward.</p> <p>4.4 Electricity meter cupboard door on hoggust to be replaced. Carried forward.</p> <p>4.5 Foam protection on practice net to be replaced. GO Actioned.</p> <p>6.1 Office door lock to be replaced. On hold.</p> <p>6.2 Shop alarm keypad replacement. On hold until shop management is agreed.</p> <p>6.3 Main intruder alarm access code updated. RH Actioned.</p> <p>6.5 Smoking/vaping in front of the clubhouse. LB/RH reported that new, more permanent, signs have been purchased.</p> <p>6.6 Past Captain's photos. Ongoing.</p> <p>7.3 Improved communication between the Ladies section and the Course Committee. GO/DW Actioned.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LB/GG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RH</p>

	<p>8.1 Improved communication between the Ladies section and the Golf Committee. DW Actioned</p> <p>8.2 Training session with Golf Genius. GG stated that an internal meeting to discuss Golf Genius has been arranged. GG users were asked to bring their issues to the meeting. DW/BC stated that when Golf genius issues were being fixed then more seem to arise. Training on the system is to be prioritised. It was agreed that at the end of this season a review should inform a decision on whether or not to move to a different system for 2025.</p> <p>8.3 Course rating meeting between K Bulman, DW and LB. LB Actioned.</p> <p>9.2 Leaflet drop to promote membership. Ongoing.</p> <p>9.3 2024 Sponsorship renewal sent out. SJ Actioned.</p> <p>10.1 Strategy update. See Strategy (Point 10) below.</p> <p>10.2 Distribute electronic members' survey. Strategy Committee Actioned.</p> <p>13.1 Staff meeting update. LB Actioned.</p> <p>13.2 Club manger advert on PGA website. LB Actioned.</p> <p>13.3 Request for volunteer help in the shop. LB Actioned.</p> <p>13.4 Removal of lapsed members from BRS. DW suggested to avoid duplicating work that this will be done in a couple of weeks when members are all back playing again. All agreed.</p> <p>13.5 Purchase of label printer for Competition cards. SJ Actioned</p> <p>13.6 Purchase of pull trolleys for the shop. SJ Actioned</p> <p>13.7 Removal of the blackboard from the front of the building. GO stated that this will be removed at the same time as the new board is erected. The current blackboard to be returned to S. Dudson as he originally donated it.</p> <p>13.8 Fibrus approached regarding sponsorship of new scorecards. Carried forward.</p> <p>13.9 Purchase of EPOS till for the shop. SJ Actioned.</p> <p>13.10 Contact the visitor regarding his conduct on the course. LB Actioned.</p> <p>13.11 Ranger duties to monitor the non-payment of green fees. LB to devise a rota for those who have volunteered.</p> <p>13.12 Payments of green fees to be handled by the House staff when the shop is closed. LB Actioned.</p>	<p>GG</p> <p>DW</p> <p>LB</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CVLGA – A letter was received from the Lady Vets Committee thanking PGC for the use of the facilities for their championships. 2. Jon Davidson – Responded and the issues are now considered closed. 3. EGU – Respect in Golf information was passed onto the Strategy committee. 4. N Scholfield raised some issues around the management of a Sunday competition. These issues have now been resolved and DW has been in touch with Mr Scholfield. 5. The Ladies Section committee raised their concerns about the use of Golf Genius for their competitions. These will be addressed in the meeting with Golf Genius (see point 2.8.2 in Matters Arising above). 6. Story Homes have approached PGC regarding our support for their planning application for their new development. They have asked if PGC could be identified as part of their community service provision, and this was agreed. 7. Following the recent Member Survey Chris West has emailed the Council and offered to assist with any short-term projects. 	

	<p>8. A letter has been received from the Junior Section, in which they have asked the Council to formally record their sincere thanks to Andrew Sowerby for the support and help which he gave them in his role as our Club Professional.</p>																					
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Health and Safety</u></p> <p>1. A report of a broken step on the 6th tee box has been received. The work on the 5th tee box, which had been approved, will now be on hold and the steps on the 6th tee box will be prioritised.</p> <p>2. The threshold on entry to the 1890 Lounge has been reported as a hazard. The threshold will be reshaped to lessen the height of its edges.</p>	<p>GO</p> <p>RH</p>																				
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>1.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 607 1254 1003"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bank balances as of: 23rd April 2024</th> <th>Compared to previous year:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PGC: £9,730.53</td> <td>PGC: £133,353.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Account £55,371.30</td> <td>Reserve Account £0.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35 Day A/C £50,625.56</td> <td>High Interest Account £150,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>95 Day A/C £50,723.77</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PGC Ltd: £24,571.84</td> <td>PGC Ltd: £36,360.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumberland BS £121,709.71</td> <td>Cumberland BS £118,595.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total: £312,732.71</td> <td>Total: £438,308.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Aged debtors: £1,758.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Aged creditors: £18,988.81</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. SJ reported that the reduction in balances from 2023 is due to several factors including a reduction in the number of subscription renewals to date (probably caused by course closures due to poor weather), a reduction in visitor green fees to date (again due to the weather conditions and course closures), the cost of the refurbishment of the 1890 bar and lounge and function room, and finally spending on essential greenkeeping machinery which was purchased by “cash” rather than by being financed.</p> <p>3. At this time last year there were 570 members, so far this year there are 530. However, there are 10 new memberships currently being processed.</p> <p>4. SJ said that a suggestion had come from a member that as compensation for the course being closed so much recently then each member could be given some vouchers where they could invite guests to play on a "free of charge" basis. Following a discussion the Council agreed that the idea wasn't in the best interests of the club's finances.</p>	Bank balances as of: 23 rd April 2024	Compared to previous year:	PGC: £9,730.53	PGC: £133,353.21	Reserve Account £55,371.30	Reserve Account £0.14	35 Day A/C £50,625.56	High Interest Account £150,000	95 Day A/C £50,723.77		PGC Ltd: £24,571.84	PGC Ltd: £36,360.49	Cumberland BS £121,709.71	Cumberland BS £118,595.21	Total: £312,732.71	Total: £438,308.91	Aged debtors: £1,758.81		Aged creditors: £18,988.81		
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<p>6.</p>	<p><u>House</u></p> <p>1. The House committee all agreed that, to prevent the swallows making a mess around the main entrance to the clubhouse, a net should be place above the beams in the area prior to the nesting season. As the swallows have now started to nest this year, the nets will not be installed this year but all agreed that they could be fitted prior to spring 2025. The Council are seeking volunteers to regularly clear the mess as it accumulates this summer. It was also agreed that alternative nesting sites should be erected to encourage the displaced birds to nest elsewhere around the clubhouse.</p> <p>2. BC showed a photo of the new clubhouse clock as it nears completion in the workshop.</p>																					

	<p>3. RH listed the main projects for consideration in 2024 as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a path to the rear of the function room, a yard for the kitchen and an extension/upgrade of the patio area. • The upgrading of the ceiling and lights in the function room. • A partial refurbishment of the front lounge. • Painting of the woodwork on the east facing side of the clubhouse. • Gardening and general tidy up of the main clubhouse entrance. <p>4. RH reported that as previously discussed, the clubhouse central heating system is to be reviewed and serviced during the summer months.</p> <p>5. To increase security, all agreed that a Keypad is to be used to gain access from the outside of the building into the Gent’s locker room, as is the case with the Ladies locker room. This is in place but prior to initial use the members will be sent an email with the code to be used.</p> <p>6. The Caterers have asked if the Club would pay for 10 Staff aprons, at a cost of £15 each, the aprons being for use by “casual staff” who are brought in to cover larger functions and events. The Council noted that under their contract with the Club the caterers are responsible to provide staff uniforms, and therefore the Council did not feel that we should provide funding for the aprons.</p> <p>7. BC made the point that she was aware of significant losses the caterers had made during the recent course closures. Therefore, she requested that some provisions are made for the caterers should they endure similar issues next winter.</p>	RH
7.	<p><u>Course</u></p> <p>1. Course Policy/Course Closure Policy/Buggy Policy documents were circulated to all Council members prior to this meeting, and following a vote were all approved. LB will ask Tim Dykes to add the revised policies to the website.</p> <p>2. The STRI have contacted LB to see if the club wished them to make an inspection visit in 2024. However, it was agreed that as work was still ongoing from their 2023 recommendations, and to get best value for money, we should delay their next visit until 2025. LB will inform STRI.</p> <p>3. After the recent break-in, the remedial work on the Hoggust and Greenkeepers shed has been completed, and invoices sent to the insurers.</p> <p>4. The collapsed wall on the 13th is to be re-instated. LB said that he has been given the name of a walling contractor who might be interested in doing the work, so he’ll contact him and ask him to have a look at the wall and provide an estimate.</p> <p>5. The security of machinery etc is to be reviewed.</p>	LB LB LB RH
8.	<p><u>Golf</u></p> <p>1. Meeting between Darren Whitfield Will Dean and Tim Dykes. WD confirmed he is happy to look after the Dads Army with support from DW and TD.</p> <p>2. Meeting between Darren Whitfield and Lesley Dobinson. LD confirmed intentions to continue running the ladies’ competitions. DW thanked LD and her assistants for their continued hard work and offered to assist, when necessary, but also advised that he would probably be the one requiring assistance. Various problems with the golf genius system were discussed and will be monitored.</p> <p>3. World handicap changes. An email was sent to all members regarding the changes to the handicap system and on the 1st of April new handicap sheets were printed and placed in pertinent points around the club. A new master chart to be displayed on the new club sign outside the shop has also been ordered.</p>	

	<p>4. Meeting between Darren Whitfield Kathryn Bulman and Les Balmer. A long informative meeting took place about a variety of subjects. The first section was surrounding handicapping. DW is to take charge of men’s handicaps with assistance available from KB when required. The second part of the meeting was around the impending re rating of the golf course. This will take place on Wednesday 3rd of July and the course is booked from 9.30AM for this to take place. Before this can take place, the course needs to be officially re measured, as our measurement has reached expiration date. To comply with the requirements a few things need adjusted on the course. The measurement discs need set to the desired distances and the white discs need to be painted half blue/half white. We also need the white tee blocks to be changed to blue/white. Decisions need to be made around some of the winter green areas as they will impact the course rating.</p> <p>5. Members who have yet to rejoin will now need to be removed from BRS.</p> <p>6. Men’s competitions. Volunteers have been sought for help with running the men’s competitions after the resignation of Andrew Sowerby. Darren Whitfield James Taylor and Kenny Maclellan will be doing this in the immediate future, but assistance will be required from Tim Dykes as there is a lack of knowledge on the golf genius software. Members need to remember to be patient with the monitor as the poor internet at the club means it often operates slower than expected.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Communications/IT</u> No report.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Strategy</u></p> <p>1. Based on the results of the recent membership survey, a draft strategy had been circulated to Council members, prior to this meeting. It sets out achievable goals going through to 2027. It is anticipated that action plans for each area can then be based on this strategy to give some continuity in approach. SI proposed that, after a few amendments are made, the draft strategy is then distributed to all members, following which members will be invited to a forum to discuss it. All agreed.</p> <p>2. Comments received within the survey (of which there were over 700), will be reviewed, summarised and published in due course.</p>	All Chairs
11.	<p><u>Juniors</u> Junior Update.</p> <p>1. Regrettably the first two planned Junior coaching sessions in April were cancelled due to the weather and closure of the course. Thankfully Junior coaching commenced on Monday 22 April 2024 with 28 attending. The coaching included time on the driving range, use of the three-hole course, putting and chipping. Members of the Junior team played to Texas Scramble rules on the course for 7/8 holes.</p> <p>2. On Monday 29th April 2024 a Professional from Penrith Golf Hub will be attending to assist with the Junior coaching and there has been a commitment from the Hub to provide professional services at future Junior coaching sessions when their staff are available. It is also hoped that a closer working relationship can be secured between the Club and the Hub which is to the wider benefit of all Juniors.</p> <p>3. Penrith GC Junior team have some inter club matches arranged and this provides a very good opportunity for Juniors to develop their golf on different courses.</p>	

	<p>4. The Junior section has forwarded a letter of thanks to Andrew Sowerby.</p> <p>5. To date the Junior tees have not been placed onto the course. CR to discuss this with Chris Malpas and action if required.</p> <p>6. As the Greenkeepers Revenge competition did not go ahead, the income it would have generated was not given to the Junior Section. The Section have asked for some funding. SJ is to enquire about their present level of funds and their expected outgoings before any decisions will be made.</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>SJ</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><u>New Membership Review and Welcome</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lee Murphy – Full 7 Day 2. Noah Hoyle – Junior 3. Anthony Sewell – Full 7 Day 4. Ollie Thwaites –Junior 5. Luke Boast Davies – 5 Day Off Peak 6. Jonathan Fuller – Full 7 Day 7. Sam Nicholson – Full 7 Day 8. Dylan Cowperthwaite – Intermediate 9. Giles Raine – Junior 10.Nicky Davies - Junior 	
<p>13.</p>	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To date there are four companies who have contacted the Council regarding the possible purchase of some of our land for housing development. The next phase will be for the Council to decide what area of land might possibly be made available for development, and following that the Council would propose to select a “preferred partner” from the four interested parties. That partner would then work with the Council to agree outline proposals which would then be presented to the membership for discussion. 2. SI reported that he and LB had had a meeting with Westmorland & Furness Council who currently had no plans whatsoever to seek to expand the cemetery, they are actively always having to consider the challenges associated with future graveyard provision. However, their initial thoughts are that they would more realistically be looking at alternative means of provision, and that the nature of that land (former quarry) would make it unsuitable anyway. LB and SI outlined that the parts of the golf course adjoining the cemetery are essential to both the character and functioning of the golf course, and as such PGC would never be a willing seller – PGC would stridently oppose any CPO approach, which in itself would now be completely out of kilter with the landscape and sporting designations supporting the safeguarding of the golf course, and that in any such circumstances PGC would be seeking the maximum possible compensation payments. Further positive discussions took place around mutually resolving the footpath/trespass issues associated with walkers crossing the cemetery and accessing onto PGC land. 3. From the applications received for the role of Club Manager/Club Professional some have been written to say that they were unsuccessful and a few others are aware that their applications are still being considered. One applicant is being interviewed in the near future. 4. LB confirmed that we have been contacted by the former professionals at Grange Golf Club (Kyle & Wil Marklew) to see if they could provide us with their services following Andrew Sowerby’s departure, and following Council approval he and SJ 	

	<p>met with them for some initial outline discussions, following which a proposal has been received from them and following review of that proposal it was agreed that there is merit in talking to them further to see if a mutually beneficial arrangement could be reached. LB/SJ/CR will have another discussion with them and report back.</p> <p>5. It was agreed to extend our current shop opening hours and LB will arrange this with Trevor & David.</p> <p>6. The suggestion box is now equipped with cards for members to complete if required.</p> <p>7. DW said that a member had raised the subject of the untidiness around the first tee, and it was agreed that Council members will carry-out an inspection of all holes on the course for general tidiness etc. LB will do a rota of Council members who will be allocated with two holes each for inspection.</p>	<p>LB/SJ/CR</p> <p>LB</p> <p>LB</p>
	<p><u>The meeting concluded at 21.45</u></p> <p><u>Date of next meeting: Monday 20th May at 6.00pm in the Blencathra Room</u></p>	