



Website; chinafleetgolfcommittee.co.uk
Captain. E-mail.
Competition Secretary E-mail

Secretary E-mail. dave@zethar.net
chinafleetgolfcapt@gmail.com
scottjohnston80@hotmail.co.uk

Minutes of the Men's Golf Section

Tuesday 12th April 2026

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM) could not be recorded as a true record. Without the end of year financial report, due to new banking arrangements being implemented.
2. Present.
J Parry (C). R Mansfield. D Callaghan. A Taylor. R Richardson. P Beech.
3. Apologies received.
M Friend. S Smith. D Hobbs. A Forster. L Woodall. S Johnston.
4. AOB from previous meeting.
How to improve , Presentation evening. **This will be an ongoing discussion.**
5. **Captains report.**

Following our AGM in March, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all members of the committee for your continued support and dedication to the China Fleet Men's Section. The time and effort you each give behind the scenes ensures that the section continues to run smoothly and successfully, and it certainly does not go unnoticed.

The Captain's Drive-In was a fantastic way to start the season, and it was truly encouraging to see such a strong turnout.

Events like this are at the heart of what makes our section so special bringing together golfers of all abilities in a spirit of friendly competition and camaraderie.

It was particularly pleasing to see so many members staying on afterwards to enjoy the social side of the day, reinforcing the strong sense of community we are fortunate to have.

As for the drive-in itself, I'm glad to say it went better than I might have feared!

There's always that moment of apprehension standing on the first tee with people watching, but thankfully I managed to avoid any early embarrassment, and gave the driver a confident swing straight down the middle, my partner then rose to the occasion brilliantly using the bottom two grooves! to guide a superb second shot to within five feet.

Converting the putt for an opening birdie was a moment I won't forget in a hurry.

After what has felt like a long and often challenging winter, it is a pleasure to see the course emerging in such good condition. The improvements in recent weeks have been clear to see, and great credit must go to the greenkeeping team for their hard work in preparing the course

for the season ahead. With firmer fairways, truer greens, and (hopefully!) drier conditions, we can all look forward to enjoying our golf to the fullest.

Looking ahead, I am genuinely excited about the 2026 season. We have a full calendar of competitions and events planned, offering something for everyone—whether you're aiming to compete, improve your game, or simply enjoy the social aspects of the club.

I would encourage all members, new and longstanding, to get involved as much as possible. The more we participate, the stronger and more vibrant our section becomes.

For me China Fleet Golf Club has always been about more than just the golf. It's about friendships, shared experiences, and the enjoyment of being part of a welcoming and inclusive community. I hope this year provides plenty of memorable moments for all of us—on the fairways, on the greens, and in the clubhouse.

Thank you once again for your support, and I look forward to seeing you all out on the course throughout the season.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead at China Fleet.

6. **Competition Secretary report.**

Finally, we've had some welcome sunshine, and the 2026 competition season is now underway.

The Winter League has now concluded, with Joe Collier finishing as the overall winner—congratulations to him.

The Captain's Drive-In for James Parry was very well supported, with 82 players taking part in an 08:00 Texas Scramble shotgun start. Congratulations to Steve Somerset and Clay Cowie, who won with an excellent nett score of 62.

We also held our first Monthly Stableford, which attracted 84 players, showing a strong start to the season.

Finally, the Men's Section Terms of Competition have been updated, and revision 4 will be issued shortly. Members are encouraged to read the document, as it covers all competition rulings.

From Saturday 25/04, this will be our first Summer Eclectic. All participants entering will automatically be entered into the Summer Eclectic. You will notice that entry to the Saturday Roll-up has increased to £8, with £1 going to the Eclectic prize pot at the end of the season.

Upcoming fixtures to look out for,

18/04 Hong Kong Cup Medal – Our first trophy of the season.

25/04 Saturday Roll Up - Eclectic Event 1

7. **Seniors Captain report.**

The first few weeks in January continued to be very low turnouts due to the bad weather and the course conditions preventing the use of trollies.

With February now behind us the weather seems to be turning with Trollies now in play encouraging larger turnouts with numbers on Monday's events increasing by the week.

Our first competition of the Season took place a few weeks ago, the Annual Dinosaur Trophy, with the "Seniors" narrowly defeating the "Super Seniors."

The friendly matches are now underway and have completed our first 2 of the calendar.

Winning our 1st at home against Truro GC 6.5 to 1.5. The 2nd away at Tavistock unfortunately ended in a narrow defeat 2.5 to 3.5 although it was warm it was extremely windy with some lighting fast greens.

We have 4 more matches coming up in April firstly Dartmouth at home on the 14th of April followed by Carlyon Bay away on the 17th, Woodbury at home on 23rd ending the month with the return match Carylton Bay at home 28th.

Although we have only had one home meal there was nothing but praise for our first post-match meal from the new menu.

The members are delighted to be playing off “proper” Tees again and we have had some good comments about the course condition from visitors.

Finally: It is with a heavy heart that I now must inform you all that last year’s Seniors Captain, Keith Chapman, passed away in the early hours of Saturday morning April 11th.

It was a great shock to all our members and his golfing buddies.

Our thoughts are with his Partner and family at this sad time.

8. Treasurers report.

Current balance to date £1137.21. (Trophy engraving still on hold)

9. Greenkeeper report.

Weather:

Unbelievable rainfall figures over December and January with over 580mm of rain in those 2 months, to put that into context, that is around half the average yearly rainfall total, (in 2015 we had 677mm for the whole year), with a so far awful start to February with already 44 mm in just 6 days with more on the way. This has totally ruined many planned projects which have come to a grinding halt.

Greens:

We have just about kept up with our aeration procedures for the greens with great difficulty, however, we have fallen well behind with spraying of winter turf health packages, with not a single dry day in the past 3 weeks or any on the horizon.

Tees:

The 13th medal tee is one project that should have been a simple/quick levelling, but has been impossible to make any more progress on due to the weather.

Bunkers:

With the awful weather, the bunkers were kept out of play (G.U.R.) for probably the longest period of time ever, aside from around a 2 week period just after Christmas.

Trees:

With the awful weather, we yet again turn our attention to tree work. Behind the 3rd tee has been cleared of brash and scrub to open up an outstanding view of the estuary. The left hand side of the 4th hole has been cleared of any dead ash trees; this will encourage the healthy trees to flourish and also speed up play. Behind the 14th green has also been cleared of most of the dead ash trees, allowing better airflow to the green.

15th Tee:

Last week we hired in an 8 tonnes excavator and dumper to finally make a start on the new 15th competition tee. Good progress was made initially, with the old, damaged hedgerow being pushed over and the bank up to the green roughly taking shape, 4 old tree stumps were then exposed and cut down as low as possible to avoid subsidence as the stumps rot over the years. The subsoil was then levelled, and banks were created, then rootzone and topsoil was taken from the old blue tee to the site. As usual the rain then hampered any further progress as the material was simply too wet to work with and ground conditions were becoming unsafe. The aim is to hire the excavator later in the year when ground conditions are more favourable. We will then, continue shaping the slope on the site of the old blue tee, landscape the new tee banks and finish levelling the new tee. Drainage will then be installed, along with irrigation, and we aim to put seed in the ground by Autumn, hopefully ready to open by Spring/Summer 2027. By then the current competition tee will have been levelled and enlarged and will become one of the daily yellow tees.

Many Thanks Nathan.

10. Handicap Committee update.

Unable to update as our member was at another meeting.

11. **Dail Mail Knockout update.**

Our Pairs Mark & Jason Friend have started this years competition.

1st round match against St Mellion on home turf winning 1up.

2nd round match against Whitsand Bay GC away winning 2&1.

Well played, a cracking start.

3rd round match against Trevoise GC @ home. To be played.

12. **Cornwall Golf. A & B Team Championship update.**

“B” Team players:

S Matthews & P Myerscough

A Hatch & E Shapland

R Mansfield & J Williams

Played at St Austell GC. Sunday 12th April.

The team score of 144 placed them 7th overall. Just 3 points off Qualifying.

Best pair recorded a 69.

“A” Team will play at the Point of Polzeath. Sunday 19th April.

Upcoming event. Royal Cornwall Goblets @ the Point of Polzeath. Sunday 10th May.

13. AOB.

Winter series point/scoring system.

This was lightly discussed with the alternative scoring system on display.

It was elected to be carried forward into our next meeting, as many members were sick or away.

Meeting Closed 20.10
Next meeting 12th May 2026