ELLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB LIMITED

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2025
IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT 8.00PM

Present: 100 members.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.00pm and thanked those present for attending. The Chairman confirmed the meeting may commence with the 100 members present in accordance with Article 28.1. The Chairman also confirmed that he was holding 36 proxy votes.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

James Turner informed the room that 64 apologies were recorded.

Mrs B Markovic, Mr P Roebuck, Mrs S Roebuck, Mrs M Chapman, Mr P Bedwin, Mrs M Plummer, Mr I Miscampbell, Mr D Heron, Mrs G Heron, Mr J Leggoett, Mr I Leek, Mrs H Leek, Mrs S Spence, Mr A Cashin, Mrs D Cashin, Mr P Pearce, Mr P Hawsksley, Mr R Higham, Mr D Davies, Mr R Mathews, Mr P Sharp, Mr C Waudby, Mr G Lees, Mrs J Wells, Mr D Duke, Mrs J Hannaford, Mr M Morris, Mr W Crompton, Mr S Stanley, Mr T Winter, Mrs J Winter, Mr R Langley, Mr P Mercer, Mrs J Mercer, Mrs S Lacey, Mr J Lawrence, Mrs F Macfarlane, Mr R Rydings, Mr D Oldreive, Mr E Mariconda, Mr C Hallett, Mr A Jeffryes, Mrs N Jeffryes, Mr P Norton, Mrs S Norton, Mrs B Evett, Mr K Vaughan-Smith, Mr D Stevenson, Mr P Collins, Mrs K Burrows, Mr G Holland, Mr K Redmond, Mr Peter Little, Mrs C Comben, Mr D Burrows, Mr S Hipperson, Mrs M Hipperson, Mr G Kozlowski, Mrs G Kozlowski, Mr Baird, Mrs Baird, Mr D Finch, Mr Maling and Mrs Maling.

Item 1. **TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2024.**

The minutes of the 2024 AGM had been posted on the notice board. Following a show of hands, the minutes were approved and confirmed as a true record.

Item 2. **CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

The Captain confirmed that his Captain's report had been issued with the AGM papers. The Captain then addressed the members as follows;

"I confirm my report has been issued with the AGM papers. That report summarises the main activities of my year and pays tribute to all those people who have assisted and guided me in fulfilling my Captain's role. Given that, I see no value in regurgitating my report here and therefore my speech will be pleasingly brief.

It has been a great honour to be your Club Captain this year and to get to know so many of you. Ellesborough Golf Club has enjoyed a good year both on and off the course – being blessed with a glorious spring and summer, a consistently well prepared golf course and a full, active playing membership – the Club feels vibrant and well set for the future.

After a busy year I must admit that I am looking forward to a quieter life on the backbenches where as yesterday's man I will continue to support the Club as much as I can. As I formally hand over the reins, I'd like to wish Adrian, Pam and John French all the best for their new roles - I know the Club is in excellent hands.

My final words as Captain, are for you the Members –

Thank you for making the Club what it is – friendly, generous, competitive, welcoming and above all fun…… it's been a pleasure to serve you. THANK YOU."

The Chairman asked if there were any questions relating to the Captain's report, which there were none.

Item 3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman confirmed that his report had been published in the AGM notice.

He reflected on a number of developments that had taken place during the year and highlighted the progress made across several areas of the Club.

The Chairman referred to the changes within the Professional Shop team and thanked Mr Mark Squire for his many years of service to the Club.

He confirmed that progress continued to be made in relation to the Club's water security and highlighted the introduction of a new member onboarding process.

The Chairman also referred to the improvements made to the Club's marketing, including an increased social media presence and the launch of a new website.

He confirmed that the Club's 10-year course policy had been approved and referred to the appointment of the new Head Greenkeeper. The Chairman thanked Mr David Goodchild for his many years of service to the Club.

The Chairman then reflected on the progress made against the Club's strategic objectives, particularly in relation to diversifying income and strengthening the membership position.

Using the 2022/23 financial year as a comparison, the Chairman noted that 93% of the Club's revenue had previously come from membership subscriptions. This had been considered too high and had led to "diversify our income" becoming one of the Club's strategic imperatives. For the current financial year, 2025/26, subscription income was forecast to account for approximately 87% of total revenue.

Over the same period, total subscription income had increased by approximately 25%, whilst green fee income was forecast to have increased by over 150% and society income by over 190%. The Club's profit was also forecast to have more than doubled compared with 2022/23.

The Chairman commented that this demonstrated significant progress in addressing the financial challenges facing the Club and, importantly, had been achieved with limited impact on the members. He confirmed that the Board would continue to look for opportunities to diversify income, whilst being mindful of the impact additional visitors could have on the golf course, particularly at busy times. The focus would therefore be on maximising revenue from existing visitors and identifying other opportunities, including through catering.

The Chairman also highlighted the progress made with membership. The Club had moved from being approximately 50 members below capacity to having a waiting list of more than 40, which he considered a significant achievement.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brian Grufferty for his three years of service as Club President and for his contribution to the Club during his term of office.

He also thanked Mrs M Purdy for her service on the Social Committee, Mr A Wilkinson for his time serving on the Board, and Mrs Hilary Tomlinson and Mr Ian Oakes for their year as Ladies' Captain and Club Captain respectively.

The Chairman thanked all of the Club's staff for their continued hard work and contribution throughout the year.

Finally, he gave particular thanks to Mr John Mabey for his many years of service as Board Member for Finance and for the significant contribution he had made to the Club over that time.

The Chairman then invited questions relating to his report, which there were none.

Item 4. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr J Mabey was introduced to the meeting by the Chairman. Mr J Mabey addressed the members as follows;

"I haven't got much to add to my report, I'm just pleased to report that the Club made a £19,463 surplus in the year of the accounts, compared to the budgeted loss of £11,722.

At last year's AGM I thought that there would be a loss at the year-end in March 2025 and I wasn't very optimistic about the current year, or future years either, because we still had about 50 member vacancies, with many inflationary pressures, at that time when the incentive scheme had just started. Hence the breakeven budget for 2025/26.

Over the years I have reported the risk of being reliant on most of the Club's income coming from member subscriptions so it's great to see the Club getting income from other sources.

Having said this looking back at the Covid years the fact that most of our income was from subscriptions our income did not drop that much because we were very lucky that the membership supported us by paying their subs.

But not only that we could claim grants from the Government and Bucks CC. The result being that we made surpluses of over £70k – the largest profits in the last 10 years bar one!

The Board will be preparing its budget for 2025/26 in the coming months and setting the subscription levels for April 2026.

The constitution restricts the % increase, without an AGM or SGM, to 1% above the September inflation rate. The September 25 CPI is 3.8%, the same level as last month. The maximum increase in April 26, under the Club's rules, is therefore 4.8%.

As I said it's been a pleasure to be the Finance Director for all these years and being involved in the development of the Club, many thanks go to all the members and staff I've worked with.

In recent years the directors at Board meetings have all been sitting there with their iPads in front of them – with me sitting with my piles of paper. It is about time I stopped and put away my quill and parchment!

So, over to Andy who I think will enjoy it as much as I have and the Board can look forward to modern reports.

The Chairman asked if there were any further questions relating to the Financial Report, which there were none.

Item 5. **TO ELECT AND APPOINT OFFICERS, AUDITORS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

(a) To Elect Mr J French as President

Proposed – Mr B Grufferty
Seconded – Mr D Allsop

Following a show of hands, Mr J French was elected as President.

Mr J French addressed the meeting, thanking Mr B Grufferty for his service as President and thanking the members for electing him to the role. He said that he was honoured to become President of Ellesborough Golf Club.

(b) To Elect Mr J Mabey as a Vice-President

Proposed – Mr F Durden
Seconded – Mrs H Tomlinson

Following a show of hands, Mr J Mabey was elected as a Vice-President.

(c) To Elect Mr L Wakelam as a Vice-President

Proposed – Mr D Allsop
Seconded – Miss Z Ludlow

Following a show of hands, Mr L Wakelam was elected as a Vice-President.

(d) To Elect Mr A G Pilkington as Club Vice-Captain

Proposed – Mr A Steele
Seconded – Mr I Oakes

Following a show of hands, Mr A G Pilkington was elected as Club Vice-Captain.

(e) To appoint Hillier Hopkins as auditors and that the directors be authorised to determine their remuneration

Proposed – Mr J Mabey
Seconded – Mr D Allsop

Following a show of hands, the appointment of Hillier Hopkins as auditors, with the directors authorised to determine their remuneration, was approved.

(f) To Elect Mr A Mee as a Director

Proposed – Mr J Mabey
Seconded – Mr D Allsop

Following a show of hands, Mr A Mee was elected as a Director.

(g) To Elect Mr B P Godwyn as a Director

Proposed – Mr A Wilkinson
Seconded – Mr D Allsop

Following a show of hands, Mr B P Godwyn was elected as a Director.

(h) To Elect Mrs P Munday-Cripps as Ladies Captain & as a Director

Proposed – Mrs H Tomlinson
Seconded – Mr D Allsop

Following a show of hands, Mrs P Munday-Cripps was elected as Ladies' Captain and as a Director of Ellesborough Golf Club.

(i) To Elect Mr A Steele as Club Captain & as a Director

Proposed – Mr I Oakes
Seconded – Mr A Pilkington

Following a show of hands, Mr A Steele was elected as Club Captain and as a Director of Ellesborough Golf Club.

The new Captain addressed the meeting.

"Mr President, Mr Chairman, Directors, Ian, Hilary, Pam, Past Presidents, Past Captains, and, most importantly, all fellow members. I am truly honoured to have been elected as Club Captain, and I am very aware that I have some extremely big shoes to fill. During my time leading the midweek team, I have witnessed first-hand the outstanding dedication and efforts of the previous three Club Captains — Ian, Bryan, and Cathy. Their commitment truly inspires me as I step into this role and if I can come anywhere close to the high standards they reached as Captains, I will be very happy indeed. That said, I must confess my golf is unlikely to reach such heights of competence, so I'll apologise in advance to those who will play alongside me in the coming year. Rest assured, I'll do my best to provide plenty of entertainment — whether through memorable shots (good or bad) and/or plenty of lively banter on the course and afterwards in the bar!

Ian, as our immediate Past Captain, has had an exceptional year and I am sure that all members agree with that; but I cannot let him get away with taking credit for the weather. His bar card has certainly taken a battering, as is it should, and it will be a challenge to match his generosity in the coming year — though I fully expect plenty of encouragement from members to do so! On behalf of myself and the Club, thank you, Ian, for your hard work both on and off the course in making our time here so enjoyable. Thanks also to Alison for supporting you throughout your Captaincy and playing nearly as much golf as you! Job well done by both of you.

I must also offer my congratulations to Hilary on a very successful year as Ladies' Captain. The Ladies' section continued to thrive under your leadership Hilary and indeed it grows stronger with every passing year. It is pleasing to see so many ladies here tonight, not only to support Pam as Ladies' Captain, but perhaps even to offer me some much-needed encouragement as well!

When Ian asked me to be his Vice, I was really surprised, and I looked behind me to check if he was speaking to someone else. I had not expected to be considered for this, and anyone who has seen my golf swing might question whether I even qualify as a playing member! I firmly believe that you get out of any club what you are willing to put into it, so my answer to Ian was an immediate and enthusiastic yes. To be clear, I have no grand ambitions beyond doing my best for the Club and continuing the excellent work of my predecessors in ensuring Ellesborough is recognised as the best members' club in the region. I intend to continue the tradition established by previous Captains of playing golf with as many members as possible, primarily through the roll-ups and in club matches. Although, for some reason, I suspect I may not be needed for the scratch teams!

We are an exceptionally well-run Club, and this is a credit to David, the Directors, and James with his excellent team, of house and greens, for ensuring everything operates seamlessly. Like any club we face multiple challenges, but as a member's club there are a multiple of stakeholder opinions about how to address them. Seeing as there are 655 of us, Pam and I will expect and welcome plenty of advice over the coming year to share with David and the Board.

I look forward to working with Pam as Lady Captain, and together we are committed to ensuring everyone feels welcomed and valued equally by the Club. We are fortunate to have two excellent Vice Captains in Andrew and Cath Pilkington. This is the first time in over seventy-years, and the third time in the history of the Club that a husband and wife are Vice Captains together. I am confident that both Pam and I will benefit greatly from their advice and support.

Regarding support, my wife Caroline is a typical golf widow – meaning she just about tolerates it and indeed me. Over the next twelve months she will be accumulating quite a few brownie points for future use — likely starting with a cruise this time next year! Caroline has come to realise it's wiser not to ask how my game went; instead, she now asks, "good front nine or good back nine?" knowing that I rarely have both. Caroline and I look forward to attending as many of the Club's social events as possible, but if you try to talk golf with her, be warned — her eyes may well glaze over.

My chosen charity for the year is Cancer Research. On average, one person in the UK is diagnosed with cancer every ninety seconds. I believe all of us here have either directly or indirectly been affected by cancer, and it is a battle that is increasingly being won with Cancer Research at the forefront of this fight. I hope you will support my chosen charity and Pam's, which is Alzheimer's Research. We would both be very grateful for your generosity towards these.

Our joint Drive-In will take place this coming Saturday, 8th November, at around 1:30pm, and we hope to see many of you there. Afterwards, in the bar, chips n' bits will be provided, and you might even get another drink!

And now to the close, and I suspect a few of you may be thinking about time too! I hope you all enjoy your golf in 2026, but please don't blame me if the weather doesn't play its part next year; some things are simply out of my control. So, here's to making the most of every round, come rain or shine. If it all goes sideways on the course, just remember: a soggy scorecard can still lead to a good story here in the bar afterwards!

Thank you for your patience, and once the Chairman has closed proceedings the drinks are on me."

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.04

Signed as a true record:

Mr D Allsop
Chairman - Board of Management