MINUTES OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

28th July 2026 at 6 pm

PRESENT:
Captain-Peter Bianco
President-Ian Phillips
Chair of Committee-John Pennington
Chairman of Greens-Lewis Marr
Property Chair-Carl Middleton
Bar & Catering Chair-Andrew McPartlin
Entertainments Chair-Hugh Hamilton Jnr.
General Committee Member-Scott Phillips
General Committee Member-Connor Wilson
General Committee Member-Steve Pounder
Club Manager-Alex Shaw

1 APOLOGIES-Eddie I'Anson, Roy Leonard, Phil Nicholson

2 MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting, subject to one minor amendment (a missing word), which had already been corrected and circulated to all Committee members. Unanimous.

Discussion took place regarding the review and updating of the action log. The Club Manager proposed that a shared action log be maintained on the club's OneDrive, with ownership sitting jointly with the Secretary and the Club Manager to keep updates consistent and avoid multiple people editing the sheet.

Agreed in principle that outstanding items be worked through in order at each meeting, with sub-Committee chairs asked directly for progress updates, and that completed items be removed from the log. It was also agreed that recurring monthly financial comparisons should move from the action log to a standing line item on the Finance report rather than remain open as an action.

Action: Club Manager and Secretary to maintain the shared action log on OneDrive and circulate progress at each meeting.

The following items were reviewed and closed as complete:

- Octogenarian discussion paper circulated to the Committee.
- Draft budget for the new financial year and Green fee revenue data circulated to Finance and General Committee following unanimous Finance approval.
- Members' loan/capital contribution scheme – responses received from the Trustees; the Club Manager to prepare a summary document with recommended wording for Committee sign-off by email.
- Competition entry fees item closed.

The electrical health & safety action list and staff emergency training were noted as ongoing and carried forward.

3 MATTERS ARISING –

Over-80's Concessionary Membership (Octogenarian)

The Committee revisited the ongoing question of whether the long-standing concession offered to members reaching age 80 should be reviewed. It was reconfirmed that no member currently within this category, nor those turning 78 or 79 in the near term, would be affected by any change.

Three proposals had been tabled:

- Proposal A: an 80% discount on full annual fees for members reaching age 80 from March next year and have achieved 30 years of service
- Proposal B: a fixed £1,000 reduction on full fees, applied on the same basis.
- Proposal C: no change to discount, but the qualifying age raised progressively from 80 towards 85 over time.

The Committee discussed the financial implications of each option over the medium term, the intention of the concession as recognition of long service rather than a revenue lever, and the risk of discouraging active members in their 80s who continue to play regularly. Proposal C was withdrawn by its proposer in favour of Proposal B.

Decision: Proposal B (a £1,000 reduction on full annual fees, to take effect for members reaching age 80 from March next year) was proposed, seconded, and carried. As this amounts to an increase in the effective subscription for newly qualifying over-80s, the change is to be presented at the AGM as a subscription matter.

Action: Chair to share his draft letter to current over-80 members, inviting a voluntary contribution to the club, with the Club Manager for consideration.

Range/Practice Ground Development Project (APC)
The Committee discussed the pre-application agreement with the contractor (APC) in relation to the practice ground development, including the potential to generate significant capital income while improving facilities, subject to environmental (SSSI) conditions and planning requirements.

Further questions raised by Committee members are to be put to APC, and the contractor is to be invited to a future General Committee meeting to present directly and answer questions before any decision to proceed is taken. It was confirmed that the practice ground development is separate from the wider proposed course project.

Decision: No decision made on committing the £4,320 pre-application cost. Outstanding questions to be put to APC and a presentation arranged before any further decision.

Action: Club Manager to put Committee questions to APC, coordinate responses, and arrange for APC to present to the General Committee.

Committee Structure / Artisan Section
The earlier working group on Committee structure was reviewed and closed, with consensus that no additional ("artisan") section is required.

Decision: Artisan section proposal not taken forward; item closed.

Finance
Report accepted.

The Club Manager confirmed the Sub-Committee budget documents previously circulated had been approved unanimously by the Finance Committee and were presented for formal General Committee approval. The budgets, including the £30,000 capital expenditure allocation, were proposed, seconded, and approved unanimously.

No separate finance report was submitted this month owing to year-end reporting; a revised report format is being developed with input from the accountants and bookkeepers and will be circulated within the coming weeks.

Decision: Sub-Committee budgets, including the £30,000 capex allocation, approved unanimously.

Property
Report accepted.

No formal report was available this month; the Property Chair confirmed a meeting is arranged for end of month. Planned works include kitchen ceiling repairs (kitchen closed for part of two days), the bar office refurbishment, a furniture estimates for the lounge ahead of the August Finance meeting, and assessment of works needed at the ladies' bungalow.

Members' showers were raised as a matter of concern, being currently unfit for use. The General Committee agreed this should be treated as a priority separate from the existing capital programme. Child-safeguarding considerations relating to the current shower/locker arrangement were also noted for attention.

Action: Club Manager, Property Chair and Treasurer to meet to identify options and funding for the shower refurbishment, including whether a loan might be appropriate, and report back.

Greens
Report accepted.

The Greens Chairman gave an update on member engagement regarding the proposed course and practice ground changes, including recent drop-in sessions and a ladies-only session, with a member survey planned for the end of the following week or the week after.

On the proposed tee yardages, member feedback strongly favours retaining the relevant hole as a par five, and this is to be fed back to the course designer for the proposal to be amended accordingly.

Action: Greens Chairman to finalise and circulate member survey questions. Club Manager to feedback member preference on tee yardages to the course designer.

Comps and Handicaps
Report accepted.

The Club Championship was reported to have run well, with the new sub-division of tee sets by division well received and earlier Sunday tee times leading to a fuller clubhouse for the presentation. Some member feedback on the format will be considered at the next Comps and Handicaps meeting.

Health and Safety
No report this month.

Bar and Catering
AMcP reported that several actions agreed had not yet been delivered (including planned barbecue events). Current supplier contracts remain unchanged for now, pending further feedback.

Menu rotation was discussed, with a preference for retaining popular "family favourite" dishes while testing new specials and promoting successful specials onto the main menu.

Ladies
Congratulations were recorded to the new Ladies' Club Champion, Ella Crang also this year's Durham County Champion. The Committee noted with concern that the Ladies' Section currently has no Vice-Captain and, for the time being no member has yet come forward to captain the section next year. The wider decline in Committee/section volunteering within golf was discussed.

Decision: Chair asked that this continue to be monitored and addressed.

Juniors
A well-supported junior fundraising day (54 holes plus a three-club challenge) raised a sum of over £500 for the Captain's charity. The Committee again recorded its appreciation for the work of the junior organiser Neil Dawkins

Investigation and Discipline
No issues on-going.

Correspondence
a) The club's contracted defib has offered to reduce charges by 25% in return for a further four-year commitment; the Committee raised no objection.

Action: Club Manager to confirm acceptance of the telecoms contract renewal.

b) A letter of thanks was received from Durham County Union following the recent county event, recognising members and staff for their support; this is displayed on the club noticeboard.

The Committee agreed that where correspondence raises a recurring theme from multiple members, this should be brought to the Committee's attention rather than handled solely in the office.

Decision: Recurring correspondence themes to be reported to Committee, not resolved in the office alone.

Captain's Report

The Captain's away trip was reported as very successful and well attended. Thanks were recorded to the junior organiser for his continued voluntary work with the junior section.

Thanks were also recorded for Sammy Mosely for his continued hard work in organising of Entertainments events, the last event being noted as extremely successful.

A.O.B.

1) Charity Day: the club's charity day raised £7,118 (split between Macmillan Cancer Support and North Tees Palliative Care), with roughly half the field made up of members. The Committee were asked to consider the charity day becoming a SCGC event, giving the Committee greater involvement in its running; the Committee was supportive. Thanks were recorded to Martyn Stubbings and Alex Shawfor their assistance on the day in running the event.

2) A request was made for a reminder in the newsletter and on the noticeboard about correct bunker raking and rake positioning.

Action: Club Manager to add a newsletter/noticeboard reminder on bunker raking.

3) A spare key for the office is to be sourced and cut.

Action: Club Manager to source and cut a spare office key.

4) A proposal to invite the aggregate contractor's contacts to future member Q&A sessions was supported, with the Club Manager to coordinate questions raised by Committee members and arrange a session.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next General Committee meeting is 25th August 6pm

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 7:23 pm.

Signed...

Date...