

Studley Wood Seniors Section

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 31 March 2026

The meeting was held in the Upper Meeting Room at Studley Wood clubhouse.
The meeting opened at 1327hrs.

The captain welcomed everyone and asked that the attendance record be signed.
The signatures of 52 members were recorded. Alan Boswell was also present.

1. **Apologies:** Phil Chaundy, John Fishburn, Paul Fitzgerald, Andrew Cassettari, Ian King, Ben Pritchard, Hans Menzel and Ken Heathcote.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on 15 April 2025, were accepted in full.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Paul Smith (PS) reported that the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 had been completed. He then thanked Andy Marshall who had examined and signed them off.

PS thanked the previous Treasurer, Gerry Prickett (GP), for managing the first few months of the year and then handing over a very clean set of records. PS referred to the documents which had been circulated earlier in the month. Rather than detail them, he highlighted some key points from the past year.

- The Captain's Charity raised an impressive £4,635 for Oxford Hospitals Charity.
- Roll-up fee income of £9,199.98 had increased due to the full year effect of the increase in entry fees and the inclusion of entry fees to Twos and Nearest the Pin competitions. 92.5% of income had been paid out as prizes.
- Tours and Away Days income of £14,835.00 and expenditure of £14,818.04 were both down on the previous year, mainly because of fewer attendees.
- Staff gratuities at Christmas had been well received. Although the amount had been raised to £15/person it was the thought and consideration that was very much appreciated.
- Bank charges are a new cost this year and comprise a monthly account fee as well as transaction fees for cash & cheque deposits. Miscellaneous costs of £146.73 comprise the Masters trophy and medal of £106.73 and M4 Winter League fee of £40.

At the end of the year a surplus of £38.53 was achieved, which he considered to be satisfactory.

The bank balance was a healthy £5,173.07 at the year end and the funds held on the Seniors Gold Card amounted to £880.59. Prepayments of £747.22 represent the Spring tour deposits paid to the tour companies.

It was proposed and accepted that the accounts be adopted.

4. Captain's Report

Jonathan Perks (JP), the outgoing captain, thanked PS for his report, and then referred to the pleasing size of the turnout for the AGM.

He said that it had been an honour to have been captain and that his aim had been to make sure everything ran smoothly so that everyone enjoyed fun team and individual competitions. He was pleased, however, that there had also been some innovations and positive developments.

The roll-ups have been very well attended to the point that we often filled all of the designated slots. We played our usual Silverware competitions and there were 47 qualifying competitions.

The Tours and Awaydays, which are the envy of many clubs, take a lot of time and effort to organise so he thanked Chris Perks for doing this. The highlight was playing at Little Aston as part of the Spring Tour.

Despite two summer friendlies at Studley being abandoned due to rain he reported 11 wins, 3 drawn matches, and 7 losses. He was also pleased that 53 people took part, including several who had not played in these matches before. We won both Home and Away against Wychwood and so won the Steven Painter Trophy. This year, Oxford City have been added to the playing schedule.

Our participation in the M4 Winter League was not so successful or enjoyable this year, mainly due to the location and quality of some of the courses. As a result we have withdrawn.

JP stated that it is never possible to please everyone all the time, but as a committee we try really hard to strike a reasonable balance. He asked that everyone continues to provide feedback, but at the same time recognise that other people may have different opinions!

The Seniors Captains Charity Day was particularly enjoyable. We played Russel's Scrambled Waltz competition, which was very well received. Throughout the year £4,635.35 was raised for Oxford Hospitals Charity. He thanked everyone who contributed to that positive outcome.

It was pleasing that the Seniors section trialed the use of fairway mats, an initiative that was subsequently adopted by the club. The transition to BRS / Golf Genius, ably led by Alan Boswell, was going well.

Following last year's discussion at the AGM, we introduced a new competition, the Seniors Masters. This was based on the Twist game, using a combination of Strokeplay and Stableford formats. This was played over two separate days, and was won by Bob Clarke.

Another development was the establishment of the Order of Merit. Based on the amount of money won over the year, places two to five were separated by just £9. The clear winner was David Hughes.

He concluded his report by thanking everyone who has made this a successful year.

- Paul Dore, who handed over the management of the website to David Hughes.
- Fitz for putting our names into BRS for the roll-ups and making the payments.
- Alan Boswell for all his behind-the-scenes support and hard work enabling the transfer to Golf Genius, all of which tends to go unnoticed.

- Ian and his team of green keepers for doing a fantastic job overcoming all sorts of challenges, including the weather. The condition of our course and our greens, he said, are praised by our visitors.
- Reception staff for sorting out the messes on Roll-up days!
- Catering staff for looking after us at events and friendly matches.

He also thanked all of the committee members for their cooperation and resourcefulness. In particular, he singled out those who had now completed their terms:

- Tim Mustill, former Captain (2024/25,) for setting an example during his year of captaincy and for supporting him this year.
- Richard Ilett for his superb organisation as Fixtures Secretary
- Chris Fill the Committee Secretary.

He finished by thanking everyone for making this year so enjoyable and memorable. It is encouraging, he said, and a sign of our future success, that while some people sadly leave us, others are working through life's journey and coming to join us. Your support is fantastic!

At this point he announced the result of the day's Scrambled Waltz competition and thanked Russel Matthews for organising and delivering another enjoyable event.

At this point the outgoing captain introduced and handed over the captaincy to GP who he is sure will make an excellent Seniors Captain for 2026/27.

5. Handover to New Captain: Gerry Prickett

Gerry Prickett thanked Jonathan Perks, the outgoing captain, for his year in office and for the work he had undertaken on behalf of the Seniors Section. GP singled out the early Monday email informing everyone of what is due to happen during the week. He also mentioned the inaugural Seniors Masters event which was won by Bob Clarke.

He stated that the sign-up for the Pairs KO had been noticeably poor, possibly due to the difficulties experienced previously in organising and coordinating the calendars for four people. In an attempt to address this issue the first two rounds of this year's competition, will be played on roll-up days.

Moving on to talk about the speed of play he observed that there had been some disquiet about the 5-hour rounds experienced during the first three months of the year. The roped off areas and use of mats will not have done anything to improve the pace of play. However, he reiterated the important point that people need to be prepared to play when their turn arrives. The 'Ready golf' approach should be imbedded in our mind sets. In future 3 ball groups will be formulated where the format allows, so that we fill all of our designated spots in the 2-hour window.

At this point Martin Wilkinson proposed that the Seniors ban the use of qualifiers in the period from December to March. Dave Drew suggested that it should be left to the committee to decide, nearer the day to each event. An informal vote was held with the Dave Drew proposal receiving the strongest support.

GP turned to the Order of Merit competition and asked the attendees whether the 2's money should be included. Tim Mustil proposed that the 2's and NTP monies should not be included. This received overwhelming support and will be applied immediately.

As a point of information there is currently no tour organised for the Autumn. However, he and Russel Matthews are exploring ideas for a tour in the Devon and Dorset region. GP then enquired

whether there was any support for a tour to northern France. There was some enthusiasm and he will now explore this opportunity.

GP referred to the difficulties when people sign themselves into a roll-up, at the last minute. He stressed the need for people to sign-up when they receive the invitation, as roll-up organisers attempt to balance the handicaps within groups. Last minute insertions can unbalance a group's handicaps, which is important in team competitions.

Late entrants also invariably upset the order in which players go out in silverware competitions. Players are scheduled to go out in handicap order, starting with the lowest. Last minute entrants should be placed in the last group. Despite some misunderstanding about when the handicap order is or is not applied, the principle was overwhelmingly supported by the AGM attendees.

6. Election of New Committee Members. Nominations Received:

The captain referred to the positions that are vacant on the committee and the nominations received.

These are:

Chris Perks as vice-captain.
Graham McGown-Smyth as Committee Secretary.
David Rawlinson.
Malcolm Wilson.

The members voted their approval with an overwhelming majority, and all the nominees were duly elected to the Seniors Committee.

7. Motions:

There were no motions.

8. CEO's Address

Alan Boswell (AB) addressed the meeting offering Ken Heathcote's apologies for his unavoidable absence.

He started by acknowledging the Seniors section as a well organised and a friendly, and valuable part of the club. He then thanked JP for his professionalism over his year of captaincy and wished GP good luck as he embarks on his term.

AB then referred to some of the club developments and on-going projects. First, he mentioned the range and the plan to raise and level the ground. Planning permission had reached the 'detailed' stage and the process will continue over the year. In the meantime the range facilities will be improved and either Trackman or Rapsodo installed.

The use of fairway mats had been a great idea with the course now looking to be in fantastic condition, coming out of winter. The installation of fixed mats on the par 3 holes will proceed, and will be placed in a position that will enable qualifiers to be played.

The work undertaken to improve the drainage at the entrance to the 14th green had been successful. This work will be extended to the approaches of the 6th and 17th greens.

The poor condition of some of the paths was also understood and attention is being given to the paths 2nd and 6th.

The presence of fairway divots and green pitch-marks is still a problem. He urged everyone to attend to these issues.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the club and will be celebrated on the 3rd May at the Captain's Drive-In, Vivaldi and concluding barbecue.

The meeting was closed at 1447 hrs.

The next AGM is scheduled for April 2027.

Chris Fill
Seniors Committee
10 April 2026