



# Central Sevens

## Golf League

### 2024 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 7 NOVEMBER 2024, TADMARTON HEATH GOLF CLUB, 6:30 PM

Present	Keith Fisher - Chairman
	Keith Watt – Secretary
	Phil Harries – Treasurer
	Chris Spearing – Independent Member
Captains or Nominated Club Representatives	32
Meeting Opened at 6:40pm	

Agenda Item		Record of Actions/Decision
1.	<b>Acceptance of previous AGM minutes held on 2 Nov 23</b>	Accepted and no actions to carry forward
2.	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>	Steve Sperrin, Bicester Stuart Murphy, West Berks 1 Tim Anderson, Maple Durham Scott Richardson, Chiltern Forest Badgers
3.	<b>Season 2025 Leagues:</b>  Withdrawal: Studley Wood  Applications to Join: Maple Durham Bicester B Feldon Valley 2	<p>The members accepted the resignation of Studley Wood, and welcomed all 3 new teams into the League for the 2025 season.</p> <p>The Secretary had prepared 2 possible League constructs, based on 31 teams, explaining both options for the AGM to consider.</p> <p>The Secretary clearly laid out the issue which would be a choice between: 4 Divisions of 6 and Division 5 having 7 teams; or an alternative option of 6 Divisions. In discussing the second option the Secretary made it clear that this choice would result in a major restructure and where would result in teams not being promoted or relegated after finishing in those positions at the end of the 2024 season. It was also pointed out that due to the closure of North Oxford GC at the end of the 2025 season it would be likely that the Division sizes would even up for the 2026 season.</p> <p>The members voted unanimously to affirm a league structure as follows: Division 1-4 made up of 6 teams</p>



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	each and Division 5 would have 7 teams for the forthcoming season.
4.	<p><b>Knockout Cup Competition and 1<sup>st</sup> Round Draw.</b></p> <p>The Secretary confirmed that the Knockout Cup would take place again during Season 2025 and the draw was made, 1<sup>st</sup> round matches to be played between 1 Apr and 9 May 25. The draw would be published on the website.</p> <p><b>Sec Note:</b> Draw is available on the website.</p>
5.	<p><b>Chairman's Report.</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked the Sevens Committee team for the good running of the League again this season, he congratulated the winners and sent his commiserations to those relegated. He went on to say that he had immensely enjoyed his 16 years on the Sevens committee but felt now was the time to step away and provide the opportunity for others to take the League forward. He confirmed that he will still be involved by remaining Captain of the Tadmarton Heath Sevens team and would stand by to provide information and advice to the Committee as needed.</p> <p>The Secretary responded with a huge thanks to the outgoing Chair for playing a big part in growing the League from a very small base into what it is now and for his leadership, inclusivity, and dedication over so many years. The Secretary presented the outgoing Chair with a Central Sevens engraved set of wine goblets and ships decanter in appreciation for his long-standing dedication to the management of the League.</p>
6.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report.</b></p> <p>The Treasurer read a precis of his 2024 Report which had been made available to all attendees prior to the start of the AGM. As the current balance has increased by approx. £2K since the last AGM he confirmed that there would be no increase to the £200 league registration fee for each team for the forthcoming 2025 season.</p>



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	<p>League registration fees are to be paid by BACs payment by 31 Jan 25.</p> <p>HSBC 40-35-34 72256010 Reference to be Team Name Example: <i>Feldon Valley 1</i></p> <p>He went on to confirm that there are no plans for updates to the League website and should there be no significant or unexpected levels of expenditure, the Committee may consider a larger contribution from club funds for the Presentation Day in April 25.</p>
7.	<p><b>2025 Season Presentation Day.</b></p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the 2025 Presentation Day would take place on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> April 25 at the Chiltern Forest Golf Club and the lead for this event will be the League Treasurer.</p> <p>The Treasurer thanked Paul Warner from Chiltern Forest for agreeing to host the event, and Scott Richardson for his early work with the Club Committee. Early indication of costs are £15 for a one course meal and only £20 green fee. More detail to follow in due course.</p>
8.	<p><b>Election of Officials.</b></p> <p>Although the Secretary had received some expressions of interest regarding the Chair position no formal proposals and been received. He then put the requirement to the floor. After some discussion Chris Spearing, the current Independent Committee member, confirmed he would stand for the Chair position. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Keith Watt was re-confirmed as Secretary, Phil Harries as Treasurer and the committee welcomes Terry Killick from Badgemore Park GC as the Independent Member for the 2025 season. Welcome Terry.</p>
9.	<p><b>Any Other Business.</b></p> <p>Two items of AOB had been received prior to the AGM.</p>



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	<p><b>AOB 1.</b> The AGM is invited to consider that where a club has 2 teams in the league, they shall not be allowed to create a single team for the KO Cup competition, as this would be deemed an unfair advantage due to the overall squad size.</p> <p>The proposal was discussed and stats were provided by the Independent Member wrt to number of players in each squad which evidenced that teams amalgamating 2 squads into 1 fared no better than other teams. After some debate the floor rejected this proposition.</p> <p><b>AOB 2.</b> The AGM should consider strengthening the responsibilities placed upon a Team captain regarding adherence to a club dress code. In particular, that the <u>visiting</u> captain should familiarise himself with the home club's dress code etiquette to inform his team members accordingly. If a player subsequently arrives unsuitably dressed, he should be respectfully asked to change, and failure to do so would result in him not being permitted to play his match.</p> <p>Following a discussion the floor agreed that the communications of such matters is a role that both the home and away captains should share equally in advance of the fixture. An example provided in the meeting is that if a member of a club whose dress code is relaxed to include the wearing of cargo shorts and the club they are visiting do not, then this needs to be communicated ahead of travel.</p> <p>Therefore, whilst the proposition to put the emphasis solely on the visiting captain was rejected the floor voted unanimously to have the responsibility shared equally between the home and away captain was agreed.</p> <p><b>Update on key matters raised in 2024.</b> The Secretary stated that this season only approximately 10% of fixtures were affected by issues such as the playing ineligible players because of a lack of qualifying cards on record (that player suffering a 1 down defeat), or, by late changes to fixture dates (inside the 3-week League</p>



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	<p>policy) or teams forfeiting matches due to player unavailability.</p> <p>Whilst these stats are low the last item concerning the forfeiture of matches should be avoided as this can have a detrimental affect on the League standings at the end of the season. The Secretary asked captains to ensure they communicate issues to the opposing captain and inform the League as soon as such issues arise so that alternative dates can be agreed to maintain the integrity of the League competition.</p> <p><b>Sec Note:</b> The League Rules have been strengthened to reflect a greater emphasis and expectation on open and timely communication between captains.</p> <p>One other item of AOB was raised by a member and this was to seek consideration for under 18s to be able to participate in Central 7s Fixtures.</p> <p>The outgoing Chair stated that this had been discussed in the past. At that time a review of the legislation in regard to safeguarding under 18s in a 2-ball fixture, it proved to be a very difficult situation to manage from a risk perspective, and had been rejected. It was agreed that for this season this would not be possible but if a proposition were to be forwarded in good time prior to the next AGM it would be fully researched and a detailed response could be provided.</p> <p>There being no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8:25pm</p>

**Keith Watt**

K G Watt  
Central Sevens League Secretary

23 Nov 24

**Phil Harries**

P Harries  
Central Sevens League Treasurer

23 Nov 24