



Minutes of the Club Council Meeting

Monday 25th November 2024 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room

	<p>Present: Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Joan Armstrong (President) (JA), Club Captain Nigel Scott (NS), Ladies Captain June Doyle (JD), Club Vice Captain Chris Rebanks (CR), Club Manager Tim Dykes (TD), Gavin Oliver (GO), Darren Whitfield (DW), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Gail Gravett (GG), Steve Ingram (SI). Carol Slinger (Minutes secretary)</p>	ACTION
1.	<p>Apologies Richard Hellon</p>	
	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 21st October and were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on Monday 4th November 2024. The Chair welcomed Ladies Captain June Doyle onto the Council.</p>	
2.	<p>Matters Arising 2.2.2.2.6.14 Quotes for the drainage work on 17th & 18th fairways in readiness for the winter programme. GO quotes expected this week. 2.2.2.2.14.6 Resourcing and placing a suitable sign to go on the 2nd tee boxes regarding the flag on the 15th being confused as the 2nd. DW to order a small sign to go on the front corner of the bridge over the ditch. Artwork circulated and the sign is ordered. 2.2.6.7 Specification of the sprayer for the greens to be checked. The specification for the new sprayer has been agreed and the sprayer is ordered. 2.2.2.7.1 Valuer engaged for the trophies. NS to remind the valuer again. 2.2.7.5 Small old litter bins to be removed from the course. The new “large” bins have been brought in for the winter, so a few of the older ones are going back out on the course until spring. 2.2.7.3 Update on the Ombudsman’s recommendations to <i>Engie</i>. Energy for the Hoggust is to be charged at lower rate and the meter is to be changed. The club has received credits for the overcharges made. 2.7.4 Quotes to recover the tub chairs in the main lounge. The House Committee are looking at recovering the tub chairs as part of a larger upgrade and redecoration of the lounge area, and the cost of recovering the chairs will be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting. 2.8.1 Update of the Green keepers staffing levels. The part-time member of the greenkeeping team has agreed a financial settlement in respect of the termination of his employment contract and he has now left the Club. The Council would like to thank him for his service to the Club and would wish him best wishes for the future. 2.14.1 TD & LB would explore the possibility of working more closely with Penrith Golf Hub for the benefit of both parties. TD has had initial discussions with the management of the Hub and there is another meeting scheduled for next week. 2.14.4 Reports from Committee Chairs in preparation for the AGM to TD by 15th November. All Chairs actioned and the reports have been published. 6.7 Ladies Committee feedback regarding open competitions entry fees. The incoming Ladies Captain to feed back to the Council in due course. JD confirmed that the entry fees for the two opens run by the Ladies Section would remain at £18 for both members and visitors.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TD</p>

	<p>7.2 New key holders will need to be assigned and security codes changed on the John Watt take-over. RH Completed</p> <p>7.3 A GasSafe registered Service Engineer has been lined up to carry out the work. GO confirmed that this is being done this week.</p> <p>7.5The “flushmiser” in the Men’s Locker Room needs to be replaced and there is a tap repair which needs tightening up. GO carried forward.</p> <p>7.8 The hand dryer in the function room Ladies toilets is faulty and needs to be replaced and several lights in the Clubhouse need to be replaced. An electrician is booked.</p> <p>7.9 The laminate floor in the corridor at the bar entrance has lifted due to water ingress from a blocked drain (now resolved) on the flat roof. RH Resolved.</p> <p>7.10 It was planned to renovate the folding partition between the bar and the dining room in the winter months. This needs to be costed and carried out before spring. All agreed that this should be done at a cost of £300.</p> <p>7.11 There is still work to be done creosoting the back of the fence on the 12th tee box, and a volunteer or two are required to finish this off. RH Completed.</p> <p>8.3 The winter course plan to be sent to members. TD Actioned</p> <p>8.4 Use of fairway mats sent out to members. TD Actioned.</p> <p>9.1 Information sent out regarding the Sunday Shotgun Starts to competitions. TD Actioned. However, after feedback from members, it has been decided not to have shotgun start competitions on Sundays.</p> <p>11.2 Organising a committee meeting to develop a follow-up membership survey which will be issued in 2025. SI Ongoing</p>	<p>GO</p> <p>RH</p> <p>SI</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>1.An email has been received from Kevin Mitchell regarding a number of matters including winter competitions, new members, Dads Army competitions, greenkeeping staffing levels and the operation of the driving range. LB said that he’d responded to Kevin and suggested that representatives of the Council meet with him to go through the issues raised.</p> <p>2.An email has been received from Matt Berrisford regarding a number of matters including course drainage, winter competitions and the presentation of the course. LB said that he had responded to Matt and suggested that representatives of the Council meet with him to go through the points raised.</p> <p>3. A letter has been received from Robin Beaumont asking if the Club would consider offering a 9-hole membership for those members who find it difficult to play a full 18 holes due to either medical conditions or age. LB has responded to Robin confirming that the Council are seeking membership approval at the AGM to create such a membership category.</p> <p>4. A letter has been received from Gert Knoetze regarding the state of the path on the 15th hole leading from the tee to the fairway The Council are aware of this issue and repair work will be added to the greenkeepers winter programme to try to improve the situation. The Course Committee will also put provisions in place to prevent buggies from entering that area. LB will respond to Gert</p> <p>5. An email has been received from Andrew Weatherall regarding the steep increase in membership fees when junior members reach 18 years of age. The Council agreed to review this in time for the 2025 AGM. LB will respond to Andrew.</p> <p>6. An email has been received from David Marshall in which he requested clarification of the procedure employed when deciding when to prohibit the use of buggies. TD will respond to David to confirm what the process is and that it is covered in the Buggy Policy published on the website.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>LB</p> <p>TD</p>

	<p>7. An email has been received from Derek Furness raising some issues around the planning of work on the course. TD has spoken to Derek and resolved some of the issues, but this may also be discussed at the forum which is due to take place on Thursday 28th November. Derek was concerned that he had previously sent an email to the Course Committee to which he hadn't had a response. LB asked all Chairs to respond as soon as possible to any queries sent direct to them.</p>																					
4.	<p>Suggestions Box - None this month.</p>																					
5.	<p>Health and Safety</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As the 'staff only' area between the kitchen and the main bar continues to be used by many people it is increasing the risks to safety when staff are carrying hot food between the kitchen and bar. To resolve this issue a swinging saloon-type door is to be fitted. The Council agreed to do this at a cost of £360. 2. The Citation H&S review highlighted that the area around the pond on the 13/14th is hazardous. The area around the pond needs clearing, the signage needs improved and additional lifesaving rings need to be provided. This work will be discussed with the Head Greenkeeper and it was proposed that we seek a team of volunteers from the membership to do the majority of the work. There could also be a number of ecological implications involved with the work so TD agreed to speak to John Pinder for advice. 	TD																				
6.	<p>Finance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <table border="1" data-bbox="272 1055 1246 1451"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bank balances as of: 25th Nov 2024</th> <th>Compared to previous year:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PGC: £11,608.03</td> <td>PGC: £64,339.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Account £10,625.85</td> <td>High Interest Deposit Ac' £30,000.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35 Day A/C £51,951.50</td> <td>35 Day A/C £50,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>95 Day A/C £51,921.17</td> <td>95 Day A/C £50,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PGC Ltd: £26,554.99</td> <td>PGC Ltd: £16,428.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumberland BS £121,709.71</td> <td>Cumberland BS £118,595.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total: £274,371.25</td> <td>Total: £329,363.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Aged debtors: £993.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Aged creditors: £20,128.50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 2. SJ asked the Council to formally approve the accounts for 2024. SJ proposed, CR seconded and all agreed to approve the accounts for 2024. SJ said that he was concerned about the service that we receive from our current accountants and he suggested that the Council look into changing accountants for 2025. 	Bank balances as of: 25 th Nov 2024	Compared to previous year:	PGC: £11,608.03	PGC: £64,339.64	Reserve Account £10,625.85	High Interest Deposit Ac' £30,000.14	35 Day A/C £51,951.50	35 Day A/C £50,000.00	95 Day A/C £51,921.17	95 Day A/C £50,000.00	PGC Ltd: £26,554.99	PGC Ltd: £16,428.68	Cumberland BS £121,709.71	Cumberland BS £118,595.21	Total: £274,371.25	Total: £329,363.67	Aged debtors: £993.00		Aged creditors: £20,128.50		SJ
Bank balances as of: 25 th Nov 2024	Compared to previous year:																					
PGC: £11,608.03	PGC: £64,339.64																					
Reserve Account £10,625.85	High Interest Deposit Ac' £30,000.14																					
35 Day A/C £51,951.50	35 Day A/C £50,000.00																					
95 Day A/C £51,921.17	95 Day A/C £50,000.00																					
PGC Ltd: £26,554.99	PGC Ltd: £16,428.68																					
Cumberland BS £121,709.71	Cumberland BS £118,595.21																					
Total: £274,371.25	Total: £329,363.67																					
Aged debtors: £993.00																						
Aged creditors: £20,128.50																						
7.	<p>House</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RH requested £550 to paint the Gents locker room ceiling. All agreed. 2. RH asked if the number of social memberships on offer should be limited. The Council felt that that the number of social members is unlikely to be an issue and didn't feel that numbers should be limited. 3. A question has been raised in relation to members and visitors being allowed to bring their own food and/or drinks into the clubhouse for consumption for birthdays or special occasions. The Council consider that members and visitors should not be allowed to bring their own food and beverage into the clubhouse, the only exception 																					

	would be for events organised through John Watt Catering such as birthday parties or weddings where the member/visitor would be allowed to bring their own “celebration cake”.	
8.	<p><u>Course</u></p> <p>1. The Course Committee reported that members appear to appreciate the policy of keeping the course open as much as possible.</p> <p>2. The Greens staff are currently prioritising work on the 6th and 10th greens.</p> <p>3. The tree stump on the 4th hole has been carved in the shape of the Club logo. The design had to be significantly modified as the stump was found to be rotten inside.</p> <p>4. LB said that he’d noticed that the wall behind the wood on the 17th hole had been knocked down and was being used by people to access the course, so he asked if the Head Greenkeeper could have a look at rebuilding the damaged area.</p> <p>5. GO raised the subject of the ongoing maintenance of the driving range and practice area. After some lengthy discussion, it was agreed to discuss this with the Head Greenkeeper so that a plan could be formulated. It was acknowledged that use of the driving range during the winter months is restricted because the area gets very wet and it’s impossible to collect the range balls. An appropriate sign will be fixed to the ball dispenser when the range is closed.</p>	<p>GO</p> <p>TD/LB</p>
9.	<p><u>Golf</u></p> <p>1. TD reported that the opens for 2025 are now scheduled and entries will “go live” on 1st December. However, this excludes the Ladies 4BBB which needs to be re-scheduled as the proposed date clashes with another ladies open in the area.</p> <p>2. TD raised the subject of the competitions over the August Bank Holiday weekend, and he suggested including a Ladies singles competition to run alongside the Gents competition on the Saturday, with the aim of increasing entries. All agreed that this was a good idea and a new “Ladies Trophy” will be provided.</p>	JD
10.	<p><u>Communications/IT</u></p> <p>1. GG is to set up the electronic vote as soon as possible after the nominations for Council Membership closes on Friday 29th November.</p> <p>2. The subject of improving the marketing of the Club was raised and LB suggested that the Council look into appointing a marketing specialist to help promote the Club. LB to research costs.</p> <p>3. The Chair thanked Gail Gravett for her work on the Council.</p>	LB
11.	<p><u>Strategy</u></p> <p>1. SI stated that we still need to schedule further meetings with two of the interested developers, and these will be arranged soon. An outline document will then be produced for Council members to consider, and from that a preferred partner will be asked to make a presentation to the Council and Trustees. The developers will then be asked to present their plans to the membership.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Juniors</u> – Reported by Phil Park</p> <p>On Monday 11th November 2024 a number of juniors from Penrith Golf Club junior section attended Penrith Golf Hub for a coaching session under the supervision of a professional from the Hub. This is an initiative by the junior committee to provide some continuity to coaching through the winter months. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who took part and provided an excellent opportunity to develop stronger working relationships with the Hub.</p>	

	<p>Penrith Golf Hub have been delivering some golf coaching in primary schools across Eden during the summer months with taster sessions and it is their intention to continue this format going forward. Over the next 5-10 years they would like to deliver golf taster sessions to as many school children as possible. They believe that they have the ability to deliver taster sessions to a minimum of 4,000 school children in the county across this period. There are six PGA professionals at the Hub but they will require financial support to deliver these ambitious plans and also work very closely with partner agencies. Penrith Golf Club Council have indicated their intention to try and create a stronger working relationship with the Hub so it would be prudent to keep a close eye on these developments. Golf clubs across the county will need to link closely to their plans to make them successful. It is about growing the game of golf particularly from a younger perspective which we should all have an interest in. The junior committee together with other club volunteers will be supporting Eden Valley Schools Sports Partnership with their annual tri-golf event at Penrith Leisure Centre on 28th November 2024 which is likely to involve 120 primary school children from Eden primary schools. This kind of initiative links very closely to what is described above with the Hub's wider plans around coaching.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p><u>New Membership Review and Welcome</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. M Bell – Full 7-day 2. Sue Bell – Full 7-day 3. Paul Birkett – Full 7-day 4. S Lusby – Full 7-day 	
<p>14.</p>	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JA suggested that we draw up a policy to cover the disposal of wood/logs when trees are felled on the course. 2. CR asked if some recognition of the work done by the volunteers who rebuilt the wall on the 13th could be made. All agreed 3. JA noticed that a group of visitors appeared to be uncomfortable when a speech was being made by the Lady Captain in the lounge. It was felt that if any visitors were in the lounge when a speech was to be made then the person making the speech should speak with visitors and make them aware of the situation before they start their speech. 4. The Chair thanked Club Captain Nigel Scott for his contribution on the Council and the Club as a whole. In response NS thanks the Council for their hard work and wished Chris Rebanks and June Doyle all the best for their year. 5. LB reported that he and TD were meeting with Wil Marklew on 27th November to finalise negotiation in relation to Wil being employed by the Club. 	<p>TD/LB</p> <p>LB</p> <p>TD/LB</p>
	<p><u>The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.</u></p> <p><u>Date of next meeting: TBA at 6.00pm in the Blencathra Room</u></p>	