

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY GOLF LIMITED

Company Number: 13065967

**Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company
held at Gaudet Luce Golf & Leisure Centre
on Thursday 7 May 2026 at 7.00 pm**

Present:

Directors

Ian Rone	Chairman
John Whitehead	President
Jon Cray	Finance Director
Clive Werrett	Governance Director
Anthony Hill	Director of Golf
Ian Griffiths	Director/Company Secretary

Representatives of Member Clubs

Blackwell Golf Club	Nick Peplow
Blackwell Golf Club	Adam Riddle
Bransford Golf Club	Leon Thomas
Bromsgrove Golf Club	Deryck Hall
Churchill & Blakedown Golf Club	Paul Innes
Droitwich Golf Club	Mark Hatton
Hagley Golf Club	David Calcutt
	Roy Sims
Hollywood Golf Club	Malcolm Smith
Kings Norton Golf Club	Gordon Clark
Moseley Golf Club	Jon Cray
The Worcestershire Golf Club	Stephen Large
Warley Woods Golf Club	Paul Ross
Wharton Park Golf Club	Jon Shore
	Dan Rock
Worcester Golf & Country Club	Andy Cale
	Adrian Avery

In attendance by invitation of the Board

Alex Bishop	Former WUGC Executive
Chris Gupwell	Honorary Vice President WCG Ltd
Grenville Rose	Past President WUGC
Jo Gupwell	Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence had been received from:

Bob Julier	Churchill & Blakedown Golf Club
Gary Roberson	Redditch Golf Club
James Harrison	Redditch Golf Club
Chris Ayers	Stourbridge Golf Club
Nick Jones	CCSO
Mark Romasiuk	England Golf Regional Manager
Paul Aitkens	Fulford Heath Golf Club
Kevin Fee	U18 Junior Organiser
David McGillivray	Past President WUGC
Colin Day	Former WUGC Executive

Absent:

Bewdley Pines Golf Club
Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club
Cocks Moors Woods Golf Club
Dudley Golf Club
Evesham Golf Club
Gaudet Luce Golf Club
Halesowen Golf Club
Ombersley Golf Club
Ravenmeadow and Perdiswell Golf Club
Redditch Kingfisher Golf Club
Rose Hill Golf Club
The Kidderminster Golf Club
The Abbey Hotel Golf Club
Vale Golf & Country Club

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 May 2025:** These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read, confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.
3. **Minutes of the General Meeting held on 6 November 2025:** These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read, confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.
4. **Worcestershire County Golf Ltd Annual Report for 2025-2026:** This had been published on the website and was taken as read. The Chairman recommended that the Report should be read as it contained interesting information.
5. **Worcestershire County Golf Ltd Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025:**

The Finance Director advised that the draft Accounts were on the website. The Accounts were with the accountants for review.

The Finance Director gave a summary of the financial position, saying that affiliation numbers were estimated to be down 3% on 2024 at approximately 12,030 men and 960 boys. Compared with the numbers for 2022 when there were 12,5600 men and 550 boys, it was interesting to

note that although the overall figure for 2025 was down on 2022, the number of boys had increased. Referring to turnover, this was up £5,000 on 2024 at £149,000. The Finance Director explained that this was due to higher affiliation numbers and increased competition entry fees. Other charges were up £37,000 compared with 2024. The Finance Director listed the charges incurred during the year which had led to this increase, noting that in certain cases this represented money going back to the clubs from the County. All these items had been budgeted for. The Accounts showed a loss for 2025 of £5,000 compared with a £29,000 profit in 2024.

The Finance Director continued with his financial summary, noting that there were current assets of £232,000 in 2025 compared with £230,000 in 2024. The bank balance was £212,000, up £10,000 on the 2024 figure. The Finance Director said that the County had accruals of £55,000, the main element being £40,000 due to England Golf. The year end reserves now stood at £177,000, down £5,000.

Turning to the current year, the Finance Director noted that there had been no increase in affiliation fee levels for 2026. There was continuing concern about affiliation numbers due to the general economic outlook. It was too early to identify the impact on club affiliation numbers and it was hoped to have a clearer picture by August. The Finance Director said that it may be necessary to look for an increase in affiliation fees in 2027 and that he would report back at the General Meeting. The draft budget for 2026 was based on a potential drop of 2.5% in affiliation income along with the inflationary impact on the cost base. Based on these assumptions there was likely to be a larger loss in 2026, in the region of £20,000.

Finally, the Finance Director said that when the Accounts had been examined they would be put on the website, although he did not anticipate any significant changes to the draft Accounts.

6. Appointment of County President:

The Chairman advised that it was not possible to give the name of the new President. The current President, Mr John Whitehead, had agreed to continue in post until the end of June, by which time it was hoped that the Board could announce the name of the new President. The Chairman pointed out that the post was slightly onerous over two years and that the Board had decided to make the role less onerous and time demanding. A lot of the things that the President would normally do will be shared between the members of the Board.

7. Appointment of the Company's Independent Examiner:

It was proposed by the Chairman that Mrs Shona Cutler of Shona Cutler Limited should be appointed as the Company's Independent Examiner. Carried unanimously.

8. County Secretary's and Directors' Report:

- 8.1. County Competitions Hosting Plan 2027:** The County Secretary reported that the process was already under way. It was necessary to find clubs to host 14 County competitions, 2 Midland Golf Region competitions and 15 matches. The County Secretary asked that when the time came for a club to be asked to host an event they should look favourably on the request.

8.2. Courtesies:

The County Secretary noted that there had been a rule change in 2025 and that the new system seemed to have worked well. 260 courtesies were given in 2025. However, he said that he was not at all sure how well the courtesies were used. He would like some information from the clubs about this. If the courtesies are not needed, they would be given back to the clubs. The County Secretary said that he was not yet sure how things were going for the current year.

8.3. WHS:

The County Secretary pointed out that mandatory handicap allowances had been trialed in Ireland and adopted by Ireland, Wales and Scotland. England had not yet adopted them as they required more data in order for changes to be considered for the next rules review.

Turning to the Low Handicap Index Calculation, the County Secretary said that this should be calculated after 20 rounds. The system has been calculating on the 20th round rather than after. 15,000 players had been affected by the Low Handicap Index. The County Secretary advised that if a club had any questions about this they should contact him.

8.4. iGolf Grant:

The County Secretary advised that the County had received a grant and clubs had been asked to bid for this. Every county received the same amount of grant. Clubs had been asked to bid for support of Junior coaching. Five bids have been received and over the next few days the County Secretary said that he would be writing to those clubs who were successful in their bid telling them what will happen.

8.5. National Golf Centre Build:

The County Secretary reported that work was now under way and it was hoped to complete this by the end of the year or early in 2027.

8.6. England Golf Meeting:

The County Secretary advised that this had continued as usual with the exception of the announcement that the Gerald Micklem Award in recognition of an outstanding contribution to further the interest of amateur golf in England had been awarded to Maureen Clarke.

8.7. Midland Golf Union:

The County Secretary advised that Worcestershire would be hosting the Midlands Boys Amateur at Bransford and the England Golf Seniors County Championships, Midland Qualifying at Moseley. The affiliation fee for the MGU for 2026 is 29p per club member which comes out of the affiliation fee to the County that everyone pays. The County Secretary announced that the MGU Captain for 2026 and 2027 is Simon Richardson (Lincolnshire) and the MGU Senior Captain for 2026 and 2027 was Ian Newlove (Nottinghamshire).

8.8. Sustainability:

The County Secretary advised that England Golf were very keen on sustainability, but the initial momentum had stalled because the new Sustainability Officer had moved on to another post. New staff and a new plan were now in position. Their concerns are water, energy and the environment. England Golf are hoping that clubs will register an interest in this. The County Secretary said that he was happy to get England Golf to give clubs more information, but also said that he was waiting for England Golf documents on this. The County Secretary asked the clubs to contact him if they wanted more information.

Following a question raised about WHS and new golfers putting in three cards, the County Secretary clarified the position. He pointed out that clubs could adjust a player's handicap. He suggested that if anyone wanted further clarification on this, they should email him.

8.9. Course Rating:

Mr John Whitehead said that they were now more or less half way through the re-rating of clubs in the county. It is now a fairly well established process. Mr Whitehead said that the list is on the website. It was noted that in 2025 Ombersley, Halesowen, Churchill & Blakedown and Bewdley Pines had been fully re-rated. The clubs scheduled for 2026 were Droitwich, Redditch, Kidderminster and Bransford. Mr Whitehead said that if anyone had questions to speak to him after the meeting.

9. Unification with Worcestershire & Herefordshire Ladies Golf Association:

The Governance Director advised that good progress had been made to date and that three possibilities were being considered. These were to continue as now, but with closer integration, find a form of unification where the two companies could keep their separate identities, but as part of another company or a merger of the two companies with a written resolution caveat.

10. England Golf Club and County Support Officer Report – Mr Nick Jones:

In Mr Nick Jones absence, the County Secretary went through the slides that had been provided for the meeting, the headings for which were (1) Communication, Consistency & Creating Change, (2) 2026 Focus, (3) WHS and (4) Support, Guidance and Signposting.

10.1. Communication, Consistency & Creating Change:

Without clubs there would be no county bodies or a National Governing Body and relationship building is continuous and engagement is growing as more clubs are reaching out for support. The initiative for Focus Clubs in 2025 had seen varying degrees of success across the region, creating positive change. A Focus Club is a club who Club & County Support Officers work more in depth with to create positive change. This looks at the area of work that the club would like to initially improve, grow or change with this potentially leading on to other things to ensure that the club overall is functioning as effectively and efficiently as possible. There is an opportunity for every club to become a Focus Club. It is only necessary to let Nick Jones know that a club is interested.

10.2. Focus – Priorities:

a) Golfer Journey: This is looking at how England Golf see people go from first taking an interest in golf and ending up with joining a golf club. England Golf look at what opportunities there are to introduce new people to the sport as well as retaining those who are already in it and push them further on in the journey.

b) Women's Growth: England Golf are looking at a plan of action to attract more women to the sport.

c) Junior Journey: England Golf have worked alongside the Golf Foundation to create the Junior Journey and Junior Hub Award. This looks at how to get children in schools to participate in some form of golf activity. It is possible to work with Nick Jones and England Golf to become an affiliated Junior Journey Club. If a club is interested in becoming a Junior Hub they should contact Nick Jones.

In reply to a question, the County Secretary said that the Junior Journey and the iGolf grant for Junior coaching were not exactly linked.

10.3. WHS Support:

Nick Jones made it clear in his notes to the meeting that he was keen to get in front of members of a club. To this end he and Mike Greener had conducted a WHS Roadshow Week with handicap committee meetings taking place during the day and members events taking place in the evenings. He advised that WHS Support via the England Golf website provides resources covering everything a club needs to support itself. The County Secretary said that he had attended a roadshow which was very good. He asked anyone who had any questions to email him or speak to him on the telephone.

10.4. Support, Guiding and Signposting:

Nick Jones' slide listed the support, guidance and signposting available across multiple areas of club operations including:

Safeguarding,

Equality, diversity and inclusion and disciplinary policies and procedures,

Membership – recruitment, retention and membership surveys,

Women and girls – Girls Golf Rocks and Get into Golf Rookies, Women on Par, Women in Golf Charter,

Juniors – Junior Journey, Junior Hub Aware and Golf Foundation

Sustainability

WHS

Governance

There were no further questions on these slides. The County Secretary raised the problem encountered in that not all the information which the County puts out gets to the right person. He said that he needed information about how to get through to the correct person at clubs. If clubs feel that they are not getting information, the County Secretary asked them to let him know and he could increase the address list.

11. There being no further official business of the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.45 pm. He then asked if there were any matters to be brought up in the following Open Forum.

OPEN FORUM:

The Governance Director brought up the subject of rules. He advised that the County were looking at holding a level 2 rules seminar later in the year. He said that anyone interested in finding out more about rules, coming on to refereeing or interested in increasing their knowledge of rules should try to attend. On being asked what was the cost, the Governance Director said that he did not think there would be a charge. The only cost to clubs would be possibly for fuel and overnight accommodation.

There were no more matters brought up.