Axedale Golf Club Inc.
Annual General Meeting – 27 August 2025

Minutes

Meeting held at the clubrooms commencing at 7.30pm

1. Welcome

1.1 President’s Welcome

Vice President Andrew Watson called the meeting to order and welcomed all attending. Vice President Andrew commenced proceedings by explaining why he was chairing this meeting.

Under Rule 46 Subrule 1 of the Rules of Association ….” in the President's absence, the Vice-President is the Chairperson for any general meetings” and I’m here as Chair because President Rod Threlfall can’t attend and is an apology.

Rod has provided a brief statement I’d like to read:

Hello all, I am truly sorry that I am not attending the AGM tonight. It has been an honour to be the President of this great club. We have an incredible club with incredible people who volunteer their time and effort to ensure this club operates in a way which creates the best environment of any golf club I have experienced.

We must not take for granted the great golfing conditions we have, there has been an enormous amount of work carried out to get this course in its current condition and with the plans to improve the course recently communicated by the course committee I will look forward to seeing the continued improvement of the course.

I would like to thank all members for their support over the past two years. I have been overwhelmed by the messages, phone calls and visits since my surgery and look forward to getting back into golf as soon as I can.

I wish the club, Owen Davies and the new committee every success for the upcoming 12 months.

Best Regards

Rod Threlfall

Vice President Andrew Watson then asked that if any member present hadn't recorded their names on the Attendance Sheets, that they do so. Andrew then acknowledged all of the Club's Life Members that were present–Denis Jeffrey, Garry Harrop, Ian Kerr, Loretta Prowse, Wendy Nielsen, Tony Lindrea and Ian Martin.

1.2 Apologies

Vice President Andrew asked the Secretary Peter Andrew to read out all of the apologies that had been received. Secretary Peter then read out all apologies received and asked if any member had any additional apologies to record in addition to those. Secretary noted these and all apologies are recorded in the Minutes (*see Appendices for complete list)*.

1.3 Proxies – the Secretary confirmed that 16 members had appointed Proxies (*see Appendices for complete list)*.

1.4 Based on the number of members present and proxies, the Secretary declared that a quorum exists for this Annual General Meeting to be conducted.

Vice President Andrew Watson as Chair officially declared the meeting at 7.36 PM.

2. Minutes from the previous year's Annual General Meeting held 28 August 2024.

The Chair noted that the Minutes had been distributed by email to members as part of the Notice of Meeting and asked if there were any questions relating to those minutes as a record of that Annual General Meeting.
No questions were raised.
The Chair then asked for a member who was present at last year's Annual General Meeting to propose the following motion:
I move that the Minutes be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the last Annual General Meeting

Moved: Ian Kerr
The Chair then asked for a seconder for the Motion
Seconded: Tony Lindrea

Chair then asked: All those in favour? *Show of hands* Against? *None*
Chair declared the motion **Carried**

3. Business Arising from the previous minutes.

The Chair stated that there were no matters listed as Business Arising in the Minutes, and asked the members if there were any questions relating to anything listed in the previous minutes?
No questions were raised.

4. Annual Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report.

Chair: The important part of tonight's meeting is the presentation of the Financial Statements and the Committee's recommendations for membership fees for the coming year.

The Financial Reports were contained in the Annual Report emailed to all members. I hope you've all had time to look over the financials. There are a few copies here if anyone wants a hard copy. The Chair then called on Treasure Jan Walklate to present the Financial Reports.

Jan outlined that this would be her last report as Treasurer as she was stepping down, having enjoyed the role for the past few years and welcomed Rob Murrell into the role.

Jan thanked the Finance Committee that had supported her over the past few years
- David Baillie for recording & reconciling club vouchers
- Sue O'Connor for reconciling competition & green fee deposits
- Mandy Hamilton for all membership activities
- Ian Martin and Gary Day for all their efforts in the Bar, which is a major revenue source for the club
- To the many members that banked cash deposits

Jan outlined the key points from the Financial presented in the Annual Report:

The club had a good year, returning a profit of $35,848 this year compared to a book loss of ($33,860), a turnaround of nearly $70,000. Our revenues were up and expenses down.

At the end of the financial year the cash position is improved from $119,825 to $148,605 an increase of about $28,000.
- Membership fees were up by $22,000
- Comp fees were up by $8,000
- Green Fees up by $25,000
- Cart Hire up by $17,000
- Bar Sales up by $3,000

Cart Hire revenue doubled from last year, going from $16,000 to $32,000. The Club bought 2 secondhand carts in September last year and they have well and truly paid for themselves over the year.

Unfortunately grant funding has dried up and we were only successful with one small grant for First Aid Training, where 14 volunteers received training in First Aid and CPR.

The Bar has again been a strong contributor to the club's funds, with net proceeds for the year approximately $54,000 up about $8,000 on previous year.

Expenses for the year were down overall from last year. Course related expenses were down by $35,000. Labour expenses were up by approximately $22,000.

New asset purchases during year included
- 2 secondhand carts
- Computer for office
- Scarifier
- Sod cutter
- New filter for the irrigation system

We have also recently purchased a secondhand fairway mower, which will show up in next year's report.

There are currently 2 loans in place
- the Jacobsen electric greens mower which runs until April 2026.
- The Toro Procorer with a completion date of December 2026.

The Club is planning a major Irrigation System upgrade, which could cost between $150,000 and $300,000, depending on which system is chosen and how we finance this. With these loans ending and our cash on hand we are in a good position to take on more debt.

Jan then asked if anyone had any questions relating to the Finance Reports.

Peter Hoskin asked about the Pro Am figures and why this year's event had been such a success, making a larger profit compared to last year. Jan responded that she didn't think this was the case, especially as the additional funding from Lucas Herbert did not eventuate. Jan undertook to look at this and provide more details on this to Peter after the meeting.

Ian Martin queried the figures shown for the sale of recycled golf balls. Ian thought that the figure seemed low, given the amount of golf balls he had prepared for sale. Jan replied that these figures were based mainly on the sale sheets from the Captains Office, with most sales being on a Sunday. Gary Beames noted that these were consumable and it should be easy to reconcile these figures based on stock levels.

Jan acknowledged that the recording of these sales may not be accurate as we relied on our volunteers in the office to enter these and it sometimes gets busy and she would look into how this could be done better without putting additional work on the volunteers. Jan noted that some of these sales may have been attributed to Bar Sales, Jan undertook to discuss this with Ian.

There were no more questions

Jan Walklate then **MOVED** *"that the Financial Statements as presented be confirmed as a true and fair record of the financial position of the club*".
Jan called for a member to SECOND the motion.
Seconded: Rod Jacobs
Jan called for the members to vote. All those in favour? *Show of hands* Against? *None*
The motion was declared **Carried**

4.2 Membership fees

Treasurer Jan then turned to the proposed Membership Fees for 2025/26. The Committee endorsed the Treasurer's recommendation of the following fee structure for season 2025/26 which were included in the Notice of Meeting sent to all members.

Category	2024/25 Fees	Proposed 2025/26 Fees	% increase
Full	630	680	7.9%
Country	340	365	7.4%
Intermediate	350	375	7.1%
6 Months:			
Sporting	400	430	7.5%
Seniors (> 75 years)	400	430	7.5%
Junior < 18	70	75	7.1 %
Social	30	30	0%

Jan spoke about the Committees deliberations on setting these fees and the need to start to build a bank for major expenses such as the irrigation system while minimising the impact on members. Even with these increases the Club's fees are still below all of the comparable clubs in the district.

Peter Hoskin raised a question on why the percentage increase was over 7%, which is nearly 3 times CPI (around 2.5%) and if the Committee had considered other ways of increasing revenue without hitting members. Jan responded that these increases were moderate and the Committee did not make these increases lightly as we are aware that we have several families with multiple memberships. She also stated that the Committee had increased Green Fees from $30 to $40 during the year as another means of increasing revenue without imposing on members.

Nick Cherry responded that the cost was only $1 a week for members.

John Randles commented that the club was punching above its weight, and we were presenting a course that at $680 was a very fair price and should in fact be higher.

Russell Anderson asked about increasing the competition fees, a topic he raised at last year's AGM and subsequently wrote to Committee about and why this hadn't been considered.

Jan responded that the committee had discussed this during the year as part of a discussion on increasing cart hire, green fees and competition fees as this aligns with a "user pays" approach. The Committee agreed to increase cart hire and green fees but refrained from increasing competition fees at the same time, choosing to hold off on that until we had a sense of how the cart hire and green fee increases where going. Jan said it would probably be a discussion that Committee would have later this year.

A there were no more questions or comments on this, Jan then **MOVED** the motion " *That the recommended fee structure as included in the Notice of Meeting be accepted* "

Jan then asked for a seconder for the motion, please?
Seconded: Rob Smith

Jan called for the members to vote. All those in favour? *Show of hands* Against? *None*
The motion was declared **Carried**

5. President's address & Committee reports

Vice President Andrew Watson then took the floor, he then briefly thanked all of the current committee for their efforts over the year, particularly those leaving their roles and welcomed the new members Margo Edgar as Women's President and Rob Murrell as Treasurer as well as Jan Walklate who will be moving to the Vice President role.

5.2 Committee reports

Chair Andrew Watson stated that the written reports were contained in the Annual Report emailed to all members and asked if any of the authors wanted to expand on their reports, if not then we would take these as read and open up for questions from the floor.

<u>Women's President</u> Muriel Pitts – nothing further

<u>Captain</u> Rob Smith – Rob noted that there was an error in the in the Trophy Winners section of the Annual Report. The winner of the Summer Cup was listed as Zac Grieves, this should have been shown as John Neylon. Rob has rung John and apologised, and the error has been amended for the document to go on the website

<u>Women's Captain</u> Sue O'Connor - nothing further

<u>Course</u> Lex Johnstone – Lex took the floor and thanked Greg and the team for all of the work and effort they have put into the course over the year and you can see this in the improvement of the golf course. Lex also thanked the great people on the Course Committee who were a pleasure to work with. He also made reference to Peter Elvey's volunteer work and all of the other volunteers who contribute a total of 30 to 40 hours each week.
Lex mentioned the 5 year Course Plan which had just been released to members, which is very detailed and covers everything on the course the committee would like to see done over time. It is an ambitious but practical plan and send a long therm direction for the club.

<u>Sponsorship</u> Russell Anderson - nothing further

<u>Social</u> Jan Walklate – nothing further

<u>Golf Development</u> Peter Andrew – nothing further

<u>Bar</u> Ian Martin/Gary Day – nothing further

<u>Membership</u> Mandy Hamilton – nothing further

The Chair then asked if there were any questions, there were none.
Chair Andrew then asked to have someone move that that the reports be accepted and someone to second that motion.
Moved: Lesley Elvey
The Chair then asked for a seconder for the Motion
Seconded: John Geldart

The Chair then asked: All those in favour? *Show of hands* Against? *None* and then declared the motion **Carried**

6. Announcement of election results for Committee of Management positions for 2025-26

Vice President Andrew noted to members that the nominations for these positions were contained in the Notice of Meeting that was emailed to all members and that under Rule 52 of the Rules of the Association, as the number of nominations does not exceed the positions available, the following Members are duly elected:

Office	Nominee	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
President	**Owen Davies**	Rod Threlfall	Peter Andrew
Vice Pres.	**Jan Walklate**	Sean O'Connor	Stephen Jeffrey
Secretary	**Peter Andrew**	Rod Threlfall	Owen Davies
Treasurer	**Rob Murrell**	Jan Walklate	Stephen Jeffrey
Captain	**Rob Smith**	Chris Gibbs	William Andrea
Women's President	**Margo Edgar**	Jan Walklate	Sue O'Connor
Women's Captain	**Sue O'Connor**	Raye Fleay	Karen Griffin
Course Chair	**Lex Johnstone**	Phil Brooks	Gary Day

Andrew congratulated the incoming committee members particularly the new members Margo Edgar as Women's President and Rob Murrell as Treasurer as well as Jan Walklate who will be moving to the Vice President role. Andrew also recognised the work that outgoing President Rod Threlfall had done over the past two years and wished him well.

Andrew then called on incoming President Owen Davies to say a few words

Owen Davies then took the floor and addressed the members.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in me to assume the Presidency of the region's premier golf club.

It is an honour to lead the club, and it is humbling to follow those who have. I've been here for a decade now and have experienced five presidencies, those of:
Rod Connelly
Andy Watson
Allan Andrews
Peter Hoskin and
Rod Threlfall

Each of those men put in long hours and dedicated themselves to achieving the best outcome for members and for the golf course. I'm sure all the presidents who preceded them were the same. I hope I can serve as well as them.

I could go through each President and speak about their contribution at length, but we would be here all night. It would, however, be remiss of me not to acknowledge the one who retires tonight, Rod Threlfall.

Rod was tireless and was at all times considered and thoughtful about the way in which he approached challenges. I know that everyone here thanks Rod for his service both as Captain and President and wishes him a speedy and full recovery from his recent operation. We look forward to seeing him back playing golf and I'm sure Rod looks forward to concentrating on his own game without the distractions of office.

It's telling that the three guiding principles set out in the club's Strategic Plan are to continually improve the golf course, to secure our financial stability and to maintain and build member camaraderie. The first two of those would be in every club's plan, the third probably not, and yet it is central to our thinking.

It is so easy to lose that close bond between members that ties a club together. You don't have to look very far to see clubs that are struggling in that regard – where, for example, time sheets enforced on everyone by Covid have now become the norm and clubhouse gatherings have been watered down to the point where there is little obvious evidence that the club is more than just a place to play golf.

As you clearly told us in the recent member survey, we don't want that to happen here, but we need to work harder to ensure Axedale is a club where pretty well everyone knows everyone and there is a genuine sense of connection. A lot of new members have joined in recent years, but when names are read out at presentations I too often hear, 'who's he?' or 'I've never heard of him' when names are read out at presentations. I joined 10 years ago and we got to know all the blokes because we got to play with them all at some point.

Our women members do a much better job than our men of inducting new members. I try to play with as many different members as possible and have found it hugely enjoying to meet new people and hear about their backgrounds. I understand it's nice to play golf with people you know and whose golfing company you enjoy, but I encourage everyone to broaden their contact with people throughout the club. I'll also encourage our incoming Committee to turn its attention to seeing how we might improve the experience for new members in particular.

Speaking of the Committee, its makeup has undergone several changes through the club's modern history and I think it's important that we continually review its structure to ensure it can best deliver on our strategy. There are a lot of very capable members who have run businesses, or been in senior positions, who might perhaps be more inclined to join the Committee if they're not also saddled with a major operational role. In other words, we could be cutting ourselves short on capability and experience, so we'll be taking a look at that.

One thing I am convinced of is that the Committee needs to contain men and women. All organisations are better for having mixed management teams. I note that every president of the club over nearly a century has been a man, and that does not truly reflect our membership and society. I welcome Jan Walklate taking on the Vice-Presidency and look forward to working with her in that capacity.

I also welcome Committee's decision to appoint a risk advisory group that sits apart from Committee and can take a helicopter view of how the club is meeting its financial and regulatory obligations. We don't have to look too far to see what can happen if there is insufficient oversight on a very large amount of money. Ours is a voluntary organisation but that does not preclude us taking a professional approach to looking after member and staff interests.

What else should we focus on? Too much to detail here, but issues include the refurbished irrigation system, the broader issue of securing water supplies into the future, looking after our wonderful staff, sponsorship, communication, event management … the list goes on.

Clubs do not just run themselves – it requires participation from members who look beyond their own interests to devote time to bettering things for all. Axedale is blessed in that regard. Look around the room tonight and it's filled with life members, past presidents, secretaries, treasurers, captains, caterers, social club officers, course volunteers … the list goes on. I'm sure every one of them would tell you they have a great sense of satisfaction in contributing to their golf club. I hope members who have not had the opportunity to broaden their *engagement beyond just their own game can be given the opportunity to do so because they will find it immensely rewarding.*

I certainly do and I again that you all for entrusting me with being one of the leaders of the club for the coming year.

Owen concluded his remarks and then asked Andrew Watson to continue to Chair the meeting

7. Special Resolutions to be considered by the meeting.

No Special Resolutions were received.

8. Life Member nominations

There were no nominations for Life Membership received this year.

8. General Business

Vice President Andrew then asked if there were any matters that members wanted to raise, noting that these may not be able to be dealt with at this meeting but would be referred to Committee if required.

John Randles wanted to thank all those involved in the artwork that was appearing around the course, it was a great initiative and brought a smile to many golfers.

Nick Cherry asked if it was appropriate to discuss the running of the Pro Am at this meeting. Vice President Andrew said that was better done outside the meeting and that Nick should approach members of the Committee.

There were no more questions

Vice President Andrew then spoke on Subcommittee membership. He informed members that an email would be going out shortly seeking nominations for membership of our Subcommittees. The club would like to see some new faces and increase the membership of some of these subcommittees to spread the workload. He then spoke briefly on the following Subcommittees, asking members to consider nominating for one or more of the following.

Compliance, Risk & Audit	Golf Development Team
Bar	Grants Development
Bookings Co-ordinator / Assistant Co-ordinator	Match
Communication and Marketing	Membership
Course	Social
Finance	Sponsorship

Vice President Andrew as Chair then declared the meeting **CLOSED** and invited those present to have a drink and a chat.

9. Meeting Close. 8.20 PM.

APPENDICES:

Attendance

Axedale Golf Club Annual General Meeting
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	Name	Member #		Name	Member #
1	Peter Andrew	882	26	Len Rodda	264
2	Rob Smith	1258	27	Nick Cherry	1689
3	Owen Davies	1150	28	Emma O'Connor	1391
4	Jan Walklate	301	29	Ian Kerr	271
5	Andrew Watson	513	30	Mick Purdon	111
6	Danny Curran		31	Peter Hoskin	274
7	Lex Johnstone	344	32	Russell Anderson	1618
8	Rod Jacobs	779	33	Rob Murrell	1050
9	Greg Henderson	1184	34	Greg Hamilton	1712
10	David Ivey	090	35	David Hodder	1760
11	Ian Martin	89	36	Sean O'Connor	1049
12	Garry Harrop	56	37	Sue O'Connor	325
13	Gary Beames	6	38	Annette Purdy	215
14	Peter Elvey	658	39	Loretta Prowse	214
15	Lesley Elvey	823	40	David Purdy	1038
16	Phillip Brooks	655	41	Bill Andrea	5
17	Graham Neilsen	102	42	John Randles	32
18	Wendy Nielsen	211	43	Tony Lindrea	75
19	Denis Chapman	18	44	Helen Lindrea	195
20	Wayne Mildren	100	45	Denis Jeffrey	64
21	Steve Jeffrey	472	46	Mary Buromeo	1745
22	Bernie O'Keefe	143	47	John Geldart	1010
23	David Yum	145	48	Mandy Hamilton	1172
24	Shane Carmody	1507	49	Greg Hamilton	1152
25	Muriel Pitts	1303	50	Hayden Nielsen	253

Proxies

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Name	Member #	Name	Member #
Rod Connolly	3050101216	Denis Jeffrey	3050100064
Craig Lee	3050100955	Lex Johnstone	3050100344
Margo Edgar	3050101614	Lex Johnstone	3050100345
John Edgar	3050101615	Lex Johnstone	3050100346
Rod Threlfall	3050100345	Owen Davies	3050101150
Maureen Connolly	3050100337	Tony Lindrea	3050100075
Carmel Jacobs	3050100780	Rod Jacobs	3050100779
Joy Kennedy	3050101137	Muriel Pitts	3050101303
Jen Goddard	3050100593	Wendy Nielsen	3050100211
Graeme Wehsack	3050101350	David Purdy	3050101038
Bob Perkins	3050101479	David Yum	305010145

Apologies

Axedale Golf Club Annual General Meeting
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Name	Name
Arundell, Geoff	Johnstone, Gary
Arundell, Noelene	Kath, Fred
Baldwin, Jill	Logan, Ian
Banerji, Jayant	Lubke, David
Clements, Alan	Makepeace, Mal
Coulsell, Dawn	Martin, Helen
Creek, Dawn	McKenzie, Christine
Dal Santo, Eily	McKenzie, Tony
Day, Gary	Peters, Barry
Dean, Darren	Retallick, Brian
Fleay, Daryl	Robertson, Graeme
Fleay, Raye	Robinson, Geoff
Galbraith, Rowan	Robinson, Anne
Gibbs, Chris	Rogers, Eric,
Gibbs, Shirley	Somerville, Jonas
Griffin, Rosemary	Stephens, David
Grogan, Maureen	Taylor, Rob
Hodder, Catherine	Thomas, Peter
Hogan, Leo	Warcaba, Peter
Holmes, Tim	White, John
Iser, Ruth	