

EASTHAMPSTEAD LADIES GOLF CLUB**Minutes of committee meeting – Thursday 25th September 2025****VENUE:** in person Downshire 6.15pm**PRESENT/ APOLOGIES:**

Captain	Penny Gillham Apologies	Membership secretary	Norma Moran
Vice Captain	Al Woolley	Competition secretary	Mandy Creed
Treasurer	Ish Thomson	Committee member	Alex Cram
Secretary	Suzanne Richards	Committee member	Liz Clarke Apologies
Handicap secretary	Hazel Rogers	Social secretary	Dawn Ledgard

LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

Minutes of last meeting – 25th August 2025 having been previously circulated were agreed.

Matters Arising / Actions from previous meetings

- Finances / prize funds etc. Ish & Al have met to discuss the issue. See treasurer's report. In addition there is a financial opportunity to review the condition of club trophies and further work will be done next year."
Action: Al to liaise with Edmee who co-ordinates all things trophy.
- Vision statement – discussion about the extent to which a vision statement is relevant; it could become just another piece of paper. With Downshire a public course it would be very difficult to have any major influence over the course etc. Query whether a golf club would benefit from a vision statement due to the lack of specific targets. Agreed that we will return to this – although general feeling that ELGC are already doing good work towards increasing membership etc and that a vision statement would not necessarily make any discernible difference.
- Changing rooms – way forward; Penny is going to speak to Simon
- Job / Role Descriptions - these are being completed, some with the help of A.I.

Al / Ish /
Edmee**Captain's Report**

Penny

Well, it had to happen – the weather has taken an early autumnal (and muddy!) turn. However, there is still much glorious golf to report on for ELGC.

Since my last report the Captain v Vice annual matchplay competition has taken place. Both AI and I were chuffed that so many members put the date in our diary with 44 players taking part. It was a grand afternoon and victory on this occasion went to the Vice Captain's team. But the cliché is true – the real winner was Easthampstead Ladies Golf Club that showed once again the spirit and values that makes us a great club.

Next up was the September Stableford. The Thursday event was won by the ever reliable Kate with Sonoko second. And then the weekend victory went to Linda McLeod with Christeen in second place.

And then golf wise the weather and the subsequent scores fell away. Those who played in the September medal (full results to be published in due course) will testify that conditions have rapidly become very sticky.

The Committee collectively made a quick and clear decision on playing preferred lies – in line with England Golf's October 2024 revised guidance. I'm confident that this was the correct decision at this time and pleased that we are now in line with the other clubs playing at Downshire. We will review it if by some slim chance conditions improve before the real winter sets in.

And so we look forward to my Captain's Away Day at Winter Hill on 7th October - there are still spaces and expecting between 16 and 20 members to take part.

Apologies for not attending this meeting – hope the evening goes well.

Vice-Captain's Report

KO Comps: both comps now competed. Winners were Sandy Kinch (Single KO) and Norma and Michael Moran (Mixed KO).

Winter KO soon to be launched.

Club Champs: I have arranged the extra tees for Saturday 4th July 2026, and reduced the number for Thursday 2nd July, changing this to a friendly, with the format to be confirmed nearer the time. Penny and I have discussed how we convey this to club members and feel it should be done at the AGM. I have asked whether it is possible to have cake on July 4th, rather than the whole Tea/Coffee/Cake package - given it will be summer and people are likely to want a cold drink. Vanessa is checking on this with Janet. We already had tees and catering (sandwiches & chips) booked for Sunday 5th July.

The 4-sections: the final day of this will be on September 20th 2026. Effectively the Ladies will play the Juniors that day and the Men will play the Seniors. The matches will be interleaved as on the 3rd day of the Ryder Cup event this year. Currently I have a BBQ pencilled in with Vanessa for afterwards - just as we had this year (I think on the Memorial Day) - does everyone think this is a good idea?

We will test the new format when we play the **Juniors on October 11th 2025** - currently we only have 6 players signed up though and 12 will be

AI W

needed. Format will be: 4 x 4BBB 4 x Singles (but played as a group of 4) All are matchplay. In the future not fielding 12 players will mean points would be forfeited to the other team. Vision Statement: Penny and I have looked at this and generated some ideas, combining various online ones and applying to our public course situation. When we were looking at this, and before we go any further with it, the question came up several times as to why we need one? What happens to it once written? Job role / description: a work in progress, aiming to finalise before our next meeting. Club Logo design: the design uses the 'new' pard design the men have adopted this year, but retains the circles of the older design. We can create a colour version for letterheading if needed, but suggest a single colour only is used for any embroidery moving forward. Thanks to Barbs for her help with this. We have also produced some examples of how this would look when embroidered onto red shirts, including a gold version that perhaps we could use for any embroidery during our 50th year? For some reason the gold one doesn't show when I paste it into this report, so I will need to show this on my phone. Once we have set it up, Viv's contact in Wokingham will embroider existing garments so members can take advantage of this. I have recently bought a red sleeveless top for summer matches and plan to get this embroidered at some point. Bag Tags logo: design shared with committee.	
Treasurer Report The account stands at £6138.16. The only major expenditure to come is for the second tranche of prizes to be presented at the AGM. You should note that early in the season we spent more than £2k on the new boards, so the account is in even better shape. Al and I have had a discussion on various financial matters. We have the headroom to increase the prize fund, (for the last 2 years competition income has exceeded expenditure by ~£500). We will also have headroom to increase the grant for our 50th celebrations next year. There is no need to increase any club subscriptions. Historically the 'working capital' of the fund has been around £2k, but a few years ago this figure was breached, with significant remedial action required. In order to avoid any precipitous dive into insolvency, I recommend that the 'working capital' of the fund be increased to £3k.	Ish
Competition Secretary Report: No ELGC results to report. NAPGC results – Huntswood won the Whitewebbs; Wycombe Heights won the Hawtree	Mandy
Membership Secretary Report	

Since our last meeting, we've welcomed Janet Galvin to the group, bringing our total membership to 67. Suzanne has kindly arranged an initial round with Libby Pritchard, scheduled for 1st October. I've yet to receive any response from the two potential members mentioned in my previous report. I'll continue to follow up and keep you informed of any development	Norma
Handicap Secretary Report Not much to report - I've added the new members as instructed by Norma. I believe they are all on	Hazel
Social secretary report I have been investigating setting up a group, for casual friendly golf, organised through WhatsApp. I think would be helpful and appealing. As a way to start just having one person say on WA that they are playing and would anyone like to join them? I know in friend's groups this already happens but this would be more inclusive and encouraging to all, especially new members. The What's App group would be open to all and if members of the committee & more experienced players started the ball rolling that would be helpful. I will send an email out soon to start the WA group soon but thinking it would really get going next Springtime. I am looking for someone IT savvy to help me. I mentioned a pre Christmas or Jan/Feb get together at the club with another rules quiz & maybe a few games? What is our date preference? We are planning another Quiz night for 2026. Has now been confirmed for Tuesday 3rd March 2026	Dawn
Secretary report England Golf September Newsletter: Safeguarding continues to be headline news with 15% of clubs failing to pass Safe Golf accreditation. England Golf have made two appointments: <i>We have recently recruited a new Head of Safeguarding, Helen Jones, and National Welfare Manager, Keith Roberts. The key aim of these two roles is to provide the golfing community with education, guidance and knowledge on all areas of safeguarding to ensure we continue to make the sport safe, welcoming and inclusive for all. If you have any safeguarding concerns, as always, contact safeguarding@englandgolf.org or, alternatively if you have any topic areas to suggest for the team to educate on in the near future, contact helen.jones@englandgolf.org.</i> Carecoins Therapy: England Golf are working with Mind to promote positive mental health and have also formed a partnership with Carecoins. (https://www.carecoins.co.uk/) who provide therapy and are offering 20% off for all golf club members. R and A rules survey: We were recently told that there would no rule changes until 2028 however they are wanting clubs and /or individuals to respond to a survey about the rules that are most often needed / used / discussed. Race to Woodhall Spa 2026 – is already open. Women in Golf Awards – Nominations are sought for these awards. Closing date 30.9.25 Health Cover: England Golf have formed a partnership with "Insured Health" who are offering 10% off BUPA health care insurance.	Suzanne

Safeguarding update	
Nothing to report	Millie
AGENDA 1. AGM paperwork / preparation; letter of invitation needs to go out 28 days before the AGM (15th October). Members then have two weeks to put in writing any items for the agenda. An agenda will then be sent out two weeks before the AGM. There is another committee meeting before the agenda needs to be finalised. Also need to put forward any nominations for committee roles. Currently there is only one committee resignation, for the role of secretary. Action: A final letter of invitation will be sent to committee before it gets sent out to general membership. 2. New bag tag design for approval – Al having previously shared images of bag tags showed a range of sizes and shapes. Agreed that it would be “tombstone” and made of oak. The plan is to give these out at the “Golden Medal” on Sunday 10th May 26. Possibility that tags can be named. Action: Al to continue working on this. 3. NAPGC survey re direction / competitions feedback: Anne B has already responded regarding Women’s scratch competition amongst other things. Concern expressed regarding the Hawtree being split between two course. Singles / JHB running on the same weekend? If course is a long way away it can be very expensive either staying over or travelling forward and back twice in the weekend. If it is a more local course this is not an issue. Captains’ event – suggestion that this is not necessary in what is already a very busy calendar. 2027 Centenary – clubs will be asked to make suggestions about comps for that year. Any other comments? Request that the Mary Forster starts earlier in the year. Website – is difficult to navigate and documents are very difficult to access / download – could this be improved. There is also a request for clubs to put forward volunteers to help – Anne B has kindly agreed to stand on the board again so ELGC will be represented. There is also a request for club members to support any events that are taking part at their club – in principle this is a good idea but there are a number of venues where their members do not take part eg Cherwell Edge. Action: Mandy will respond to NAPGC 4. Timing of committee decisions. Ish raised a note of “caution” about the committee making “big decisions” at speed, there have been a couple of decisions which have been made very quickly and possibly more quickly than needed to be including the change to Club Championships. The use of Whats App has contributed to very speedy responses – would be sensible to use the poll to make sure that all committee members have contributed. Action: to use poll on Whats app if it is essential that a decision has to be made quickly.	Suzanne Al Mandy
AOB	
1. Suggestions from Dawn for course / clubhouse improvements:	Dawn

• repaint the tee markers • More distance markers (posts) easier to see than the plates would be helpful if consistent. • Ball washers to be filled with water & a squirt of washing up liquid, could the rangers do this? • Moving the tee markers more often to get even wear on the tees. • A pot (a flower pot would do) on each tee, to collect broken tees Talked through each of these points – agreed that not everything can happen for various reasons eg distance markers are known to disappear. The issue of whether meetings with Complex still happen – these used to be held reasonably regularly. If so this would provide an opportunity to raise these kinds of issues. However we need to “select our battles” carefully. Action: AI will find out when and if the meeting with the Centre manager is still taking place and then raise issues accordingly.	AI
2. Christmas lunch has been confirmed at Sunday 7th December. Discussion about the relative costs of Christmas lunch and the number of members who attend. Spoke briefly about the club subsidising the Christmas lunch to bring the price to £25. Ish confirmed that this is affordable and would hopefully encourage more to attend. Action: AI to advertise Christmas lunch to all members at cost of £25	AI
3. “Looking after the course” suggestion by Alex that we, the committee members, need to be active in repairing pitch marks; picking up litter, collecting broken tee pegs and also to train those we are playing with to do the same. Then this can be raised at AGM by AI when talking about “her Green year”. Action: Committee members to be proactive in improving the general tidiness of the course and protecting the greens. AI will follow this up by raising this at the AGM and caring for the course.	All AI
4. Hazel queried the timing of some “cup” competitions – after checking in Decisions Book confirmed that the year runs from November to October to fit in with AGM / captaincy year. 5. Whats app for roll up? Dawn asked if this would be an acceptable way forward, after discussion it was agreed that we should continue to use email rather than setting up a whats app group. Action: Dawn to use email to communicate re roll up.	Dawn
6. Mandy asked if it is ok to ask for Mary Forster volunteers so that planning can start for the new season. Agreed that this was a good idea. Action: Mandy to ask for Mary Forster volunteers	Mandy

AI thanked the committee for their contributions and closed the meeting at 7.51pm

Next Committee Meeting – Thursday 23rd October 2025 at 6.15pm

