

The inaugural meeting of St Andrews Resident Golfers Association was held on the evening of 25th November at St Andrews United clubhouse. There were 61 attendees including Willie Rennie MSP. An introduction by Joe Noble outlined the reasons why the association was formed and he described some important results from a survey of over 100 members who had expressed considerable dissatisfaction with how the residents golfing experience in St Andrews had changed in recent years. A previously circulated constitution was adopted by the membership and the following officers were appointed.

Chairperson Richard McFarlane, Treasurer Kevin Mullins, Secretary John Winter and Director Joe Noble. The constitution allows for up to a further three directors to be appointed, the meeting will reflect and make proposals to the Secretary. An update on the progress of discussions with St Andrews Links Trust (SALT) and with our MSP and MP was given by Joe Noble and the secretary emphasised the importance of increasing membership and discussed finance, the website and the importance of publicity.

A large proportion of the audience contributed to a wide ranging discussion. The main topics were lack of transparency of SALT, representation of local golfers and the Inter Club Liaison Committee, identification of the boundary for a resident ticket, the western expansion of St Andrews, difficulties with course access, number of rounds played and visitor numbers, University student golfing, poor condition of the courses relating to overplay.

Overall the atmosphere was cooperative and optimistic; there was also a feeling of thankfulness that the resident golfers now had some representation. An AGM will be held 5 November 2025.