

Holt Shield
2026 Annual General Meeting
Thursday 19th February
Minutes

Present

Mervyn Perry (Chairman), Tony Campbell (Hon Sec), Darryl Flannagan (Hon Treas), Colin Crozier (Committee), Robert Brown (Committee), Stephen McComiskey (Committee), Ian McNaught (Committee), Ron Greer (Carnalea), Gerard Quinn (Balmoral), Ricardo Neufuss (Donaghadee), Michael Megoran (Hilton), Richard Patterson (Hilton), Gareth Stranaghan (Bangor), Hugh Grieve (Cliftonville), David Donnelly (Cliftonville), Robert McDowell (City of Belfast), Stuart Marshall (City of Belfast), Ken McMaster (Blackwood), George Lynas (Ormeau), John Currie (Ormeau), Ross Jones (Belvoir Park), Ken Haslem (Lisburn), Stephen McCann (Colin Valley), Paul Gibson (Colin Valley), Taylor Morrison (Carrickfergus), Stuart Gilmore (Ballyclare), James Law (Malone), Liam Mallon (Edenmore), Brian Graham (Knock).

Apologies

Johnny Greer (Greenisland), Gerry Rafferty (Ballymena), Andrew Law (Whitehead), Geoff Bleakley (Shandon Park), Stephen McCourt (Cairndhu).

Minutes of the 2025 AGM

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Liam Mallon, Edenmore, and seconded by Ron Greer, Carnalea. There were no points of accuracy, and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters raised.

Hon. Secretary's Annual Report

The Hon. Secretary read out his annual report. The key points of the report are,

- Portadown and Galgorm remain on the reserve list.
- The 2026 format will be the same as the previous two years.
- Cairndhu won the Holt Shield for the fifth time, beating Belvoir in the final.
- The Bobby Conroy Award was won by Christopher McCourt, Cairndhu.
- Cairndhu hosted a most enjoyable presentation dinner.
- The George Stuart Memorial Shield, hosted by Ballymena, was won by Stephen Garland, Colin Valley.
- Mervyn Perry's chosen charity for 2025 is Marie Curie, who received £330.

Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Accounts

The Accounts were proposed by Ken Haslem, Lisburn and seconded by Ricardo Neufuss, Donaghadee. The 2025 Accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Hon. Treasurer presented his report, highlighting,

- Costs have increased mainly due to the rising cost of the medals.
- A Past Chairman's silver badge was purchased this year.
- Possible cost savings on the medals will be discussed with the Committee.
- Extra expenditure was the Committee members' jackets and a framed 2027 centenary pennant for Carnalea.
- Increased costs justify the proposed £120 for the 2026 entry fee.

Motions

At the deadline, Thursday, 12th February, no Motions were received.

2026 Holt Shield Format and Draw

The draw will be made when all entries have been received. The deadline will be early March 2026. Committee members will be nominated to chase late entries.

With the approval of the attendees, the format will be the same as in 2025.

2026 George Stuart Memorial Shield

Balmoral Golf Club will host the George Stuart Memorial on Friday, 7th August, with tee-off from 1.30 pm. The presentation dinner is scheduled for 7.00 pm.

All Team Captains are encouraged to attend this event. Entry can be done via the website.

Election of Officers for 2026/27

With the relevant proposers and seconders, the Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer were all unanimously elected.

Installation of the 2026/27 Chairman

Mervyn Perry, the outgoing Chairman, introduced and congratulated Stephen McComisky as the 2026/27 Chairman.

Stephen gracefully responded, saying he was immensely proud of being asked to be Chairman of the Holt Shield. He feels there is no equal to this competition, which is highly respected throughout the province. He looks forward to his role and paid tribute to the hard work and support of the Holt Shield committee.

Robert Brown, past Chairman, praised Mervyn Perry for his commitment to his duties over the past two years and presented him with the past Chairman's badge.

Mervyn responded by wishing Stephen McComiskey a successful time in office. He announced that he was handing over the reins of Knock's Team Captaincy to Brian Graham.

He said that he was so proud of being Chairman, and he did his best to promote a wonderful competition. He felt the charity donation was a great incentive, and his chosen charity, Marie Curie, was in the memory of his brother-in-law, who died recently and was nursed by Marie Curie.

Any Other Business

There was no business raised.

Stephen McComiskey wished everyone a successful 2026 season and officially closed the meeting.

- There was an exceptional attendance at this year's AGM. 29 people attended, and 22 clubs were represented. A great endorsement of the Holt Shield.

Tony Campbell

Hon. Secretary