

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY GOLF LIMITED

Company Number: 13065967

**General Meeting – Gaudet Luce Golf & Leisure Centre at 7.00 pm
on Thursday 6 November 2025**

Present

Directors

Ian Rone	Chairman
John Whitehead	President
Clive Werrett	Governance Director
Ian Griffiths	County Secretary

Representatives of Member Clubs

Blackwell Golf Club	Nick Peplow
Bransford Golf Club	David Hunt
	Mitchell Fowles
Bromsgrove Golf Club	Deryck Hall
	Gary McCartney
Churchill & Blakedown Golf Club	Bob Julier
	Paul Innes
Droitwich Golf Club	Nathan Yapp
	Jon Topping
Fulford Heath Golf Club	Mike Walker
Gaudet Luce Golf Club	Steve Lewis
	Nigel Nash
Hagley Golf Club	David Calcutt
	Roy Sims
Hollywood Golf Club	Malcolm Smith
Stourbridge Golf Club	Gerard Abiss
The Kidderminster Golf Club	Alan Penny
	Frank Concannon
The Worcestershire Golf Club	Roger Brierly
Wharton Park Golf Club	Jon Shore
	Andy Oxenham
Worcester Golf & Country Club	Les Jenkins
	Andy Carter

In attendance by invitation of the Board

Jo Gupwell	Meeting Secretary
Kevin Fee	U18's Manager
Mark Evans	U16's Manager
David McGillivray	Past President WUGC
Brian Peplow	Past President WUGC
Chris Gupwell	Honorary Vice President WCG Ltd
Alex Bishop	Former WUGC Executive

1. Apologies:

Anthony Hill	Golf Director
Join Cray	Finance Director
Colin Day	Former WUGC Executive

Grenville Rose	Past President WUGC
Tony Edwards	Honorary Vice President WCG Ltd
Brian Morris	Past President WUGC
Simon Green	2nd team captain
Mark Romasiuk	England Golf
Nick Jones	England Golf
James Harrison	Redditch Golf Club
Andy Price	The Worcestershire Golf Club
Moseley Golf Club	
Redditch Golf Club	

Absent

Bewdley Pines Golf Club
 Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club
 Cocks Moors Woods Golf Club
 Dudley Golf Club
 Evesham Golf Club
 Halesowen Golf Club
 Kings Norton Golf Club
 Moseley Golf Club
 Ombersley Golf Club
 Ravenmeadow and Perdiswell Golf Club
 Redditch Golf Club
 Redditch Kingfisher Golf Club
 Rose Hill Golf Club
 The Abbey Hotel Golf Club
 Vale Golf & Country Club
 Warley Woods Golf Club

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 May 2025:** These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were to be taken as read, but will be confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman at the next Annual General Meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from these Minutes to be dealt with. There were none.

3. **Captain's Report:** The Captain began by saying that he had felt very honoured to be asked to be County Captain again, having been Captain in 2017/18. Having not achieved all that he would have liked in those two years, he had been glad to have the chance to try again. The 2024 season had resulted in the team finishing third in the League, a position about which he and the team felt disappointed and frustrated. The 2025 season had started with a couple of get togethers at which there had been a good atmosphere. The Captain then listed the League matches of the season, all resulting in a win for Worcestershire. He particularly highlighted the 11:4 win against Warwickshire which had been very satisfying. He went on to say that this was the first time the First Team had won all five League matches since 1997 when the team had been captained by Peter Adams. He had found it very satisfying to achieve something that was done by Pete. In conclusion, the Captain thanked the Board for their support and the clubs that had hosted matches or any County events over the past two years. He particularly wished to mention the President, John Whitehead, and past Presidents Ian Rone and Brian Peplow for their support at every match over the past two years and hoped that they had enjoyed watching Worcestershire's success as much as he had. Finally, the Captain said that he believed that Worcestershire county golf was in a strong position and hoped that this would continue to be the case.

The Chairman thanked the Captain for his two years in the post.

4. **Second Team Captain's Report:** In the absence of the Second Team Captain his report was displayed on the screen. The Second Team Captain touched briefly on the matches during the year, noting in particular the win against Staffordshire played at Wharton Park in perfect conditions. He went on to mention various players who had been worthy of note during the season, including Harry Evans who secured the Chandler Shield with 5.5 points, and Matty Ruffinato whose play and commitment to the County over the last few years had been exceptional.
5. **Senior Team Captain's Report:** In the absence of the Senior Team Captain his report was displayed on the screen. The Senior Team Captain began by apologising for his absence from the meeting. He went on to advise that the team had won all four League matches, making them West Midland League Champions. He pointed out that a good squad had now turned into an excellent squad with it now being possible to field a team of 12 seniors with the highest handicap being 3. He said that as this was his last season as Senior Team Captain this was an excellent way to finish. He advised that he would be handing over the captaincy to Duncan MacPherson who had been an integral part of the team over the past four year and who he was sure would make a great Captain. He wished him every success. The Senior Team Captain finished by thanking the County for their continued support and all the clubs who had let them play on their courses and for looking after the team so well.

The Chairman thanked the Senior Team Captain for his captaincy whilst also having the role of Golf Director.

6. **Junior Golf Report:** Mr Kevin Fee advised that 2025 had proved to be a somewhat transition year for the Juniors with a lot of new faces making their County debuts across the age groups. He reported that 12 boys had represented the Under 14s in the year and that the team had won one match, drew two matches and lost two matches. Turning to the Under 16s, Mr Fee reported that of the 12 boys representing the team, six were making their debut. The team won one and lost three of their matches in the League with matches finishing close. Logan Lawless from Redditch Golf Club won the Bill Thompson Trophy. Fifteen boys represented the Under 18s team during the year with five making their Under 18s debut and two making their County debut. The team did not have a great season, but finished a very close second in the ~~Midlands County Cup~~ (EG Boys County Championships (Midland Qualifying)) losing to Cambridge by one shot. Mr Fee pointed out that the team had not been outside the top three in any of the last five years, winning once and finishing runner up on two occasions. He felt that this was a remarkable record given the size of the County. The overall points winner for the year for the Under 18s and the winner of the Cunningham Trophy was Harry Fall from Moseley Golf Club. On an individuals front, Oli Badger from Hagley Golf Club won the West of England Under 16s tournament and Hayden Sarfo from Worcester Golf & Country Club finished second in the Midlands Boys Champion of Champions event and had won the Boys County Championships and Boys Matchplay. In addition he had shot the lowest gross score at the Midlands County Cup. Mr Fee thanked the volunteers for all the time and effort they had put in during the season and in particular Luke Perry, the Under 14s Manager, Mark Evans, the Under 16s Manager and Alex Band who assisted him with the Under 18s team. He thanked the Second Team Captain for selecting a number of boys for the Second Team, giving them great confidence and experience. Finally, Mr Fee thanked Simon Gabbitas, the County boys' coach, the Board for their help and support and the clubs who had allowed the boys to use their courses during the season. He pointed out that winter coaching was about to begin and that he looked forward to a successful 2026.

The Chairman thanked Kevin Fee, Luke Perry, Mark Evans and Alex Band for all their work with the Juniors for which the County was indebted.

7. **Notice of Team Captain Appointments:** The Chairman confirmed the following appointments:
- 7.1. **The County Captain:** Tom Godfrey – Fulford Heath Golf Club
- 7.2. **The Second Team Captain:** John Cullen – Redditch Golf Club
- 7.3. **The Senior Team Captain:** Duncan MacPherson – Worcester Golf & Country Club

8. Unification with Worcestershire & Herefordshire Ladies Golf Association:

The Governance Director reported that earlier in the year the Board had sent out a written Resolution to the clubs asking whether they would approve the next steps to unification. He said that it had been an interesting exercise and asked how many of those present had known about this Resolution. Not all those present had any knowledge of it. In the event, only eight clubs had actually voted in favour and it had been difficult to see why this was. The Governance Director advised that the Board would be approaching the clubs to try to understand a little better how the men and ladies work together.

9. Secretary's Report:

9.1. County Update:

a) Winter Rules: The County Secretary advised that a new document had been issued by England Golf covering Extreme/Adverse Weather Conditions which he hoped the clubs had seen. He advised that a club must switch off WHS access if acceptable scoring is not possible. He went through the various Model Local Rules and pointed out that a club can decide whether or not to bring these into play. He also pointed out that England Golf preferred lies rules had changed and that these are very complicated. After 30 April a club will have to ask permission to bring these rules into play. A club will decide what is absolutely necessary. The Secretary also referred those present to the rule with regard to plastic hole stabilising rings.

b) Mandatory Handicap Allowances: The Secretary referred to trials being carried out by Golf Ireland. England Golf are waiting for the result before making any decisions concerning England. They have been told that this information is needed quickly.

c) 2026 Competitions Hosting Plan: The Secretary advised that this will be on the website shortly.

d) Courtesies: The Secretary advised that the system had been working well and that he would be repeating this for the forthcoming year.

e) Bromsgrove Golf Club: The Secretary advised that Bromsgrove Golf Club were currently challenging the Local Council Development Plan. Those present were brought up to date with the situation as at 20 October and the hope that Bromsgrove Golf Club will be no longer part of the Development Plan in 2026.

9.2. England Golf Report:

a) iGolf: The Secretary advised that in order to take advantage of the money raised through the iGolf scheme, Worcestershire had requested a grant to support Community Golf Instructors and Mental Health First Aiders in clubs. Funding for five Community Golf Instructors and one Mental Health First Aider had been obtained and the County will be going out to the clubs to see how successful this had been. He urged anyone who was interested in this to contact him.

b) New Build at Woodhall Spa: The Secretary advised that the main building cost would be £11m and accommodation with cost £3m, making a £14m total for the project. Some of the work has already been carried out. The Secretary advised that there had been a contractual change and this was now a Design and Build contract which means that the work cannot cost more than £14m. The Secretary then showed a short video of how the development will look.

c) Woodhall Spa Land Holdings: the Secretary advised that this company owns the property and that nothing of great interest had been discussed.

- 9.3. Midland Golf Union Report:** The Secretary advised that the County pays a subscription to the Midland Golf Union, currently 29p per person. It is proposed that this should be increased to 33p per person and the Board is challenging this increase. The Secretary advised that the Midland Golf Union administers the Midland Leagues and that they also run the England Golf Regional Qualifiers. The County is asked to host one or two competitions for the Midland Golf Union each year and for 2026 they will be hosting two, the Midland Boys Amateur Championship and the England Golf Senior County Championships.
- 9.4. Golf Genius:** The Secretary advised that the County would no longer be using Intelligent Golf for competitions but would be using Golf Genius instead. The level of support from Intelligent Golf had not been very good and Golf Genius were much better about answering questions. He advised that the County would also be moving to a new look website that will work better with Golf Genius. He gave details of an app which will come into effect.
- 9.5. England Golf Audits:** The Secretary advised that England Golf have recommenced carrying out audits to check on declaration of affiliation fees etc. The audits will be made on a random selection. The first audit in Worcestershire will be taking place in December. Clubs will receive about four weeks' notice of a visit.
- 9.6. Course Rating:** The President advised that every course has to be re-rated every ten years. He said that Worcestershire were more or less half way through the process. In addition some additional winter ratings had been carried out. The clubs to be re-rated in 2026 were Redditch, Droitwich, Bransford and Kidderminster, but the President said that this list was not guaranteed. Clubs would be contacted early in 2026. The President concluded by saying that course rating was going smoothly.

10. Affiliation Fees for Worcestershire County Golf Limited

In the absence of the Finance Director, the Chairman proposed that the affiliation fees payable to Worcestershire County Golf Ltd would remain at:

Men aged 18 and over on 1 January 2026 - £11.25
Boys aged under 18 on 1 January 2026 - £5.75

This proposal was unanimously agreed by those present.

- 11. Affiliation Fees for England Golf:** The County Secretary announced that for the year 2026 the affiliation fee payable to England Golf for members (over and under 18 years of age) will be £12, an increase of 75p. The County Secretary pointed out that part of the need for this increase was the cost of insurance for members included in their affiliation fee.
- 12. England Golf County Support Officer Report:** The Secretary advised that Mr Nick Jones was not able to be present and in his absence his notes were displayed on the screen. The Secretary said that he would answer questions if he could, but if not he would refer back to Mr Jones. The Secretary went through Mr Jones' Notes as follows:
- 12.1. Focus Club Work:** A pilot of 10 Focus Clubs had been chosen across the region with the agreement of the club. Varying degrees of success had been seen in connection with Governance changes/reviews, Robust safeguarding processes, ED&I inclusive changes and Membership recruitment and retention strategies. England Golf are looking to select a further 10 clubs for in-depth support in 2026 and to introduce short term focus club work. Every club in the region will be supported with each club having the opportunity to work more closely with England Golf. The Secretary said that if a club was interested in any of this they should contact Nick Jones.
- 12.2. Junior Journey/Hub:** The Secretary advised that there was the opportunity for clubs to become a Junior Hub with a view to bringing juniors into their club and developing junior golf. Junior Hub is an award from England Golf. 161 clubs have applied to be a Junior Hub with 31 awarded the accreditation.

- 12.3. 2025: Launch of the England Golf Strategy:** A list was produced of the strategy for 2025 to achieve the “Let’s Inspire More Golfers” remit.
- 12.4. Areas of Focus for 2026:** These were listed as:
- a) WHS pre-season workshop to which clubs will be invited.
 - b) SafeGolf renewal process which England Golf are looking to revamp. Clubs need to ensure that all documentation is in place.
 - c) ED&I audits and guideline for clubs which are not mandatory. Clubs need to be prepared to address transgender and gender policies.
 - d) Club Community Engagement. England Golf are looking to see what clubs are doing in their communities.
 - e) Mental Health First Aid (Fore Your Mind). This is an England Golf initiative. They would like to see a Mental Health First Aider in every club.
- 12.5. Support, Guidance and Signposting:** This indicated what was available to all clubs on request.
- 13. Attracting Volunteers and Process for Nominating County Officials:** The President noted that a great deal of what had been discussed during the evening had been based on work by volunteers. He said that sometime it is difficult for the Board to find volunteers. He advised that earlier in the year an email had been sent to all the clubs asking for volunteers to help with administration and media communication, but there had been no response at all. He was sure that there were people who would be happy to help, but did not respond. He wondered what people’s thoughts were about this? The County Secretary wondered whether information was getting to the members? There followed a discussion on this with suggestions that emails did not always reach the people most concerned and were very easy to be simply dismissed and that golf clubs had problems finding volunteers for their committees and were not likely to encourage people to volunteer to help the County. The President asked whether it would be a good idea to go to clubs and talk to members about this? He pointed out that assistance did not need to be time consuming and that it can appear a more complicated job if it is doing something for the County. It was agreed that it was necessary to make it very clear to club members what the County does, possibly at the same time as talking to members about another subject. It was suggested that a group session of talking to clubs may be a good idea with clubs located near each other geographically combining for this purpose. The Chairman believed that by talking about this problem now the County were getting the message across. It was suggested that attending a club AGM to talk about the purpose of the County and the need for volunteers might be a good idea. The question was raised as to whether the County used social media and the County Secretary advised that only Facebook was actively used. There was access to Instagram and WhatsApp, but these were not currently used. He reiterated that it was help with media communication that had been the subject of the email requesting volunteers.
- 14. Any Other Business:** None
- 15. Date of Next Meeting:** The time, date and venue of the AGM will be notified to all clubs in due course.

There being no further business to be discussed, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

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OPEN FORUM – 6 November 2025

Following the Company General Meeting, the Chairman opened an open forum and invited questions.

A question was raised about turning off GP scores as referred to earlier in the meeting. The County Secretary explained how the process should work and said that it was to stop people ignoring signs stating that acceptable scoring was not possible. If ignored, the score would be deleted.

There being no further questions, the Chairman closed the Open Forum.