



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 AGM of February 26th 2026

Present: E Connolly, M Chambers, J McAnulty, R Jones, J Pritchard, T McAbe, C Collister, N Sammels, S Robertson, K McKechnie, P Gentleman, M McAnulty, C Mackay, J Docherty, I Watson, B Watson, C Lilley G Lilley, A McKay, M Gaffney, A Stibbles, J Jones, L McKay, A Hainey, A Shanks, M Binnie

Apologies: M Pritchard, A Leslie, M Gilligan, H Fraser

**The minutes of the AGM of November 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
Prop TM Sec L Mc**

Matters arising: CC asked about the accounts which will be published on the web site.

Captains Report

It has been 15 months since our last AGM and this is due to our status now as a charity, which allowed us extra time to convene this meeting. It also brings our AGM nearer to the end of the golfing season and the financial year, which makes more sense than having it in November. Our move to February is a permanent change of date for the AGM.

Last year saw a big turn round in the fortunes of the club. Bad weather and broken machinery had hampered our 2024 activities, whilst also placing a considerable drain on our finances. We walked a financial tightrope for most of that year.

By contrast, 2025 has seen a return to our pre-Covid situation, with visitor numbers up, membership stable or even slightly increased, and a golf course we can once more appreciate. The club has secured funding to replace the containers currently spoiling the approach to the clubhouse with a new purpose built shed, large enough to house all of our machinery. Eugene Connolly has taken this project forward and we should see the new building starting to take shape fairly soon.

Charitable status has allowed us to claim Gift Aid, which adds 25% to any donations paid to the club. For example, extra payments by Life members would qualify for Gift Aid. So far, it has gained us about £2000 in additional revenue. If you are a taxpayer and make any payments to the club that are a donation (and NOT a payment for a service) considers filling out a Gift Aid declaration.

All of our Open events last year were fully booked, evidence that our reputation is rising among the golfing community. Our thanks must go to Michael and Ron for improving the course to the high standard we now enjoy.

Of course, their efforts are only half the story. We have a core of volunteers who contribute a great deal to the maintenance of the club. I have to thank the following people for their efforts throughout the year.

Firstly, the committee for their support throughout the year. All have contributed to the management of the club and I appreciate the support they have provided me.



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Chris Collister and Malcolm Binnie for their work maintaining the banking on the 2nd and 17th holes. Eugene Connolly and John Doherty for their efforts out on the course. Keith McKechnie, Neil Sammels and Chris Collister for their work to try to repair the approach road and the bridge at the 17th.

Alistair Dunleavie for his time as Greens Convenor and his contribution along with Alex Webster in providing the new tee markers. Anne Leslie for her continued management of the Premier 100 draws. Sue Scotland for her hard work on behalf of the Ladies section. Susan Robertson for looking after Facebook.

Malcolm Binnie, his partner Rachel, Janet McNulty and Eugene Connolly for their efforts within the clubhouse organising the social events throughout the year. To everyone else who has contributed to the maintenance of Winchburgh Niddry Castle Golf Club, no matter how small, I extend my heartfelt thanks on behalf of all the members.

We have a group of volunteers who turn their hands to anything that needs doing to keep the club going. That group is quite small and the reality is that we need more people to volunteer their help. You do not have to join the committee to make a difference. Your contribution to the running of the club would be valued however small.

MM went on to praise the work of JP and wished him luck in the Scottish Golf awards for which he is in the final 3 individuals.

EC then gave an update on the new equipment sheds which are currently awaiting planning.

Treasurer's Report

Annual accounts for the period July 2024 to June 2025 are in process of completion. There is an added complication that the figures for the year cover the results for two financial entities, the former unincorporated club from 01 July 2024 to 2 October 2024 and the Charitable body for the remainder of the year. The figures I have based this report upon represent the two trading entities across the entire year and will represent simple statements around the trading performance of the Club over those periods. Final accounts will be made available to members when they are received and, as required, lodged with the Charity Commissioners.

Our original accountants, Barclay and Co, do not carry out work for Charitable bodies and the services of Drummond Laurie in Grangemouth have been retained for that purpose.

As an aside, consideration is being given to amending the Financial Year of the Club at some point in the future to co-incide with the membership year. It is our opinion that having differing years for the two is in danger of failing to properly capture the financial position of the club at a meaningful point in time. However, as a Charitable entity changing the Financial Year is a more complex matter and that project has been set aside for the time being.

The year to the end of June 2025 saw the club attempting to recover from the effects of the weather in the previous year. Due to the course conditions which prevailed the club held subscription costs at the previous year's level, which has had obvious effects on the club's finances. Despite that, over the year the club continued to commit resources



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attempting to deal with the difficulties which we had faced, whilst committing funds to ensure that rental and trade creditor account payments were brought more up to date. These actions were taken to protect the interests of the members. Allowing for these goals, across the year income largely matched expenditure on a month to month basis. There was however no opportunity to set aside any reserve funds which remain at negligible levels.

The principal operating costs can be accounted for by staff costs, course works, machinery maintenance, rents and general clubhouse and club management costs, including electricity. Electricity costs appear to have been inflated by the use of the kitchen by the then in-post catering franchisee. A further and unavoidable cost is the subscriptions paid to our governing bodies.

Income streams remained static over the year, with Member subscriptions remaining the principal income source, followed by visitor and other green fees. Grant funding arising in the main from the commitment and work of our past captain in introducing young people and new players from our communities to the game. John and his volunteer team do sterling work and the contribution this adds to club funds cannot be overstated. The reputation of the club is also enhanced by this work, and is reflected in the growth of the club membership in certain sectors.

Further income arose from the Premier 100 Club, and I am assured by Anne that spaces are still available if anyone wishes to join the monthly raffle it provides. Sponsorship both by members and by local businesses also helped ensure the club continued to offer golf to the people of Winchburgh. Subsequent to attaining Charitable Status, we benefitted from generous donations by a number of members, which later attracted Gift Aid reimbursement from HMRC. However, this income landed during this current year and not prior to July 2025. Fundraising efforts also added to general income and thanks are due to the efforts of volunteers within the club who give of their time and talents to make such events happen.

Club branded merchandise available to purchase was seen as a measure which would be an additional source of revenue to the Club, and I would recommend wearing the club brand as a way of supporting the club finances.

Round the end of the financial year the incumbent franchisee left and some praiseworthy members stepped into the breach to provide catering services and to man the reception desk on an inhouse basis. Together with a marked downturn in electricity consumption, the club coffers in the current year have benefitted dramatically from the input of catering revenue. At the end of January in the current financial year income was outstripping expenditure by around £2000 per month and the club had also invested in the outright purchase of a grass-cutting machine in this time. Income will drop significantly over February and March with a fall in members subscription payments to be expected in these months, with costs expected to rise through course maintenance chemicals purchases and rental payments due.

Our new accountants have indicated that new Bank Accounts are required for the purposes of the Charity, and despite the opening of "Charity" accounts being an unexpectedly difficult process advance warning will be given of any changes that would impact members as soon as the process is completed by the Bank.



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In closing, I would like to thank those members of the club who have been supportive of me in my role and should say that it has been an honour to serve as treasurer over the past two years. I wish my successor every success in stepping into the role and am sure that the membership will be supportive of all the new treasurer's efforts.

Alastair Hainey commented on the report and the accounts were with Barclay and co and the full accounts will be submitted to the Charity Commission and posted on the web site.

Greens Report

2025 in my opinion was a great year for golf, having just begun my role as Head Greenkeeper at Niddry Castle and diving head first into this position. I had a lot to get done in a short period of time before the season was upon us.

My first point of call was discovering what chemicals we had and what was needed going into the season, while this became more cumbersome a task than I had originally thought, through a lot of nights at home working with an agronomist we settled on a programme that brought great results throughout the season.

Then there was the issue of machinery, there needed to be a lot of time spent on the majority of our machinery fleet but we got there in the end and had a viable piece of equipment for every part of the course. While we had some minor breakdowns and repairs needed throughout the season, I believe that the greens staff provided a great course for our members and visitors in 2025.

The Summer of 2025 saw one of the hottest and driest in recent memory, while data shows we had only slightly below average rainfall, in truth most of that was due to a low number of severe downpours. This weather pattern caused no small numbers of headaches with thinking of solutions to keep the turf on the greens hydrated. While we did the best we could with what we had, we have spent some time through the off season to come up with more viable solutions to this problem.

Towards the end of the summer, we had a high spike in disease pressure, which we managed to catch quite early and there is almost no sign of any scarring caused by it left, and we haven't seen a resurgence of it yet through the winter months thankfully. Since I am sure everyone would remember the awful state that the greens were in at the start of last year when I had just taken over in my role.

While we missed our window for our autumn maintenance, I don't feel that we have seen any adverse effects from missing it. However, we will need to do some sort of greens maintenance in the spring to remove harmful substances from the thatch layer where disease microbes sit.

Preferably scarifying with topdressing and seeding after it, which removes more of the harmful thatch layer than other types of removal.

Into the winter months, we haven't been able to do some of the projects that we had wanted to get done, due to loss of equipment and not being able to capitalize on some



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connections, but we have been making what improvements we can with what we have. The hill at the second hole being the most evident example.

We are looking forward to another great year at Niddry Castle and aiming to always further improve on what we deliver as the greens staff.

Work on the bunker at the 10th was complete and ready for the coming season.

Match Report

Competition	Winner
36 Hole Scratch Comp (2 rounds, stroke play) Div 1 *	Gary Dalton
36 Hole Scratch Comp (2 rounds, stroke play) Div 2 *	Phil Ross
Alan Lamont Mixed Pairs (1 round, mixed pairs foursomes) ?	
Autumn Porteous (1 round, stroke play) *	Stephen Glover
Brockbank Bowl (1 round, stroke play) *	Brian Hume
Cannon Cup (multi-round knock-out, pairs, match play)	?
Captains Prize (1 round, stroke play) *	Danny Croke
Club Championships Champion Div 1 *	Jim Hoggan
Club Championships Champion Div 2	John Pritchard
Club Championships Champion Div 3	Craig Mackay
Gala Day Plate (1 round, stroke play) *	James Jamieson
Handicap Categories 1 & 2 (1 round, stroke play) Div 1 *	Kyle Stark
Handicap Categories 1 & 2 (1 round, stroke play) Div 2 *	Danny Croke
Innes Trophy (1 round, stroke play) *	Mark Kerray
Mairs Trophy (1 round, stroke play) *	Jim Hoggan
McKenzie Medal (2 rounds, stroke play) *	Jim Hoggan
Miller Autumn Cup (1 round, stroke play) *	Allan McGowan
Monthly Medal/Shields Div 1 (series best 4 scores total)	John Doherty
Monthly Medal/Shields Div 2 (series best 4 scores total)	Mark Kerray
Murrays Bowl (1 round, stroke play) *	John Eadie



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Nominated Pairs (1 round, stroke play) *	Danny Croke/Mark Kerray
Overall OOM (best scores total from * main comps during season)	Jim Hoggan
Presidents Trophy (2 rounds, Stableford) *	Jim Hoggan
Robertson Stableford (1 round, Stableford) *	Gordon Craig
Scott Trophy (multi-round knock-out, match play)	John Doherty
Seniors Champion	James Jamieson
Silver Goblet (1 round, stroke play) *	Stephen Glover
Spring Cup (1 round, Stableford) *	Brian Hume
Spring Outing	Not Played
Spring Porteous (1 round, stroke play) *	Kyle Stark
Summer Cup (1 round, stroke play) *	James Jamieson
Summer Rosebowl (1 round, stroke play) *	Jack Norris
Taggart Shield (1 round, stroke play) *	Gordon Craig
Winter League 24_25 (OOM best 4 scores point total)	Mark Kerray

JD raised the £4 competition fees and pointed out that whilst stroke play was rewarded, stroke play was not, nor were there any 2's. MM recognised this and retrospective vouchers would be awarded for the relevant trophies.

Ladies Report

The ladies' section did not have a Captain, during the 2025 season so the ladies committee served to maintain the smooth running of the ladies' section. This included everything from organizing competitions, friendlies, weekend away, Christmas night out and trophy presentations. It's appreciated how much work all the ladies, not just committee members put in over the course of the season.

We had our 2024 Christmas meal and presentation evening in December at the Thirty Knots in South Queensferry. Despite the bad weather, a good time was had by all, so much so that we returned in December 2025. Thanks to Edith Butler for organising both evening. The Deer Trophy was postponed in 2024 due to bad weather but a collection was made for charity and £141 went to Scottish Air Ambulance. The 2025 Deer trophy went ahead with a revised format and Pat Gentleman was the winner of the trophy. A further collection was made for charity and £185 was collected for Wes Lothian Riding for the Disabled.



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A well-attended fun social night featuring B.B.Q. (Beetle drive, Bingo and Quiz) was held in March 2025. The ladies pre-season competition was held on 22nd March and the charity collection for R.N.L.I. raised £137 was raised. At the end of March, the club had a stall at the Winchburgh Farmers Market, manned by Anne Leslie and Helen Robertson, which went well and we gained some potential sponsors. Thanks to Anne and Helen for taking on this task.

The club held an Open Day on 3rd May in an attempt to gain new members. On 10th May four ladies took part in the Mid-West Trophy at Deer Park and came 7th. The Spring Fair was held on 31st May, and made a total of £872 for the club. Of this £500 was from selling tickets for the raffle and hampers. Thanks go to all the ladies who made/provided goodies, sold tickets and helped out on the day by setting things up and manning the tables of goods for sale.

The broken benches including the one in memory of Izzy were replaced by the club and the plaque was cleaned and put on the new bench.

Junior girls and women's coaching took place and was supported by pro Heather Macrae.

The club championship semifinals took place in June, which led to a final between Lori and Annette. The final itself was delayed until the 6th July, and in a close match Lori was the winner. Congratulations to Lori. Our Invitational Greensomes took place on the 15th July and due to weather warnings of possible thunder and lightning, the decision was taken to cut the competition to 12 holes. The winners were Louise Madeley and Suzanne Lothian.

Ladies Handicap Secretary's Report

All competitions took place on the scheduled day apart from the club championship which was delayed as a result of bad weather.

It has been a very successful season on the membership and handicap front. At the beginning of this season, we had 41 lady members and that has now risen to 46. Two are social members and one is a junior. Only 8 playing members have no handicap, some of whom are very new members. Of those with a handicap a small number no longer enter competitions but enjoy social golf.

We have 36 lady members with a handicap which is a 50 per cent increase from the previous year.

Six ladies got their first handicap this year, mostly below 54. Ten members have had handicap reductions, many of them our newer members and 11 have had slight increases. The biggest reductions have been Natalie Harrichand whose handicap index has come down by a massive 16.1 and Sue Scotland down by 16.4 this season. Well, done to all those with handicap cuts.

In our 21 counting competitions (medals, shields and trophies) we have had 10 different winners, some with two wins but Sue Scotland with 5. The number of entries in our competitions is not high but definitely better than last year. The average entry overall was 8.3 people per competition. In 9-hole medals it was 10.1 and in 18 hole it was 7.6. As always there are more entries in 9-hole format. The 3 players with the best 3 net scores in



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qualifying medals and shields were Sue Scotland, Jacklyn Jones and Natalie Harrichand. They will go forward to the regional finals next spring. Congratulations to them.

In the handicap championships we introduced a copper handicap division this year, to accommodate the wide range of handicaps we have. It was won by Moira Pritchard. The bronze division was won by Edith Butler and the silver by Moira Gaffney. Congratulations to all of them.

There has been some discussion within the ladies' section about restricting handicaps within competitions but after reviewing the results from competitions in the 2025 season and our desire to remain an inclusive club a decision has been made not restrict handicaps in competitions.

The dates for competitions and opens for the 2024/25 winter season and the 2026 summer season have now been agreed and published

The role of Handicap Secretary has been dynamic this year, to say the least. It started with Anne Leslie and myself sharing the job and getting volunteers on board so that we could retire! Anne took early retirement in the summer having had many years of handicap work, much in the difficult era of the new handicap system. After various comings and goings, we have ended with Jacklyn and Judy taking on the job and coping admirably. And I have managed to be semi-retired for a couple of months now! Thanks to Janet and Angela who volunteered and/or helped out during the year.

Winners of Ladies Competitions	
Competition	Overall Wiiner
Leslie Trophy (Stableford)	Lori White
Ladies 18 Hole Medal/Shield - Stableford	Susan Scotland
April 9 hole Medal (Stableford)	Helen Robertson
April Medal (Qualifier) Strokeplay	Susan Robertson
May 9 hole Medal (Stableford)	Jacklyn Jones
May Shield	Jacklyn Jones
May Medal (Qualifier)	Natalie Harrichand
The Spoon (Stableford)	Susan Scotland
June Medal (Qualifier)	Moira Gaffney



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June 9 hole Medal (Stableford)	Susan Scotland
June Shield	Lori White
Captain's Prize (Stableford)	Moira Pritchard
July Medal	Natalie Harrichand
Ladies 9 hole Composite Course (Stableford)	Susan Scotland
Browning Trophy (Stableford)	Janet McAnulty
August 9 hole Medal	Louise Madeley
August Medal	Susan Robertson
August Shield (Stableford)	Moira Gaffney
September 9 hole Medal (Stableford)	Helen Robertson
September Medal	Jacklyn Jones
Winners' Trophy	Susan Scotland
Ladies Champion	Lori White
MacKay Texas Scramble	Kathleen Brockie, Jacklyn Jones, Sue Scotland
Silver Handicap Championship	Moira Gaffney
Bronze Handicap Championship	Edith Butler
Copper Handicap Championship	Moira Pritchard
Invitational Greensomes	Louise Madeley, Suzanne Lothian



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LMc Gave thanks to those ladies who were moving on and had done excellent work for the club and a vote of thanks was applauded by all.

The Ladies will stay with a £3 entry fee for competitions

Clubhouse Report

The resignation of Claire in May provided a challenge to the club. Efforts were made to find a new franchisee and interviews were arranged but the individual took the post at Uphall. The decision was then made to take the catering in house and to comply with Charity Status a separate company was established as WNCGC Catering. This has provided a useful source of income to the club and the volunteers, for whom we are always looking for more, have coped and provided a reasonable service to members. Thanks, are especially due to Malcolm Binnie, Janet and Mike McAnulty for the catering as well as Chris Collister for help in the clubhouse. The aim is to extend the menu in the coming season and offer more variety to members and visiting groups.

The accessible toilet was refurbished and now meets all regulations.

New lounge tables were acquired and all toilets were painted. The down pipe on the front of the building to the east of the door is broken and needs fixing.

The clubhouse is there for all members and guests and it is hoped that with the new menu and cheerful staff more members will be encouraged to use the clubhouse and remember that all takings go directly to the club

SR asked about the vending machines and was informed that there were 3 payments left before they were returned.

Seniors Report

The Seniors maintained a healthy squad of participants from the end of the season till now, playing on a Tuesday and Thursday on a friendly competitive basis.

After last year's Seniors outing to Pitreavie this year's outing will be to Braehead in Alloa on the 1st of June. Many thanks to Chris Collister for organizing the outing.

We had a poor start to the Seniors league last year, playing four away games in a row but finished strongly. This year promises to be much more competitive with more players eligible to play. We open with a home game against Dundas. Due to carrying a cash surplus from last year I'm proposing to only levy the £3 charge on home ties as catering costs have lowered. Here's to a great season!

MB had a roll over from last season and so was able to keep the costs down for the senior's league matches.

Social report

The club has managed to establish a regular series of social events over the past year and its s hoped to develop these in the coming year.

Quiz nights, Bingo, night golf, a Whisky evening and a medium evening provided a varied menu off events. A Chip and Sip evening was introduced and whilst some events did not run due to small numbers a race night and other evenings may be tried again in the ne season. Thanks to regular quiz masters Eugene and Malcolm and the Bingo King John P as well as Jacklyn for the night golf and Natalie for the Whisky evening. Janet ran the raffles and raised a considerable amount from them.



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Overall, thanks to all who attended and it is hoped that more members and friends will partake in these enjoyable evenings and also any suggestions for different events are very welcome.

Varied events were planned and a possible Race Night/BBQ in the summer months. A medium evening was hoped for as is an extended Chip and Sip.

Junior & Community Golf 2025

Schools

In January, we continued to deliver on Friday mornings at Winchburgh Academy. This is part of "My Academy", where S1 and S2 pupils pick topics where the emphasis is on health and wellbeing, sustainability and employability. It does not have to be golf or even sport. The Club is proud to have this fantastic relationship with the school, which lasts throughout the academic year and started from the opening week in August 2022. In 2025, we delivered 33 sessions for my Academy, mainly outdoor at the school but session can be indoor at the Sports Hub and always includes a few visits to the Course.

Thanks to funding from Active West Lothian, we managed to deliver 32 sessions to small groups of ASN pupils in both primary and secondary schools. Our travels took us all over West Lothian from Armadale, Blackburn and East Calder in the South to Broxburn, Livingston, Linlithgow and Bridgend in the North. Sessions were delivered over a 4-week period in each school. Most of the activity took place before the summer break but we had great sessions at Donaldsons school in Linlithgow and the new Hawkhill Primary after the holidays.

May and June are the most hectic months for school coaching as we always deliver in Winchburgh Primary school to P3 pupils on Monday mornings. This year, there were 96 of them and they had to be split into manageable class sizes. Also, this is a busy time for health weeks and in all, we delivered to the Sinclair and Inveralmond clusters making 14 sessions in total. That doesn't seem much but each session in WPS is for 3 consecutive classes and takes in all Monday morning.

After the summer holidays, we began delivering "Unleash your Drive", starting in the new Hawkhill primary school in Winchburgh. This is a great program developed by the @Golf Foundation and teaches the kids mental toughness as well as basic golf skills. Thanks to Adrienne Forsythe and Jacklyn Jones for assisting with the sessions. Other schools have already been signed up for 2026. So far, we have delivered 6 sessions making a total of 85 sessions in schools over the course of the year.

Adult Coaching

Starting In January, adult lessons were part of a Winter membership deal. We then had Get Confident in the Basics for Women Nos 7 and 8. These highly popular 6-week courses started in April and June respectively. The Get Confident sessions have always had the aim of having at least a 50% conversion to Membership. This dropped in 2025 as women from as far afield as Falkirk, Kirkcaldy and Musselburgh signed up with little chance of them becoming members. So, in August, we ran our first Get Confident in the Basics for All with 3 men and 3 women participating. Then we were back with winter coaching and in all,



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we ran 43 Adult sessions in 2025. Get Confident in the Basics for Women No 9 is already planned and expressions of interest already exceeds the number of places.

Junior Coaching

Our weekly junior coaching sessions and are held on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sundays from the start of April and well into October. The average attendance per session is usually between 10 and 12 although can be considerably more in the heat of summer. Juniors aged 12 and under can qualify to play in the Golf Sixes League against other teams in the area. Our home fixture is in July but there are also matches at Bathgate, Dundas Parks, Linlithgow and West Lothian. We also hold other Junior competitions, where the kids are shown the rules and etiquette of the game. The Club places an emphasis on Life Skills and each week we present a certificate, medal and a voucher for ice cream from our sponsor, Villaggio Gelato, to our worthy winner. At the end of the season the person who has been the most sporting, attentive, honest hard working will win the annual Tom Moffat Memorial trophy as our Life Skills winner. In 2025, we delivered 108 Junior coaching sessions

Girls Hub

We ran our first Girls Golf Hub/Scholarship in 2025, sponsored by @Scottish Golf. To get this started, we wrote to every school in West Lothian, advertising our 6-week Hub for girls aged 7 to 15. We started on Monday, May 19th with 16 girls and attendance was 100% for most weeks. For weeks 1, 4 and 6 we employed the services of top Pro, Heather MacRae to add her expertise and the feminine touch. At the end of the Hub, we moved seamlessly to the Girl's Scholarship, sponsored by the @Golf Foundation. The number dropped to 13 but each one joined as a junior member. In July we took them to Troon for the Scottish Golf Sixes and then onto Dundonald Links where they watched the women practicing for the Scottish Open. The Girls managed to get a few autographs on their caps before witnessing the launch of the Women and Girls Strategy 2025-2035. Occasionally, the girls would play a Greensomes with some women members and we invited the mums along to take part on a few occasions. The last session for the year was on November 22nd by which time we had held 28 sessions. The Club gained some great publicity through the girls coaching so thanks to Francesca Dymond of Scottish Golf and Penny Lochhead of Winchburgh Developments for making this happen.

Other Events

We also hold other or special events. Each May, we host the Stephen Gallacher Foundation for their Flag/Stroke event and this was their 8th visit in 2025. In June we participate in the local Gala Day fun week and Parade. During the summer holidays we had the 5th running of Get into Summer. The sessions were held on the 6 Mondays during the holidays and were sponsored by West Lothian Community Learning and Development (Youth Services). The course is aimed at families who would not normally have access to golf. This year we had more indoor activities to add variety as it's not just about the golf for many. This also came in handy when there was a storm one week, and the attendance barely dropped. In all, we had 18 of the special events.



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That makes a total of 282 sessions held in 2025. They were held at the Club but also in the surrounding community, schools and beyond. We do not have a dedicated coaching or practice area but, thankfully, we do have a very understanding membership.

Thanks

I'd like to say thanks to all the coaches and helpers who make this possible. First, Willie White, who started the Junior coaching away back in 2013. He then left for a short period but last year he was back and helped deliver to nearly every Junior, Girls and Women's session. His experience and knowledge are invaluable, as is his friendship. Another special mention to Anne Dobie. Anne is a fantastic supporter of the Club. She brings her grandson and great grandson to coaching on Thursdays and Fridays. She also cooks and helps out for the Get into Summer sessions and the Christmas parties. In 2025, Paul Barclay and Scott McAllister became Community Golf coaches and help deliver on Thursdays and Fridays respectively. Paul also helped with Get into Summer where he added a bit of creativity for the indoor activities. Thanks to the other coaches, Neil Mackenzie, Paul Smith and Calum Nisbet. Also, to helpers, Gregor Craig, Neil Collier, David McFarlane, Martha Burnett, Doug Ross and Lauren Reid. Last but not least, a huge thank you to the Membership for their patience with the various coaching activities which take up valuable tee times.

JP highlighted the key elements of an excellent programme and focussed on the Unleash Your Drive programme. The junior programme had attracted great publicity in local and national press and the girls programme had included a trip to Troon and Dundonald for the ladies open. Due to the popularity of the course recent candidates on the Get into golf had come from far afield and so fewer people had joined the club.

The members applauded the excellent work done by JP and his assistants

John Pritchard

Community Golf Coach

Fees for the 2026 season were sent out via BRS and proposed their acceptance.

For fees see addendum 1.

JD queried a 6% increase but it was pointed out that fees had remained static at the last AGM. SR asked about control of monthly payments and MM sent monthly receipts and also, we can now highlight non payers and block form other clubs.

AH informed the meeting that we now have a new bank account and this may affect the account details so please do not pay until the new account is open.

JJ asked about redeeming vouchers against fees and this was acceptable.

The fees were proposed by NS and seconded by TM and passed by the meeting.

The guest fee will remain at £12 and visitor's fees will be fixed by the next council meeting.

Election of Officers



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

Captain: M McAnulty

V Captain: TBA

Treasurer: G Lilley

Secretary: E Connolly

Council N Sammels, J Jones, L McKay, C Lilley, P Barclay had joined the committee since the last AGM and were confirmed.

MB was elected to the council as his previous time had elapsed.

The trustees, E Connolly, M McAnulty, A Hainey and J Pritchard were all re elected for a further year.

AOCB

1- K Mc proposed that mats should be compulsory in winter.

This was to prevent divots and damage to the course. The head greenkeeper was relaxed about it but was happy to see mats used.

LMc suggested mats and a drop in semi rough.

It was passed by the meeting that mats will be used in winter 2026/7

2- Questions were asked about buggies and charging batteries and it was pointed out the insurance cover insisted that members must charge batteries away from the club.

3- PG queried the presence of CCTV in the shed and this would be supplied.

4- SR pointed out that new hoses were purchased and should be fitted.

5- A Mc asked about a water supply and this would be part of the new storage units.

6- MG asked about catering and was assured it would be available.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair

E Connolly

Hon Gen Sec



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