



Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the South Wales Seniors Classic

Held at the Grove Golf Club on Friday, November 7th 2025.

Present: List of attendees available with Secretary.

The Chairman, Mr John Davies (Llantrisant & Pontyclun Golf Club) opened the meeting by asking all to stand for a minute silence for Departed friends.

Apologies for absence.

Brett Walker (Carmarthen)	Mal Davies (Coed y Mwstwr)
Tony Williams (Cottrell Park)	Mark Conibear (Gower)
Geraint Ingram (Glamorganshire)	Gareth Daniel (Llanishen)
Stuart Whippey (Mountain Ash)	Mark Taylor (Newport Links)
Gerry Turnbull (St Athan)	Brian Kemp (St Pierre)
Mick Seal (Tenby)	Tony Key (Tenby)

The Chairman called for approval of the minutes of the previous AGM.

Approval was Proposed by Wyn Jones (Carmarthen) and seconded by Robert Arbourne (Neath)

The minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Chairmans report.

Thank you all for attending this year's Annual General Meeting. It is a privilege to address you and to reflect on what has been another excellent season for our society. Your continued support, participation, and commitment are central to our success, and I extend my sincere appreciation to each of you.

I want to begin by expressing how immensely proud I am to be part of the South Wales Golf Classic. The camaraderie, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm shown throughout the season are what make this society truly exceptional. Every event has demonstrated the character and spirit that define us, and I am grateful to be associated with such a dedicated group.

Once again, this year, our fundraising efforts for the Wales Air Ambulance surpassed expectations. This achievement highlights the generosity and community-mindedness of our members. Your contributions have real impact, and the society can be proud of the role it continues to play in supporting this vital charity.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding work of the committee. Their dedication, much of it behind the scenes, ensures that the South Wales Golf Classic remains well-organised and enjoyable for all. I extend particular thanks to the Secretary and the Treasurer, whose exemplary work throughout the season was recognised and appreciated by all present. Their professionalism and commitment set a high standard for the society.

As we look ahead, I wish every member good luck for the coming season. I am confident that, with the same spirit and engagement that have defined this year, 2026 will be equally successful for the South Wales Golf Classic. Let us continue to build on our achievements, support one another, and uphold the strong values of our society.

Thank you again for your support and participation. I look forward to another successful year together.

Treasurers Report.

The Treasurer presented a comprehensive overview of the income and expenditure for the financial year. Overall income experienced a slight reduction due to several teams withdrawing shortly before the event. Despite this, the Committee expressed satisfaction with the financial position for the year.

A key highlight was the substantial donation made to the Wales Air Ambulance, totalling £11,000. The Treasurer noted that, even with reduced participation income, the event continued to deliver a strong charitable contribution, underscoring the generosity of participants and supporters.

Raffle revenue increased once again compared with previous years. The Treasurer formally acknowledged and extended thanks to Vice President Robert Arbourne for his significant personal contribution toward the prizes for the Claret Jug.

The financial report was accepted without amendment and passed unanimously.

Secretaries Report.

The South Wales Classic and Claret Jug competitions continue to go from strength to strength and are now firmly established as two of the most prestigious events in the senior golfing calendar in South Wales. As a committee, we remain fully committed to ensuring that the SWGC continues to grow and develop, maintaining the high standards and reputation these competitions have earned over the years.

We would also like to warmly welcome any members who wish to volunteer their time and join the committee. Your involvement and support are greatly valued and play an essential role in the ongoing success of our competitions.

Finance and Auditing

After 21 years of generously auditing our annual accounts free of charge, Ron Holloway decided to retire last year. However, he kindly agreed to continue for one final year while we sought a replacement.

We are delighted to confirm that a new volunteer auditor has now stepped forward and will take on the role going forward. On behalf of the committee, we extend our sincere thanks to Ron for his outstanding service and commitment over more than two decades.

Competitions and Participation

This year saw a record 1,187 registered players across both the Cup and Claret Jug competitions — a remarkable achievement and clear evidence of the enthusiasm and continued support for our events.

At this year's Presentation Dinner, which was very well attended, we were delighted to present the Welsh Air Ambulance with a cheque for £11,000.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who supported the event and contributed to such a successful and enjoyable evening.

However, it was disappointing that a small number of clubs chose not to attend. We would like to remind all clubs that attendance at the Presentation Dinner is expected for those reaching Finals Day, as it forms an important part of celebrating the competition and supporting our chosen charity.

Acknowledgements

A special thanks goes to the clubs who generously hosted the various stages of the competitions, providing their courses and facilities free of charge:

Claret Jug Qualifiers: Cardigan, The Mond, and Cardiff

Claret Jug Final: St Pierre

Classic

Quarter Finals: Cottrell Park

Semi-Finals: Machynys

Classic Final: The Grove Golf Club

Their hospitality and support are greatly appreciated by all involved.

Closing Remarks

Finally, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all competitors for their continued enthusiasm and sportsmanship, and to the committee members who work tirelessly behind the scenes throughout the year.

With this continued dedication and support, I am confident that the South Wales Golfing Committee will enjoy another successful year in 2026.

Thank you

Election of officers:

No new nominations received & all the present officers would be prepared to stand again.

New Committee members would be most welcome and if interested please contact the Secretary.

Proposals:

Four proposals were submitted.

Proposal (1) from Tenby Seniors

Proposed by Brian Jones seconded by Tenby seniors captain Ross James is:

“All matches in the SWSC qualifying round, rounds 1 and 2, are to be played on a neutral venue agreed by both captains of the participating clubs. If captains cannot agree a venue, then the organisers of the competition, will decide on the venue. All golf clubs entering the competition must make their course available on at least one occasion, for matches ofef ring courtesy of the course. If a club has A and B teams they must make their courses available for 2 matches”.

Proposal (2) from Pennard Seniors

Proposed by Paul Finch Pennard Vets Captain:

“That the SWSC 1st round to be held on a neutral course so no-one has a local advantage.”

Proposal (3) from SWSC Committee:

“Over the last five years or so, a proposal to have neutral venues for the first and second rounds has always been on the agenda, as the home team has a significant advantage. However, after much debate, the committee recognises that there is a need for change and proposes that this year the first round only be played on a home and away basis. This will be a trial for the upcoming year, and a decision will be made next year to adapt it and include the second round as well if agreed. We are aware that this will afef ct the clubs' existing matches but feel that adjustments can be managed in the interest of fairness and competitive balance”.

The frist three proposals were debated extensively, with both positive and negative arguments presented. It was agreed by all that, before any neutral-venue arrangement could be adopted, all participating clubs must be canvassed to confrim their willingness to host a match. The Secretary was therefore requested to liaise with all clubs and report the outcome at next year's AGM.

The third proposal stated that the qualifying round should be conducted on a home-and-away basis. These three proposals, in various forms, are submitted annually, and the Committee acknowledges a prevailing sentiment in favour of change to enhance fairness and competitive balance.

The approved measure of a home-and-away basis will be implemented only in the qualifying round on a trial basis in 2026, with a final decision on continuation or modification to be made at next year's AGM.

If the match ends in a draw after both matches are completed, each Captain will select a pair from their team to compete in a sudden-death playoff to determine the winner.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

Rules 1 & 6 will be amended.

Proposal (4) from SWSC Committee:

To propose that the number of pairings qualifying for the Final of the Claret Jug be increased from the current number to 32 pairings, in order to create a fairer and more inclusive competition structure.

1. Background and Rationale

Over recent years, it has become evident that the current qualification limit for the Claret Jug Final excludes a number of high-performing teams. In several instances, teams achieving scores of 42 points have not qualified for the Final.

This suggests that the existing cut-off may no longer reflect the overall standard and competitiveness of the field. By extending the number of qualifying pairings, the competition would better recognise the efforts of teams performing at a consistently high level.

2. Details of the Proposal

Increase the number of pairings qualifying for the Final of the Claret Jug to 32.

Maintain existing qualification and scoring procedures for determining finalists.

The change would take effect from the next Claret Jug competition.

3. Implications

Operational Impact: Slightly longer final-day scheduling may be required, but manageable within the current event structure.

4. Benefits:

Greater inclusivity, improved player satisfaction, and enhanced competitiveness.

5. Expected Outcomes

Increased fairness in qualification.

Recognition of strong performances across a wider field.

Greater participation and engagement from members, particularly those who narrowly missed out in previous years.

6. Resolution:

That the number of qualifying pairings for the Final of the Claret Jug be increased to 32, effective from the next competition year.

It was unanimously agreed that 36 pairs would qualify for the Final of the Claret Jug in 2026 and beyond.

AOB

The Secretary provided the proposed venues and dates for next year's competition and expressed appreciation to all clubs for their willingness to host.

Claret Jug

Qualifiers

Mon 29th June S. Pembrokeshire

Weds 1st July Pennard

Thursday 2nd July Llantrisant

Final

12th August Carmarthen

Classic

July 22nd Quarter Finals @ Coed y Mwstwr

August 7th Semi Final @ Llanishen

Sept 3rd Finals @ The Grove

Vice President's Address

The Vice President addressed the meeting and expressed his sincere appreciation to the Committee for their outstanding work throughout the year. He noted that the South Wales Golf Classic continues to go from strength to strength—progress that, he remarked, would greatly please the late Howell Craven, who would undoubtedly be smiling down proudly at the event's ongoing success.

He offered his thanks to all participating clubs for their continued commitment and support, which remains essential to the growth and sustainability of the Classic. The Vice President concluded by stating that he is looking forward to another highly successful season.

The Chairman thanked all present for their contributions and reiterated that the primary purpose of these competitions is to support the Wales Air Ambulance, a charity of significant importance, and expressed the hope that this support will continue for many years to come.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Meeting closed at 12:15