



Winchburgh Niddry Castle Golf Club

Castle Road, Winchburgh, West Lothian EH52 6RQ

Tel: 01506 891097

Email: enquiry@niddrycastlegolfclub.co.uk

Website: www.niddrycastlegolfclub.co.uk

Minutes of the Council meeting on 16th January 2026

Present: M McAnulty, M Binnie, J Jones, G Lilley, J Pritchard, L McKay, E Connolly

Apologies: H Robertson P Barclay A Hainey

There were no matters arising and the minutes were passed as a true and accurate record.

Prop LM, Sec GL

The finance report was held over to the next meeting due to the absence of the treasurer

Comments

The report having been set aside discussion followed.

The bank has still to set up the new account and JP will call the bank as he is the only signatory. GL and JP will meet to discuss matters with the bank and resolve this long running saga.

LM proposed we consider the SG scheme for collecting fees where they collect the money and it was agreed that it should be discussed at the AGM. MM pointed out that a similar scheme had been discussed and if few people leave during the season, it is not a good deal. He was also keeping a sharp eye on payments and now we can disbar a member and inform Scottish Golf.

MM and GL will meet to discuss membership lists.

The subs for 2026/7 will be discussed at a later point of the meeting.

LM described a scheme that allowed funds to be paid for advertising within the clubhouse and she will forward the details to MM.

Captain's report/Membership report

4 New members have now signed up and payments made on the 15 for 12 offers.

Greens Report - December

In December the greens staff were severely limited to what we could accomplish out on the course due to weather conditions and having to take our remaining holidays before the end of the year.

Having said this, the course was water logged for the majority of the month and only started to dry up just as we started the Christmas break. We still managed to scrape the mud from the bridge at 17 which we had received a lot of complaints about.

The Weather allowed me to start creating a nutrition plan for the 2026 season which will be sent to a few companies to ask for a quote that I will give to the committee to decide which would be suitable for us going into the new season. I haven't heard about major



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price increases so hopefully It won't be too much more expensive than the programme I used last year.

We have started cutting back gorse at the 2nd hole so that the line of play is clear of obstructions which will be completed in the next couple weeks. I have been doing this because I believe that there should be a clear line of play at holes to reduce the difficulty, especially on areas like the 2nd where golfers must get the ball into the air quickly to clear these hazardous areas.

I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and New year.

Thanks were given to C Collister, M Binnie and N Sammels for their efforts along with the staff on the access road. Further efforts will be made and rubble from the 9th will be used to fill holes. S Scotland was proposed as someone to approach for the road.

Clubhouse Report

Due to Christmas and the weather, the clubhouse has been quiet but thanks to all those who have helped keep it open. Thanks to those who helped put up the Christmas decorations which added to the atmosphere. When the grill on the left of the oven is used it trips the fuse box and this requires attention. MM to sort this out.

Small price rises will be necessary at the start of the season and these will be set in April. More volunteers would be good to aid the running of the club and we will advertise for more staff.

EC had contacted former staff regarding registration with WLDC and food standards. WE have now applied to be a registered company and also with WLDC and the new company will be WNCGC Catering. This is essential to follow our charitable status.

Ladies Report

JJ said that the ladies were still discussing the role of a trustee and requested further information to be sent. Liability was an issue. There was also the input to the business plan and MM and GL would meet on Sat 17th.

There will be a Ladies Open Scramble on August 15th. Discussion followed about the timing of the Deer Trophy and the junior Christmas event in Dec and the availability, use and timings in the clubhouse. It was hoped that a compromise could be reached by adjusting the times of the tee times and clubhouse use.

Match Report

PB met with JJ and agreed competitions and dates but PB has not yet placed these on the system. MB will contact PB and ask him to fill in all the dates so everyone was clear.

MM suggested that we release times which were block booked when it was clear that they were not needed and allow these times for members and visitors. Would also members cancel a slot if they were not going to use it. This was prevalent over New Year when many booked but did not show. It was also asked could the Auld Duffers revise their



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booking and allow later slots to be utilised. As they use a shotgun start it was suggested, and subsequently adopted by C Collister the organiser, that they would utilise earlier dead slots. This will allow others to book from 0850.

Seniors Report

The Christmas dinner was well attended and followed a very enjoyable Scramble. Thanks to Chris C for doing so much to prepare the table and make everything look good and to Chefs Malcolm and Eugene for their efforts.

CC will organise the day out for the seniors.

Social Report

The Christmas quiz was attended by 24 people and was a very enjoyable evening which raised valuable funds for the club and thanks go to Anne Leslie and Rachel for all their help.

The next social is the evening golf at the end of January and there has been a great demand for tickets. There will be a paying Bar and EC and MB will cover the food aspect.

The February social will be a Quiz and Malcolm will be in charge and posters and tickets will soon be available. MM to provide posters and tickets.

Junior & Community Report

Christmas

We held the Christmas party for the primary school aged Juniors on Saturday, 6th December. The first part, which includes the games and activities, was held in St Philomena's Hall and there were 32 kids in attendance. We then headed to the Clubhouse for Christmas. The kids were then given sweetie cones and everyone departed happy. Thanks to Anne Dobie for cooking lunch, Moira Pritchard for making the cones, shouting the Bingo and helping with the games. Thanks also to Paul Barclay, Paul Smith, Ashleigh Smith and Martha Burnett for supervising the games. Thanks also to St Philomena's for the use of the Hall and to Florence K and Anne C for opening up and closing.

The second Christmas celebrations were held on Saturday, 13th December at Kingsfield Golf Range and was for Juniors who attend secondary school. There were 18 Juniors in attendance and they enjoyed over an hour using the Trackman technology on offer. Once again Moira presented them with sweetie cones. Thanks to Willie White for his tireless help here and throughout the year.

Girls

5 girls went out on Tuesday, December 30th in freezing conditions. Thanks to Kirsty, Mairi and Moira for accompanying them.

Schools

Due to health issues, JP has had to put the Unleash your Drive sessions with Holy Family Primary school on hold. We are now looking at nearer Easter time to start.

Award

JP was delighted to receive the following email from Scottish Golf on December 8th.



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"We are delighted to inform you that you have been shortlisted for the Scottish Golf Annual Awards 2026 in the category of Spirit of Golf Volunteering.

Alongside the other finalists in your category, we look forward to celebrating everything you do support, grow and develop golf across Scotland."

JP replied

"Thank you to [Scottish Golf](#) for the shortlist and the opportunity to be considered for the Spirit of Golf Volunteering Award. I am truly grateful for this opportunity, not simply to showcase my skills and dedication, but also to show the bigger picture of what the Team achieves at Winchburgh Niddry Castle Golf Club, the surrounding community, and beyond."
The Awards ceremony will take place at Voco® Grand Central, Glasgow on 27 March 2026, starting with a drink's reception at 17:00.

It was agreed that the club would pay for Ms Pritchard's ticket as a gesture of thanks to JP. Lauren Reid at Deans CHS will be helping JP at the school as she teaches there and may be able to assist on other occasions. The scheme is Unleash your Drive.

JP is also attending W Lothian College on a similar scheme on 26th February and in March a session will be held in the village hall for children with Downs syndrome.

AOCB

- 1- An outline trustees report had been compiled by GL and EC and it now requires input and corrections from other individuals and finance attached.**
- 2- JP reminded the council that at the November meeting the idea of a joint presentation was raised and he saw this as a good idea. JJ was supportive but also would wish to maintain the ladies Christmas dinner. The number of trophies was raised and MB assured the group that it can be done quite swiftly. Further discussion and details will take place at future meetings.**
- 3- MB raised the fact that vouchers had been previously awarded and to ensure that they were available the money from competitions would be held separately and so would pay the winners, the two's sweep and latterly vouchers. The ladies would decide on their own system.**
- 4- GL raised membership fees and had details of other clubs' rates for the coming year. It was suggested that a small difference should appear between those paying in full and those in instalments. It was suggested that a 5% raise for full payment and 10% for those paying monthly and so £650 over 10 months and other rates to follow pro rata. A £5 increase in junior rates was also proposed. The couple's membership would also continue to be discounted and in this case by £100. Community membership was discussed and this remains an area to be resolved/.**
- 5- The constitution requires a change so that One signature was necessary and GL will draft a resolution for the AGM.**
- 6- The Greenkeeper had asked about staffing for next year. HR had done an assessment of the issues regarding an apprentice and when wages and NI were taken into consideration, she saw a negative effect and that a casual worker was of better use for the club. It was also important to grow the membership and also seek additional funds for the club as the increase in subs would only add a further £10,000 to the accounts.**



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- 7- LM and EC agreed to look at setting out a circular with positions needed to be filled and seek possible individuals to assist. Areas suggested were Sponsorship and recruitment. EC would start the process and send to LM.**
- 8- LM suggested flyers for the new houses be delivered and a cost of £10. This was deemed a good way for publicity and offers were made to help deliver.**
- 9- EC asked convenors to prepare their reports for the AGM on 26th February and send them to him well in advance.**

The next meeting will be 12th February 2026

E Connolly

Hon Sec