



MINUTES OF SGM

Date: 26th June 2025

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Club House Lounge

Notes by: Austin Gill, Operational Sub-Committee Chairman

Hon Secretary welcomed everyone, and thanked them for attending the Special General Meeting of Skerries Golf Club and called the meeting to order.

He welcomed the club dignitaries:

President Peter Counihan, Lady President Hilda Cussen, Captain Mike Weldon, Lady Captain Deirdre O'Neill, Vice-Captain Ivan Cole, Lady Vice-Captain Mary Hanlon, Trustees – Willie Prendergast, Brian Sherwin.

Apologies have been received from:

Trustees Cecil Keaveney & Mary Dowling, Michael Branagan, Des & Jean White, John McDonnell, Mark Walls, Ian McLoughlin, Paul Rogers, Lorraine Andrews & Nuala McGrath

Hon Secretary officially convened the Meeting by reading out the notice convening the meeting to members.

Point of Order 1

As Honorary Secretary and Senior officer of the Committee of Management, he advised that he would be chairing tonight's meeting. The SGM has been duly convened in accordance with the Constitution, and he began by outlining the format and the scope of the night's business.

The SGM had been convened for the specific purpose of voting on four motions concerning major investment in our course infrastructure, clubhouse, and Club governance. These motions were formally notified to all members in line with our Constitution.

A Member Information Evening was held on 22nd May where full details of the proposals were presented and discussed. Presentation decks were published to the Club website and all members were invited to submit questions to the admin@ and hon.sec@ email addresses. He confirmed that several members did so, and their queries were responded to. He stressed that tonight was not a repeat of the Information Evening. It is a voting meeting — and the purpose is to determine, by member vote, whether to proceed with the motions now on the table.

He advised that each motion would be briefly summarised, and then we would proceed directly to vote on each motion.

He advised that the Constitution makes clear that the business to be transacted must be exactly as stated in the notice and questions / clarifications are welcome as we move through each motion. Any amendments or motions from the floor would be entertained in line with Standing Order protocols.



Point of Order 2: Constitutional Clarification – Trustee Borrowing Powers

He advised that since the meeting was convened, we had received a communication from Bank of Ireland's legal team as late as Tuesday evening past. They have advised that the current wording of our Constitution does not, in their view, provide sufficiently explicit authority for the Trustees to borrow or to grant security over Club property.

He stated that COM had challenged that position and referred to Rule 2.7.7 — which authorises Trustees to act on the directions of the Committee of Management — but it now appears likely that a constitutional amendment will be required before the bank can finalise any new facility.

He advised that this did not affect the purpose of the meeting, which remains focused on securing member approval for the loan in principle and the capital works programme.

We will, however, be transparent with members that a follow-up SGM may be required to meet the bank's legal documentation needs.

Point of Order No. 3 - Quorum Clarification

Before moving to the motions, he briefly clarified the quorum requirements for the meeting. Under the Constitution, there is no fixed quorum required for the ordinary Motions 1 and 2. These motions may be voted on by those present and eligible to vote, and are passed by simple majority.

However, for constitutional changes under Motions 3 and 4 — we are required to have at least 15% of the voting membership present. With 559 eligible voting members, this means a quorum of 84 members must be in attendance for the motions to be valid. If attendance is between 10% and 15% — i.e. 56 to 83 members — the motions can still proceed but will require a two-thirds majority to pass. If fewer than 56 voting members are present, we cannot vote on Motions 3 and 4 tonight.

Point of Order no. 4 - Voting Process

Each motion will be proposed and seconded. - A brief framing statement will be offered, questions will be invited and followed by the vote. - Voting is by show of hands. Paper ballots are available if we cannot confirm majority votes accurately. - Only voting members may participate in the vote. Again, questions of clarity may be raised briefly, but the intent is to keep the meeting focused and efficient.

Motion 1 – Approval to Enter into Loan Facility

To authorise the Committee of Management and the Trustees to enter into a €500,000 loan agreement with Bank of Ireland to support the Club's capital investment

Proposed by: Donnacha Neary

Seconded by : Gareth Dunphy

Hon Secretary as proposer allowed Hon Treasurer to speak on motion.

Hon Treasurer advised that Motion 1 seeks member approval for the Club to enter into a loan facility of up to €500,000 to fund the proposed capital programme.



Securing a bank loan is critically important for the overhaul of the irrigation system and the refurbishment of the clubhouse. He understood how some might find the refurb contentious but advised that in the last two years alone €47k had been spent on house capital expenditure, most of it behind the scenes works not visible to members. He said that the longer we prolong investment in the clubhouse, the more costly it would be in the future—those that listen to Paschal O'Donohue will hear of late how his biggest lesson since the 2008 crisis has been the putting of capital expenditure on the back burner and stated it's no different for us.

The terms being negotiated are commercially competitive — projected in the region of 5% over a 10–15 year term, with no early repayment penalty.

The loan will be serviced through operating income — subscriptions, green fees, society income — and there is no levy proposed as part of this facility.

The Club has net assets of approx. €2.3 million, with very modest existing debt, so we are entering this prudently.

Tonight's motion gives the Committee of Management the authority to finalise terms and proceed, subject to any final constitutional requirements being satisfied.

Questions were invited from the floor.

Frank Farrell having read all presentation materials would like to see the two projects split and voted on separately. He was advised he would need a seconder for any amendment to a motion. No seconder presented, so the meeting moved forward.

Pat Durkan asked why there was two motions. He was advised that one was for the members to give permission to approach the bank and secure a loan, the second one was to allow COM to use the money to advance the irrigation and clubhouse projects.

Pat also queried if the Simulator was part of the €100k and he was advised no, that it had been part of the 2025 Budget presented to members at the Annual Joint Club AGM last December.

Pat Loughman queried why Bank was not happy with the wording of the current constitution. It was confirmed that the Bank Legal Team had changed their requirements on constitutional wordings from Clubs in the period since we last got a loan from them.

Jimmy Chawke also queried the two projects and costs.

Hal Craven shared the concerns of Pat Loughman re the bank requiring changes in the wording of the constitution.

Brendan Bird said it was a lot of money to be borrowing. He agreed that we needed to upgrade the Irrigation and spend money on the course but not on the Clubhouse.

Larry Joyce was in favour of Irrigation but considered clubhouse discretionary expenditure.

Declan Bowers recognised the sentiments expressed re the loan and especially the €100k but said the COM would take these on board and when loan was secured would revert to members with definitive costings for the proposed clubhouse works that would be presented to the members.

Pat Durkan stated that members were not aware that the Simulator was part of the 2025 works to be carried out when shown in budget for the year.



Donnacha Neary advised members that COM would revert to members with full costings of the proposed clubhouse works for members approval.

Michael Dockery queried re the Water tank in Attic . He was advised that a new quote would be sought and presented to COM

Terry O'Neill clarified that he did not oppose the motion in principle, but objected to the conflation of two separate expenditures within a single motion. He confirmed his full support for the Irrigation Project, while suggesting that the house refurbishment element should be dealt with separately at a future SGM.

Peter Lamont spoke in favour of the motions.

With no further questions, the Motion was put to the floor and was passed with a majority show of hands.

Motion 2 – Approval to Execute Phase 1 Capital Works

To authorise the Committee of Management to commence and execute Phase 1 of the Irrigation Project and the Clubhouse Refurbishment, as per the proposal previously circulated to members.

Proposed by: Donnacha Neary

Seconded by: Gareth Dunphy

Motion 2 seeks approval to proceed with the Phase 1 works, as presented to members at the Information Evening and in the published proposals.

This includes:

- Irrigation Project: replacing an ageing system, installing a modern, automated irrigation system to greens and tees, groundwork for future fairway irrigation expansion, delivered by Aquaturf Solutions. Estimated cost: €750,000.
- Clubhouse Refurbishment: a modular and phased upgrade to member-facing areas — corridors, spike bar, terrace, locker rooms, furnishings — with a flexible budget of approx. €100,000. - Focused on modest but high-impact upgrades to interior finishes, lighting, layout and member comfort. - Driven by strong member feedback in recent years calling for clubhouse investment to reflect the quality of the course and experience. These improvements have been shaped by member input and operational priorities and will be implemented as funding is secured.

With no questions, the Motion was put to the floor and was passed with a majority show of hands.

Motion 3 – Approval to Implement One Club Governance Structure

To approve constitutional amendments to establish a unified “One-Club governance model, effective 1st January 2026, replacing the existing three-club format. Proposed changes include:

Redefinition of the Club as a unified body (Section 1)



Centralised governance (Section 2)

Removal of Sections 2 and 4

Proposed by: Declan Bowers

Seconded by: Donnacha Neary

Motion 3 proposes the adoption of a One Club model for Skerries Golf Club, replacing the current structure of separate Men's and Ladies' Clubs with a unified governance framework.

This includes one AGM, one Committee of Management, and a Golf Subcommittee for all golfing matters.

Declan advised that there are no changes to how golf is played, scheduled, or administered — competitions, handicaps, and timesheets remain unaffected.

Honorary roles such as Lady Captain and President are preserved.

The model supports inclusivity, efficiency, and aligns with national governance standards, and enhances eligibility for grant and sponsorship funding.

Questions were invited;

Gemma Jennings queried the Presidents and Captains status and was advised there was no change, there will be two Captains, and two Presidents as currently exists, under the new One Club Structure.

With no further questions, the Motion was put to the floor and was passed with a majority show of hands.

Motion 4 – Amendment of Club Constitution to Reflect One Club Structure

Subject to passing of Motion 3, to approve all consequential changes required to give full effect to the One-Club model, including updates to Section 5 and terminology changes throughout the Constitution.

Proposed by: Declan Bowers

Seconded by: Donnacha Neary

Motion 4 proposes the constitutional changes required to give effect to the One Club model.

This includes the removal of outdated references, consolidation of governance under a single structure, and formal establishment of the Golf Subcommittee.

It ensures that the Constitution reflects the inclusive, modern and compliant structure endorsed by Golf Ireland.

Questions were invited; none were raised.

The Motion was put to the floor and was passed with a majority show of hands.

MEETING CLOSED. HON. SEC. ADVISED THAT DATE FOR FOLLOW UP SGM WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE COMING DAYS / WEEK AHEAD.



Attendees:

Brian Andrews, Geraldine Andrews, Trevor Bailey, Marian Bentley, Brendan Bird, Declan Bowers, Orlagh Bowers, Colum Boyce, Ciara Boylan, Mary Browne, Joe Byrne, John Carroll, Tony A. Carroll, Jimmy Chawke, Ivan Cole, Billy Concannon, Mary Counihan, Peter Counihan, Hal Craven, Jack Curran, Hilda Cussen, Maurice Cussen, Tommy D'Alton, Bernadette Dardis, Zita Devine, Michael Dockery, Peter Donnelly, Damien D'Orey, Tony G. Dunne, Gareth Dunphy, Pat Durkan, Frank Farrell, Gerry Finn, Noel Finnigan, Fergus Gannon, Austin Gill, Michael Gorman, Anthony Hand, Mary Hanlon, Gemma Jennings, Laurence Joyce, Kevin Kane, Suzanne Kane, Anne Keane, Derek Keane, Jim Kenny, Mary Kenny, Peter Kenny, Maire Keogh, Peter Lamont, Gerry Lloyd, Patrick Loughman, Jim McAuley, Liam McGinley, Elaine McGloughlin, Philip McGloughlin, Sheila McGloughlin, Camilla McLoughlin, John McLoughlin, Liz McNamara, Michael McNamara, Neil Monaghan, Fionnuala Mooney, Kevin Mooney, Eddie Mulhall, Conor Mullaney, Mary Paul Mulligan, James Murphy, Donnacha Neary, Gabhain Neary, Geraldine Neary, Michael Neary, Sonia Neary, Catherine Noone, Tommy O'Brien, John O'Callaghan, Maria O'Callaghan, Grainne O'Connor, Terence O'Connor, Colin O'Driscoll, Deirdre O'Neill, Rona O'Neill, Terry O'Neill, David O'Reilly, Miley Plunkett, Willie Prendergast, Stan Pyke, Peter Radizon, Kealan Rock, Barry Sexton, Brian Sherwin, Louise Sherwin, Rita Tolan, Donal Travers, Michael Weldon.