



Registered Address: 67 Ridge Avenue  
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London  
N21 2RH

## **The Inches Golf Society**

### **2025 Annual General Meeting**

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025      Time: 17:00

Venue: 67 Ridge Avenue, London N21 2RH

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Bernie Butler (Captain), Dave Sharpe (Chairman), Andy Rippington (Treasurer), Martin Fox (Secretary) - remotely, Chris Dyer, , Gordon Crisp, David Goldfarb, Stuart Hawes, Nigel Hunnisett, Dougie Young, Simon Armitage

**Apologies for Absence:** David K, Mitchell B, Luke H, Andy J, Brennan H, Dave E, Jon M, Lee R

#### **Chairman's opening address (Dave S)**

Dave thanked the committee for all their hard work throughout the season and thanked Andy R for hosting the AGM again. Dave stated he was happy to continue in the role of Chairman if so elected by the society.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Andy R)**

Andy R presented the treasurer's report, ([available on website here](#)), detailing the society's expenditures, current balances, and the status of frozen member accounts, with Martin and other members raising questions about fund usage and the rationale behind maintaining a significant slush fund.

A small error was corrected on the accounts, as follows... *"At the end of last season, the funds attributed to no specific member stand at £920.63, down from ~~£10821.21~~ £1081.21 at the end of the previous year".*

**Discussion: Slush Fund Status and Concerns:** Andy R reported that the slush fund, which is not attributed to any specific member, is decreasing each year and currently stands at £920, down from £1,081 the previous year. The group discussed the need to address what would happen if a similar loss occurred when the fund is depleted.

**Discussion: Frozen Member Accounts:** Andy R explained that there are now four frozen member accounts, including Steve Mayer, David King, and Duncan Willett, whose funds remain in the society but are not subject to subs or withdrawals unless they rejoin. The group acknowledged the need to decide on the future of these funds.

**Discussion: Personal Account Balances and Standing Orders:** Andy R clarified how individual balances are managed, noting that members need to ensure their accounts are topped up to £150 before the first game unless they pay by standing order. The latest figures are based on the update as of October 31st.

Andy made the following declarations as required by the society rules that subject to approval by the AGM...

- the subscription fee due for the coming year remains £20
- the Players Fee due for the coming year remains at £20
- the insurance fee for the coming season remains at £7.50, while noting rule 6.7.2 regarding members with their own appropriate personal insurance.
- no visitors fee other than the appropriate tournament fee is applicable to guests playing at Society fixtures.

Andy R reminded everyone of the decision which was voted in last year whereby any profit made over a season is now returned to society funds, not to individual members accounts.

Andy stated he was happy to continue in the role of Treasurer if so elected by the society.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Martin Fox and seconded by Bernie Butler.

## **Secretary's Report (Martin F)**

Martin F thanked all the committee for their hard work over the season. Martin reported that the fixture list is nearly complete, with most dates and venues confirmed except for a few tee times and prices. Members were encouraged to add the dates to their diaries.

Martin stated that unless there were any objections, he was happy to continue as secretary.

## **Captain's Report (Bernie B)**

Another season bites the dust and again we have to talk about how dominant a certain Mr Crisp has been with 2 majors at the Masters and the Players to his name and second place in the Order of Merit. Many congratulations.

Congratulations also to Chris for his consistently good play throughout the season and a very well deserved Order of Merit victory.

Congratulations must also go to Lee for his Open win and to all the society day winners and the nearest the pin and longest drive champions.

A few low points unfortunately with the SANDS OF ALDENHAM being the 1<sup>st</sup> (but I understand the breakfast was good), and the 2<sup>nd</sup> being that we lost money by failing to meet the minimum numbers for Aldwickbury.

I have mentioned this dilemma before and really hope that all members try their hardest to make ALL fixtures as the dates are printed way in advance to enable diary entries. Clubs are asking more for weekend green fees and where I used to cap fixtures at £50, I feel this is becoming almost impossible from now on.

I hope everyone found the visit to the Oxfordshire and Celtic Manor enjoyable and our return to EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL and the excellent ST PIERRE for our overnights next year will be equally so.

September's LA CALA trip was superb with the 3 main courses in great condition, the least said about the par 3 the better. The weather was fantastic and the improvements to the catering in the hotel meant far less running around to feed ourselves. It is little wonder that the Resort was again voted the best in Spain. We return in 2026 and have Prai del Rey penciled in for 2027!

Bern stated he was happy to continue in the role of Captain if so elected by the society.

## **Election of Committee**

The existing committee all stated they were happy to stand again. There were no other nominations for the role. There were no objections, and the motion was carried.

Proposed by Chris Dyer & seconded by Simon Armitage

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Debate and Decision on Slush Fund Utilization:** Martin initiated a discussion on the slow usage of the slush fund, suggesting increased spending to benefit current members, which led to a group debate.

**Discussion: Rationale for Increased Spending:** Martin questioned why the slush fund was being depleted so slowly, proposing that the society should spend more of it each year rather than letting it sit and devalue. Andy R and others explained that expenses are offset by interest and subs excess, and that the fund is no longer distributed as profit but used to subsidize events.

**Discussion: Subsidy Strategies and Event Costs:** The group discussed various ways to use the fund, such as increasing subsidies for expensive fixtures, subsidizing all events over £50, or targeting specific high-cost courses to encourage participation. Andy R noted that the cost of fixtures is rising, making it harder to keep events affordable.

**Discussion: Member Participation and Event Affordability:** Members debated whether higher event costs were deterring participation, with some suggesting that time constraints and personal circumstances were more significant factors than price. The idea of organizing a 'super society day' at a premium course was also raised.

**Voting and Committee Discretion:** A vote was held on whether to spend the slush fund at a faster rate, with the majority in favour. It was agreed that the committee would have discretion over how the funds are spent, rather than requiring member approval for each expenditure.

**Fixture Planning and Venue Selection:** Martin, Bernie and others reviewed the fixture list, discussed challenges in booking desirable courses due to rising green fees and distance, and considered member suggestions for new venues and fixture timing, with input from several members on course quality and accessibility.

**Discussion: Venue Affordability and Subsidization:** The group discussed the increasing difficulty of booking quality courses within the traditional £50 cap, with some venues now charging £60-£75. Suggestions included subsidizing more expensive courses to make them accessible and considering the value for money when selecting venues.

**Discussion: Suggestions for New Courses:** Members proposed looking at courses further from London, such as Collingtree Park and Whittlebury, and revisiting previously played venues. The challenges of travel time and member willingness to attend distant fixtures were acknowledged.

**Discussion: Early Season Fixture Planning:** Bernie noted a lack of response to an email about organizing an early season fixture at Blake's, leading to no event being scheduled. The group discussed the possibility of adding new fixtures if there is sufficient interest.

**Communication Methods: Email vs. WhatsApp Group:** Members debated the merits of creating a WhatsApp group for society communications, with concerns raised about message overload and the effectiveness of email, ultimately agreeing to consider guidelines for a potential group to improve fixture coordination.

**Pros and Cons of WhatsApp:** Some members advocated for a WhatsApp group to facilitate quick updates and fixture coordination, while others expressed concerns about irrelevant messages and the risk of important information being lost among casual chat and videos.

**Email as Official Record:** Simon and others emphasized that email remains the official record for society communications, allowing for searchable, controlled correspondence, and suggested that members manage their email subscriptions to avoid missing important messages.

**Potential Guidelines for Group Use:** The group considered implementing guidelines for a WhatsApp group to keep messages focused on society business, with the possibility of using it for urgent updates or on-the-day coordination, while maintaining email for formal communications.

## **FOLLOW UP ACTIONS**

**Slush Fund Spending Rate:** Implement the decision to spend the slush fund at a faster rate than previously, as agreed by the group, and determine specific allocations in upcoming committee meetings. (The committee)

**Slush Fund Spending Authority:** Ensure the committee manages and decides on the allocation of the slush fund spending, as agreed in the meeting. (The committee)

**WhatsApp Group for Society Communication:** Trial the creation of a WhatsApp group for the society to improve communication about fixtures and important updates, with guidelines to minimize off-topic content. (Andy R)

**Early Season Fixture Organization:** Send out a follow-up communication to confirm interest and organize an early season fixture (e.g., in January), based on the lack of responses to the previous email. (Bernie)

**Fixture Suggestions for New Courses:** Research and propose additional suitable golf courses for society fixtures, especially those not currently on the schedule and within reasonable travel distance, and share suggestions with the group. (Martin)

**Players Event Communication:** Send an email about the Players event to start collecting numbers and deposits from members. (Andy R / Bernie)

**There being no other business, the AGM closed @18:00**