



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
EAST LOTHIAN LICENSING BOARD**

**THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON  
& HYBRID MEETING FACILITY**

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**Board Members Present:**

Councillor C Cassini  
Councillor F Dugdale  
Councillor N Gilbert  
Councillor G McGuire  
Councillor J McMillan (Depute Convener)

**Clerk of the Licensing Board:**

Mr C Grilli

**Attending:**

Ms E Barclay, Committees Assistant  
Ms S Fitzpatrick, Team Leader – Licensing and Landlord Registration  
Ms K Harling, Licensing Standards Officer  
Ms G Herkes, Licensing Officer  
PC S Gibson, Police Scotland  
Ms A O'Reilly, Licensing Officer

**Committee Clerk:**

Ms L Gillie

**Apologies:**

Councillor L Bruce (Convener)

The clerk advised that the meeting was being held as a hybrid meeting; that the meeting would be recorded and live streamed; and that it would be made available via the Council's website as a webcast, in order to allow public access to the democratic process in East Lothian. She noted that the East Lothian Licensing Board was the data controller under the Data Protection Act 2018; that data collected as part of the recording would be retained in accordance with the Council's policy on record retention; and that the webcast of the meeting would be publicly available for five years from the date of the meeting.

The committee clerk recorded the attendance of Board members by roll call.

**Declarations of Interest:**

None

Carlo Grilli, Clerk to the Licensing Board, advised that the agenda for the Licensing Board had been amended and after Item 1 Item 6 would be considered and then Item 5. This was approved by members.

There were further changes to the agenda as the meeting progressed to improve the running of the meeting for applicants and their representatives. The minutes reflect the changes to the agenda.

**1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**  
**East Lothian Licensing Board, 26 April 2025**

Board members approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

**6. REVIEW OF PREMISES LICENCE**  
**i) Wiremill Social Club, 4 Balcarres Road, Goose Green,**

The review of the premises licence had come before the Board under section 37, grounds in section 36(3)(za) and 36(a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

PC Stephen Gibson advised that they had not been informed that Mr Johnson, the premises manager, left the employment of Wiremill Social Club on 7 December 2024. He further advised that they had received no notification of a substitute. Police have been called to the premises twice, on 15 December 2024 and 22 February 2025, and on both occasions observed alcohol being sold to customers. On 27 February 2025 an application for a substitute premises manager was received by Police Scotland from East Lothian Council. PC Gibson stated that there were no other instances noted and no other inspections.

Karen Harling, Licensing Standards Officer (LSO), advised that on 1 September 2009, East Lothian Licensing Board granted a premises licence, with the committee of Wiremill Social Club being the licence holder. A personal licence was granted to John Derek Johnson on 16 February 2015 and on 25 March 2015 Mr Johnson had an application granted to appoint him as Premises Manager. Mr Johnson's personal licence expired on 15 February 2025 and no renewal application was received. The LSO stated that PC Gibson made her aware of the incident on 22 February and it was then established that Premises Manager's personal licence had expired which is a breach of a premises licence mandatory condition 4 and an offence under section 1 of the Licensing Scotland Act. The LSO advised that she requested that the sale of alcohol cease immediately until a premises Manager was appointed and informed PC Gibson. A minor variation application was received on 28 February, and this was granted to appoint Cheryl Vickers as Premises Manager. The LSO continued by saying that over the last three years there have been complaints about noise and that she along with Environmental Protection Officers and the police had provided guidance. Mr Johnson had never been present at these meetings, but the LSO had been told that he was still in post. The LSO highlighted a recent complaint on 03 May 2025 when it was said that the DJ could be heard talking. The LSO had contacted the committee and been told they were using the guidance that they were given by the Environmental Protection Officers. She continued by stating that prior to the most recent complaint, the last complaint was received in August 2024. The LSO concluded by advising that in her opinion the circumstances suggest that the current committee aren't in control of the premises and failed in the responsibilities of premises licence holders. The sale of alcohol without a Premises Manager was permitted and this breached the mandatory condition for of the premises license.

Lynn Hastie, Treasurer Wiremill Social Club, acknowledged the issues and stated that there was no excuse. She advised of changes to the club including the Chair and treasurer resigning along with the Bar Manager, Mr Johnson. She continued by saying that they had a very busy festive period and had relied extensively on the knowledge and experience of those people who had left. She stated that Mr Johnson told them his licence was still in force until 15 February 2025 and he was still conducting a handover with Ms Vickers after his last day of employment. Ms Hastie acknowledged and apologised unreservedly for the delay of the new licence application and stated that Ms Vickers passed her personal licence on 18 February. She advised that there have been changes made to the committee to reaffirm responsibilities and that they believe it proactive to have a contingency plan in place with Ms Ashley McGarvie, Treasurer Wiremill Social Club, applying for a personal licence in case of future staff changes. Regarding the noise complaints Ms Hastie advised that they have worked with officers to address these. She continued that the complaints had been about quiet events so they cannot understand but do take this on board. The events in December and February when the police were called were ticketed events. The December incident was a domestic argument and the February incident an altercation between individuals who do not live in Musselburgh. In both cases the people involved have been barred. Ms Hastie concluded that the club do take this seriously and are taking the necessary steps.

In response to questions from Councillor McMillan about communication and decisions about barring people, Ms Hastie advised that the Committee meet once a month and that minutes are taken of this meeting. They also had a WhatsApp chat group for matters that arise between meetings, this recently being used by the Chair to request that a member was barred. She added that this member would have the opportunity to attend the next committee meeting to represent themselves.

Councillor McGuire asked about noise monitoring and whether they had any contact with residents and Ms Hastie advised that they have apps on their phones to record decibels. They go to the kitchen door and if it is over 90 decibels, they ask the DJ to turn it down. She also commented that she was on duty on 3 May and had recorded less than 90 decibels. Ms Hastie continued that there was one phone call on 3 May, and she felt that if the issue was persistent and ongoing there would have been more calls. The CCTV was checked by Ms McGarvie for 3 May after and the DJ was not speaking at the time of the report. Ms Hastie continued by advising that flats were built at the back of the building and that a fence had been requested to help dull the noise. She advised that she was not aware of any complaints from them now and added that they would speak to residents to see if anything else can be done.

Councillor Gilbert asked about the use of stewards, and Ms Hastie answered that they did use stewards when they were expecting big numbers, such as on race days.

In response to questions from Councillor Gilbert about committee meetings and their timescales, Ms Hastie advised that the club was run by the committee. The committee met once a month, and they met with the Bar Manager and Assistant Bar Manager also once a month. Ms Hastie added that people were barred immediately following an incident, and that this could be discussed at the next committee meeting, with the person potentially given the opportunity to represent themselves. She noted that the people barred after the December and February incidents were barred outright and not given the opportunity to represent themselves, as their behaviour had not been acceptable.

PC Gibson commented that there was an ongoing police enquiry as there was no personal licence holder in place from 7 December 2024, and this would be reported to the procurator fiscal.

The Convener adjourned the meeting to enable the Board members to discuss the application.

The meeting restarted with Councillor McMillan acknowledging the apology and statement of improvements. He added that they still had concerns about how the club was being managed and advised that he was proposing that Board formally suspend the licence until next Board meeting in a month's time. This would enable there to be time to ask the police and the LSO to work with Wiremill Social Club to put matters in place to reassure the Board. Councillor Gilbert seconded this proposal.

## **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board formally suspended the premises licence until the next Licensing Board Meeting.

## **5. PERSONAL LICENCE**

### **i. Ashley McGarvie**

The personal licence application had come before the Board for the current secretary of the Wiremill Social Club. Police Scotland confirmed there were no convictions or offences, there were no objections from the LSO.

The Clerk of the Board highlighted an error in the agenda and confirmed that this was an application for a personal licence and not a review.

Ashley McGarvie, Secretary Wiremill Social Club, spoke to the application and advised that she had applied as she felt it would be beneficial for the club. She stated it would enable her to get a better understanding and knowledge of how things should work. She added that this would help to ensure that there were no future issues like the ones experienced when staff had left employment recently.

PC Gibson confirmed that there had been no convictions or offences detected.

The LSO advised that having heard the previous review of premises licence, she would support the application for a personal licence.

Councillor McMillan asked Ms McGarvie if she was aware of the previous decision and asked how she saw her role. Ms McGarvie stated that she was aware of the decision and that, as secretary, she should have understood what was going on. She added that now she had completed her personal licence training, she was more aware of what was required. Ms McGarvie continued by saying that she would work along with the rest of the committee and the bar manager to get things in place with the LSO. She concluded by saying that she had previously asked for help or advice from the LSO and Police Scotland and that this was a big learning curve for her.

In response to a question from Councillor Gilbert, Ms McGarvie confirmed she would be happy to pass on her new knowledge to others at the club. She noted that she had already gone over the training with staff and that they would work together on this.

Councillor McMillan highlighted how seriously this was taken, as shown by the previous decision, but added that Ms McGarvie added value to the Committee with the new training completed.

The LSO clarified that it was not possible to do the training until they were granted the licence, so they may have to re do this.

Members commented that they were encouraged by what they had heard about the improvements being made, and thanked Ms McGarvie for her commitment to the role and the training that she had undertaken.

## **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board granted the personal licence application.

## **2. MAJOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATIONS**

### **i. Newhailes Estate, Musselburgh**

The application sought a major variation of premises licence to increase the area covered by the premises licence. There had been no objections from Police Scotland, Planning or the LSO.

Lynn Simpson, TLT Solicitors, spoke to the application and was accompanied by Claire Grant, Operations Manager National Trust. Ms Simpson advised of the various activities and events run at Newhailes Estate, and added that they were applying to add the middle area shown on the layout plan to the premises licence. This area was currently covered by the public entertainment licence only. An occasional licence was granted for the recent Festhailes music festival with feedback being that it worked well. The aim was to allow more flexibility for customers to take their drinks into the wider area and not to add capacity to the event. She added that the usual safeguarding measures would continue to be in place.

PC Stephen Gibson confirmed that Police Scotland had no comment to make on the application.

The LSO advised, for the Board's awareness, that the children's area and playground in the estate was separate. The area being discussed was more of a breakout area from the courtyard, where it could be busy. She concluded by saying that she had received no complaints about the premises or any of the events.

In response to a question from Councillor Gilbert about how often the space would be used, Ms Grant replied that there were no plans to use it in future for any other event. Ms Simpson added that the space would be used for the festival, but there would be a bit of flexibility if other events came about.

Councillor Dugdale asked about last years' event, and Ms Grant advised that the additional space had made things simpler operationally, with customers having more space to move about.

Councillor McMillan asked about measures to ensure that drifting into the children's area was not possible, and Ms Grant advised that the event would be enclosed with barriers and badged security in place.

Councillor McGuire commented that he had attended the festival and that it was excellently run and delivered.

## **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board granted the major variation of premises licence application.

### **3. PROVISIONAL PREMISES APPLICATION**

#### **i. Margiotta, The Hay Shed, 5 Longniddry Farm Steading, Longniddry**

The application sought a provisional premises licence for a new store located at the Hay Shed in Longniddry. There had been no objections from Police Scotland, Planning, or the LSO. The LSO had submitted a recommended condition.

Alistair Macdonald, agent, spoke to the application, and was accompanied by Joseph Margiotta, applicant. Mr Macdonald advised that the new store would be located in Longniddry and potentially opening in August. He noted that this was an exciting development and that the stores had a similar reputation in East Lothian as in Edinburgh. He also commented on the tie up with Waitrose. Mr Macdonald stated that the same training and operating standards would be in place as at the other stores, and that local people would be employed. He added that there was car parking, that it was not near any residential premises, and that he was not aware of any objections. He concluded by saying that there would be no deliveries, but that if there were, they would adhere to all legislation and policies as recommended by the LSO.

PC Gibson confirmed that Police Scotland had no comment to make on the application.

The LSO advised that inspections had taken place at other sites and no issues had been identified.

In response to a question from Councillor Gilbert, Mr Margiotta advised that the new store would be close to a carbon copy of the Gullane store.

Councillor McMillan asked about the recruitment process for new staff, and Mr Margiotta informed him that the HR manager did most recruiting, with adverts in existing stores and on various websites. He noted that new staff would be trained at the Head Office before continuing their training at existing stores, and then being moved to the Longniddry store. Mr Margiotta added that they like to promote staff from within existing stores and that the new branch would be run by someone promoted from another store.

Members commented that they believed the new store would be welcomed by local people and a pleasant addition to local shopping.

### **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board granted the provisional premises licence application subject to the following condition:

- Should a service of delivery of alcohol to customers be conducted, the terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 Section 119 and those of the Board's statement of licensing policy on deliveries of alcohol, should be complied with.

### **4. OCCASIONAL LICENCES**

#### **ii. Margiotta, The Hay Shed, 5 Longniddry Farm Steading, Longniddry (OCC344-347/25) – JELCM Limited**

The occasional licence application had come before the Board for a new store to be located in Longniddry, covering the period 1 June 2025 to 26 July 2025. There had been no objections from Police Scotland or the LSO.

Alistair Macdonald, agent, spoke to the application and was accompanied by Joseph Margiotta, applicant. Mr Macdonald advised that the application for occasional licences

was to cover the period from the store opening to the granting of the full application. He added that he would keep the Board advised of the opening date and when the occasional licenses would be required. He asked that permission for these be approved in principle and for the delegation of the grant of the occasional licences.

PC Gibson confirmed that Police Scotland had no comment to make on the application.

The LSO asked to be kept up to date on the store opening date.

The Clerk to the Licensing Board clarified that they were looking to approve all licences applied for, and that the store may choose not to use them and would keep the LSO and Police Scotland informed. Mr Macdonald responded by advising that three of the pending licences would be unlikely to be used, but that he would confirm this. He concluded by saying that it was the principle of the occasional applications to be dealt with under delegated authority when the store was ready to open being requested.

Members agreed they were happy for this to be dealt with under delegated authority.

### **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board granted the occasional licence application.

### **3. PROVISIONAL PREMISES APPLICATION**

#### **ii. Gilmerton House, Athelstaneford, North Berwick**

The application sought a provisional premises licence which included an increase in the terminal hours on Sunday to Wednesday. There had been no objections from Police Scotland, Planning, or the LSO. The LSO had submitted recommended conditions.

Kevin Clancy, agent, spoke to the application, and was accompanied by Colin Carter Campbell, the applicant. Mr Clancy described Gilmerton House as a luxurious private house and estate, which provided stays for up to 24 guests. They held weddings, corporate events, golf retreats and private stays. The layout plan showed a small number of rooms excluded from the premises licence application, as these were private rooms for the use of the Kinloch family. Mr Clancy stated that the premises had operated under occasional licences granted to caterers or personal licence holders as required. He added that the use of occasional licences was not ideal over the long term and that the application for a premises licence was the preferred approach. There are no objections to the application and a detailed statement of compliance had been lodged. Mr Clancy picked up on two points, firstly, the 10am commencement hours, which he stated would be for on sales for guests only or champagne breakfasts. The second point was the delivery of alcohol, and Mr Clancy stated that the condition of the LSO was acceptable if they carried out deliveries.

PC Gibson confirmed that Police Scotland had no comment to make on the application.

The LSO highlighted that the on sales time would also be exceeded on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until 1am. She added that there had been several meetings with Mr Clancy and she welcomed this application.

Mr Clancy apologised, and explained the request for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday was due to the increase in mid-week weddings. Mr Clancy stated that the change in terminal hour was to ensure consistency.

In response to a question from Councillor McMillan about how they made sure the conditions on occasional licences were being complied with, Mr Campbell advised that they employed an agency who managed the lettings of the big house. Through this, they had a full-time manager who oversaw the operations. They also had a catering company who were well organised, and they had never had any difficulties.

The LSO confirmed that a premises Manager would need to be appointed to be responsible for the day to day running and overall management of the premises. Mr Campbell responded by saying that if someone was required to be there all the time, the Events Manager or Head Caterer could be appointed.

The Clerk to the Licensing Board clarified that the application could go forward, but that a Premises Manager with a Personal Licence would need to be present all or the majority of the time.

Councillor Gilbert queried whether the extended evening hours could be restricted to weddings only and the Clerk of the Licensing Board confirmed this has been done previously. Mr Clancy advised he would be happy to accept that restriction. Councillor Gilbert further requested that the commencement hour of 10am be restricted to weddings.

### **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board granted the provisional premises licence application subject to the following condition:

- Should a service of delivery of alcohol to customers be conducted, the terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 Section 119 and those of the Board's statement of licensing policy on deliveries of alcohol, should be complied with.
- The commencement hour of 10am and terminal hour of 1am on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday be restricted to pre-arranged wedding celebrations.

### **3. PROVISIONAL PREMISES APPLICATION**

#### **iii. Premier Gifford, Duns Road, Gifford**

The application sought a provisional premises licence for a convenience store located in Gifford. There had been no objections from Police Scotland or the LSO. The LSO had submitted one recommended condition.

Gordon Emslie, agent spoke to the application, and was accompanied by Prasanth Baskaran, applicant. Mr Emslie advised that the licence had been revoked 18 months ago and Mr Baskaran has a new lease for the shop, which was the only shop in Gifford. Mr Emslie stated that not being able to sell alcohol had had an impact on the viability of the shop. The space on the layout plan for alcohol was a combination of shop floor and an inaccessible area behind the counter. Mr Baskaran had made a personal investment in the shop and was an experienced retailer with a good track record. Mr Emslie advised that three members of staff had completed their personal licences and that at any time, a licence holder would be on site. Mr Emslie commented on the LSO report and stated that the landlord was not involved in the running of the shop, and that Mr Baskaran had a new lease. He noted that Mr Baskaran would be responsible for the shop and that one other person had applied to be premises licence holder. He concluded by commenting that the community wanted the shop to be able to sell alcohol, but that they needed to rebuild the goodwill that the shop once had.

PC Gibson confirmed that Police Scotland had no comment to make on the application.



The LSO stated that Mr Emslie had addressed some of the concerns. She added that she had visited in April and the member of staff was not aware of who Mr Baskaran was, but that she visited yesterday and was informed that they were employed by Mr Baskaran who was starting his shift at 4pm. She added that the store had very little stock and that there was a lot of work to be done to build the store up again. There was currently only one other licensed premises open in the village. She concluded by noting the condition on deliveries.

Mr Emslie advised that it was very unlikely that the store would do deliveries but said that they were happy to accept the condition.

Councillor McMillan asked about the plans to rebuild the shop and Mr Baskaran responded by advising that customers were asking him about the sale of alcohol. He also commented on ordering fresh fruit every Friday, which he must throw away after three days, and explained that was the reason there was very little stock during the LSO visit. Mr Baskaran stated that when he was allowed to sell alcohol, he would use Facebook to advertise that the store was under new management. Mr Baskaran mentioned running promotions and increasing the products stocked, noting that there were no hardware stores or hot food outlets. Mr Baskaran said the alcohol licence was the first step and then he would move onto the next step.

In response to questions from Councillor McMillan, Mr Baskaran stated that he did not know what had happened with the previous owners. He said that he was talking with the customers and building a conversation with them. Mr Emslie added that Mr Baskaran had been labelled with what had happened previously. Mr Baskaran knew the previous owners, but it was now a different model. Mr Emslie concluded by saying that it may take some time, and a loss may have to be accepted until the it became more sustainable.

In response to a question from Councillor Gilbert about alcohol sales, Mr Emslie stated that percentage of turnover for this size of typical Co-op store, as this was previously, would be 8-12%, and that for an independent store this can be more at about 18%. He further stated that it was the expectation of most customers that alcohol would be sold. He commented that it was about creating footfall and giving customers a reason to come into the store.

Councillor Gilbert asked how important the sale of alcohol was for the store, and Mr Emslie stated that it was vital as to whether the store survived or not. He also commented that it was about providing as broad a range of products as possible.

Councillor McGuire commented on the community wanting the shop to be successful and asked when Mr Baskaran had taken over, as there were comments about the lack of stock. Mr Emslie responded that Mr Baskaran had taken over the store on 10 June, but that the income coming in was low. Mr Emslie advised that one of his recommendations to Mr Baskaran would be that they attend the Community Council to meet people and try to address some of the concerns. Mr Emslie also commented that there had been a significant investment in the store but that it would be lengthy process to rebuild the business.

Councillor McMillan asked for clarification about Mr Emslie's role, and Mr Emslie stated that he would be happy to come along to the Community Council with Mr Baskaran and to try and help with momentum in any way.

Members stated they were reassured by the comments made.

## **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board granted the provisional premises licence application subject to the following condition:

- Should a service of delivery of alcohol to customers be conducted, the terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 Section 119 and those of the Board's statement of licensing policy on deliveries of alcohol, should be complied with.

## **4. OCCASIONAL LICENCES**

### **i. Premier Gifford, Duns Road, Gifford**

The occasional licence application had come before the Board for a convenience store located in Gifford covering the period 23 May 2025 to 3 July 2025. There had been no objections from Police Scotland or the LSO.

Gordon Emslie, agent, spoke to the application, and was accompanied by Prasanth Baskaran, applicant. Mr Emslie stated that there was nothing additional that he wished to say in regard to the application. He did note that the application had been made on the occasion that the premises licence was granted. He added that it could take months to get the provisional licence converted, and that they would submit applications on a 42-day rolling programme until the paperwork had been lodged.

PC Gibson confirmed that Police Scotland had no comment to make on the application.

The LSO highlighted the need for staff training, a review of signage within the premises, and to ensure that the full age verification policy was in place.

Mr Emslie confirmed that training records would be submitted and that individuals would be overqualified for what was required, but that they felt this was the correct thing to do.

## **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board granted the occasional licence application.

**Sederunt:** Councillor Cassini left the meeting

## **4. OCCASIONAL LICENCES**

### **iv. Genesis Scottish Open, Renaissance Golf Course, Marquees/Outlets – OCC348/25 – Helen Fleming**

The occasional licence application had come before the Board for the Scottish Golf Open, covering the period 5 July 2025 to 14 July 2025, including a change to both commencement and terminal hours. There had been no objections from Police Scotland or the LSO.

Helen Fleming, the applicant, spoke to the application. She stated that the application was being presented due the extended hours being offered and that they had requested extended hours as a precautionary measure.

PC Stephen Gibson confirmed that Police Scotland had no comment to make on the application.

The LSO stated that the application had been brought forward for the hospitality marquees and outlets at the Genesis Scottish Open for the period 5 July to 14 July. She advised that some of the dates were before the tournament started and the times were out with board policy. She also noted that this year's application covered marquees and hospitality outlets that had not previously been covered by occasional licenses. Historically it had covered the hospitality contained within the Genesis Lounge and on course. The LSO concluded by highlighting that there were two recommended conditions in relation to the application.

In response to a question from Councillor Gilbert about the reason for the extension to other venues and premises, Ms Fleming advised that there were a couple of events in the lead up to the tournament. She detailed these as being a contractor's barbecue on 5 July and a Genesis wrap party and an event team party on 13 July. The anticipated end time on 13 July was 10.30pm, but in case of an extension to that, they were requesting the licence to continue to 14 July. Ms Fleming added that they were not anticipating alcohol being served in the areas not previously covered but that Adam Kennedy, the project lead, has asked for these to be included on a contingency plan. She commented that they do have a full breakdown of what's included, the menu and drinks being provided in each area, and said she would be happy to include this as part of the drugs and alcohol management plan.

In response to questions from Councillor Gilbert and Councillor McMillan, Ms Fleming confirmed that the additional areas were not for the consumption of alcohol and not the sale of alcohol.

Councillor McMillan asked about the management of the areas, and Ms Fleming advised that she would be on site and for every area with alcohol provision there will be a manager with a personal license.

Councillor McMillan asked for more detail on how the extension to times would be used, and Ms Fleming stated that it would be the clients' decision which they would comply with. She gave the example of last year when a Scottish player won and the potential need to extend hours as a result.

In response to questions from Councillor McMillan, Ms Fleming stated that most of the bars were not pay bars as most of the hospitality is included in the offer. She added that the responsible manager would be responsible for stopping the service of alcohol if necessary. She also advised that there would be an extra couple of managers that could give support if needed when dealing with people.

The Clerk to the Licensing Board clarified that in terms of hospitality, it was still classed as a sale of alcohol if there was a ticket or a cost to enter the event.

Councillor Dugdale asked about children and young people being permitted entry, and Ms Fleming advised that they were not anticipating children or young people to attend, and that this would cover the players' children who may be there.

In response to a question from Councillor McMillan about tee off times and how restrictive sticking to the terminal hours would be, Ms Fleming advised that she was not sure what time the last tee off would be. She added that she believed that they could work to policy hours, but she would like to confirm with her colleagues. Councillor McMillan advised that the decision needed to be made today and that he believed she had agreed they could manage within the policy hours. He further stated that even if there was a local winner, this would give several hours. Ms Fleming replied that the Sunday evening was for the Genesis wrap party with the anticipated end time of 9.30pm and the event team party with an anticipated finish time of 10.30pm. Ms

Fleming said that midnight on Sunday and 11pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday would work.

Ms Fleming asked about the additional hour on Tuesday until 11pm for the charity dinner and the Clerk to the Licensing Board confirmed that an additional hour was granted last year.

Councillor McMillan asked for clarity around the request for a change to hours. He stated that he understood the terminal hours were acceptable except for an additional hour being requested on Tuesday. Councillor McMillan added that he had been informed that the application for 10am was granted last year.

Ms Fleming was asked if she accepted the conditions detailed in the LSO report and Councillor McMillan confirmed the proposal. The proposal being that the 10am start would be allowed, with terminal hours as policy on Monday and Wednesday and every other day except for Tuesday when an additional hour would be granted. Ms Fleming asked about the terminal hours for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and was informed this was 1am.

The Clerk to the Licensing Board clarified the position

## **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board granted the occasional licence application subject to the following conditions:

- The Alcohol and Drug Management Plan and Event Plan submitted prior to the event to be adhered to for the duration of the event.
- Individual personal licence holders are allocated to manage each of the bar areas at all times and all staff involved in the sale and or supply of alcohol should have received the two hours mandatory training, as required under the legislation.

## **4. OCCASIONAL LICENCES**

### **iii. Genesis Scottish Open, Renaissance Golf Course, On Course Hospitality – (OCC349/25), Niall Middleton**

The occasional licence application had come before the Board for the Scottish Golf Open, including a change to commencement hours, and covering the period 8 July 2025 to 14 July 2025. There had been no objections from Police Scotland or the LSO.

Niall Middleton, the applicant, spoke to the application, and advised that they had won the contract for the Scottish Open last year and the application this year was very similar, with the addition of a bar at hole 10. Last year's event had been a big success, and they had liaised with the LSO. Mr Middleton stated that the application included a 10am licence for golfers, and that they would adhere to all the terminal hours.

PC Stephen Gibson confirmed that Police Scotland had no comment to make on the application.

The LSO advised that this was the second year of working with the applicant and she had seen the bars and staff at last year's event. She continued by stating that the bars and staff last year were very good with personal licence holders in each area. No concerns were raised, and it was noted that they had complied with everything last year. The LSO added that there was an additional bar this year, but there were no

concerns about this or the 10am start time. She concluded by highlighting the two conditions.

In response to a question from Councillor Gilbert the LSO confirmed that the only change to this year's application was the extra bar due to a restructure.

The Clerk of the Licensing Board proposed that if it was the same application and there were no objections from Police Scotland or the LSO, that the application be dealt with under delegated authority next year. The Board unanimously approved this.

### **Decision**

The East Lothian Licensing Board granted the occasional licence application subject to the following conditions:

- The Alcohol and Drug Management Plan and Event Plan submitted prior to the event will be adhered to for the duration of the event.
- Individual personal licence holders are allocated to manage each of the bars at all times and all staff involved in the sale and or supply of alcohol should have received the two hours mandatory training, as required under the legislation.

Signed .....

Councillor J McMillan  
Depute Convener of East Lothian Licensing Board