



## Minutes of the Club Council Meeting

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room**

	<b>Present:</b> Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Club Captain Nigel Scott (NS), 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), Steve Ingram (SI). Carol Slinger (Minutes secretary)	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<b>Apologies</b> Joan Armstrong (President) (JA)	
	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July and were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2024.	
2.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>2.2.2.11.6 Report on expected outgoings from Junior funds. <b>SJ - Carried forward.</b></p> <p>2.2.6.1 Request for volunteers to help with jobs on the course and around the club house and course. <b>RH – ongoing.</b></p> <p>2.2.6.4 Review of the Central heating System and servicing of the boilers. <b>RH/GO – Carried forward.</b></p> <p>2.2.7.4 Request for seed boxes to be placed onto some tee boxes. <b>GO actioned.</b></p> <p>2.2.7.8 Gate replaced on Green Lane. <b>Temporary fencing has been placed.</b></p> <p>2.2.13.2 Possibility of the use of tokens to use in the range ball dispenser. <b>Tokens can be used. TD to check in there’s any tokens on site.</b></p> <p>2.2.13.3 Marklew brother’s contract signed. <b>LB Actioned.</b></p> <p>2.2.13.6 Sub-committees’ names added to the website information. <b>GG Carried forward.</b></p> <p>2.6.14 Quotes for the drainage work on 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup> fairways in readiness for the winter programme. <b>GO Ongoing</b></p> <p>2.8.2 M Pinner consulted over replacing the sleepers at the rear of the 6<sup>th</sup> green. <b>TD reported that the area is being mapped and redesigned by M Pinner in readiness for the winter greens work.</b></p> <p>2.9.3 Update on the course re-measurement, new cards and slope charts. <b>TD reported that Golf Genius is now updated and a new slope chart sign has been ordered. GG to look at getting a sponsor for the new scorecards and following that TD will order the new cards GG/TD</b></p> <p>2.10.1 Meeting for the users of Golf Genius arranged. Visit arranged to see how Intelligent Golf software compares with the functionality of Golf Genius. <b>TD and L. Dobinson have organised a meeting with the Club Manager at Brampton.</b></p> <p>7.1 Pilates classes are programmed to start again in October. <b>TD Actioned.</b></p> <p>8.1 Strategy developed for a more cross-membership representation on the Course Committee. <b>TD Carried forward. TD asked BC to ask for a Ladies’ Section volunteer, and a volunteer will also be sought from Dad’s Army. BC/TD</b></p> <p>8.3 Tee markers which have lost the coloured plate from the front repaired. <b>RH All have been repaired.</b></p> <p>8.4 There has been a request to mow the grass, under the trees to the left of the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway, to a lower level, which may help with pace-of-play. <b>TD Actioned</b></p>	

	<p>9.1 Members’ survey should go out at the end of the summer. <b>SI/GG It was agreed to delay this until Spring/Summer 2025 to allow a meaningful comparison to be made against the results of the 2024 survey.</b></p> <p>9.2. Review of tee-time usage for 2025, particularly on weekdays between 5-6pm. <b>TD Actioned.</b></p> <p>10.2 New photos/news for the website. <b>ALL. Areas of the website have been updated.</b></p> <p>14.5 Course etiquette footage on the TV screens around the Clubhouse. Check out what is available on England Golf. <b>GG to add a link to the EG video on the PGC website. TD to draw visitor’s attention to the video in their confirmation of booking emails. TD/GG</b></p> <p>14.6 Resourcing and placing a suitable sign to go on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee boxes regarding flag on 15<sup>th</sup> being confused as the 2<sup>nd</sup>. <b>DW to order a small sign to go on the front corner of the bridge over the ditch. DW</b></p> <p>14.10 Text messaging service investigated to be used by the Greenkeepers, to automatically send course status text messages to members. <b>TD and GG identified that this service was not secure, so other platforms are to be looked at.</b></p> <p>14.13 Possibilities of reinstating the New Members Evening. <b>LB/TD ongoing.</b></p> <p>14.14 The water fountain adjacent to the 12<sup>th</sup> green was in need of repair. <b>GO reported that this has now been repaired.</b></p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An email has been received from Joe Dent regarding the allocation of specific reserved tee times for members. TD said that on busy days he always endeavours to reserve blocks of tee times to guarantee members availability of the tee. The Council discussed if specific blocks of “member times” should be reserved each day, but on reflection it was decided that although giving access to the course to members is important, visitor income is a vital source of revenue to the Club and we should be as flexible as reasonably possible in relation to when we allow visitors to reserve tee times, and it was concluded that TD should be allowed to continue to use his discretion about when to reserve blocks of member tee times. LB to respond to Mr Dent confirming the decision reached</li> <li>2. An email has been received from Mr Trevor Wilson who is a resident of Salkeld Road regarding damage to the boundary wall alongside the 12<sup>th</sup>, and that youths are using that point to gain access to the golf course at night and are causing a nuisance. It was agreed that the wall should be repaired but it was not felt that the repair would prevent anyone from climbing over the wall if the so wished. LB to respond to notify Mr Wilson that the wall will be repaired.</li> <li>3. An email has been received from David Harding who said that whilst he appreciated the Council’s efforts in providing a Club Strategy, he wanted to voice his concerns about serious drainage problems on the course which the Club seems unable to resolve, and that the Council should produce a professionally costed plan to resolve the drainage issues. LB said that the recently published Draft Strategy Document had identified the weather and climatic changes as both a weakness and threat, and the document referred more specifically to finding ways to make the course more playable. LB also said that at Council Meeting in June 2024 it had been agreed that quotations should be sought for drainage works for the 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup> fairways. TD said that in addition to this professional advice in relation to several on course matters, including the creation of a drainage</li> </ol>	<p>LB</p> <p>LB</p>

	<p>strategy, is also being obtained from a renowned golf course architect who is committed to working alongside the Club to make required improvements. It was agreed that LB would respond to David and confirm the points outlined above and assure him that the Council takes the drainage issues on the course very seriously.</p> <p>4. An email was received from Justin Rourke concerning the publication of the dates and competitors for the Lowther and Lonsdale finals, and in addition he made suggestions in relation to the requirement of a Pro Shop in the winter months. LB said that he had already responded to Justin in regard to the Lowther and Lonsdale finals and also confirmed that the Council would take onboard his thoughts in relation to the pro shop.</p> <p>5. An email has been received from John Pinder with observations regarding the Caterers resignation. Mr Pinder gave some positive suggestions that will be considered by the Council. LB has already responded to John thanking him for his observations.</p> <p>6. A letter of thanks has been received from Robert Parton thanking the Club and its staff for the excellent experience that he and his party had when visiting PGC.</p> <p>7. A letter of thanks has been received from Richard McDonnell thanking the Club and its staff for the excellent experience that he and his party had when visiting PGC.</p> <p>8. A letter has been received from CUGC Seniors requesting the use of the course for the 2025 County Seniors Championship. The Council all agreed that PGC could host the event and it was further agreed that we would offer to host the event on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025. A discussion followed about limiting the number of County competitions to a maximum of 2 per year, and this was agreed in principle. TD will respond to CUGC.</p> <p>9. An email has been received from Bryn Largue of Ulverston GC suggesting that as our clubs are fairly similar then we could perhaps undertake a joint benchmarking exercise to learn from each other's systems and experiences. RH, SJ and LB agreed to set a date to meet, either at Ulverston or PGC.</p>	<p><b>LB</b></p> <p><b>TD</b></p> <p><b>RH</b></p>
4.	<b><u>Suggestions Box</u></b> – None this month	
5.	<b><u>Health and Safety</u></b> – No issues reported this month	

6. **Finance**

1.

Bank balances as of: 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Compared to previous year:
PGC: £6,510.27	PGC: £40,039.53
Reserve Account £30,572.08 35 Day A/C £51,182.64 95 Day A/C £51,441.25	High Interest Deposit Ac' £150,000.00
PGC Ltd: £43,351.66	PGC Ltd: £93,364.44
Cumberland BS £121,709.71	Cumberland BS £118,595.21
<b>Total: £304,767.61</b>	<b>Total: £401,999.18</b>
Aged debtors: £4,564.62	
Aged creditors: £10,831.48	

2. Club membership: Total membership now stands at 594 compared with 603 at the same point in 2023.

3. The new rough cutting mower has arrived and is working well. DW advised that unfortunately the large rough cutter has broken down and is currently with Rickerby for diagnosis and repair, an estimate of cost being circa £800 +VAT.

4. Following the break in at the greenkeepers shed and the hoggust SJ said that the insurers have now agreed to make an interim payment, but as yet nothing has been received. Receipts are also being sent to the insurers for some other items which were claimed for and which have now been replaced.

The insurance policy is coming up for renewal; TD and SJ to seek quotations from at least two insurance brokers.

5. A quote for rebuilding the wall on Salkeld Road adjacent to the 13<sup>th</sup> tee has come in at £3,000 including VAT. The Council felt that the wall could perhaps be rebuilt to a lower level and LB will discuss this idea with our usual walling volunteers to see if they would be willing to undertake the work.

6. The Head Greenkeeper has reported that our sprayer needs to be urgently replaced, and a quote for a new replacement sprayer has been received at £9,000. GO/TD to seek additional quotes and to look into acquiring a reconditioned/second-hand sprayer. RH asked if there is a machinery maintenance schedule in place. GO to look into it.

7. The Eden Valley Mixed Golf Tournament made a profit for PGC of £11,500, plus the added income through an increase in bar and catering takings. All agreed that this is a fantastic figure and a brilliant effort from the organisers and volunteers.

SJ/TD

LB

GO/TD

7. **House**

1. RH reported that the Trophy valuation, as required by our insurers, is still outstanding. NS is again going to remind the valuer.

2. Some further refurbishment work has been costed; however, RH is putting work on hold until the Catering Franchise has been finalised.

3. The sign for the Cumbria Clock Company has been designed and all agreed that RH should go ahead and get the sign ordered.

4. A plastics recycling bin to go in front of the Pro shop is to be costed.

5. The small broken bins are to be removed from the course. The litter situation, on the course, will be monitored before any more new larger bins are ordered.

6. Following the resignation of Fairways Bar & Catering a meeting was held with them where they were notified that the Council's preferred option is that the provision of bar and catering services should continue to be provided on a franchise basis rather than being taken in-house, and they were asked to come back to the Council with their proposals should they decide that they would be willing to continue as

NS

RH

TD

GO

	<p>franchisees. Since that meeting Fairways Bar &amp; Catering have confirmed the terms under which they would be willing to continue on a franchise basis, but following a discussion the Council were of the opinion that their terms were unacceptable, so it was proposed that further talks would be held to see if any common ground could be reached.</p> <p>An advert has been posted and to date we have received applications from 3 interested parties. RH to arrange interviews with the interested parties.</p>	<p><b>LB/TD/RH/SJ</b></p> <p><b>RH</b></p>
8.	<p><b><u>Course</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There was a lengthy discussion around Green Keeper's staffing levels and the possibilities of a more flexible working regime to gain maximum output from both staff and machinery. Concern was expressed regarding the current level of overtime being paid and TD to discuss this with the Head Greenkeeper. and provide feedback at the next Council meeting.</li> <li>2. It is proposed that there should be two specific course maintenance weeks in 2025, the first one will be undertaken in early April and the second one in August, immediately after the August Bank Holiday weekend. Major maintenance works between these two dates will then be kept to an absolute minimum which is aimed at promoting better and more consistent course playability during the summer months, with minimum disruption to members and visitors alike. As always, this plan is weather dependant. Finals Day for 2025 will then be moved back by one week to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September.</li> </ol>	<p><b>TD</b></p>
9.	<p><b><u>Golf</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For the end of the 2024 season, due to the work that has been undertaken on the course and the days that have been lost to events such as the County Championship, the season is going to be extended to October 26th. Three medals will be run (white tee) on the last three Sundays in October, with a cumulative league for those who play all 3 including additional prizes.</li> <li>2. For 2025 the Lonsdale and Lowther competitions will revert back to 4 qualifiers with 6 players qualifying from each.</li> <li>3. The club championship qualifier will move a week later to avoid clashing with Father's Day which has been an issue with players in recent years.</li> <li>4. After much consultation and deliberation, the America cup will change to an 18-hole qualifier with the match play stages staying as they are.</li> <li>5. The Scratch Salver will be awarded to the No.1 qualifier on Club Championship day.</li> <li>6. Following many comments from members we will be limiting the hosting of major County events to two per year, and condensing open competitions into an open week.</li> <li>7. We will also try to play scratch league matches on the same night for all teams so that there are more evenings fully available to members.</li> <li>8. TD reported that running the Gents competitions is taking up a large proportion of his time. The Council is aware of this and will take it into consideration when decisions are made regarding the management of the Pro-shop going forward.</li> <li>9. RH suggested that, on finals day we use a live leaderboard platform to keep spectators up-to-date with all the matches as they progress. All agreed that this was a good idea.</li> </ol>	

	<p>10. DW and TD proposed that a number of our usual open competitions should be consolidated into a single 'Golf week' in 2025, and this was thought to be a good idea as it would improve general access to the course during the remainder of the summer months.</p> <p>11. BC said that the Ladies Section wished to revert their 4BBB open competition to the first Tuesday in August 2025.</p>	
10.	<p><b><u>Communications/IT</u></b></p> <p>1. Numerous adverts and posts have been circulated in the press and on social media. GG reported that there has been an increase in Facebook and Instagram followers.</p>	
11.	<p><b><u>Strategy</u></b></p> <p>1. SI reported that there was a general acceptance of the strategy at the forum. The forum wasn't particularly well supported; however, this could have been due to traffic problems in and around Penrith that evening. An offer was sent out to the membership confirming that the members of the Strategy Committee would be willing to meet anyone who had been unable to attend the forum. LB said that he had received requests from three members for one-to-one meetings and that these would be arranged. SI said that once these meetings had taken place then the Council should be in a position to endorse the document, and then start work on the detail.</p> <p>2. LB said that one member at the Forum had asked if it was the Council's intention to seek approval of the Strategy Document via a membership vote. However, following a discussion it was felt that approval of the document by the Club Council was sufficient for it to be adopted, and this would give flexibility for this or any successive Council to modify the document should specific and urgent circumstances dictate.</p> <p>3. LB said that the Council had received two written responses to the Strategy Document, and along with the various comments made by the members who attended the forum those written responses would be taken into account by the Strategy Committee.</p>	SI
12.	<p><b><u>Juniors – Reported by P Park</u></b></p> <p>1. Eden Valley Sports Schools Partnership have indicated that they would again like Penrith Golf Club Junior Committee to assist in the hosting of the annual Tri-golf tournament later in the year at Penrith Leisure Centre. In the past this event has involved over 130 primary schoolchildren from the Eden area so it is important that the club provides this vital support to encourage children to have a taster of golf in a fun manner.</p> <p>2. Penrith Junior team have now nearly completed all of their matches against other junior teams and they have performed with great credit representing the club in a very positive manner. It is disappointing however that there are still a number of clubs in the County without a junior team so it is reassuring that the club can assemble a junior team at this point of time. There are also positive signs for the future as a number of younger juniors have formed part of the team this year.</p> <p>3. Junior coaching will conclude in September and this will be followed by the AGM for the junior section on Friday 27th September 2024 at 6.30pm in the clubhouse. This will include prize giving.</p>	

	<p>4. The Junior committee have worked hard during the summer to encourage juniors to play golf at the club and it is pleasing that we now have an increase in junior membership. This work however needs to be sustained going forward. A number of new juniors have established a handicap recently and there are also some involved at county level which is really impressive. Some juniors are also competing in the senior club competitions.</p> <p>5. The new SIXES format has also provided an opportunity for less experienced juniors to play fun golf on different golf courses and it is hoped that this format will be developed going forward.</p>	
13.	<p><b><u>New Membership Review and Welcome</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. G Jermy – Full 7 Day</li> <li>2. D Jones – Full 7 Day</li> <li>3. M McManus – 5 Day</li> <li>4. T Kjolberg – Second Club</li> <li>5. D Stephenson – Junior</li> <li>6. R Thompson – Junior</li> <li>7. A Cleasby – Junior</li> <li>8. J Healey – Junior</li> <li>9. R Greenwood – Junior</li> <li>10. A Brough – Cadet</li> <li>11. J Dowson – Full 7 Day</li> </ol>	
14.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It was agreed to purchase a new laptop computer to replace the main desk top computer in the office at a cost in the region of £450 to £550.</li> <li>2. The EG Safeguarding recommendations which have recently been sent to all clubs will be discussed further with our EG representative.</li> <li>3. LB and TD have held a review meeting with our Club Professionals (WJK Golf) to discuss the Club’s intention following the end of their temporary contract in November 2025. The Council did not reach a conclusion regarding this matter and TD is to research how other local club’s deal with the provision of Club Shop and Golf Professionals and he’ll give feedback to the Council in due course. Once this feedback is received then the Council will consider its options further and make a decision which it considers to be in the best interests of PGC.</li> <li>4. Outline proposals have been received from 3 of the 4 interested parties who want to develop some of PGC’s land. Further discussions will need to be held with the interested parties, and in addition we have been contacted by a land agent who would be willing to act on the Clubs behalf. Meetings with the developers and land agent are planned to take place in early October. SI also reported that he's made submissions to Westmorland &amp; Furness Council to have our possible surplus land included within the new “Local Plan” which is being compiled. Having the land included in the Local Plan doesn’t mean that we will be committed to selling it, but it does mean that if the membership at some point in the future express a wish to sell a proportion of the land, then the Club will be in a much stronger position.</li> <li>5. NS thanked Penrith Golf Hub for donating the funds which raised at their recent charity event held at PGC to his 2025 Captains Charities, Prostate Cancer and Eden Valley Hospice at Home. They raised £2,300.</li> </ol>	<p>TD</p> <p>TD</p> <p>SI/LB/GO/ TD</p>

	<p>The meeting concluded at 21.15</p> <p><b><u>Date of next meeting: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm in the Blencathra Room</u></b></p>	
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