



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024

Friday 6th December @ 6:30pm

	<p><u>Present:</u> 56 Voting Members and 2 Members of staff.</p>
	<p><u>Chair</u> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone wanted to speak during the meeting to state their name first.</p>
	<p><u>Obituaries</u> M Monkhouse, D. Horn, C.B. Thomson</p>
	<p><u>Apologies</u> Stephen Sinclair, Liz Horlacher, Carol Slinger, Richard Hellon, Isobel Williams, Bridget Coy, Rebecca Davidson, Julie Graham, Ian Hope, David Barker</p>
	<p><u>Vote verifiers</u> The Chair asked for volunteers to assist Gail Gravett in recording and verifying the results of the electronic election. Kevin Mitchell and Linda Young Volunteered.</p>
1.	<p><u>Minutes of the 2023 AGM</u> The minutes of the 2023 AGM were accepted as a true record of the meeting by a unanimous vote. J. Balmer Proposed and G. Oliver seconded.</p>
2.	<p><u>Committee's annual report and statement of accounts.</u> The Chair of Finance Stephen Johnson proseed that the financial accounts were accepted, this was seconded by S. Ingram and following a show of hands the Annual Report & Statement of Accounts was accepted with no votes against.</p>
3.	<p><u>Approval of subscriptions for 2024</u> The list of proposed subscriptions for 2024 was circulated prior to the meeting, and the Chair of Finance presented the recommended subscriptions to the meeting.</p> <p>A number of questions were then asked from the floor.</p> <p><i>David Harding asked why the subscription increase is 6.122% when the current rate of inflation lies at just over 2%. He proposed what he said was a more reasonable figure of a 3% increase which is above inflation and would equate to an increase of £22.50 for Full 7 Day Members which would bring the 2025 subscriptions to £757.50.</i></p> <p><i>Christne West and Aiden Doyle both voiced their support for the subscription increases and recognised the need to it. The Finance Chair explained the rationale to increase the subscriptions to provide adequate funds to continue improvement of the clubhouse the increasing cost of machinery that has to be purchased or maintained, increases in staffing costs due to national insurance increases and pay reviews. He also stated the need to stay on a par with other comparable clubs in the area in order to ensure PGC can continue its development.</i></p> <p><i>David Harding raised the joining fee which has been proposed for 2025. He was concerned that it would potentially put new members off from joining and what was the reasoning for it. This point was supported by, Jeff Lowes, Jon Davidson, Allan Ellison and Kathryn Bulman. The finance Chair stated the rationale was to increase loyalty to the club, retain members and put PGC on the same level as other clubs in the area.</i></p>

Paul Butler questioned whether or not the gain from the new members paying the fee was worth the risk of putting others off joining. Darren Whitfield asked if the joining fee could be omitted so that a vote could be passed on the subscriptions for 2025. P J Taylor confirmed this was not possible due to the constitution which stated that the proposal had to be accepted or rejected as a whole. The Finance Chair confirmed that the joining fee, if approved, would be monitored throughout the year to ensure the viability of it going forward.

Ron Glasby voiced his support for the new over 80 years of age 9-hole membership category but questioned the rationale behind the price gap in the junior membership and the 18-23 categories. The Chair agreed that this is something that can be looked at going forward but could not be changed at this moment in time due to the need to inform the membership of any such changes giving at least 14 days' notice.

Kathryn Bulman asked if all subscription non-payers were chased to make payments. The Finance Chair assured her that they were.

Kathryn Bulman and Ruth Coleby raised the subject of the "qualification periods" of the Over 75 and Over 80 Years of age being different, the Chair of Finance said that he would take their concerns onboard.

Following the debate The Chair of Finance proposed acceptance of the published subscription rates for 2025, this was seconded by S Ingram, and when put to a vote the proposal was carried with 28 in favour and 22 against.

4. **Election of Officers and Council for 2024**

Officers of the Club:

Club Captain – Chris Rebanks

Vice-Captain – Mike Davidson

Ladies Section Captain – June Doyle

Club Welfare Officer – Michael Williamson

Results of the Electronic Vote for Council Members.

Golf Chair – Darren Whitfield 152 for, 16 against and 28 abstentions.

Council member 1 - Steve Ingram 154 for, 12 against and 30 abstentions.

Council member 2 - Derek Furness 171 for, 6 against and 19 abstentions.

Council member 3 – Kevin Dixon 120 for vs Christine West 65 and 11 abstentions.

The Chair thanked Gail Gravett for the organising the vote and the volunteers for overseeing the count.

5. **Vote on the proposal of Honorary membership for P J Taylor**

The Chair said that in advance of the meeting a question had been received from David Harding asking why this vote was not included in the electronic voting.

The Chair said that he had already responded in writing to David but confirmed that the procedure for the election of Honorary Life Members is covered under the Membership Section of our Club Rules in Rule No. 8.6, which reads: - "Any award of Life Membership

	<p>requires approval, by simple majority, of the Voting Members at an AGM". Obviously, in view of this it was not possible to include the vote in respect of the proposal for John Taylor's Honorary Life Membership in the electronic vote.</p> <p>Should any member wish to make a proposal to change the Rule in respect of the method used in the awarding of Honorary Life Memberships this is covered under Rule 15.2, which would require such a proposal to be made to the Club Council before 31st October in advance of the following AGM.</p> <p>The Chair then confirmed that the proposal to make P J Taylor an Honorary Life Member was received by the Council from Jim Young and said that the Council supported the proposal. He then went on to read the full written proposal that Jim had made to the Council.</p> <p>The Chair then asked for a vote on the proposal and this was passed by overwhelming majority and the Chairman congratulated P J Taylor on being awarded honorary life membership for services to PGC.</p> <p>P J Taylor then made a brief acceptance speech.</p>
6.	<p><u>Retiring Captain's Remarks</u></p> <p>Retiring Club Captain Nigel Scott thanked all the people who had helped him through the year and the amount of hard work they put in to moving the club forward. The year itself had passed very quickly, and it had been a difficult task due to still working full time. PGC had played a huge role in his life, and it had been a pleasure to put something back in. Nigel presented Chris Rebanks with his Captain's tie and wished him a successful period in office.</p> <p>The Retiring Captain presented the mixed foursome's trophy to Ingrid Mutch and Mike Dixon and the Hanson Trophy to Chris Malpas for his long service and support of PGC. This was very well received by the floor.</p> <p>The presentation of the Captains Prize didn't take place because the winner was not present at the meeting.</p> <p><u>Incoming Captain's Speech</u></p> <p>Chris Rebanks the incoming 2025 Captain thanked Nigel for his hard work over the last 12 months and presented him with his past Captains tie and gift.</p> <p>Chris went on to say that it was an honour to be appointed Club Captain and said that he was looking forward to his year in office.</p>
7.	<p><u>A.O.B</u></p> <p>The Chair said that a number of questions had been received from David Harding in advance of the meeting, and that some of those questions had already been answered earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair then went on to read David's remaining questions and provide responses.</p> <p><u>Question 1</u></p> <p><i>Why has the Council decided to appoint a manager to pick the Scratch league teams without consulting with all captains and players ?</i></p>

The Chair said that the Council felt that it needed to improve the selection process and synergy between the teams, where those people playing well are rewarded by moving to a team in a higher league, and it was felt that appointing a Team Manager who was independent from the teams would achieve this.

He also said that nobody had come forward as yet to act as team captain and he asked for volunteers.

Question 2

Why is our course manicured for Open competitions but not Club competitions?

The Chair explained that every effort is made to present the course as well as possible every day. The course is showcased as much as possible throughout the year and prestigious events are key to the club's success.

Question 3

I propose that all communication sent to PGC Council be published in the minutes. i.e., all questions and all the subsequent Council responses to be published in the minutes?

The Chair stated that every attempt is made to be open and clear to the membership and that all correspondence from both parties is already published in our Council Minutes and he agreed to ensure that Council Minutes accurately reflect items of correspondence.

Question 4

If PGC is serious about selling a piece of land, would it not of been courteous to give all the members first refusal to buy?

The Chair of the Strategy Committee responded to this question and outlined that the sale of any land would only be made subject to the approval of the membership and with the specific aim of maximising the value and benefits to PGC which meant that all interested parties were being consulted.

Question 5

Has the Council drawn up a business plan of what they have planned for any monies received from any sale?

The Chair said that as everyone is aware the Council had already drawn up a Strategy Document and that a number of items had already been identified in that document. He went on to say that the House and Course Committee's had also been asked to consider what future projects they would like to undertake, and the Chair of Finance will also be investigating any taxation implications involved in a land sale. The Chair went on to say that the Council intended that a substantial mount of any income received for the land would be "ring-fenced" to protect the Club's financial future.

The Chair of the Strategy Committee emphasised that all the chairs of various committees have been asked to think about what benefits could be gained from a cash investment. Discussions would be held in due course with the Membership to outline any ideas that have been proposed.

Question 6

I propose that all the members be made fully aware of any offers and designs that have been put to PGC Council.

The Chair of the Strategy Committee explained that the process was still in the early stages and initial meetings were being held with prospective partners. In the interest of confidentiality any proposed plans or ideas would not be made public. It is the intention of the Council to identify the best partner for PGC to work with at which point the Membership will be informed and any ideas/plans will be made public.

Question 7

Can the Council give a full and detailed reasoning into why they turned down an offer of £200K to landfill the practice area and receive a state-of-the-art 6-hole short course? knowing that the land would still belong to PGC. In essence we have turned down £200K for what?

The Chair explained that having spoken to Booth Ventures it became clear that all was not what it seemed, the money received from them would be significantly less than the stated £200,000 due to the costs that would be deducted from this amount in order to build the 6-hole course. He also added that any ongoing liability for issues resulting from our property being used for landfill would lie with PGC and the financial risks involved far outweighed any remaining financial benefit, and he also confirmed that the Council had received professional advice that if we allowed landfill on the practice area then it would have prevented the future use of the land for housing.

David Harding questioned this advice and the Strategy Committee Chair then spoke and gave details of his professional qualifications and background and confirmed that the land would in effect be rendered useless after landfill and its future value would be negligible, so the decision not to allow landfill was protecting the Club's future financial stability and its environmental wellbeing.

Questions from Kenny Maclellan

Due to the purchase of the practice ground being made through a Sports Council Grant are there any potential issues going forward with regard to the sale of such land in respect to tax or change of use?

The Chair of the Strategy Committee assured the floor that all aspects would be investigated fully to ensure that any potential issues would be fully clarified before any sale is agreed. Using knowledge from his professional background he said that if the Club was able to demonstrate that any monies received would be reinvested into PGC and for the benefit of the club as a community sporting asset, for the enhancement of local community sport going forward, so there should be no such issues.

Kenny then went on to ask how the "ring-fenced money would be protected from future committee's just spending the money.

The Chair responded by saying that he had been asking himself this question too and a decision on how to protect the cash was still to be made, but he went on to say that our Club Rules contained a clause which limited the amount that any Council could spend

	<p>without referring back to the membership (this limit later confirmed as £100k). The Strategy Committee Chair added that during his professional career he had come across similar circumstances and the money could be protected in an appropriately constructed trust fund.</p> <p>Question from Jon Davidson</p> <p><i>Can the Council clarify the position the club would be in should the areas of the 11th and 12th holes be needed to expand the adjacent cemetery?"</i></p> <p>The Chair of the Strategy Committee said that this was more of a myth than a reality, and said that the Club had met with representatives of Westmorland & Furness Council, where it was confirmed that the whole of our golf course is designated as a "community sports asset" which in effect makes it impossible for them to take any of our land. It was also noted that during the meeting held with the Council their own Cemetery Manager said that the land itself is not actually suitable for use as a burial site due to its geological make up.</p>
	<p>The Chairman asked if there were any other questions to which there were none and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.</p>
	<p>Meeting Closed at 20:01</p>