



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 – 12th March 2026

Present - PB, MB, NS, AH, CL, JJ, GL, MM

Apologies - EC, LW, JP

WNCGC Finance Report to Council, February 2026

Cash flows

	Month to 28 February 2026 £	Year to 28 February 2026 £'000s	Forecast year to 28 February 2027 (1) £'000s	Notes
Total cash income	£ 5,849	167	167	
of which				
Membership subscriptions	£ 3,201	83	91	2
Green fees	£ 1,416	33	33	
Grants, Sponsors, Donations	£ 100	17	6	3
Catering	£ 939	19	22	
Other income	£ 194	15	15	4
Total cash expenditure	£(8,251)	(166)	(171)	
of which				
Staff costs	£(4,861)	(66)	(70)	5
Course maintenance	£(31)	(34)	(35)	
Capital expenditure	-	(6)		6
Loan repayments	£(974)	(11)	(9)	7
Rent	-	(10)	(8)	8
Utilities	£(795)	(9)	(17)	9
Insurance	-	(4)	(4)	
Accountants	-	(1)	(4)	10
Bank charges	£(263)	(3)	(4)	
Vending machines	-	(3)	(1)	11
Other expenses	£(1,326)	(19)	(19)	12
Surplus / (deficit) for the period	£(2,402)	2	(3)	
Period end cash	£ 6,405	6	3	
Period end loans	£(31,467)	(31)	(22)	
Period end disputes	£(7,707)	(8)	0	
Equipment shed				
Grant	£ 42,400	42	41	
Expenditure	£(1,565)	(2)	(41)	
Remaining	£ 40,835	41	0	

NB Total may not add exactly due to rounding



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Notes

- 1 2025/6 Forecast not yet trued up to actual members' renewals or green fees (currently under discussion)
- 2 February 2026 subscriptions includes one full subscription and numerous (late) monthly payments for 2025/26
- 3 February 2026 donations represents a recurring Charities Aid foundation 'salary matched' item from a member. Grants for 2026 are not yet certain.
- 4 February 2026 other income is mainly fund raising (residual Night Golf and raffle via sum up)
- 5 2026/7 Staff costs assume inflationary increases only, not additional staff
- 6 2025/6 Purchase of mower, or anything similar, is not expected to recur
- 7 Novuna loan final repayment made in February 2026
- 8 2025/6 Rent included catch up payments. Rise assumed to be inflation only
- 9 2026/7 Utilities forecast includes assumed settlement of Engie dispute
- 10 2026/7 Accountants' fees include final club and first charity accounts
- 11 The vending machine contract is expected to end in 2026
- 12 February 2026 other expenses are primarily £717 re Night Golf and fees to Lothian Golf association

Commentary

Operating items

Current month

The club ran a net deficit on operating items in February, as was expected, and ends the month with less than one month's worth of expenses in the bank. Key items are noted in the table above.

Past year

In the last 12 months the club's operating cash flows have approximately broken even; there was little opportunity to increase reserves for unexpected future expenditure. The contribution of catering since the departure of the franchisees in the summer has been crucial to the club's solvency as it settled outstanding liabilities from pre 2025.

Next year

Subject to confirming membership renewals and the level of green fees and assuming no unplanned expenditure, the club is on track to run a small deficit. 2026's higher than usual level of grants is not certain to recur but would be a valuable bonus (only the girl's golf is assumed). Loans are expected to continue to be paid off steadily over their remaining terms and the dispute with the club's electricity supplier is expected to be resolved, possibly at a higher cost than the current amount.

Capital items

The grant for, and expenditure against, the new equipment shed is held separately for clarity. So far only preparatory expenditure has been incurred.



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Other finance matters

Engie dispute

Under the contract the club signed in 2022, the unpaid amount due to Engie is in essence equivalent to an expensive loan; it is therefore in the club's interest to resolve this promptly. The contract the club signed was for five years until March 2027 and it cannot change supplier before then without Engie's consent or incurring a penalty that would wipe out any saving against the best option available (whether or not the club takes that best option).

Cash flow and reserves

At 30 June 2023 the club had £45k cash and £20k of loans, now it has £6k cash and £31k of loans. This is, however, better than a year ago when drastic measures were needed to avoid running out of cash. Some of those measures had negative, albeit unavoidable, consequences in the current year.

The club has no capacity to meet additional or capital expenditure (other than the equipment shed grant). All decisions with a financial impact need to be made with this in mind; without cash reserves the club is very vulnerable.

It would greatly help the club if members were able to pay promptly and ideally annual. While the club is effectively providing free finance to members paying monthly, it is usually not in the interest of the club to accept finance from its suppliers as this almost invariably attracts a significant additional cost.

Admin

A consequence of the club's situation is the need to keep all catering revenues and expenses separate from the rest of the club's. The two sum up machines feeding two separate bank accounts we will shortly have are a necessary part of that.

New bank account details for all non-catering items will need to be advised to members shortly both by email and via our website to minimise the risk of this change. Members should be encouraged to always include both their names and the word 'subs' as a reference when paying subscriptions by bank transfer or standing order. Any third party site taking visitors' fees, and all direct debits, will also need to be changed.

Accounting for all other transactions with members and visitors is greatly simplified via the sum up systems, ideally card payments. Cash (also recorded by sumup) remains an option, albeit it is a more time consuming and riskier one than card payments.



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Membership

Corporate	1
Full	97
Intermediate	18
Junior	19
Life	27
Senior	53
Social	1
Weekday	2
Winter	2

Some members had enquired whether they were able to pay reduced fees due to health and it was agreed that some money was better than none and they would be treated on a case by case matter.

Greens Report

February started with us still recovering from the adverse weather of the previous months which didn't allow us to get on the course with machines, so we took any opportunity we could to be able to at least cut the greens and maintain the course to the best of our abilities. With the adverse weather we got into some of the smaller jobs that were lower on our priority list such as cleaning the walkway from the carpark to the clubhouse which had been building up tracked mud from the course. From the middle of the month to the end, we then started having more downpours which once again hampered our efforts on the course, but with the temperatures increasing and high winds we were recovering quicker than expected. Machinery work was started in preparation for the start of the season with looking at the workman which has issues starting. The low compression could have been caused by a number of things but we haven't got it going, I will consult with a mechanic for fixing this issue. Finally, right at the very end of the month we managed to get a fertiliser sprayed, which has seen a vast improvement in the condition of the greens after the lack of nutrition in the winter months. This was mixed to start activating the plants growth hormones and target mossy patches on the greens, Going into March we will begin preparing the course for the start of the season and redefine the different areas of the course such as tees and fairways. We will also begin our Spring greens maintenance, hopefully we will cause minimal disruption to the playing surfaces while this work is ongoing.

Discussion took place on green fees and it was decided to raise them to £30 weekdays and £40 weekends. It was hoped that the upturn in visitors would continue.

NS pointed out that work would be done to tidy up parts of the course and access and this included the fence by the entry and other areas. It was hoped a small working party would



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assist especially at the bridge at 17th. A member has also offered the club some hard core and aggregate which needs collection from Main St.



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Clubhouse Report

Appeals have gone out for more volunteers who will be essential in the summer with longer hours and more people playing.

WLDC visited and passed the club as fit and ready for business and many thanks to Malcolm and Mike for notices, and for dealing with the officials and displaying all the price lists etc.

A new menu and prices will be starting in April and it's hoped to offer a wider selection to members and guests.

The down pipe by the Lady Captain's parking space requires fitting and thanks to Mike for all the electrical work done to satisfy the insurers.

Efforts have been made to reduce the consumption of electricity and the hot water was being heated all day and will now be reduced to 4 hours a day.

The Engie dispute has now been settled and GL has agreed a payment plan.

Ladies Report

Email Account: Ladies email account set up: ladies.captain@niddrycastlegolfclub.co.uk

Champion of Champion competition: Lori entered in champions champion comp

Daily Mail Foursomes: Unable to send team to Daily Mail Foursome comp this year but qualifier arranged so we have a team for next year

Friendlies: Swanston and Grangemouth confirmed. Aiming to arrange 2-3 more. Encouraging all ladies with handicaps to put themselves forward to play in these.

Increasing lady membership: to discuss with council writing a strategy for increasing lady membership. Also discuss with JP to identify a calendar of events for coaching to establish what support the ladies can provide and how this can be integrated into ladies/girls' strategy. Need to consider how to futureproof current activity

Ladies open: continue to advertise this

Ladies Handbook: changes completed but may be better to integrate with men's handbook. Judy to discuss with MMc to have an integrated handbook

Midwest Competition: Aiming to send a team to play in this - 16th May, playing handicap limit is 30, team of 4. Clashes with May medal qualifier so aiming to change the date of this

Mixed Texas pre-season: on 28th March to send a reminder to all members

Ladies 9-hole pre-season: 21st March in aid of SANDS

Speed of play: Discuss possibility of developing a guide for the timings expected for playing each hole. Could either place these in changing room or laminate small cards. This should help with general play and encourage people to keep up with speed of play.

Bank Balance: £393.37



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Social Report

The quiz night has been moved to the end of March and it is hoped that more members will support the event. Further events are planned and events for April and May are needed.

It is hoped to run a Bingo and Balti night for one of these and it is hoped that the race night will take place and again possibly with a BBQ in the summer months. Finding a medium is proving difficult and any assistance here would be useful and appreciated.

I will approach Natalie for another Whisky evening.

The revised date for the quiz night was set and it was hoped that more people would take part.

Junior & Community Report

Junior

JP has been writing to parents individually explaining the plan for the season ahead. We start back on Thursday, April 9th. The first "special" date is for the visit of the Stephen Gallacher Foundation on Sunday, May 17th. The course will be restricted

Golf Sixes

There has been the usual clamour for places and we are oversubscribed. This year we will be rewarding loyalty rather than targeting the older ones nearer the upper age limit. The other Clubs have all set dates and our home fixture is set for Sunday, July 19th and the usual course restrictions will be in place from mid-morning through to completion.

Girls

Due to the Women's course starting and the wait for funding, the Girl's Golf Hub will not start until mid-May. However, all girls are free to attend their weekly sessions

Get Confident in the Basics No 9

The next Get Confident Women's course is set to go in April with 6 applicants. The first session will be on Monday, March 30th at 5pm.

Schools

Deans Primary school, (class P6/P7) have now had their first Unleash your Drive lesson and we will have 3 before and 3 after the Easter break. Bridgend Primary school (P4-7) have their first lesson on Tuesday 10th March and sessions will also straddle the holidays. Holy Family school will start after the break and JP will be seeking assistance with sessions here due to the P4 class size of 32 pupils.

Livingston FC

Seven adults and six Juniors managed to collect £424.97 in cash prior to Livingston's clash with Rangers on February 22nd. A big thank you to all, but especially Anne Dobie for organising, Penny from WDL for providing Hi Vis jackets with the Club logo front and back. Thanks also to JP for providing the buckets and labels and Mike for printing the Labels.



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There was a request for extra money for clubs to benefit the juniors and this was seen as desirable, and it was also agreed to remove the clubs from the loft which have been there for many years.

Discussion took place about how to combine the excellent work done by JP on coaching with members able to book a spot and start on the 4th tee.

AOCB

1-It was agreed that a members evening for new members with refreshments and members available to play a few holes and meet the council was an idea worth following up. Similarly, it was suggested that the race night/BBQ may be easier as a pie and pint if the weather was bad.

2- Correspondence has been received about an incident between a male member and some ladies. There were conflicting reports and it was agreed to send out a letter regarding etiquette on the course and the responsibilities of players on the course and regarding the safety of other members. One individual involved in the incident has subsequently joined another club and has been vocal about his reason for moving which is unfortunate.

3-Concern was expressed about people attempting to gain access to the membership list and the possibility of spamming and it was seen as important that GDPR was maintained.

4-We have been approached by a firm offering looking to book tee times and catering which could be of benefit to the club. PB had looked at some of their reviews which were at times unfavourable. It was decided to seek further clarification on the matter and whether it suited the best interests of the club.

5 – LW was to follow up the concept of advertising on a screen in the clubhouse as source of income and will report back.

6- Questions were asked whether a minimum number of cards should be submitted a season just as it used to be 3 cards with the prior system. It was seen by some that individuals were protecting their handicaps.

7- The ladies are happy to organise a mixed day out and this was agreed.