

secretary@easthampsteadgolfclub.co.uk

# MINUTES OF EASTHAMPSTEAD GOLF CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

VENUE: Downshire Clubhouse

DATE: 7:30 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025

45 attended

Apologies: - David Gillham, Richard Payler,

Alan Humble, Rahul Prabhune, Ed Lyons, Simon Broadbent, Ray Williams, Richard Butler, Ted Rogers, Tom Evans,

Paul Ashfield, Terry Robinson, Ray Williams, Joe Saunders, Tim Grover,

Hajinder Chana, Graham Smith & Ian Goodall

#### 1 PRESIDENTS OPENING ADDRESS – Alistair Smith

#### Good evening and welcome to the 2025 AGM and Prizegiving.

The president started by showing a video from Dr. Aashni Shah, Community Fundraising Officer from Mind who were the beneficiaries of this years Captains Charity. £3,600 was raised by the EGC members for the Charity

#### On completion of the video the President retook to the floor:

We have almost completed our 50th year! 2,100 members, 2,000 competitions, 650 competition winners. No one can doubt we are a successful club, with a great history and an even better future.

With this being our anniversary year there has been a lot of reflecting on 50 years of history, and it is great that as we conclude our 50th year we see the club in such good health.

Reflecting on 50 years is one thing, but what we don't tend to do very often is reflect on the year we have just had.

180 or so of us generally just turn up to play golf, and one week can feel pretty much like the last. Nothing seems to change greatly. But if the club never changed and moved on our future success would be in jeopardy. To remain successful a lot does change, sometimes in the background and some highly visible.



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So please allow me a couple of minutes to summarise some of what has happened this year (Use slides)

- 2 Captains First time, and Ian and Kevin have made it a great success.
- 50th events Numerous successful events.
- Captured the club history in a book for first time.
- More publicity and profile than ever before (Radio, Waterstones, libraries)
- Connected with senior council leaders and counsellors
- Juniors incredible success as England champions (1,451 Junior clubs, 45.000 Juniors and EGC Juniors are the top club)
- Investment in branded tent and flags.
- Continued with the Strategic Review changes Based on the biggest ever survey of members views
- 22nd Tour The first time we have played Night golf
- The introduction of Mixed tee competitions to make winter golf more inviting.
- All big events very successful
- Some committee members stepped down Sean Wheatley, Les Smith Steve Hambly, Matt Irving & Tom Evans.
- New committee members joined (Michael Mortensen, Alisdhair Beckingham, Ketan Bharania.

In summary, we have a very successful and vibrant club, driven by the enthusiasm of the members and the work of a great committee.

So my only plea would be – The committee are dedicating a great deal of personal time, so when you feel that they have got something wrong, please bear in mind the massive amount they get right. If there are issues (with the club or the course) please approach them directly, as this is more likely to achieve a positive outcome than a rant on WhatsApp.



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# 2 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 21st NOVEMBER 2024

The minutes of this meeting were proposed by Martyn Osment, seconded by Alan Mills and agreed by all present.

# 3 TREASURERS REPORT – STEVE CROSS

The 2025 accounts are subject to audit.

A budget for 2026 has been approved by the November committee.

The Men have a deficit (excluding the planned anniversary spend of £6,773) of £793. The Juniors a small deficit of £18.

The Club has reserves of £7,464 (men £3,481; Juniors £3,982). The reserve figure for Men is now at the minimum level and should ideally be in the region of £4.5k to £5k.

#### **Anniversary Account**

I hope you'll agree that EGC celebrated our anniversary appropriately and very enjoyably. The table below sets out how we spent the money raised as well as the amount drawn from reserves as previously agreed.

Account	Income	Exp	Net
Book	£1,932.50	£4,766.59	£2,834.09
Brian Stapley	£800.00	£1,545.89	£745.89
Fantasy Golf	£945.00	£0.00	(£960.00)
Last Man Standing	£960.00	£382.50	(£562.50)
Little Eagle	£385.00	£700.00	£315.00
Mid-Week Competitions	£630.00	£923.50	£293.50
Ryder Cup	£1,441.03	£2,268.16	£827.13
Shirts	£105.00	£2,048.56	£1,943.56
Winter League Sweep	£950.00	£0.00	(£950.00)



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Wokefield, 25/01/2025	£4,650.00	£5,944.13	£1,294.13
50th Anniversary Comp, 25/01/2025	£899.00	£1,004.00	£105.00
Gazebo	£0.00	£717.43	£717.43
Captains Day Present Contribution	£0.00	£350.00	£350.00
Donations	£180.00	£0.00	£180.00
Sub Total	£13,877.53	£20,650.76	£6,773.23
Anniversary Reserve	£7,000.00		(£7,000.00)
Total	£20,877.53	£20,650.76	(£226.77)

#### Main variations from the MENS budget were:

Competition prizes (£8,485) exceeded entry fees (£7,361) by £1,124. There is a proposal on the agenda to increase the entry fee by £1 to £6 to include the nearest the pin at £1.20.

The Majors collectively had a small surplus of £53 against the budget.

Externals income (£811) and expenditure (£2,807) resulted in net expenditure of £1,996 against a budget of £2,250 resulting in a small surplus of £255. This outcome is of course heavily influenced by how far we get in the various competitions.

Senior (Friendlies & M4) matches income (£3,160) and expenditure (£5,648) resulted in net expenditure of £2,488 against a budget of £1,965 resulting in a deficit of £523. This also influenced by the numbers of matches played.

Further information on externals and senior matches costs and income is set our below.

Away Days and Away Weekend income (£19,587) and expenditure (£20,041) resulted in a small surplus of £146 against the budget of £600.

Bank interest was £313 against a budget of £250.

#### <u>Juniors</u>

The juniors had a small deficit of £18 but have substantial reserves of £3,916. The Juniors reserve figure is still high as it has been for several years, and the Junior Committee needs to set out and plan what it is holding such a large sum for.

Proposed by John Ibbotson and seconded by Adam Brash



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# **Proposal**

To increase the competition entry fee from £5 to £6, to include £1.20 for nearest the pin.

For background, I reported in the 2024 set of accounts a deficit of £930 between entry fees and the value of prizes awarded, I expect this to be around the same for 2025. Analysing the reason for this deficit shows that the number of entrants has been too low to cover the cost of the prizes.

The existing £4 entry fee is designed to balance with the total value of prizes awarded irrespective of whether it is mid-week, weekend or knockout matches. Prior to 2024 this was the case but over the last two years there has been a significant deficit. Clearly this deficit is not sustainable without increasing income, reducing expenditure and/or amending how prizes are allocated.

A concern was raised by a member that the Nearest the Pin (NTP) prizes tended to favour the lower handicappers so the Treasurer had carried out an analysis of the winners of the NTP prizes over the last 12 months. This analysis, detailed in the table below, clearly shows that the winners have been evenly distributed across all handicaps.

HI	NTP Total	No. Wins	No. Wins
Scratch to 9.9	£759.50	62	23%
10 to 14.9	£1,093.00	83	31%
15 to 19.9	£776.50	74	27%
20+	£554.50	53	19%
Total NTP's	£3,183.50	272	

Proposed by Steve Cross and seconded by Mark Pearson, endorsed by the committee and unanimously agreed by all present.

The Treasurer then gave an explanation of how the costs and player contributions for External club matches are broken down. See Appendix 1.



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#### 4 PRIZE GIVING

In addition to the regular prizes, the annual President's Award was presented to Les Smith for his outstanding contribution to the club over the last five years.

#### 5 OUTGOING CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS – KEVIN LEE & IAN HOLDER

#### **Kevin Lee:**

Well what a 50th anniversary year and it has been an honour to be joint Captain of Easthampstead Golf club

We started off 2025 with the successful 50th celebration in January with golf in the morning and a great evening at Wokefield park full of fun and laughter ( & some dodgy singing & dancing ).

We had the Ryder cup at the May bank holiday weekend, a fantastic event organised by Dean Pullen that was won by the ladies.

Talking of Dean, the amount of work he puts into this golf club is quite remarkable not just week in week out but it seems to be day in day out so thank you Dean!

Talking of thank you, what would we do without the backing of the fantastic committee many thanks to the them all for all their support.

Thanks to Steve Hambly for looking after knockouts for the year.

Thank you to my better half Kerry for putting up with me & listening to me moaning (as normal) Thank you to the ladies who helped with the half way hut Kerry, Gill & Sara. Thanks to Hilary for helping out with preparing all the hampers

Last but no means least I would like to thank my fellow Captain, Ian, we were in constant contact with each other sorting out various events etc... so thank you Ian.

In the 2 matches against Downshire we lost the Alpha Romeo but won the Matt Carroll.

For our charity we raised £3600, thank you.

I would Like to wish Mark Pearson all the very best in his captaincy year with Martyn as his vice-captain I'm sure he will do a great job.



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One final thank you is to each and every one of you sitting here tonight, thank you for all your support and I really mean that. Thank you

That's all from me over to Ian

#### Ian Holder:

- Just about a year ago, I stood here before some very similar faces on our acceptance speeches stating I am not very experienced with making speeches but will try to muddle through the best that I can, and that's still the case.
- I can't believe the year has gone by, but I have some special memories from the year.
- Unlike Kevin, who added to his speech throughout the year, I am doing this in October so will have probably missed something.
- First off, we had the Turkey Trot, and what a beautiful day it was. Unlike previous years, the rain seemed to hold off, and everyone stayed dry.
- In January we held the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Competition here and then had an Anniversary Party at Wokefield Park. That was mostly organised by Antonio and Bianca Reginaldo who I would like to thank, and if you ask anyone who went what a superb evening we had. Apparently, I even got up to do a bit of dancing in the dark, but I'm sure that's just a rumour.
- After the Easter Bunny that was held on another fine day, you may see a pattern forming here Adam & Steve, we had 3 days of the Men's, Seniors, Juniors and Ladies sections competing for our Ryder Cup.
- Held over the bank holiday weekend at the start of May, amazingly, the contest came down to the last group of Seniors and Ladies, with the Ladies winning the competition.
- After the Seniors Open, the EGC Open and various away days, only one of which had to be re-arranged, the away day at Guilford GC, one of the last of our big events was Captains Day.
- This bought together 21 of our past captains to play and then we all went on to enjoy the evening entertainment.
- We have been tremendously fortunate with the weather this year, I believe this was due
  to the bad luck that Adam & Steve had in the previous years, thanks to you both for
  letting us wait for a sunny day or two.
- On a serious note, I need to thank Adam for letting us both have this opportunity to captain this wonderfully eclectic mix of golfers known as Easthampstead Golf Club. I had my doubts that I would be up to the task, but I have even surprised myself how I have grown through the year.
- I need to thank all those that helped us throughout the year with the halfway hut, hampers, organising events and so on. So, thanks to Dibs & Hillary, Gill Brash, Sara



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Shaw, Kerry Cook and all others that helped to make all our events to flow as smoothly as possible.

- Going forward, I am sure that Mark and Martyn will have the enjoyment running the club that I know I and Kevin have.
- I need to thank all the committee members for their hard work behind the scenes in keeping the competitions and the club running especially Dean for the work he does on each competition.
- We have to thank Matt Irving for his role as Welfare Officer, Les Smith for being the Seniors Organiser and Sean Wheatley for being the Handicap Secretary.
- All have been doing their roles for a few years and have decided to pass their respective crowns on to Michael Mortensen for Welfare Officer, Alisdhair Beckingham for the Seniors and Ketan Bharania for the Handicaps Secretary.
- Kevin and I have decided to return to our previous roles, Knockouts Organiser for Kevin and Externals Organiser for myself. Big thanks to Steve Hambly and Tom Evans for their work whilst we have been enjoying ourselves as Captains, in our way.
- As I am sure you are all aware, this year has been successful for the Junior's section, with multiple wins in various external competitions, most notable winning the England Golf English Junior Champion Club for 2025.
- On this note, we would like to award this year's Captains Achievement Prize to Richard Lansley, who has mentored and moulded the Juniors section to where they are now, with the help of Lynn Clarkin and other parents who volunteer their time.
- I would like to thank everyone for listening to me, hope It wasn't too painful.

# 6 ELECTION OF CAPTAIN AND COMMITTEE

The new Captain and Committee were proposed by Mike Frawley and seconded by Chris Joseph and elected en-bloc and unanimously agreed by all present.

Captain Mark Pearson
Vice-Captain Martyn Osment
Hon. Secretary Nigel Nutsford
Treasurer Steve Cross
Competitions Dean Pullen
Membership Stephen Eddy
Communications Chris Corbett



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#### 7 INCOMING CAPTAINS' ADDRESSES – MARK PEARSON

Good evening, everyone.

I'll try and keep this brief – not because I don't enjoy talking, but because I know the bar is far more interesting than me.

First, a huge thanks our outgoing Captains, Kev and Ian, for a fantastic year. It's an honour to represent this club as Captain and I've learned a lot by watching these two in action — mostly how much smoke and mirrors can be used to get things done.

I will especially remember Kev's enthusiastic singing — even if he only knows one song — and lan's dancing, which is spectacular in ways I still can't quite put into words. You've been superb leaders, and it's a privilege to follow you.

Thanks also to the committee. They're the real engine of this club. We turn up, play our golf, and everything just seems to run smoothly which is testament to the work going on behind the scenes.

When I proudly told my wife about becoming Captain, her immediate reaction was something along the lines of: "What did you do that for?!" — possibly with a few extra words and in a foreign tongue that I won't repeat here! But deep down I know she supports me.

All Captains need a "chief assistant", and I'm delighted to have Martyn Osment as my Vice-Captain this year. You all know the fantastic job he already does organising our tours — and I'm lucky to have him by my side. Thank you, Martyn.

This club is special, not just because of the course (more about that in a minute), but mostly because of you, the members. Ther are some great characters, and splendid camaraderie. When I played my very first competition here, it had been a quite few years since I'd played a proper comp. Then a chap I had never met, going by the name of "Ibbo" came up to me (is he here, where is he?) - and offered "calming advice" to settle my nerves in my first comp. Now I have been playing golf since I was 15, got good enough at one stage to play on some mini tours and even dabbled in some coaching. Ibbo wasn't to know this of course, so when I knocked it 200 yards down the fairway with my 4 iron he turned and said: "Oh... you've played this game before!" That summed up this club for me. Members are supportive, welcoming, always ready with advice — whether you need it or not — and full of characters who make this place what it is.

We are struggling with a bit of damp weather as is usual for this time of year, but it reminded me of what winter was like when I used to live in in Switzerland and Germany some years ago. Winter is a whole different kettle of fish there with deep snow and temperatures down to minus 20. Golf courses could close for months. Thinking about it, I probably skied over more golf courses in Switzerland than I ever played! The only sensible thing to do in those conditions is to retreat indoors to the beer halls.



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In this country I consider us lucky as we get to play nearly all year despite the seasonal challenges that come with a parkland course built on clay.

I believe Downshire is one of the best courses around, it is a fantastic challenging layout. But we all know the other challenges we face here - only recently we have seen it go from desert to mud almost overnight.

We all get frustrated (although we shouldn't be surprised), and some of us vent our frustrations (perhaps a bit too much) on the WhatsApp group. At this time of year, it can be tough - it's hard on us, the greenkeepers, and the management... basically everyone except the geese! In my 45 years of playing golf from my first course up on the wilds of Dartmoor, to the courses of southern Germany, and to the Downshire, I have always followed something that I first read on the back of the R&A Rules of Golf book, and it has stuck with me.

#### It goes something like this:

"Play the course as you find it, play the ball as it lies, and if you can't do that do what's fair" Wise words!

So, as your Captain, please remember that I represent you, I work for you.

So, if you have concerns and frustrations, feel free to bring them to me and I will raise them to the committee or the complex as appropriate and see what we can get sorted.

If we work as a team, we will be more successful.

And there is a bonus - if you vent at me, it will keep the WhatsApp group clear...otherwise we can't see the wood for the trees — or the balls for the leaves – whichever way you want to look at it.

And to get the ball rolling I have already put in a request for a drier winter this year... let's see what happens.

Now moving on to my chosen charity. Earlier, I mentioned skiing, but I have been a lifelong advocate of getting involved with sports of all kinds and I have played and competed in many of them myself from rugby to cricket, athletics to swimming, and golf to ping pong and tiddlywinks. So, this year I have chosen to support the charity Sport in Mind. They use sport to improve the lives of people experiencing mental health problems by boosting confidence and physical health and creating friendships.

Chris has tee'd up a video that can explain it better than me – over to Chris.

(video was shown)

As you can see it is a brilliant cause, and I hope the members will show their support.

Looking to the year ahead, I must mention that our Ladies Club is celebrating their 50th year now. They supported us brilliantly in our 50th events, and I hope we can support them just as well. Please don't be afraid to put your name down for their comps — I can assure you they don't bite!



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Our first big competition is the Turkey Trot in a few weeks. It's always a fantastic day, so please dig out your Christmas Jumpers and sign up.

We will have all the usual events, the away days, the popular Seaford Head (yes we managed to save that one).

And we will end the year with our annual tour, which this time we will be heading to Majorca in October. I am expecting a there will be Sunshine, Sangria, golf on 5 different courses, interspersed with more Sangria and a few Spanish beers - and possibly a few late nights —a trip to remember, I am sure.

#### So, to sum up:

- Come talk to me (or Martyn) if you need to raise a concern,
- Get involved in the competitions, starting with the Turkey Trot,
- Support our charity, Sport in Mind,
- Join in with the Ladies 50th events,
- And come on tour to Majorca if you can.

Now, the bit you have been waiting for: I know this isn't quite a German Beer Hall (and I didn't wear my Leder Hosen), but in keeping with our traditions, please join me at the bar and I will buy you a drink.

Thank you

Meeting closed at 21:06

Nigel Nutsford, Hon Secretary, Easthampstead Golf Club



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# Appendix 1

#### Externals & Senior Friendlies

Our recent questionnaire has indicated that some 25% of members are put off playing due to cost albeit this is not the main reason. It should be borne in mind that if we are playing at home then we are responsible for our visitor's green fees and any food provided. Whilst we play away 'free of charge' we ask that they also contribute to offset the cost of hosting matches at home.

The club pays for food and green fees when playing DGC in the Alpha Romeo and Matt Carroll competitions and should you be fortunate to qualify for a national final EGC will contribute £50 towards the cost of you taking part.

I have set out below the costs and player contributions for 2024 and 2025 for these matches.

	2024		2025					
	Inc	Exp	Net Exp	Inc/Exp	Inc	Exp	Net Exp	Inc/Exp
Externals	£1,087	£2,992	£1,905	36.3%	£811	£2,807	£1,996	28.9%
Snr Friendlies	£2,788	£4,150	£1,362	67.2%	£2,712	£4,148	£1,436	65.4%
M4 League	£432	£1,169	£737	37.0%	£448	£1,500	£1,052	29.9%
Total	£4,307	£8,311	£4,004	51.8%	£3,971	£8,455	£4,484	47.0%

The table below sets out the player contributions by type of match and for 2025 ranged from £12 to £39 depending on whether the player has a season ticket or not. Please note that for Men the matches are normally played at the weekend and Seniors during the week, the £39 refers to a weekend match and is less than the normal green fee charged.



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	2025
Men (both home and away)	
HOME without season ticket	£39
HOME with season ticket	£12
Away	£12
Seniors	Mid Week
Friendlies HOME without season ticket	£35
Friendlies HOME with season ticket	£17
Friendlies AWAY	£17
Competitive HOME without season ticket	£28
Competitive HOME with season ticket	£12
Competitive AWAY	£12

In summary the club allocate approx. £4.5k per annum to subsidise all external matches and this would double without any player contributions.

To remove all player contributions would require an increase in annual subs of £20 or if cross subsidised from competitions, then the entry fee would need to be £7.50, or a combination of both, which results in additional income of £4k pa. this is assuming that the club would prefer not to remove subsidies from our Majors.

Steve Cross, Hon Treasurer, 18th November 2025