

# **Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of Cheshire Golf Ltd held at Sandiway Golf Club on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025, starting at 2pm**

**TOP TABLE:**           2024 President (Roy Claxton)  
                              2025 President (John Heggarty)  
                              2025 Deputy President (Marjorie Griffiths)  
                              Chair (Cleveland McCurdy)  
                              County Treasurer (Dave Kimpton)  
                              County Secretary (Steve Doughty)

A total of 82 people attended the meeting with voting members/delegates representing 27 different affiliated Cheshire clubs.

## **1. Welcome**

**Chair opened the Meeting with a welcome to those in attendance to the first AGM of Cheshire Golf Ltd:**

“Good afternoon, President Roy, incoming President John and incoming Deputy President Marjorie, Vice Presidents, board members, voting members and delegates.

It is an honour to welcome you all to our Annual General Meeting.

I am privileged, to have this opportunity to address you, and share the significant milestones, achievements, and future strategies of Cheshire Golf Limited, however more of that later from me.”

## **2. In Memoriam for deceased members.**

**Chair: For those of you can, please stand as we remember those who have passed during the past year.”**

A silence to remember past Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs President, Ian Niven, who was President in 2010 and Cheshire lady County player, Olivia Lowe (Briggs). Both passed away in the past 12 months.

## **3. Notice of the Meeting.**

**County Secretary:** Read Notice convening the Meeting.

“The **first ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of Cheshire Golf Limited is being held today Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 starting at 2pm. The purpose is to receive the Report and Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024, to vote on changes to the Articles of Association and any other business which may be legally transacted at this Meeting.”

## **4. Apologies.**

**County Secretary:** “A number of apologies were received from Cheshire volunteers and Vice Presidents and Cheshire golf clubs.”

They were from: from Josh Sims, Christina Hornsby, Andrew Ramsey, Fiona Walton, Tony Gregory, Bob Hamilton, Jerry Dixon, Peter Longson, Kevin McCormack, Anatasia Codd, Jenny Page, Alison Bluck, Dominic Barnes, Peter Barber, Ron Harrison, Reg Maddock, Chris Peterson, Martin Keates, Colin Shadbolt, Philip Bates, Ben Johnson, Sue Helm, Jackie Dalloway, Sue Booth, Wendy Taylor, Win Heath, Chris Reid Davies, Jackie Watts, Margaret Jamieson, Ruth Whitehead and Sandra Reynolds. Apologies also came from a number of clubs.

## **5. Minutes of the 2024 AGM.**

**Chair:** requests the meeting to accept the Minutes of the final CUGC Ltd AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, which have been posted on the website. Proposed by Bob Harvey and seconded by David Durling.

## 6. Articles of Association.

**Chair:** calls for members to vote on the resolution, *“That with effect from the conclusion of the meeting, the draft Articles of Association produced to the meeting be adopted as the Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the Company's existing articles of association.”* The Articles of Association have been posted on the website. (note: this required a 75% vote in favour). **Motion carried.**

## 7. Vote on the changes to the Articles of Association.

**Chair:** calls for a vote on the following changes to the Articles:

1. **17.4 Appointment of Clubs’ and Golf Development Directors** – following the resignations of Simon Dangar and Morgan de Vos, it is proposed that the appointment respectively of Mrs Jean Payne and Mr James Salt as their replacements under Article 25.7, is confirmed.
2. **32.1 Quorum for General Meetings and AGM** – it is proposed that proxy votes may be included with those in attendance when confirming a quorum for a general meeting, including an EGM, and an AGM. **(Motion carried).** Chester Golf Club only club voted against.

## 8. Confirmation of appointment of Directors.

**Chair:** calls for a vote to confirm the Directors appointed at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. The names of the Directors: Cleveland McCurdy, Stewart Neil, Tracy McGregor, Dave Kimpton, Jean Payne, Josh Sims, James Salt and Christina Hornsby. Motion was carried.

## 9. Report on the accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

**Finance Director: Dave Kimpton** addressed the meeting. His speech is below.

The Finance Directors Report:

Mr President, Captain, past Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The 2024 Budget planned for a £34k deficit, the actual surplus achieved was £101k.

The Unification incurred costs of £10k (we received £5k from Eng Golf in January) were absorbed against the £60k net received from Cheshire Ladies.

Our combined Trophies were valued, insured and added to the Balance Sheet at £92,600.

Affiliation Fees received by County were £48k more than in 2023. An increase to a £7 Affiliation fee and more numbers playing golf helped.

Grants received from England Golf were more this year but mainly due to timing of their receipt.

Investment Income was up by £5k from Bank Interest, triggering a tax payment of £1185.

Slow and late payment of fees to Cheshire remains a problem. Mere for example were last to pay on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec! We will work with England golf this year to improve the speed of Payments.

The Life Members section is thriving, yielding £24k income direct this year already through STRIPE. A big thank you here to Jerry Dixon for his tireless work.

Additional activities are continually being added to the Coaching Budget, pushing the cost up to £ 56k against a budget of £60k. Now uplifted to £80k for 2025’s Unified County.

Admin expenses have increased considerably this year by £27k but not of concern or unexplained.

The Unified County had a healthy bank balance at the Balance Sheet date, 31 Oct 24, £358k (23, £236k). Its Balance Sheet increased from £231k to £416.

I commend to the Meeting that the Accounts to Oct 24 prepared by me but thoroughly checked and published by Phillip Bates & Co, be accepted.

Thank you.

## **10. Authorise Directors to appoint Accountants and fix remuneration.**

**Chair:** calls for a vote. Motion carried as Phillip Bates confirmed as the Cheshire Golf Ltd's accountants for 2025.

## **11. Election of Deputy President.**

**Chair:** confirms that **Mrs MARJORIE GRIFFITHS** of Ringway Golf Club has been recommended by the Board of Directors to the office of Deputy President for 2025 and calls on the meeting to confirm her appointment.

## **12. President's address.**

**President Mr ROY CLAXTON** gives an address on his year in office. Speech is below.

"Deputy President, Vice Presidents, Past Captains, Directors of Cheshire Golf, Voting Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I welcome you all.

Let me start by giving thanks to our outgoing Chairman David Durling for his sterling work for the County over the years. A warm welcome to our newly appointed Chairman Cleve McCurdy.

Thanks to our County Secretary Steve Doughty keeping everything together County related. Thanks also to our excellent County Treasurer Dave Kimpton keeping the County on a very level keel.

Many thanks to all the Team Coaches involved in the development of our boys and special thanks to team Managers, Andrew, Jonathan, Ian and Graham for all their commitments.

My thanks go out to all the boys' team members; I witness some unbelievable golf by them all throughout last year. We are really in good hand as they develop further.

I can't forget to mention the fine group of qualified referees and starters who attended all the matches – we are truly thankful to them in giving their time to support our County players.

I suppose I should mention that they will be in the very good and capable hands of your 2025 President who I welcome here today, my right-hand man throughout 2024 Mr John Heggarty.

Thanks to those I've just mentioned, the County had some outstanding performances including those by the Ladies Association and I should like to mention just a few: -

- The County Boys team had a spectacular year; they won the Four Counties Tournament for the first time since 2011 defeating Lancashire 7-0 in the process.
- Finished runners-up in the Northern Counties Boy's League and in the Little 6, losing out to Yorkshire in both competitions.
- Daniel Hayes won the England Golf Boys Order of Merit and finished third in the England Golf Men's Order of Merit. He also represented England in the Home Internationals.
- Cole Self has been picked for the England Boy's Squad for this year 2025.
- The Men's team also had a successful year probably because they nicked seven players from the boy's team to play for the Men's team!
- The Men's also had five team debuts integrating well when required.
- The Men's became runners up in the league by a small margin of points difference.

We are now a Unified County therefore it would be remiss of me not to mention the achievements of the Cheshire County Ladies Golf Association during 2024.

I'm afraid if I had to mention all their remarkable achievements, we would be here for a very long time so I will be brief and mention only a few: -

#### **Seniors.**

- Seniors – Northern Seniors Championship Runner Up was Cath Rawthore
- Caroline Berry was selected to represent England at the European Team Championship and both Caroline and Sara Spencer were selected to represent England in the Home Internationals.
- The Seniors Counties Team won the Senior Jamboree beating Scotland, the Midlands and the South.
- The Senior Team won the Richardson trophy for the eighth consecutive year (inter county competition with Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, Northumberland and Durham).

#### **Juniors.**

- Morgan Bollan (Crewe GC) was selected to play for the U18 Wales Team in the home internationals
- Isabella Taylor Stokes (Style GC) qualified for the Justin Rose final at Quinta Da Largo in early December, finishing fifth.

#### **Cheshire Team Players.**

- Lucy Jamieson had top ten finishes in the St Rule Trophy and the Scottish Women's Stroke Play. She was the leading qualifier in the English Woman's Amateur at minus 7. She also won the R&A Student tour finals event and came fifth in the St Andrews Collegiate tournament in October last year.

Tremendous achievements from the Ladies– very well done.

May I also offer at this point my best wishes to Tony Gregory for his outstanding year 2023 in office representing the County as their President. It was a cliché to admit he would be a hard act to follow but I certainly tried to do my best in upholding the position so ably represented by Tony.

It was definitely a privilege to become President of the Cheshire Union/golf as it's currently known as for 2024 and I am grateful for your support during this past year. I attended as many matches and functions as possible in my capacity and I had the support of my lovely wife Carol who accompanied me to every event.

Tony Gregory and Cleveland McCurdy continued to promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity – EDI for short. Having a disabled son who knows how to hit a perfect 7 iron – to my amazement means I'm already ahead of the game in this respect. I tried my best to continue to promote the excellent work initially carried out by Past President Martyn Grimley and so ably continued by Tony.

2024 was the year where we saw the unification of the Men's and Ladies organisations bringing a single voice for Cheshire Golf both at national and club level. Unification will bring exciting opportunities to develop the game of golf equally between both organisations. The Unification working group which David Durling was heavily involved in was comprised of representatives from the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs and Cheshire County Ladies Association. The new affiliated group is known as Cheshire Golf Limited. You

may ask what in broad terms does unification bring? Well, its England Golf driven, it'll give a single voice for Cheshire.

It'll be one body to represent our affiliated clubs including a united focus for bringing young people into the game. There may also be some costs saving due to there being a single administration, although I haven't as yet seen how this will be achieved if I'm honest.

I am sure we will continue to lead as a County both on the field of play and as an organisation. In this respect we are blessed with some excellent dedicated fine Team managers, coaches and players.

The unification committee will continue carrying out their excellent work behind the scenes. This will be quite a major change, one which could not be avoided, and I'm certain as 2025 progresses any issues will be smoothly ironed out to the benefit of both genders.

We have an incredible board of directors who are continuously working on your behalf, excellent qualified dedicated people giving up their time to take care of everything County related.

I should like however to thank one particular member of the board for his understanding, his knowledge, his dedication and support not just to me but to the County in general and that person is Mr David Durling our outgoing County Chairman, so please ladies and gentlemen put your hands together to show your own appreciation. Thank you. We have an excellent County Chairman taking over from David and that is Cleve McCurdy so I personally request we give Cleve all the support necessary in helping him throughout 2025, I'm sure you will.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, it was indeed an honour to represent the 95 clubs in Cheshire as your President. Being your President allowed me to give something back to the game of golf which has given me so much pleasure ----and -dare I say, anguish, over the years. I fully understood the commitment involved in taking the position on board and want everyone here to know I was fully committed to the task. I thank those who supported me throughout 2024. It is with great pleasure that I now hand over the reigns of office as President of Cheshire Golf to Mr John Heggarty – the ideal person to take the County forward within the interesting and I'm sure challenging year of 2025.

Please put your hands together to welcome into office Mr John Heggarty.

Thank you.”

### **13. Appointment of 2025 President.**

**President** reaffirms **Mr JOHN HEGGARTY** of Royal Liverpool Golf Club to become the 2025 Cheshire County President. Immediate Past President invests the newly appointed President with his Badge of Office.

**John Heggarty** presents Roy Claxton with his badge and shield in recognising his service as County President for the last year. He also presents the Deputy President with her badge. John Heggarty's speech is below:

“Thank you, Roy.

May I firstly congratulate you on your year in office. You have represented the County in many different locations and on each of those occasions with the support of your wife Carol you have discharged your duties with style and in an exemplary fashion.

You will be a hard act to follow but I will endeavour to uphold the standards set by you and previous Presidents.

The Deputy President has already been elected but I would personally like to congratulate Marjorie Griffiths. As a former PE teacher, County Captain, Northern president as well as playing for the County Senior women's team your credentials for the role of Deputy President are undeniable.

I very much look forward to working with you throughout my term in office and it is with great pleasure that I present to you your badge of office.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the County to a great step forward when it unified at the end of last year and I very much look forward to my year supporting Cheshire Golf within both the Men's and Women's game."

Then invited the Deputy President to say a few words. Marjorie's speech is below:

**"President, Past Presidents, Vice Presidents, Officials and Cheshire golfers.**

Thank you to the past Presidents of the Association for inviting me to take on this role in our newly unified organisation. The past four months have been interesting, and I can assure you that everyone is working hard to ensure that all Cheshire golfers and clubs will have a supportive and inclusive County organisation. This a unique opportunity and one which will evolve particularly over the next few years. Congratulations John. I look forward to supporting you as we try to attend most of the golfing events throughout the year. I anticipate an exciting year, hopefully a successful one, but I know for sure that it will a busy one.

Thank you. "

**14. Chair's report.**

Chair presented his report to the Company. Speech is below:

**Review of the Past Year**

"This past year has been transformative for our organization. Unification was completed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September when the new board came into being.

We are, navigating through the unification challenges and are working together as a single organisation; this is becoming more apparent to me daily.

Our Mission:

- *to encourage our affiliated members, to promote and grow the game of golf in Cheshire in a safe and friendly environment, welcoming everyone, irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.*
- *To represent and support the clubs, in introducing and providing a broad range of competitive golf for their members whatever their level of ability.*

*Our business in CGL, is to support the individual clubs' businesses, their business is not our business.*

In November, CGL held a meeting at Ringway where all the volunteers and board members were invited to attend to get to know one another.

At that meeting we also heard from, Simon Poucher General Manager of Sale and James Salt the professional at Ringway.

Simon and James both gave frank and meaningful appraisals on their views.

Part of our stated aims, as shown on the website is to break down the disconnect that seems to exist between the County, Clubs and the Professionals.

We have and are continuing to improve the website and to make it more attractive, accessible and relevant to all users.

The section on what does your county do for you, has had significant changes, and the feedback from the ordinary club golfer has been encouraging.

At this point, I must acknowledge that there were some difficulties, in renewing of the County Card as, its administration has moved from iG to Golf genius.

Almost all, now find no difficulty in obtaining their county card if they follow the instructions on the website.

As a unified county, all teams including our junior squads, will be kitted out in the same team strip for the start of the season, I must thank David Durling for this complex task.

### ***Financial Performance***

You have heard from our finance director, Dave Kimpton that our financial performance has been robust, he continues to run a tight ship.

### ***Playing Achievements***

You have heard from our immediate past president Roy, the achievements and successes of our various teams, and individual players.

Cheshire will continue its investment in grassroot and elite golf development.

### ***Greater Visibility at Club level***

As a board, we are committed to being more visible at club level, the 93 affiliated clubs have been divided amongst the directors, and our Deputy president,

we will visit these clubs, and endeavour to become the local face of Cheshire Golf.

It is hoped that from their cluster of clubs we can develop easier and freer communication between Cheshire Golf, Clubs and Professionals.

I have visited Ashton On Mersey, Chorlton- cum Hardy, Northenden, Withington, Styal and Sale to hear and see the impact of the recent flooding.

### ***Strategic Initiatives***

Looking ahead, some of the following are suggestions received from some of the clubs that I have visited:

- Retention of members
- Course resilience
- Bulk purchase,
- Relevance of both Cheshire and England Golf
- Promotion of Club activities on CGL website
- Cluster of clubs sharing facilities when one in its grouping is closed due to natural causes.
- Cluster of clubs purchasing together to extract best deals.
- Online Register of who's who at the affiliated Cheshire clubs. This might provide some Data Protection Issues but will be investigated.

### ***Appreciation and Acknowledgments***

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all my fellow volunteer directors and their subcommittee members who are giving of their time and expertise freely for the benefit of golf in Cheshire.

They are too many to mention individually and I would probably cause offence in missing out a deserving volunteer.

However, I must mention our County Secretary Steve Doughty who continues to be the sole employee of the organisation and is the backbone of Cheshire Golf. Steve is being ably supported on a part time basis for a period, by the highly regarded Gillian Thomason the former secretary of the Cheshire County Ladies Golf Association.

Also, our past chair David Durling who continues to be of immense support to me and Cheshire Golf and for the work he has done in getting Cheshire Golf nominated in six categories for the England Golf Awards due in April.

Our commitment, passion and drive to success is unquestionable.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, we are poised for an exciting future. Our strategic initiatives, our willingness to listen, strong financial performance, and unwavering commitment to development from grassroots to elite players, will manifest itself in Cheshire continuing to achieve, new heights and deliver exceptional outcomes.

**I would like to give advance notice of our County Dinner on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, at the Chester Racecourse, and that many of you here will support your County by attending.**

Thank you for your attention and continued support. “

Cleveland McCurdy

4<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## **15. Any other business.**

**Chair:** invited John Goddard, a Director of Withington Golf Club and Roland Harris from Northenden Golf Club to give a presentation and update on the state of the two clubs following the recent flooding.

## **16. Close of the Meeting.**

Chair closed the meeting at 3.15pm

Signed:

Date: 4.2.2025

Steve Doughty

Company Secretary, Cheshire Golf Ltd.