



**Minutes of the AGM held at The Civil Service Club**  
**13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ**  
**on Wednesday 5th February 2025**

The Secretary opened the meeting at 18.40.

**Present**

Committee

Fiona Watson - Captain  
Matthew Jones – Vice-Captain  
Nick Archer – Treasurer  
Neil Meixner – Secretary  
Ken Adams – Young Person Guru/ Deputy Secretary  
Jason Wood – Committee / Past Captain  
Neil Blundy – Committee / Entertainments  
Darrell Lewis – President  
Rob Seeley – Committee  
Chris Sunderland - Committee

Members in attendance were: - Bernadette Barker, Chris Anderson, Gavin Tuck, Iain Stevenson, Matt Caldecourt, Martyn Howie, Mitesh Patel, Steven Barker, Will Evans, Jon Cole, Joel Evans, Michael Foster, Peter Caneparo, Malcolm Marshall & Steve Hurworth.

Apologies were received from Will Higgins, Tom Swaysland, Terry Dobbins, Steve Haley, Richard Piggott, Raja Flora, Paul McMahon, Paul Tumelty, Oliver Tobin, Noel Greig, Mark Tompson, Mike Salmon, Michael Trott, Josh Roughan, John Biscoe, Ro Harper, Jason Ramage, John Bush, Jarlath Rooney, James Barrett, Ian Abley, Gavin Travica, Gary Dann, Garry Fairbairn, Matthew Stylianides, David Wannerton, Digby Hebbard, David Dickinson, Robert White, Ben Hurworth, Andrew Hardy, Aidan Mahoney & David Bennett.

Only 13 didn't reply at all

The Secretary reported the sad death of Trevor Powell, a great supporter and prime mover in the development of EPiC. Darrell Lewis, Ben Hurworth, Ken Adams and Neil Meixner represented EPiC at the funeral and EPiC made a charitable contribution to Alzheimer's Research UK.

## **1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were unanimously agreed.

## **2. Matters arising**

None.

## **3. Captain's Report**

The full version of Fiona's report is available on the website, but here is a precis of what Fiona said. "As Captain I generally didn't bring guests this year and that gave me a fantastic opportunity to get out, get to know and talk to all the EPiC members. The highlights of my year were beating BAGS again, no pressure on Matt, Moor Park where 44 players attended, Chris Sunderland's hole in one at Ashridge, the challenge of Berkhamsted, the beautiful day and course at Harleyford and the excellent Sandy Lodge in the Autumn. Marrakech was something new with sandstorms, 45 points for Geoff Green, rescuing a frog and Rob Seeley's fake Rolex!! Seriously many thanks to Rob for his assistance on tour!! I have been proud to have been your Captain and good luck to Matthew Jones in 2025" Fiona Thanked the Secretary for his support and guidance during the year.

## **4. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary offered his report as read, re-emphasising Fiona's comment and saying that attendances had been down, to 109 (cf 122 in 2023) member attendances over the 5 major events excluding Letchworth. The Secretary highlighted Nick Archer (Finance), Chris Sunderland (Now Social Media Chairman) and Oliver Tobin (Knock-out Competition) for their help this year and reminded members present of the need for prompt payment of their subscriptions and event fees.

Finally, the Secretary thanked Fiona for being a really proactive and supportive Captain!!

If you'd like to see the Secretary's full report, it's on the website

## **5. Membership**

Membership at the end of 2024 stood at 74. The Secretary informed the meeting of the 11 new members joining in 2024. A very warm welcome to Peter Caneparo, Will Evans (rejoining), Garry Fairbairn, Chris Kwok, Clark Lee, Paul McMahon, Mitesh Patel, Jason Ramage, Josh Roughan, Paul Tumelty & James Varley who all joined EPIC in 2024. The Secretary reported that since the turn of 2025, 1 additional member has joined (Chris Bott) making our current membership 75 again an all-time high!! Well done to all those who sponsored the new intake.

Peter Caneparo, Will Evans & Mitesh Patel were welcomed in person, and each gave a short introductory speech.

We have had several retirees (John Campbell, Adrian Pitt, Danny Toseland, Callum Howie, Aaron Hughes, John Marsh, Richard Poulter & Matthew Friedlander). We wish them well for the future. Trevor Powell as previously noted has sadly passed away.

The Secretary asked for guidance from the AGM in that EPiC was now getting applications from prospective members who didn't have WHS handicaps but might well be proficient golfers and valuable EPiC networking members. After some discussion it was agreed that the rules would be amended so that potential members even if sponsored by a member, but without a WHS, would be invited to attend a meeting as a guest, play with a senior member and then on condition that they undertook to forthwith join a WHS platform and enter at least 6 scores a year be sanctioned to join EPiC. They would not be entitled to win any "silverware" until they had a full WHS handicap. (i.e. after 20 compliant scores)

## **6. Treasurer's Report, Charity & Accounts**

The Treasurer presented his report highlighting, that reduced attendances, meant reduced income and profits. Ashridge and Letchworth both made a loss but this was balanced by all other events making a profit. The Charity account stands at >£2,500 so well done to all members.

Steven Barker raised the issue of "substandard" balls being used for guests and in the ball sweep. It was agreed that better quality balls would be purchased next time and the raffle costs would be raised to £15 per person to ensure the charities didn't lose out!

If you'd like to see the Treasurer's full report it's on the website.

## **7. 2025 Subscription**

The committee suggested the annual subscription remain at £50.

This was agreed unanimously.

**Members are reminded to send their payments to Nick Archer as soon as possible and to annotate them so we know what they were for and where they came from**

**ALL members should endeavour to introduce at least one, preferably young, new member to the Society.**

## 8. 2025 Programme

<p><b>Wednesday 5th February</b> Meeting at 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm sharp Dinner at 8.00 pm</p>	<p><b>AGM and Dinner</b> Civil Service Club 13-15 Great Scotland Yard London, SW1A 2HJ</p>
<p><b>Thursday 20th March</b> 9:30 for a 10:30</p>	<p><b>EPiC v Faculty of Building GS – Sandy Lodge</b> Match - 12 players per team. Captains Invitational Bacon Roll/Coffee/Tea &amp; 2- Course</p>
<p><b>Friday 4th April</b> 12 Noon for 1:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Tee</p>	<p><b>Moor Park – High Course</b> Spring Cup / Pairs Better Ball / New members Introduction / Guest Prize / NP and NPx2 Bacon rolls/Coffee/tea &amp; 2 – Course Dinner</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b> 9:30 for a 10:30</p>	<p><b>EPiC v BAGS – Sandy Lodge</b> Match - 12 players per team. Captains Invitational Bacon Roll/Coffee/Tea &amp; 2- Course</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b> 12.30 noon for 1.30 pm 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Tees</p>	<p><b>Ashridge</b> Finlinson Cup / Pairs Better Ball / Yellow Ball Team / Guest Prize / NP and NPx2 / Lunch &amp; 3 – Course Dinner</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b> 12 Noon for 1 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Tee</p>	<p><b>Harleyford</b> President's Cup / Pairs Better Ball / Guest Prize/ NP and NPx2 Bacon Roll/Coffee/Tea &amp; 3-Course</p>
<p><b>Friday-Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July</b></p>	<p><b>EPIC Tour – Kent</b> – 24 players 2 Nights Stay at The Bell Hotel, Golf at North Foreland, Prince's and Walmer and Kingsdown</p>
<p><b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August</b> 12 Noon for 1 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Tee</p>	<p><b>Sandy Lodge</b> Autumn Cup / Pairs Better Ball / Guest Prize / NP and NPx2 Bacon Roll &amp; 2-Course Dinner</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b> 9:00 for 10:00 1<sup>st</sup> Tee</p>	<p><b>Captains Day – Beaconsfield GC</b> Captain's Cup / Pairs Better Ball / Guest Prize / NP and NPx2, Bacon Roll/Coffee/Tea &amp; 3 - Course Dinner</p>
<p><b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8:30am for 9:30 am 1<sup>st</sup> Tee</p>	<p><b>Letchworth</b> Recessional Cup / Family, Friends and Guests Prize / NP and NPx2 Coffee / bacon rolls &amp; Lunch</p>

**Please put these dates in your diaries.**

## **9. Succession Planning**

The Secretary thanked Neil Blundy for offering to take over as Secretary "when he retired" which is not happening any time soon! Nick Archer and Neil Meixner have previously committed to remaining in post until the end of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2027.

## **10. WHS System**

No changes or update were discussed or agreed other than as noted above.

## **11. Website, Social Media etc**

### **a. Website**

The Secretary presented a brief run through of the basics of the updated website which in essence would ensure all members either were fully paid up or honorary members in order to be able to book and pay for events. It may take a while to get it fully up and running and members were asked to be patient. The first stage would be to get everyone registered and an email would be forthcoming to allow members to input their full profile.

The Secretary informed the meeting that Doug Hunt had been very proactive in assisting the Secretary and a small token of EPiC's appreciation would be sent as a thank you.

### **b. Social media:**

Chris Sunderland (Chair of the Social Media committee) informed the meeting that he had experimented with videos on the LinkedIn platform with some success and that there had been an increase in followers. He asked members to "share" everything and to take videos and photos of events for him to post. We should try and make upcoming events more visible and perhaps publicise other golf related releases. He proposed to contact some followers directly to see if they'd like to go further and attend an event. The meeting sanctioned this proposal. The idea of an "Open" event for the general public was discussed and needs further consideration. Generally, the meeting felt that LinkedIn was the primary media for EPiC and we should concentrate on that.

## **12. Social Events**

It was agreed that Neil Blundy, Matt Caldecourt and Chris Sunderland would get together and plan some further non-golfing events

## **13. President's Thoughts**

The President, Darrell Lewis, welcomed the evolution of the society over the last 25 years, but encouraged EPiC to continue to adapt to the needs of the current generation. He said it was a great society, and he thanked the members for their tremendous support for the British Heart Foundation.

## **14. Appointment of Officers, Vice-Presidents, and Committee**

The Committee proposed that the officers for 2025 be as follows: -

Matthew Jones – Captain  
Chris Sunderland - Vice-Captain  
Darrell Lewis – President  
Nick Archer – Treasurer  
Neil Meixner – Secretary  
Vacancy – Committee / Deputy Treasurer  
Ken Adams – Committee / Young Guns  
Neil Blundy – Committee / Social Events  
Fiona Watson - Committee / Past Captain  
Jason Wood – Committee

The appointment of the Officers and Committee was carried unanimously.

The Secretary wished Rob Seeley, who was stepping down this year after sterling service to EPiC, great success at Knebworth where he has taken up the role of Chairman and noted that there was a vacancy for the Deputy Treasurer and Secretary positions.

## **15. New Captains thoughts and Tour Update**

The 2025 Captain, Matthew Jones, noted the great turnout for the AGM with over a third of the membership turning out. He thanked Ken Adams for introducing him to the Society and welcomed Chris Sunderland as Vice-Captain to the committee.

He said his vision was to build on the previous growth to provide a welcoming and friendly environment for new and existing members to feel at home.

The Captain commented on 3 visits to Sandy Lodge this year with a new match v the Faculty of Building and the old enemy competition against BAGS being two of those events.

The Tour was fixed and now needed a couple more to make a full complement. Details above and on the website.

He said how much he was looking forward to the year and thanked the Secretary for his advice and guidance.

## **16. AOB**

Bernadette Barker asked if there were an appetite for a match against the Adjudication Society and after discussion it was agreed to look at that for September 2025 or perhaps better 2026.

Steven Barker asked if the current dress code should be maintained. The general discussion fell generally into two camps, those who felt the current dress code set a standard and those who felt it restricted our ability to attract members and should be relaxed to Smart Casual or EPiC polo shirts. It was felt that the other 2/3rds of the societies members should be consulted. The Secretary undertook to do a poll and see what the consensus was.

**There being no further business, the meeting was closed at approximately 20:32.**

Following the Dinner, Replica Trophies were presented to all winner's present by 2024 Captain Fiona Watson except the Bush Trophy which was presented to Fiona Watson by President Darrell Lewis. All the photos are in the Blog on the website at <https://www.epicgolffingsociety.co.uk/blog/>

**Autumn Cup – Darrell Lewis**

**Bush Trophy – Fiona Watson**

**Jubilee Cup – Neil Blundy**

**Knock-Out Shield – Neil Meixner**

**Spring Cup – Will Evans**

**Player of the Year – Darrell Lewis**

**Captains Cup – Matthew Jones**