

IW Golf Alliance

AGM 2025

Minutes of the AGM

1: Apologies:-

Apologies were received from Keith Fryer (Captain) & Peter Long (S&S GC)

2: President's report

The Alliance held six completed events in the year , starting at Westridge in March and finishing at Ventnor in November.

We were again rather plagued by bad weather with our Freshwater event being cancelled and our Osborne event being abandoned as the rain came down flooding the greens. We will make presentation and trophy winners a bit later.

Our Secretary and Organiser, Gordon Debenham was new to his role in 2024 and we are thankful that he embraced the position with enthusiasm, quickly overcoming any glitches that arose. We are all grateful to Gordon for his work and effort in keeping the Alliance running smoothly, sometimes in difficult circumstances.

In 2024 we were pleased that the IOWGU allowed us to use their club's V1 App system for the entries to our competitions. Hopefully this reduced the number of Whatsapp messages flying backwards and forwards, sometimes waking up Gordon in the middle of the night.

Over the years the Alliance has changed in nature and (in my opinion) our ongoing challenge is to avoid being seen as a Society group and maintain our identity as an Alliance of Isle of Wight golf clubs. This has been more difficult to achieve where we have very few or even no members from some of the clubs. Our membership has been declining for several years and it is essential that we have sufficient members to justify our events, both in competitive and financially terms.

We probably need to alter some of our competitions to reflect changes in the membership and to offer what is the most popular type of event. e.g. , there doesn't seem to be much appetite for a daunting 36 hole medal championship at say Freshwater, where our average member may be a 20 handicapper. Pairs competitions seem popular and these events are normally well attended.

The golf courses we use are continuing to put pressure on us to make a bigger financial contribution when they host one of our events (and who can blame them). Our first event at Shanklin Sandown will necessitate an additional £10 per head charge for that club and we are likely to have address similar issues with other clubs.

Just to clarify, at present we pay a £200 flat rate contribution to each club the use of their course. (so, the £10 per head fee could be a significant increase)

The Isle of Wight Golf Alliance has been in existence for over 100 years and

it important that us current golfers , ensure it overcomes the obvious challenges and continues into the future.

3: Treasurers report

Mark Wright (Treasurer) presented the accounts (appendix A) he explained that costs last year including software charges and the Secretaries stipend have reduced the funds held in the bank and suggested that we need to increase funds to avoid the possibility of being in deficit at the bank in 2 years, a proposal was made to adopt the accounts by Bob Singh Bansi & seconded by Nigel Claxton, this was carried unanimously.

4: Secretaries report

IW Golf Alliance AGM

Secretaries Report

Just a quick report I promise.

We had a mixed year with 3 meetings being called off.

The Jefferson Trophy at Ryde , the West Wight Fours and Fowler cup at Freshwater all falling foul of the weather while the championship again at Freshwater unfortunately coincided with gale force 10 winds – not conducive to good golf! !

The Heckford Cup at Osborne what can I say? A monsoon after the first 3 groups had teed off meant it had to be called off although well done to the group that managed 9 holes ... wet ... that's all I'll say.

Of the remaining meetings we had 117 members played 8 comps at 6 venues with the numbers ranging from 76 at Westridge for the scramble to 32 playing the rescheduled Heckford Cup at Ventnor.

The website has been updated to this year's fixtures.

Good luck to everyone in 2025.

In addition, it was noted that we have a fixture clash with the Union on the 5th October, Gordon To contact Freshwater regarding a change of date for this fixture.

5: Election of Officers.

1) The following agreed to stay in post for the coming year:-

- i) President – Ian Ralph
- ii) Treasurer – Mark Wright
- iii) Secretary – Gordon Debenham

2) Captain for 2025/26 (12 months) Lee Simpkins – Ventnor GC

- i) Proposed by Ian Ralph, 2nd Dave Griffiths – carried unanimously.

6 :AOB

Ian Ralph suggested that the Alliance increase its entry fee from £5 to £10 however as Shanklin & Sandown want £10 per head course fee (visiting players) this would mean the first fixture of the year would involve a cost of £25 per non home player (£5 membership £10 entry & £10 course fee.)

Mark Wright expressed the view that we are running the risk of setting up a 2-tier system with Shanklin receiving £10 per player whilst other courses only receive a flat £200.

It was suggested that if we standardised the payments to the hosting club at £10 per visiting player, we would in effect be saving money as the course fees would not be coming out of the entry fees thereby saving around £1600 - £2000 a year.

It was suggested that in addition we may get a better reception from hosting clubs as a result in the increase in payments to them. There is however a risk that less members will play or that we will be oversubscribed by home players at some courses.

The suggestion was made that we should take this to a full meeting of the Club Reps or poll the Alliance membership but it was felt that this had to be dealt with at the AGM.

The following proposal was made –

- 1) Annual Alliance membership remains at £5.00 per member
- 2) A course fee of £10.00 per visiting player be charged (home players no charge)
- 3) Match fee to remain at £5.00 per player

With the following proviso's

- a) All players whether Home or visiting must pay the Alliance membership fee.
- b) In the event of an event attracting less than 20 visiting players the Alliance will make up the course fee to a maximum of £200.

Proposed by Nic Furniss,

Seconded by Bob Singh Bansi

Carried unanimously.

Discussion took place on the subject of amalgamating the Golf Union & The Alliance into one organisation. The question was asked would just one organisation be a better option for Island golf and would it be better supported and how does this benefit either organisation? Would the Alliance become more like the Union in match format?

Currently the Union play mainly Medal golf whereas the Alliance plays a variety of formats which cater for those that don't like medal play, would the Alliance be expected to change its format or would the Union feel devalued by the proposed merger?

It has been agreed that subject to the agreement of the Union at their AGM this year Championship be run in tandem with the Union Championship with the entry fees based on the IWGU structure and trophies etc to be discussed further, Could this be a trial event and first step into combining the 2 groups.

In tandem with this it was asked why is the Alliance seen at club level as only for elite players? And do we need to change our match formats to reflect a more popular side of the game - a shift away from medal play?

It was agreed that in general the Alliance needs to promote itself better around the Island clubs and to encourage the Reps & clubs to make their members more aware of the Alliance, in particular those clubs whose members are unaware of the Alliance or who have drifted away from supporting the events (Shanklin, Osborne, Freshwater etc)

Ian & Gordon agreed to visit the Island clubs and explain both the Alliance and the increase in course fess.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of this year's trophies (appendix B)

APPENDIX A:**Isle of Wight Golf Alliance****Income and Expenditure Account for the
year ended 31st December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions and comp fees	2,030	3,275
Donations	-	100
	<u>2,030</u>	<u>3,375</u>
Expenditure		
Vouchers issued	625	760
Club gratuities paid	1,200	1,600
Sundry gifts	-	30
Computer and systems	200	343
Printing and website	237	209
Honorarium	500	-
Engraving trophies	100	174
	<u>2,862</u>	<u>3,116</u>
Deficit for the Year(2023 surplus)	<u><u>- 832</u></u>	<u><u>259</u></u>

Isle of Wight Golf Alliance

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

		£
Assets		
Stock of Ties	100	
Bank balances	<u>1,686</u>	
		1,786
Liabilities		
Sundry creditors	-	
Vouchers outstanding	<u>-</u>	
		-
Total Assets		<u><u>1,786</u></u>
Accumulated Fund		
balance brought forward		2,618
Surplus for the Year		- 832
Fund balance 31st December 2024		<u><u>1,786</u></u>

I Ralph - accounts examiner

3rd March 2025

Appendix B:

2024 Trophy Winners:

BENNET CUP – WESTRIDGE Golf Club

MAYBE CUP – IAN RALPH – NICK FURNISS

MARIE BUTT - GEORGE CRIEGHTON – DENNIS CARDWELL

JACOBS 1 – LEE SIMPKINS

JACOBS 2 – NIK FURNISS

HAYLES VETS – DAVID GRIFFITHS

BARTON SALVERS – S BATES – M WEBB

HECKFORD CUP – MATT ROBERTS

PETER NORCUT TROPHY – NICK FURNISS

ALLIANCE SHIELD – VENTNOR GOLF CLUB

Appendix C:

2025 Fixtures:

Competition	Format	Venue	Date
Fowler Cup	Greensomes	Shanklin	Fri 28 th March
Jefferson Trophy	4bbb Stableford	Ryde	Sun 6 th April
Bennett Cup	Texas Scramble	Westridge	Sun 27 th April
Barton Salvers	Aggregate Stableford	Cowes	Sun 8 th June
Championships	Scratch / Handicap	Freshwater	Sat 26 th July (TBC)
	Team / Vets		
Marie Butt	4 BBB Stableford	Ventnor	Sun 3 rd Aug
Jacobs 1 & 2 Hayles Vets (Over 55)	Singles Stableford	Newport	Sun 21 st Sept
Maybe Cup	Texas Scramble	Cowes	Sun 21 st Oct
West Wight 4's	Foursomes	Freshwater	TBA
Heckford Cup	Singles Medal	Osborne	Sun 19 th Oct