



## 35th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**In attendance:** 43 plus 2 juniors

**Apologies:** Ian Mackenzie, Stephen McKenna, Philip Pain, Bill Noblett, Ian Holland, John Lamb, Julian Taylor, Nichola Kidd, Scott Hardie, Nander Robertson, Gregor Stewart.

### Opening Remarks – Captain

The captain extended his thanks on behalf of the club to the members for their support through 2025. He thanked the committee for their efforts and dedication throughout the year.

#### **1. Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising from the 2025 AGM.

#### **2. Adoption of previous minutes (2025 AGM)**

**Proposed** Peter Baker                    **Second** Craig Jones

#### **3. Captains report**

The captain's report had been previously issued to all members. A number of items were highlighted from the report.

- Visitor income – Up year on year from £46K to £66K. Visitor income is clearly very important to the club as that's where our profit comes from. The club try to balance visitor income v members availability, however Tee Time usage in 2025 was 35%.
- Ranger – Acknowledged the work Jim Valante did for the club under very trying conditions as the new clubhouse was built.
- Course – Thanks to Kevin and the Team for the first-class presentation of the course. Also, to Tony Davy, Alan Mulgrew and Tom McGregor. This year the club will further support the green staff with replacement and additional plant and equipment and that shall be the main focus of our spend.
- Membership – membership numbers are up slightly; however, we have seen a resurgence in junior membership with 107 juniors.

#### **4. Treasurers Report**

The Audited accounts had previously been sent to all members. The Treasurer then presented the highlights of the accounts

#### **INCOME**

The club reported a profit of £86K this financial year, however a number of items need to be considered.

- We received almost £23k from the sale of the lease of the mast. The lease was sold specifically to help fund the building of the clubhouse and is not income we can expect in future. We will see one more payment in the 2026/27 accounts.
- Subscriptions were up slightly; however, visitor income was substantially increased.
- Bank interest was down on the year as we started spending on the new clubhouse.

#### **EXPENDITURE**

Generally, items of expenditure reflected more of the ever-upwards trend we have seen over the past few years. Increases in the cost of materials, fuel, insurance and utilities as experienced by all businesses and households.

We had some unexpected large expenditure due to Ash die back problems with some trees which had to be felled.

We also bought a new fairway mower which is paid over 3 years and included in the buggy lease line.

We are currently working on a corporation tax charge with the accountants. As we have gone over the CASC sealing of £50K from items outside of membership income, we are subject to corporation tax. We can offset some of this (e.g. proportion of green keepers' costs), this work is ongoing, however the club have shown a payment of £2,459 at this time.

The club have £152K in reserves at this time (which is the low point of the year). This should increase as membership fees start to come in. The club have outstanding amounts to pay on the clubhouse amounting to circa £20K.

The club have discussed with the Head green keeper on equipment for this year and budget. We will be buying a spreader, a sprayer and a replacement utility vehicle.

#### **5. Report on the Clubhouse build.**

The captain gave an update on the clubhouse and the frustrations the club have with the interaction with Stirling Council. He was happy to report that the amendment to building warrant had now been signed off by the council. They are insisting that a ramp is installed up to the entrance door, this will be happening this week (at considerable expense to the club) and final building control inspection is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. We then expect to get sign off to allow members to use the new clubhouse.

We have appointed a number of stewards who will be manning the clubhouse, 6 days per week.

The captain also reported that the club are delighted to have been shortlisted for two awards at the Scottish Golf annual awards ceremony. Environmental club of the year for the net zero clubhouse project and also the course management. We have also been nominated for the Enterprise club of the year, this award is for the running of the business side of the club, and in particular the grant funding we were able to achieve to build the new clubhouse.

### **Questions on clubhouse**

A number of questions followed.

**1. Can the committee confirm there is a no golf shoes in the lounge rule**

Yes, we will have a clean side (lounge, kitchen and juniors' room) and a dirty side (changing rooms, Toilets and shower room).

**2. Will parking be available next to the clubhouse for older members.**

This has not been discussed as yet, but similar rules to previous clubhouse are likely to apply.

**3. Will we be highlighting the new clubhouse on our advertising and social media channels**

Yes, we will and have also signed a PR contract with the Golf in Scotland organisation.

**4. Why are we putting up visitor fees to £30 (midweek) and £40 (weekends)**

The club have looked at other courses in our area and believe these figures represent very good value for money, given the facilities and conditions.

### **6. 2026/27 membership fees**

The proposed fees are as follows.

Fees for 2026/27 are proposed as follows.

Ordinary membership	£495
Joining Fee	£240 (3 x £80 is required)
Country membership	£295
intermediate (18-24)	£195
Mini under 10	£25 (£25 with adult member)
Junior (11-14)	£60 (£40 with adult member)
Youth (15-17)	£80 (£60 with adult member)
Members guest	£10 with same guest on 4 occasions only)
Visitor fees midweek	£30
Visitor fees weekend	£40

**A question was asked about the number of guests a member could bring on and also if the committee should give a free member guest tee time to all members as they had been without a clubhouse for 1 year.**

It was explained that members can bring unlimited guests but only the same person on four occasions.

The committee were not in favour of giving zero cost tee times.

## **7. Election of committee members**

In line with the club constitution, committee members stand for a 2-year period after which they have to be re-elected. The following members were proposed and seconded to continue or join as a new committee member.

Alan Motion

Dave McCann

Ian Rubython

Susan McKenzie

Jimmy McGregor

The following member is proposed for election to the committee

Julian Taylor

No objections were forthcoming.

## **8. Nomination for honorary membership.**

The club wish to nominate 2 individuals for honorary membership.

**Brian Davidson** – Brian served on the committee for many years and helped drive the success of Balfron. The club also wish to recognise Brian's services to golf in general running many of the county and other leagues.

**Richard Hiseman** – Richard is one of the founder members of the club as it reformed in the 1990's. Putting many hours of labour into assisting with the rebuild of the course. Richard is always to be found around the club and is, and has been, an extremely supportive advocate for Balfron Golf.

There were no objections and both gentlemen were awarded lifetime honorary membership.

## **9. Appointment of Murray Accountancy and Tax services (Balfron)as club accountants**

There were no objections.

## **AOCB**

The captain spoke on his 2 years as Captain. The captain thanked all the members for their support, friendship and positive engagement over the past 2 years, he expressed that it had been a real pleasure to be involved with the club at such an exciting time. He then paid particular thanks to the members of the committee who have given their time and support so willingly. Alan offered

special thanks, on everyone's behalf, to the treasurer (Ian Rubython) , the membership secretary (Susan Mckenzie), The greens convenor (Jimmy McGregor) and the Club Secretary (Dave McCann).

He then handed over to the new Captain, David Pettigrew, who introduced himself and explained how much he was looking forward to leading the club.

A member then proposed a vote of thanks for the hard work carried out by the committee in the year.

Questions and answers then followed, some via email which were read out first then some from the floor. They were

Q1. Asking if the club can introduce a rule for the club knock out competitions that players must have played a minimum of 6 handicap scoring rounds in the previous 12 months.

***Answer – The club are in agreement that a minimum criterion should be in place, this is standard procedure at most golf clubs. We are therefore proposing that a minimum of 3 handicap scoring rounds (which must be played under medal conditions and not general play score) in the previous 12 months should be the criteria for entry to all club knock out competitions. This will be in place for all 2026 knock out competitions.***

Q2. To propose that the club considers a championship week where all matches are played together progressing towards the finals at the weekend and coordinated from the clubhouse.

***Answer – Unfortunately it's not feasible to have a championship week. It's proving very difficult to get ties played around weekends and evenings for those that work and have family commitments. We will however look at some other opportunities that the clubhouse gives us. BBQ, bar etc to attract more interest from members for the final's day? We can work on that during the season.***

Q3. To propose that the club introduce a charity bunker to enhance the club's charity investment. Many clubs have this, where, if you enter the bunker, you donate a £1 to the charity of choice for that season. This will be on a purely voluntary basis, and a collection jar will be in the clubhouse. Suggest the greenside bunker at the 14<sup>th</sup>.

***Answer – The Club are in agreement with this suggestion.***

Q4 Are there any planned course enhancements for this coming season, and would it be possible to share an outline of these plans at the AGM?

***Answer – The main focus of the clubs spends this year will be on plant and machinery to assist the greenkeeping team. It is long overdue that we refresh and enhance the machinery for the team, and the significant spend this year will be on that. However, we do have plans to change the 6<sup>th</sup> Green, which we hope to do over the coming few seasons. This will mean the reinstatement of the old second (currently practice hole) for a season. The club has also***

*made enquiries on the availability of the land to the side of the new clubhouse, to date we have not received any encouragement on its availability. This would allow us to enhance the practice facilities and extend the car parking options.*

Q5 Will the club consider starting a programme to improve and level the tee boxes throughout the course? In particular, starting with the white tees on hole 6, and tee boxes for 8 and 14 would really benefit from being levelled.

**Answer – The greens convenor will be meeting with the Head Green keeper to discuss ongoing projects. Tee levelling has been on the agenda, and we do tackle a number of Tee's every year. We do agree the Tee's in question should be looked at. Clearly the 6<sup>th</sup>, would be part of a green replacement on that hole.**

Q6 Could the club look into repairing some of the hazards on the course (not the bunkers). Specifically, the dilapidated winter tee on the 4th that's appeared this season and the path from the 18th tee, both present potential safety risks and could lead to an avoidable accident or worse a claim.

**Answer – The old winter tee on the 4<sup>th</sup> will be removed and the ground repaired in time for the new season.**

*The access paths (particularly 16<sup>th</sup> green to 17<sup>th</sup> tee and 18<sup>th</sup> tee to 18<sup>th</sup> fairway), get washed away with the winter storms. The green staff maintain these as best they can and ensure health and safety is maintained. Full restoration takes place in the weeks leading up to the start of the season when the worst of the winter weather is behind us.*

Q7. Question on course condition, in particular moss on greens, condition of bunkers, condition of streams with weeds. Also condition of the new ditch access at side of 11<sup>th</sup> fairway and the access path from 18<sup>th</sup> Tee to fairway.

**Answer – The construction of the new ditch complex on the 11/12<sup>th</sup> holes will be maintained in line with the other ditches on the course.**

*The club has hired a new greenkeeper (Stephen Morgan). Stephen comes to us from Gleneagles where he was a bunker specialist. We believe that the bunker conditions have improved since Stephen joined the team.*

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Q8. A member asked how new members could play in knock out competitions if they did not have the 3 required medal rounds under the new rules discussed earlier.

**Answer – The handicap secretary explained that there were 4 medals available to play at Balfour before the knockout competitions, also medal rounds (played under medal conditions) from other courses also count.**

Q9. What is the club doing (given the name change) to protect the history and heritage of the old club and the changes since it was reformed.

**Answer – The club have gathered various information, photographs and documents and intend to have a history of the club section at the entrance corridor that faces the 18<sup>th</sup> green.**

The captain then closed the meeting by thanking everyone who attended and the prize giving then took place.