

Winchburgh Niddry Castle Golf Club

SCO 53688

Minutes of the meeting of the Club Council 7th May 2026

Present: M McAnulty, J Pritchard, G Lilley, C Lilley, E Connolly, N Sammels, P Barclay, L McKay

Apol: J Jones

WNCGC Treasurer's Report

The most significant points for Council to note are:

- A. February 2027 outlook:** The Club is currently on track to run a small deficit by February 2027. February is when cash balances have always been under most strain and therefore is the month on which to focus. It would be appropriate for the club to build reserves to be able to withstand unforeseen adverse developments.
- B. Membership income:** March and April receipts are slightly higher than 2025, mostly thanks to annual payers. However, fewer members have started paying monthly than suggested by the previous season's closing membership. 10 new paying members are assumed to join over the summer and their prorated fees included in the total forecast income; more are required to match last year's income to February.
- C. Green fees:** March and April green fees are slightly up 2025. They are expected to be up year-on-year due to higher summer rates. A review of the impact of increase fee levels next month may be beneficial. *Also beneficial would be an increase in the proportion of sales via the club's website as other platforms take a very large share of fees paid.*
- D. Grants:** Excluding the equipment shed grant, grants are expected to be down from £12.5k to £2.3k year-on-year; per JP, just the girl's hub and a £500 club grant are included (which will be absorbed by additional expenditure). Several potential other grants exist and would be financially beneficial to the extent that they exceed their associated costs.

JP indicated that the £1000 was guaranteed as well as £400 for the girl's hub. Get into summer was open for applicants and it was on Monday during the school holidays. These involved required relevant disclosures. It targeted minority groups and they were fed. WLDC may pay up to £5000 and we may get money from local councillors. Sport Scotland may add to funding. JP will review the situation and report.

- E. Course maintenance:** The costs of fertiliser and fuel are expected to be significantly higher than 2025. It is difficult to predict by how much and a 30% increase is assumed, based on the lower end of the range of published outlooks. MH has indicated that so far, the increases he has seen have been lower than this, which if sustained would be helpful. Any such increases are essentially unavoidable without severe adverse consequences.
- F. Capital expenditure:** No capital expenditure is currently agreed. MH has raised the need to acquire a new machine for £20k+ (second hand). The club does not have this cash and would need to take and pay for finance at £5k+/year over 5 years. A decision on this will be required shortly, which will require confidence in future cashflow to support it.

A possible new machine was discussed but would need to wait for cash flow to improve.

PB suggested equipment sharing which was in theory an excellent idea and he would investigate. It was also suggested that we remove old equipment from the course. LW will investigate an uplift from contact in Boness.

G. Vending machines: Two independent decisions are required:

- a. The leasing contracts run to the end of December and the Club has the option to settle early for a modest cash saving. It is recommended that this is done.**

This was agreed.

- b. The owner of the machines has the legal right to have the machines returned at the club's expense and for them to be in working order. However, that company may not have been the ideal business partner in respect of the condition and maintenance of these machines. Notwithstanding the legal (default) position, a decision of whether to try to negotiate a more equitable resolution is required, along with a volunteer to do so.**

This was also agreed and LW would investigate a Man with a Van.

H. Transition of banking arrangements: The majority of the changes to banking arrangements required as a consequence of becoming a charity are now complete. The main exceptions are Worldpay and BRS, both of which need further verification, which is in hand, and the opening of a catering bank account to fully stand up the catering company. The Worldpay transition should also address the situation of spurious transactions on our account which indirectly have been costing the club £500 a year in additional fees.

The Ladies require a bank account as cash was a problem. After much discussion this was agreed and one of the spare accounts would be allocated.

Treasurer's Report - appendix

Cash flows

	Month of April 2026	Year to February 2026	Forecast year to February 2027	Notes
	£	£'000s	£'000s	
Total cash income	£ 24,489	167	163	
of which				
Membership subscriptions	£ 14,385	81	75	1
Green fees	£ 3,651	47	52	2
Grants, Sponsors, Donations	£ 1,390	17	6	3
Tuition	£ 1,979	1	4	4
Catering	£ 2,238	19	23	5
Other income, including fund raising	£ 847	2	3	6
Total cash expenditure	£(16,551)	(164)	(175)	
of which				
Staff costs	£(5,294)	(66)	(69)	7
Course maintenance	£(4,329)	(34)	(39)	8
Capital expenditure	-	(6)	-	9
Loan repayments	£(697)	(11)	(8)	10
Rent	£(1,500)	(10)	(8)	11
Utilities	£(1,799)	(9)	(15)	12
Insurance	£(430)	(4)	(4)	13
Scottish Golf affiliation fees	£(693)	(3)	(4)	14
Accountants	£(360)	(1)	(6)	15
Bank charges	£(518)	(4)	(5)	16
Vending machines	-	(3)	(2)	17
Catering	£(491)	(2)	(5)	18
Other expenses	£(440)	(11)	(9)	19
Surplus / (deficit) for the period	£ 7,938	3	(12)	
Period end cash	£ 37,686	6	(5)	
Period end loans	£(30,072)	(32)	(23)	10
Period end arears	£(5,589)	(8)	0	
Equipment shed				
Grant	£ 40,567	42	41	
Expenditure	-	(2)	(41)	
Remaining	£ 40,567	41	0	

NB Totals may not add exactly due to rounding

WNCGC Treasurer's Report - appendix

Notes to the cashflow summary

- 1. Annual subscriptions are mostly received in March and April. Subsequent months' receipts from those paying monthly are around £3k/month. Paying member numbers are currently below 2025's, which accounts for most of the forecast reduction in total income. 10 new members are included within the forecast. No allowance is made for cancellations.**
- 2. Total Green fees in March and April are slightly upon 2025 to date. They are expected to be higher for the year, mainly due to the higher summer tariff.**
- 3. April Grants, Sponsorship and Donations are largely from hole sponsorship and a £500 contribution to ~£1,000 of expected expenditure on clubs related to a coaching programme. Following JP's advice, currently only the Girl's golf grant is forecast to be received; the absence of other grants accounts for the year-on-year reduction.**
- 4. Current year tuition includes all junior £80s, plus ladies' fees. Some prior year tuition may have been reported as subscriptions or green fees.**
- 5. Current month catering benefits from changes to the timing of SumUp payouts. Year-on-year growth reflects mostly the period before the Franchisees left.**
- 6. Other income is mostly premier 100 payments**
- 7. Pay rises and a summer worker are reflected from April. The year-on-year increase is due to pay rises (£5k) plus this year's summer worker (£8k) less last year's summer worker (£10k)**
- 8. April course maintenance costs are mostly machine repairs and maintenance. A 30%+ increase in annual fertiliser and fuel costs is expected**
- 9. No capital expenditure is envisaged in 2026 (excluding the equipment shed)**
- 10. The second Novuna loan was fully repaid in February 2026. The remaining two loans run to 2029 and 2030 at current rates.**
- 11. J&D Wood rent was paid in March, at an 11% higher cost than 2025. The rent review for Hopetoun is awaited. 2025 costs include £3k of arrears brought forward from 2024.**
- 12. Utilities include an additional £1.1k/month (April to September only) to clear arrears brought forward from 2022**
- 13. Insurance was renewed in March at a 10% increase in cost**
- 14. Scottish Golf annual affiliation fees are paid April - August. Lothian and Linlithgow are paid in February and March.**
- 15. April includes accountants' fees for accounts to October 2024. May will include the fees for the first charity period to June 2025. A further £3k is expected for the current period to June 2025 in late summer. ie there will be a significant year on year increase.**
- 16. Current month bank charges include a number of 'chargebacks' for spurious US-related 'penny' charges. These are being investigated by WorldPay.**
- 17. The Vending Machine contract expires end December 2026. A quote to terminate early has been received. There will be a cost to return the machines to Livingstone.**
- 18. Catering expenses are forecast as 25% of income.**
- 19. Full year other expenses include clubhouse maintenance, and costs associated with fund raising, tuition and prizes. April costs are associated with fund raising and coaching**

Membership and Captains Report

Sadly, we lost one of our members this month. Gordon Saunders lost a long battle against cancer. The club flag was flown at half-mast for four days as a mark of respect.

Once again, a hard core of volunteers has been doing sterling work around the course. The road has been repaired again. The bankings at two and seventeen have been cut back. The steps at three have been repaired and the path at eighteen has been cleaned. Thanks to all who participated.

Greens Report

This April has been one of the driest on record in our area, which has been a good thing for the condition of the course. We have managed to remove the lateral growth on the greens that has built up throughout the winter by Verti cutting allowing the remaining grasses to grow more upright and have a smoother, faster surface.

The dry weather with increasing temperatures has allowed the grass to intake the remaining water in the soil into the plant, which has caused a burst of growth that has been challenging to keep on top of especially on the fairways, which we have been having to cut multiple times a week to manage. This has cut into our time for other things massively.

We have the course looking good and have received a lot of positive feedback recently. However, we haven't yet had time to do much to the tees such as divot ting and flymoing the banking's. Ricky has been on the mend and should be back sometime in the middle of May. Then we will be able to focus on more of the small things that will bring the condition of the course to another level.

In may we have the Linlithgowshire Class 1 on the 9th which we are preparing for the best we can and hopefully we can have a lot of positive feedback from this event.

Match Report

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Position	Notes
04/04/2026	36 Hole Scratch Round 1	Ian Runciman	81-10=71	1	Division1-Winner
04/04/2026	36 Hole Scratch Round 1	Mark Kerray	86-14=72	2	Division2-Winner
04/04/2026	Lesley Trophy (Stableford)	Kirsty Aiston	29 pts (47)	1	Overall, Winner
05/04/2026	Weekend Stableford	Brian Hume	31 pts (06)	1	Overall, Winner
07/04/2026	Taggart Shield (S.Q.1)	Mark Kerray	79-15=64	1	Overall, Winner
11/04/2026	36 Hole Scratch Round 2	Harry Wilson	88-13=75	3	Division1-Winner
11/04/2026	36 Hole Scratch Round 2	Derek Gullane	89-19=70	1	Division2-Winner
12/04/2026	April Shield- Stableford	Jacklyn Jones	31 pts (36)	1	Overall, Winner
14/04/2026	Midweek Stableford	James Jamieson	38pts (10)	1	Overall, Winner
14/04/2026	Midweek Stableford	Jacklyn Jones	16 pts (18)	1	Overall, Winner

19/04/2026	Spring Cup	Robin Hulett	37pts (07)	1	Overall, Winner
21/04/2026	Midweek Strokeplay	Harry Wilson	83-13=70	1	Overall, Winner
25/04/2026	April Medal /Shield	James Jamieson	82-10=72	1	Division1-Winner
25/04/2026	April Medal /Shield	Colin Mackay	97-25=72	2	Division2-Winner
26/04/2026	April Medal (Qualifier) Strokeplay	Kirsty Aiston	115- 46 = 69	1	Overall, Winner
26/04/2026	Mairs Trophy (S.Q.2)	John Doherty	78-13=65	1	Overall, Winner
28/04/2026	Midweek Strokeplay	Alan Trenzinger	86-16=70	1	Overall, Winner

Clubhouse Report

The menu has been extended and is proving popular and a new list showing the changes will be available soon. The volunteer base is working but will be stretched over the coming holidays and more assistance would be welcome.

Thanks are due to Peter Bertram for donating paint which will be used to smarten up parts of the clubhouse and thanks to those who have volunteered to do the painting. Thanks also to Kathleen and Sainsburys for donating plants, to John Pritchard for collecting and planting and to all those who have donated plant pots.

Ladies Report: Two consecutive Mondays have been organised for a buddy system to integrate with the new course participants and on 21st May they will host an evening for those finishing the course. This is following the weekend away. More Gilets have been ordered and Iriston Dental practice will sponsor. The Lady's open has been published with flyers and QR code. JP enquired about the scramble income, which had raised £205.

Seniors Report

The seniors continue to have a healthy turnout on Thursdays and we look forward to our first LGA match on the 7th May and hopefully we get off to a winning start.

Equally not long until our Seniors Day out at Braehead with approximately 25 signed up, thanks to Chris Collister who has taken on the organisation.

Social Report

The Balti and Bingo night was cancelled due to lack of customers and this has been a worrying trend as this has been the second social event either postponed or cancelled this year.

This is a valuable source of income for the club and also it is good to show that we have regular social calendar. JP has proposed to hold a chip and sip night on 6th June

and MM will do posters. This will be followed by the race night/BBQ and the Whisky evening will be 19th September so another function in August would be useful.

Possibly greater publicity will help and a concerted effort to get members and friends to support the evenings.

Junior and Community

Junior There were 12 sessions in April with an average of 32 juniors per weekend. We will have to advertise for Fridays which have gone from being the busiest to the quietest.

Golf Sixes

First fixture at West Lothian on Sunday, May 24th. JP will not be present as he is running in the Edinburgh half marathon, but there will be support for the players.

We have expressed interest with Scottish Golf regarding a Girls Golf Sixes. We will also be taking part in the Midlothian Nines but more to follow.

Girls

No word as of 5/5 of funding regarding the Girls Hub/Stages 1 & 2. JP is pressing Scottish Golf for an answer on this.

Get Confident in the Basics No 9

We held Get Confident sessions 2 to 5 during April. The camaraderie among the women is unbelievable. This is why JP believes that it is vital to strike when the iron is hot regarding membership. We will be looking for members to take the women out for a couple of holes on Monday, May 11th. JP is looking at course number 10 to start at the end of June.

Get into Summer Applications for funding are now open.

Schools

Deans Primary school, (class P6/P7) have 1 session to go and Bridgend Primary school (P4-7) have now finished. There were 3 Sessions of UYD at Holy Family school, Winchburgh and thanks to Moira Pritchard, Jacklyn Jones, and June Duffy for assisting. UYD Sessions at Harrysmuir Primary in Ladywell will start on May 5th and this will be a double header. JP continues to deliver to pupil M and pupil S at Hawkhill Primary on Tuesday afternoons. Thanks to Bridgend Football and Golf for helping with the final session. Thanks to Moira P Jacklyn J and June D for help with Holy Family sessions.

Community

JP attended a session at Mearns Castle Golf Academy on Tuesday, April 21st. The sessions are aimed at tackling Dementia and other debilitating conditions. The sessions are very similar to our Get into Summer so we have the expertise should we wish to try this. JP delivered a 2-hour session to the Scottish Down Syndrome Edinburgh and Lothian Branch at Winchburgh Community Centre on Sunday, April 26th. The 15 kids who took part had a great time.

A session with 33rd West Lothian Scout Group Winchburgh will take place at the Club on Friday, May 1st.

JP will be running in the aforementioned Edinburgh Half Marathon, and he now has a Just Giving page in place for sponsorship and the money is in the account.

AOCB

- 1- PB will be attending the Farmers market on 23rd May, using the banner and will require a sun up. He will take merchandise and clubs and list of prices. The day will be 1000-1200 and some help will be appreciated. It was hoped that it will be a regular event.**
- 2- Following a meet the members night Mr Fernando web designer who had tried to offset a membership against web skills which was refused but he may still offer his expertise.**

Next Meeting 11th June

E Connolly

Hon Sec