

DURHAM COUNTY GOLF UNION SENIORS

Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting held at Durham City Golf Club on Wednesday 19 November 2025.

1. Present

G. Golightly (Chairman),

I. Watson (Secretary/Treasurer)

Council members; W.G. Dunn BEM, A. Stewart, P. Dewar, A. Hayes, J. Douthwaite, R. Wilson, G. Wraith, S. Tait (County Executive) and 47 others.

2. Apologies and Report of death

There was a minute's silence for the memory of past County President G. Johnson. Apologies for non-attendance were received from 20 others.

3. Previous AGM

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were presented by G. Golightly,

No matters were arising and were formally accepted as a true record.

Proposed by G. Dunn and seconded by P. Dewar

4. Chairman's Report

A very warm welcome to the 57th AGM and Prizegiving.

The Chairman explained, that Bernie Munroe President Elect and County Secretary Mick Kelly were unable to attend as they were required to attend a Northern Counties Meeting. However, Steve Tait County Executive agreed to attend. Steve supports the Senior Competitions therefore a familiar face.

The Chairman thanked the Council for the tremendous amount of hard work they have undertaken in 2025.

He also thanked the outgoing Captain Andrew Stewart for steering the County Team to another exceptional season and welcomed George Wraith taking over the helm and who will no doubt continue the success of recent years. The Chairman gave a special mention to John Kennedy from Consett who had a season mere mortals can only dream of and Andrew will cover this and the Teams achievements in his report.

Our Membership has now risen to a record 382 and entries into the 5 Competitions this season were full despite extended tee times. I believe all the Competitors enjoyed the courses we secured and next year's venues are nicely spread around the County and will hopefully be just as enjoyable.

Whilst our finances remain in a healthy position, costs continue to increase and in line with the County we have increased our Competition entry fees which I am sure you will have noticed when entering through Golf Genius. I think you will all agree it still remains a bargain.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

5. Secretary Report

Welcome to the 57th Annual General Meeting of the DCGU Seniors.

The Secretary thanked the Council and the senior members for their participation and support for the 2025 competitions, many congratulations to the prize winners. The 4BBB competitions were hosted by Seaton Carew, Roseberry Grange, The Wynyard and South Moor Golf clubs, the Texas Scramble was once again hosted by Sharpley Golf Club.

Membership increased in 2025 from 346 to 382. A very successful season with the Seniors section going from strength to strength. The 4BBB competition's were played with an average field of 168 players and there were 41 x four - man Texas Scramble teams.

A big thank you to all of the aforementioned golf clubs for hosting the 2025 Senior competitions and team matches where applicable and to the clubs who have agreed to host the 2026 competitions and team matches which are confirmed as:

- Spring Meeting – Tuesday 28 April – Hartlepool GC – Full with waiting list
- Geoff Dunn Trophies – Monday 8 June – South Shields GC – Full with waiting list
- Summer Meeting – Monday 20 July – Houghton-le Spring GC – Full with waiting list
- Texas Scramble – Tuesday 11 August – Sharpley Springs GC – Full with waiting list
- Autumn Meeting – Monday 14 September – Consett GC – Tees still available

Northern Counties League fixtures

- Cumbria v Durham Monday 18 May – Windermere GC
- Cheshire v Durham Monday 15 June – Prestbury GC
- Durham v Yorkshire Monday 13 July – Castle Eden GC
- Northumberland v Durham 27 July – Gosforth Bridle Path
- Durham v Lancashire Monday 17 August - South Shields GC
- Seniors Big 6 – Monday 8 September – Carlisle GC

2026 membership subscriptions and competitions have been open since October. The Spring Meeting at Hartlepool, Geoff Dunn Trophies Meeting at South Shields, Summer Meeting at Houghton and the Texas scramble at Sharpley are all full with waiting lists. The Autumn Meeting at Consett has tees remaining.

Treasurer Report

Total income for the year £20,625.06 and total expenditure £19,324.94 giving an operating profit for 2024/2025 of £1300.12, the end of year operating balance is £6984.69.

We are a non – profit making organisation and the increase of income has enabled us to raise the value of the prizes in each of the competitions and maintain the low membership and competition entry cost. We have also been able to generously support the County Seniors Team in their Northern Counties League fixtures.

The major expenditures were the facilitation fees of £500 paid to each club hosting a competition, prize winner vouchers, a new laptop and team expenses.

The auditor of the accounts is the County Treasurer who has confirmed he is satisfied with the surplus.

The Statement of Accounts were available at the meeting.

Senior Captains Report 2025 – Andrew Stewart

2025 has proved to be a another very good year for the Durham Seniors Team and reflects how well the county has performed over the year.

In the Northern Counties league the team finished second in the table with 4 wins and 1 defeat. The team missed out to Lancashire who had a record of 4 wins and 1 half match. A great effort by all players. The Captain mentioned the great support the team has had over the year from both supporters and council members turning up to watch and cheer on our team.

In the Northern Counties Championship played at Wilmslow we put out a strong team again, put up a great effort but just came up short as we lost out to Cheshire by only 2 strokes. A very good effort in defending our crown. The six- man team was:

- Stuart Brown
- John Kirkpatrick
- Anth Black
- Brian Ross
- Nick Mansell
- Stuart Nixon.

The Seniors Matchplay Championship concluded with John Kennedy winning a close final against John Kirkpatrick. Well done to all the players who competed right from the qualifier at Barnard Castle in April to the final in September. A great start to this new competition and thank you Durham City GC who held both the semi -finals and final matches which was much appreciated.

The Seniors Order of merit proved very beneficial in assessing players form to assist team selection. A final table has now been circulated the top three players as follows.

1. John Kennedy
2. Brian Nelson
3. John Kirkpatrick

On an individual basis there were some great performances from Durham players but special mention must go to John Kennedy. John won the Durham Seniors championship at Ryton, followed it up winning the Scottish Seniors Championship and then the British Seniors at Walton Health.

John also very proudly represented England in Europe, the Home International's and in the USA.

A brilliant year for John.

Andrew signed off by thanking everyone for the support he's had over the last two years and although we could not bring the league home, we made some fantastic strides and have certainly put Durham on the map as a team to be reckoned with,

Finally thanking George Wraith for all the support he has given this year and wish him all the best for his Captaincy in 2026 and beyond.

Election of Council members 2025/2026

Proposed Council

Chairman	Gilbert Golightly	Southmoor GC
Secretary/Treasurer	Ian Watson	Durham City GC
Council Member	Ron Wilson	Castle Eden GC
Council Member	Geoff Dunn	Garesfield GC
Council Member	Alan Hayes	Ramside Hall GC
Council Member	Peter Dewar	Wearside GC
Council Member	John Douthwaite	Chester-le-Street GC
Council Member	Brian Robinson	Woodham GC
Council Member	Paul Sharp	Ramside Hall GC
Captain	George Wraith	Durham City GC
Auditor	DCGU Treasurer	

The above were duly elected

7. Proposals

1. Rule 7 to be amended to include the Seniors Match-Play Championship.
Accepted without discussion.

8. County President toast

In the absence of the County President elect Steve Tait gave a toast to the Seniors Section.

9. Lunch

10 Presentation

The presentation as set below to those in attendance was made by the County Executive member Mr. S. Tait

Spring Meeting held at Seaton Carew GC on 25 April 2025

Geoff Howe Trophies

- 1st M. Surtees and J. Waugh Beamish Park GC
- 2nd J. Foster and G. Hodgkiss Brancepeth Castle GC
- 3rd G. Rodgeron and M. Matthews Bishop Auckland GC

Over 70's

- 1st W. Wanless and G. Robson Oakleaf GC
- 2nd M. Green and P. Robson Ramside Hall GC
- 3rd C. Dawkin and S. Carr Crook GC

Summer Meeting held at Roseberry Grange GC on 9 June 2025

Ken Davidson Trophy and F.D. Dobson Trophies

- 1st C. Bell and A. Bunkell Beamish Park GC
- 2nd H. Dowson and N. Watson Knotty Hill GC and Castle Eden GC
- 3rd D. Morgan and D. Turnbull Woodham GC

Over 70's

- 1st A. Turner and E. Kent Seaham GC
- 2nd B. Hawthorne and T. Lake Durham City GC
- 3rd I. Hughes and P. Smith Brancepeth Castle GC

Geoff Dunn Trophies held at The Wynyard GC on July 2025

1st J. Forster and P. Johnston Ravenswoth GC and Whitburn GC

2nd C. Reed and N. Stuchlik Chester-le-Street GC and Wearside GC

3rd A. Laverick and B. Cartridge Seaham GC

Over 70's

1st R. Preston and T. Kelly Billingham GC

2nd P. Schofield and J. Walters Brancepeth Castle GC

3rd B. Greveson and J. Sproson Eaglescliffe GC

Texas Scramble held at Sharpley Springs GC on 19 August 2025

1st B. Wain, L. Williams, A. Otty and K. Martin Castle Eden GC

2nd I. Dixon, D. Wright, A. Hall and I. Ward Ramside Hall GC

3rd G. Battersby, D. Campbell, J. Kitson and N. Clements Eaglescliffe GC

Autumn Meeting held at South Moor GC on 15 September 2025

Auckland Goblets

1st D. McNeill and D. Wright Billingham GC

2nd B. Wilson and I. Harrison Houghton - le - Spring GC

3rd I. Sharp and I. Devine Eaglescliffe GC

Over 70's

1st J. Marchant and M. Slatcher Blackwell Grange GC

2nd A. Wilson and T. Bell Houghton -le - Spring GC

3rd R. Crowle and L. Sterling Brancepeth Castle GC

The Seniors Matchplay Championship

1st J. Kennedy Consett GC

2nd J. Kirkpatrick Ramside Hall GC

The Seniors Order of Merit

1st J. Kennedy Consett GC

2ndB. Nelson Seaton Carew GC

3rd J. Kirkpatrick Ramside Hall GC

12. Any other business

Following the presentation former Chairman Mr. G. Dunn addressed the audience to express his thanks to the Secretary for all of his hard work throughout the year organising the competitions and the AGM.

The meeting was formally closed at 14:00 by the Chairman who wished all a safe journey home and looked forward to a successful 2026.

