

# EAST CHESHIRE INTER CLUB SHIELD



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at Astbury Golf Club on Monday 21st October 2024 at 10.30am

### 1. Welcome

Jane Tyler, ECICS Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates.

Barbara Allen, ECICS Honorary Secretary for the past three years chaired the meeting. A replacement Secretary is yet to come forward and Barbara has kindly agreed to continue in the role for an additional year in order to mentor her replacement once found.

Committee apologies were received from Fiona Liggett, Ann McCormick, Pauline Walker and Gill Hodges.

Club apologies were received from Heaton Moor Golf Club.

### 2. Previous Meeting

The Honorary Secretary said that she needed to make known that High Legh Park are not providing the next ECICS Secretary; they felt that as a small club they had done their part in hosting the finals and providing a Chair in recent years.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM were proposed by the Secretary, agreed by Nicky Bailey (Astbury) and seconded by Karen Mason (Alsager).

There were no matters arising.

### 3. Presentation to the 2023 Winners

Trophies were presented to this year's ECICS winners as follows:

A Team	Bramall Park Golf Club
B Team	Alsager Golf Club
Plate Team	Sale Golf Club
Business Ladies	Hazel Grove Golf Club

The ECICS Champions went on to beat the WCS in three of the four finals and the trophies were presented as follows:

A Team	Bramall Park Golf Club who beat Helsby
B Team	Alsager Golf Club who beat Eaton
Business Ladies	Hazel Grove who beat Sandiway

All ECICS trophies have been engraved with the 2024 winners and need to be returned to Barbara Allen at Heyrose Golf Club by the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025. East v West trophies will be engraved and returned to the winning clubs.



## 4. Treasurer's Report

The Chair presented the ECICS Treasurer's report prepared by Fiona Liggett, a copy of which is attached as appendix A.

The Chair added that Fiona had done a fantastic job developing and updating the ECICS website and expressed thanks to her.

Fiona pointed out in her report that the ECICS doesn't currently have any social media channels and sought views on any inclination to go down this route. During discussion it was pointed out that it would be time consuming and posts can attract a lot of criticism; the meeting agreed that social media was not necessary for what is a closed group of ECICS members.

## 5. New ECIS Officers for 2024/25

The Honorary Secretary said that Jane had done a fantastic job as ECICS Chair; she thanked her for her enthusiasm and service over the last 12 months and presented her with a small gift. The ECICS Chair for 2025 will be Olwen Sandiford from Davenport Golf Club and Davenport will host the 2025 finals and next year's AGM.

After over 5 years on the committee Business Ladies Coordinator Pauline Walker from Bramall Park and Plate Team Coordinator Ann McCormick from Disley will be stepping down. As they are both unable to attend today a small gift has been posted to them.

Sadly, Denise Hammond from Heyrose (B Team Coordinator) passed away in March this year and Gill Hodges (A Team Coordinator) is stepping down after 12 months service due to illness.

Team co-ordinators for next year will be:

A Team	Vacancy	
B Team	Ewa Sidorczuk	(Tytherington)
Plate Team	Jane Welch	(Knutsford)
Business Ladies	Liz Stott	(Tytherington)

Anyone interested in volunteering to be the A Team coordinator was asked to contact the Honorary Secretary.

Fiona Liggett has now served as Treasurer for 2 years but is happy to continue in the role for a further 12 months.

All positions within the ECICS are voluntary however if no volunteer comes forward the officers are appointed in Club alphabetical order. Knutsford have been asked to provide a Secretary for 2026.

## 6. Proposed Rule Amendments for 2025

**Qualifying cards.** At the Team Management Meeting it was proposed that the number of qualifying cards required by Business Ladies be reduced to 4. The Business Ladies Rules will be amended to reflect this for the 2025 season.

**Introduction of a Buggy Certificate.** With the verification of their match or handicap secretary, a team player requiring the use of a buggy in order to play will be able to complete a certificate at the beginning of the season and pass this to their team co-ordinator (it will not need to be signed by a doctor thereby saving GP time and cost to the player). The certificate will be available on the website for use in the 2025 season.

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A list of clubs that do not offer buggies will also be made available on the website. At the meeting it was confirmed that Ashton on Mersey, Congleton and Poulton Park don't have buggies.

**Introduction of the Disability Act.** At the Team management Meeting it was agreed that ladies who are affected by the automatically classed disabilities of HIV, Cancer and MS would be exempt from needing 6 qualifying cards to play in the ECICS.

It has since been pointed out to the Honorary Secretary that this would be discriminatory against those ladies who have a physical or mental impairment where the impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. The inclusion of such will therefore be included in the new rule for 2025.

## 7. Setting up of sub- committee to review the ECICS league

The setting up of a sub-committee to review the ECICS league was proposed and discussed at the Team Management Meeting the remit being to look at handicaps per division, player numbers, criteria for team selection and whether it's feasible for a club to enter two teams in the same division.

Before taking the proposal to form a sub-committee forward the Honorary Secretary asked the meeting to vote on the matter. Following discussion it was agreed that the sub-committee be formed and report back in due course; a number of volunteers came forward to join the committee.

Ruth Lupton, Hazel Grove, is going to Chair this committee and the following ladies have volunteered to be part of the committee:

Jackie Terry, Mere, Liz Bradbury, Withington, Dee Langley, Lymm, Fiona Kelsall, Bramall Park, Pam Neal, Alsager, Janet Ions, Tytherington, Nicky Bailey, Astbury, Cath Edmonstone, Crewe and Judith Mutter, Macclesfield.

If anyone else is interested in joining this sub committee please let me know.

## 8. Match Draws

There will be 37 clubs participating in the ECICS matches in 2025.

The matches were split into the groups shown below and the draw for each Team Category was made (see Appendix B.)

Matches will start on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and will finish on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025; matches will not be scheduled on Bank Holidays.

Business Ladies Matches will start on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and finish on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025.

These dates will leave a little flexibility to extend the season should adverse weather affect the start of the playing season as it did this year.

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Team Category	Number of Teams	Number of Groups	Group make up	Qualifiers for finals
A Team	16	4	4 x 4	Group winners and runners up go to semi-finals
B Team	34	8	6 x 4 2 x 5	Group winners go to quarter-finals
Plate Team	23	5	2 x 4 3 x 5	Group winners plus 3 runners up go to quarter-finals
Business Ladies Team	22	5	3 x 4 2 x 5	Group winners plus 3 runners up go to quarter-finals

## 9. 2025 East Cheshire – Dates for your diaries

Quarter Finals – Sunday/Monday 17/18 August 2025. To be played at Romiley, Heyrose, Knutsford and Disley

Semi Finals – Sunday/Monday 7/8 September 2025. To be played at Alsager and a second venue to be confirmed. If anyone is able to provide a venue please let me know.

Finals – Sunday/Monday 21/22 September 2025. To be played at Davenport

East/West Finals – Sunday/Monday 5/6 October 2025. To be played at Crewe

Team Management Meeting – Monday 15th September 2025 at Heyrose Golf Club

AGM – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Davenport Golf Club

## 10. Any other business

Tytherington Golf Club wished to make member clubs aware that their course will be undergoing major bunker work next season and may at certain times be down to 15 holes. Additionally, due to hotel stay & play bookings their home matches may well have to be played later in the day.

## 11. Meeting closed at 12.05pm



## Appendix A

### ECICS Treasurer's Report 2023/24

#### Profitability

I am pleased to report we have broken even with a small profit of £244.05 this year which has been added to reserves which now total £1,173.53.

This is mainly due to us increasing the Admin Fee from £5 to £10 to cover the increase in gifts we offer to clubs hosting the finals which was introduced the previous year.

Our Expenditure increased this year as we had a new expense of £326 to buy a 2 year licence fee to host our new website. This increase has been offset by £100, as Astbury Golf Club who kindly hosted the Finals, very generously declined our offer of a Gift. We are very grateful for their hospitality at their beautiful course and appreciate this gesture.

The Clubs who hosted the final three rounds were offered a Gift by way of thanks for the use of the course. As at 15 October 2024 when the accounts have been prepared, three clubs have not responded to this offer. Therefore, these amounts will be written off and added back to Reserves. We are very grateful to all the clubs who hosted the finals and would like to pass on our huge thanks those clubs who declined the offer of a gift.

#### Income – Entry Fees

The entry fees collected at the end of the previous season are the only form of income we receive. We took the decision as a Committee in March 2024 to increase the Admin Fee to £20 per Club with the aim of using Income rather than Reserves to pay the next website licence fee. At the same time, we wanted to increase the Team Entry Fee from £10 to £15 to cover the increase in Gifts to clubs hosting the final three rounds, which is our main Expense. We also wanted to build up reserves in order to have a more sensible operating margin and scope to enhance the experience of the finals.

Usual practice would be to agree Fee increases at the AGM which is held at the end of October. As the Entry Fees are collected in September, before the AGM, we gave notice of the Fee increase to Club Match Secretaries in March via a Newsletter which was also posted on the website for the wider community.

This increase was welcomed by our Community as it was generally felt that our fees were too low and out of kilter with other tournaments and the new fees still represented good value for money.

Our income was £1,300 for the 2024 Tournament from 36 clubs who entered 93 teams, which compares with £1,200 for 2023 when 37 clubs entered 100 teams.

#### Teams 2024 v 2025

Entries for the 2025 Tournament have now been received. I am pleased to report that we have gone back up to 37 Clubs as we are delighted that Sandbach have decided to enter again. All other clubs have re-entered for next year. Thank you to all clubs who have entered again for next season.

Entries for A B and BL have increased from 15, 33 and 20 to 16, 34 and 22 teams.

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We have seen a reduction of 2 teams in respect of the Plate league from 25 to 23.

## New Projects

The ECICS website was launched in March 2024 to improve our visibility and provide access to information to players and clubs. Due to the bad weather the Fixtures had to be amended four times which created a considerable increase in workload for Barbara and myself.

We have received excellent feedback that the posting of Results on a monthly basis has proved very useful with many clubs now making use of this facility. Thank you very much for your positive feedback.

I have also obtained an independent review from an award-winning digital agency renowned for delivering exceptional SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) solutions and would summarise his feedback as:

- ✚ He confirmed that the SEO was excellent and the website had sufficient tags to be found on the first page in Google searches. He could not improve on this.
- ✚ The main recommendation he gave me was that we now need to 'monetise' the Tournament by raising sponsorship.
- ✚ We would need to improve our social media presence by posting items on a daily or 3x weekly basis. Subjects include anything related to Ladies golf that may be of interest.
- ✚ He can do this and include our logo if we feed him subjects for about £400 per month.
- ✚ I explained we did not have a budget for it and he responded with the recommendation that the next step for us would be to monetise the event by raising sponsorship through the likes/ subscribers as a result of social media posts.

We currently don't have any social media channels so if there is any inclination to go down this route I would welcome responses from anyone interested in taking on this role.

I would also welcome any feedback on any further information you would like to see published on the website.

Fiona Liggett  
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## Summary of Accounts for East Cheshire Shield 2023/24 (as at 1/11/24)

### Profit and Loss Account

	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2022/23</u>		<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Income	£	£	Expenditure	£	£
Entry Fees:			Honorarias for Officers	220.00	180.00
A Team	160	160	Expenses for Officers	40.00	132.20
B Team	330	340	Website Hosting	325.95	
Plate	250	250	Trophies & Engraving	41.40	167.00
Business Ladies	200	250	Hosting Finals:		
Admin Fees	360	200	QF Ashton on Mersey	75.00	
			QF Bramall Park	75.00	
			SF Macclesfield	75.00	
			Finals Astbury - Gift Declined	0.00	505.00
			<b>Accruals:</b>		
			QF Hale	75.00	
			SF Marple	75.00	
			QF Stockport	75.00	0.00
			Provision for Engraving Expenses		
			<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1077.35</b>	<b>984.20</b>
			<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>222.65</b>	<b>215.80</b>
Total	<u>1300.00</u>	<u>1200.00</u>	Total	<u>1300.00</u>	<u>1200.00</u>

### Balance Sheet

	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Bank Balance b/f	924.48	708.68
Add Profit	222.65	215.80
Bank Balance	1147.13	924.48
Cash in Hand (paid to bank 15/10/24)	5.00	5.00
Bank Balance c/f	<u>1152.13</u>	<u>929.48</u>

Represented by:

#### **Assets**

Cash at Bank	3552.13	2224.48
Cash in Hand		5.00
Less:		
Subscriptions for next year	2175.00	1300.00
Provisions & Accruals	225.00	0.00

#### **Reserves**

1152.13      929.48

The East Cheshire Shield is a Golf Community run by a committee of volunteers for the competitive enjoyment of ladies golf

Chair: Olwen Sandiford Davenport GC ☎ 07496 829323 ✉ Chair@ecics.co.uk

Secretary: Barbara Allen ☎ 07850 584264 ✉ Secretary@ecics.co.uk Treasurer: Fiona Liggett ☎ 07752 701389 ✉ Treasurer@ecics.co.uk

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## Appendix B - Team Draw

<b>A Team</b>			
<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>	<b>Group C</b>	<b>Group D</b>
Hazel Grove	Warrington	Bramall Park	Bramhall
Stockport	Ringway	Crewe	Mere
Tytherington	Prestbury	Wilmslow	Alsager
Sale	Lymm	Astbury	Dunham Forest

<b>B Team</b>			
<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>	<b>Group C</b>	<b>Group D</b>
Hale	Tytherington	Mere	Alsager
High Legh Park	Chorlton	Disley	Sale
Withington	Prestbury	Northenden	Lymm
Hazel Grove	Ringway	Alderley Edge	Davenport
<b>Group E</b>	<b>Group F</b>	<b>Group G</b>	<b>Group H</b>
Birchwood	Bramhall	Crewe	Dunham Forest
Macclesfield	Bramall Park	Heyrose	Astbury
Stockport	Wilmslow	Knutsford	Warrington
Sandbach	Didsbury	Romiley	Heaton Moor
		Marple	Mellor & Townscliffe

<b>Plate Team</b>			
<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>	<b>Group C</b>	<b>Group D</b>
Didsbury	Hale	Davenport	Congleton
Tytherington	Bramhall	Poulton Park	Knutsford
Marple	Ashton-on-Mersey	Wilmslow	Disley
Ringway	Withington	Bramall Park	Lymm
		Astbury	Romiley
<b>Group E</b>			
Prestbury			
Heyrose			
Warrington			
Hazel Grove			
Sale			

<b>Business Ladies</b>			
<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>	<b>Group C</b>	<b>Group D</b>
Stockport	Wilmslow	Poulton Park	Lymm
Prestbury	Tytherington	Hale	Alsager
Heaton Moor	Dunham Forest	Bramhall	Hazel Grove
Romiley	Northenden	Warrington	Knutsford
			Astbury
<b>Group E</b>			
Marple			
Ringway			
Crewe			
Sale			
Bramall Park			

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