

HALESWORTH GOLF CLUB – GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 15th January 2025

Members:

Ben Townsend – Managing Director (BT)
Richard Davies – Club Professional (RD)
Ellie Andrews – Assistant Manager (EA)
Paul Kent – Club Captain (PK)
Gerry Jackson – Club Vice-Captain (GJ)
Barbara Dennis -- Ladies' Captain (BD)
Viv Leech – Ladies' Representative (VL)
Dave Tower– Seniors' Captain (DT)
Andy Frances – Seniors' Vice-Captain (AF)
Rob Sherington – Competition & Handicap Secretary (RS)
Colin Hillier – Handicap Secretary (CH)
Ken Parry-Brown – Treasurer Secretary (KPB)
Don Wellman – Secretary (DW)

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Present : BT, PK,GJ,DT,CH,KPB,DW

Apologies : BD,AF,RS,VL

Minutes of the Last Meeting : Minutes of AGM (sent earlier) accepted as a true record

Matters Arising: None

Club Update: Managing Director, BT, gave the following update:

- The Captains' photo boards would be condensed to exclude individual frames in order to free up more space.
- A board showing County Competition success history to be put in place.
- Website to be refreshed. Members section to be streamlined.
- Members to be asked to use their cards in the bar to make it easier for bar staff and to avoid any payment errors.
- All members to have a bag tag as a means of identifying members on the course from non-members.
- Internet update in the clubhouse. Starlink to be used.
- Driving range nets have been repaired (BT on cherry-picker in starring role!)
- Halfway house plans ongoing.
- Tree guards being removed from some of the plantations.
- New target(s) planned for golf range to add interest to practice sessions.
- Carpet in Gent's changing room to be replaced.
- Makeover in pro shop planned.
- Social events: 7th Feb. Restaurant Evening, 15th March Quiz Night, first 6 months of the year social events on website.

PK explained that later in the year the Wednesday Night golf for all would be reinstated along with a meal afterwards for those who wanted to stay. A social event for all to participate in.

Paul Raines has qualified for the 'Race to Woodhall Spa' (see Captain's Report) and Bradley Reynolds and Ed Bowles will be representing the club in the Daily Mail Foursomes.

Ladies' Captain Report:

Before I go on to report what has happened during December, I hope everyone managed to have a healthy and happy Christmas and a lovely New Year.

It doesn't seem that long ago that we were all waiting in trepidation for the new Millennium – but now we are already a quarter way through the next – where did those years go. But here we are in 2025 and are looking forward to a great golfing year with our wonderful section of so many varying handicaps and abilities – I hope everyone of you will enjoy what this year brings.

Firstly, thanks must go to all our greenkeepers who work tirelessly on our two courses – fighting everyday with the uncertain weather that comes our way – getting the bunkers looking and playing so well only to find the next week the storms that we have had have taken them right back to needing so much attention. And the greens are always in great condition despite divots not being repaired. This is something I know the ladies are always conscious of and will always repair but did you know "Unrepaired divots can take weeks to heal and can cause balls to bounce off line. They can also become an entry point for weeds" So even though we may not make any divots – if you are able and see any please repair – even one per lady will help. I already know many already do now – so thank you.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Lunch on the 12th December – I hope you all had a lovely time. Instead of us buying a secret Santa present the idea to bring in food donations for the local food bank was a great success and when Brian and I took all the donated goods to the local hall they were very appreciative and wanted me to pass on their sincere thanks to all who donated. I was very moved by

how much we actually collected and this was without some goods already donated locally by some ladies. Wow THANK YOU ALL. We were up in the Wenhaston room for our meal – 36 ladies were able to come. The food was excellent and atmosphere fantastic. We also had a raffle on the day for my charity of the year The British Heart Foundation which raised over £140 – all the prizes were donated by committee members – a raffle with a difference – all food & Christmas related. We also had Bingo which was hilarious – I must learn the lingo next time.

On the 20th December there was our annual Christmas fun comp. My thanks to Sara and her little team of elf helpers who made the day such a fun day, I was sorry to have missed it due to a cold.

I will let Sara our Competition Secretary report on our monthly competitions including the Christmas Fun comp above but I will be reporting on main achievements and successes during the year – you don't need to read it twice. But congratulations to all the winners for the month, well played.

HUGE Congratulations must go to Susanne Wilson who won our Race to Woodhall Spa for 2024 and I'm sure everyone would want to wish her every success at Sheringham in May where she will be playing the next round.

As we start 2025 I want to wish all our County Teams and their captains every success for the year – The Haskell, The Weston captained by Viv Leech, The Stearn captained by Sara Higgins, The Cranworth captained by Rita Fossey & The Jubilee captained by Caroline. There are also various county competitions (i.e. Division meetings) during the year as well where all ladies have an opportunity to enter if they wish and in March there will be the Winter League Gala held at Rookery Park for those who played in the league during the winter 2024/25.

As usual we have a busy calendar for Opens during the year – mixed, ladies, Spooktacular to name a few for which we will be asking for volunteers, and I know as usual will be well supported for which I thank you in advance.

Happy Golfing

Competition Secretary Report end of year 2024 to January 9th– (Sara Higgins):

December Stableford results from 5th December. Unfortunately the combined Sunday competition was cancelled to inclement weather and could not be rearranged. So our last qualifier for 2024.

Division	One Results	Points
1st	Viv Leech(14)	34
2nd	Sara Higgins(8)	34
3rd	Sally Baxter(25)	33

Division	Two Results	Points
1st	Sue Hellman(29)	27
2nd	Ged Moreton(27)	25
3rd	Lin Markham(26)	24

Team stableford fun competition before ladies Christmas lunch December 12th

Team	Result	
1st	Jean Berry (30), Rita Fossey (8) & Julia Hill (30)	46
2nd	Angela Middleton (36), Sonia Lord (28) & Mandy Wickison (21)	43
3rd	Caroline Emeny (22), Anne Legg (26) & Jennifer Read (36)	40

Individual winner Sonia Lord with 22 points. Great score Sonia 😊

I know Barbara will be covering the Christmas lunch in her report and with the golf so no need to double up on reporting.

Team gruesome fun competition on December 19th

Results	Score
1st Sue Millard & Mandy Wickison	31
2nd Barbara Dennis & Caroline Emeny	27
3rd Rita Fossey & Lesley King	27

What a nasty bunch of ladies choosing some awkward drives for their opposition.

Team Christmas Sunday Fun competition on December 22nd

Team	Result	
1st	Mary Pickering (13), Sue Hellman (15) & Naomi Lane (13)	38
2nd	Sara Higgins (4), Rita Fossey (4) & Viv Leech (7)	37
3rd	Sally McCoy (12), Hilary Jeffrey (14) & Mandy Wickison (10)	34

NTP on 4th – Sara Higgins

Best dressed team:- Julie Cooper, Cathy Judd and Cathy Chandler

Best Individual Score:- Sally Catt 19 points

Well played ladies. This is always a fun day but upon general chit chat we have decided to make it the 1st Sunday of the month in December and on the Valley course so it doesn't have to be moved. Everyone had fun enjoying the last catch up before Christmas, mulled wine, mince pies and treats for everyone. Thankyou everyone for supporting this and Barbara for your help, and Rita and Viv making sure the wine and mince pies were handed out in military fashion.

The diary has now been all adjusted for 2025, if you do spot a mistake please let me know, it's much easier for you all to pick up on anything than me look through a years comps making my eyes dizzy. I will be very grateful for any nudges to change any problems you may see.

Two non-qualifying medals have been added to the diary, 23rd January and 13th February before the main ladies tee off. I have reserved only two tee times as the uptake will be minimal but I hope filled as requested by a few players.

Race to Woodhall to be played in May at Sheringham results as below. Well done to Susanne who has taken the opportunity to play. I have entered Susanne into the competition and I'm sure we wish her the best of luck on the day. Very close in 2/3/4 was Karol, Julie and Sally C.

PLACING	MEMBER NUMBER	NAME	HANDICAP	NET SD 1	NET SD 2	NET SD 3	NET SD 4	AGGREGATE NET SD
1	1019005185	Susanne Wilson	20.3	-7.8	-5.8	-2.8	-0.8	-17.2
2	1018906522	Karol Perley	35.5	-9.8	-4.8	-0.8	-0.8	-16.2
3	1018212241	Julie Cooper	23.1	-8.8	-4.8	-1.8	-0.8	-16.2
4	1006941511	Sally Catt	25.9	-5.8	-5.8	-2.8	-1.8	-16.2

January sees 3 fun competitions and a monthly stableford which are filling up nicely although I know a few ladies need some golf downtime, including myself! I will report on these results in my February report.

Here's to another successful golfing year for the Halesworth ladies. Please know I am always on hand a willing to help anyone with any golf competitions queries.

Happy New year to you all.

Club Captain's Report: Since the Annual General Meeting on 29.11.24 –

- I have decided to once again to note the different players I play golf with throughout my term as captain. This is to a) demonstrate the variance of players I join during my second year as captaincy b) ensure I interact with as many members I can during my second year and c) be 'visible' as captain to as many members as possible. Since the AGM I have accompanied 20 different players on the course.
- Captains' duties this month have included –
 - 29.11.24 Chaired the AGM and presented the years competition awards alongside the Ladies Captain Barbara Dennis.
 - 05.12.25 Winter League fixture away to Southwold - *Stepped in as Winter League Captain in the absence of LG who has been injured
 - 10.12.24 I met with BD & GJ (DT unwell) to plan for the New Captains Drive In.
 - 15.12.24 Played in the 'Front of House' Shield.
 - 18.12.24 Winter League fixture at home to Southwold (*as above)
 - 02.01.25 I chaired a quarterly Handicap Committee meeting
 - 03.01.25 I spoke to three members following Handicap meeting
 - 07.01.25 Met with member re recent Handicap mtg
 - 08.01.25 Winter League fixture at home to Rookery Park (*as above)
 - 12.01.25 Meeting with Vice Captain (GJ) to talk through some IG admin tasks useful in his role as Captain next year.
 - I continued to meet with BT on a regular basis to discuss developments around the club.
 - I have discussed 2025 SGU County matches with respective team captains Mark/Paul Coby (Stenson & Hambro), Ian Stannard (Parks), & Rob Sherington (Beaumont)
- This year's Suffolk Golf Union County match information re. Captains and initial matches have been shared with members. Captains will outline individual selection in coming weeks.
- As Tolly Cobbold Captain I have confirmed two 'practice matches' for the squad, one at home to Diss on 22.03.25 (returning the gesture they made to us last year) and 2) hosting the Suffolk u16's team on 05.04.25 which is valued by the SGU Junior Secretary / Manager. (Mike Oldfield / Jim Harrison).
- It was a very good turnout for the Front of House competition organised by RS. Over £2000 raised which is a superb effort following on from the Greenkeepers Competition, which raised £1425. Once again, the generosity of the membership is outstanding.
- Gents' friendly matches – Gents matches for next year are now in the diary for 2025. Gents have been advised that they can sign up for matches on IG.
- Greenkeepers – Mark & his team continue to work hard to ensure the course plays as well as can be expected for this time of year. Some rook damage has appeared but the bird (& golf) scarers are acting as a deterrent for the most part. Mark confirms that the diseased green, clearly visible on the 16th, has been treated several times.
- Race to Woodhall Spa 2025 – congratulations to Paul Raynes who has qualified to represent HG in the regional qualifier at Sheringham Golf on 25th May 2025.
- Gents Finances surplus – for discussion today.
- Juniors Fund collection – clubs continue to be donated with another £75 added to the total this month. I have highlighted the scheme is continuing to all members to generate more interest.

11. Gents AWAY DAY – early negotiations underway or this year’s trip.

12. Matters raised with me, by members, since my re-election as Captain continue to be contained within this report

- A. Slow play** – remains an issue in both gents & Senior’s competitions. Specific incidents were raised with me involving a five-ball society in front of two three balls and a huge backlog during xmas period, resulting in many members walking in after a three-hour 10-hole round. ***A reminder that all players need to contact the pro shop should they feel there is unnecessary delay whilst on the course.***
- B.** Concern raised about an inability to book a tee time as now a month in advance. With limited daylight, booking late risks not being able to complete a round. Also, members occasionally booking ‘reserved’ beside their name to protect for others – general feeling that this is unfair and no one should be able to use ‘reserved’ apart from staff or those with admin rights. Agreed with club management and in discussion with RS that the ***gents will revert to the two weeks in advance booking system.***

Captains Diary Jan / Feb 2025

16.01.25. Acting Winter league captain for HG v Bungay AWAY
23.01.25 Acting Winter league captain for HG v Caldecott AWAY
13.02.25 Hosting Winter League finale as competition organiser.

Juniors: The Juniors had a recent match against a very strong Ipswich (Purdis) team over 10 holes, losing by 3 points. This was a very creditable result and a measure of the ongoing strength of our younger players.

Seniors’ Committee Report:

I am happy to report that I have enjoyed my first month as Senior’s Captain. I am very grateful to have a dedicated and knowledgeable team to support me and thus far have had no significant issues to deal with. Even in the recent cold weather, the seniors section continues to field strong numbers in competitions twice a week, to the extent that our block bookings are regularly insufficient to cope with the number of players. My thanks go to the pro shop for all their help in ensuring that everyone who wants to play can get a game where remotely possible.

Golf and Matches

Our first friendly in 2025 is scheduled for Wednesday 5th March, at home to Rookery Park.

We have 34 friendly matches in 2025, with the last due to be played on 29th October.

I have circulated an email encouraging uptake for senior’s matches.

Our Winter League squad, led by Larry Gazzard and Paul Kent have two matches left to play. Since the last meeting we have drawn two home matches and won away at Southwold.

I am delighted that Ian Stannard will again captain the Parks Team and that Rob Sherington will again captain the Beaumont Team this year. We hope to have a successful campaign on both fronts.

In trophy and qualifying competitions, the following were successful:

Holton Shield	15 th November	Martin Pollitt & Steve Simpson	41 points
Stableford Qualifier	19 th November	Tom Fletcher	35 points
Stableford of Stablefords	26 th November	John Ward	33 points
Stableford Qualifier	3 rd December	Steve Popple	38 points
Medal of Medals	6 th December	Rob Sherington	net 73
Stableford Qualifier	13 th December	Leonard McCreery	39 points
Stableford Qualifier	14 th January	Paul Raynes	42 points (gross 75)

New members

Since the last meeting, four new members have been notified to us and they have been welcomed by Steve Bacon.

Senior Captain’s Charity

My chosen charity for 2025 is the Halesworth Dementia Carers’ Fund. While a separately organised event, I will be encouraging as many senior members as possible to support the Mixed Halesworth Dementia Mixed Golf Day on 1st May and will offer my assistance to John Giles and the Lady Captain in the organisation of that event.

Committee

The next Seniors Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 4th February.

Following a member’s suggestion that we review prizes allocations for seniors competitions, research is being undertaken to identify any potential or perceived unfairness in the distribution of prize money. All suggestions received will be discussed in detail at the next Seniors Committee meeting on 4th February.

At that meeting a final decision will also be taken on whether or not to use Senior’s funds to pay for practice rounds and other sundries for Parks and Beaumont matches in 2025.

At the meeting DT requested that any handicap adjustments / concerns involving Seniors should be copied to him if possible.

Competition Secretary's Report:

Since the last meeting **the following competitions have been completed.**

Sunday November 17th – November Stableford – 75 Entrants

Winner Kevin Ramsbottom 40 Pts

2nd Luke Hunter 39 Pts OCB

3rd Mark Coby 39 Pts

Friday November 22nd – GREENKEEPERS CUP – 78 Entrants

Winner Matthew Friend 38 Pts OCB

2nd Liam Sore 38 Pts

3rd Tony Shrubsall 37 Pts Pts

This event raised £1425 up from £1105 last year for our superb 'Outside' Team this has been distributed by Mark Coby.

Sunday November 24th – OPEN to ALL 2 Ball Texas Scramble – 90 Entrants

Winners Jon Cunnell & Clive Seward Net 64 OCB

2nd Mark & Paul Coby Net 64 **(Best Gross 65!!)**

3rd Colin Hillier & Gerald Jackson Net 65

Sunday December 1st – Christmas TURKEY TROTT – 84 Entrants

Winners Brett Lockwood, Karen Last & Robin Douce 85 Pts

2nd Chris Baker, Kevin Bowe & Paul Sherwood 83 Pts OCB

3rd Chris Peach, Chris Haslam & Sally Catt 83 Pts

SATURDAY December 7th – OPEN to ALL STABLEFORD - 6 Entrants – AWFUL weather

Winner Justin Martin 29 Pts

Sunday December 8th – GENTS Monthly Medal – Abandoned Due to Weather

Sunday December 15th – 'SHERINGTON' FRONT of HOUSE SHIELD – 124 Entrants

Winners Keith Pickering, Mary Pickering, Lynda Baldry & Ed Bowles NET 59.4

2nd Last Years winners – Rowan N-Roberston, Naomi Lane, Jack Payne & Kevin Bowe Net 59.5

3rd Brett Lockwood, Neil Coby, Dan Sherington & Matt Stacey Net 59.6

This event raised £2430 up from £1651 for our superb 'Inside' Team this has been distributed by Rob Sherington in line with the spirit of the competition.

Sunday December 22nd – DECEMBER Stableford – 59 Entrants

Winner Mark Coby 37 Pts

2nd Paul Coby 36 Pts

3rd Will Coby 35 Pts

Sunday December 29th – OPEN to ALL Pairs Betterball – 76 Entrants

Winners Paul Calver & Paddy Cole 50 Pts NOTE double pts on Par 5's

2nd Gerald Jackson & Kevin Ramsbottom 49 Pts

3rd Rob Sherington & Alan Broome 48 Pts

Wednesday January 1st – OPEN to ALL 3 Ball Texas Scramble – Abandoned Due to Weather

Sunday January 5th – NEW YEAR 2 Ball Texas Scramble OVER 10 Holes – 40 Entrants

Winners Luke & Simon Hunter Net 35

2nd Connor Adams & Bradley Thompson Net 36 OCB

3rd Terry Jeffrey & Gordon Crothers Net 36 OCB

Gary Slaymaker Player of the Year: - Current Leader is Mark Coby – Only 3 Competition's so far

Gents Summer Eclectic – Current Leader is Robbie Ling

Winter Singles knockout matches have started but due to the poor weather of late all round deadlines have been put back 2 weeks to support players getting in their matches by the required deadline.

Winter Foursomes matches have started but due to the poor weather of late all round deadlines have been put back 2 weeks to support players getting in their matches by the required deadline.

Next Competitions due as follows: -

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Sunday January 12 th | GENTS Monthly Medal |
| • Sunday January 19 th | GENTS GREENSOMES |
| • Sunday January 26 th | GENTS Monthly Stableford |
| • Sunday February 2 nd | GENTS Monthly Medal |
| • Sunday February 9 th | GENTS FOURSOMES |

Handicap Secretary's Report:

Penalty Scores –

There is a steady few players that are beginning rounds on IG but not adding scores. Generally, I think it is in error, beginning a round for general play when already entered and playing a competition.

The following have been actioned –

17/11/2024

Stephen Lord – 1st time, score deleted and message sent explaining.

22/11/2024

Ted Olszak – 1st time, score deleted and message sent explaining.

Karen Jackson – 1st time, score deleted and message sent explaining.

11/12/2024

Gordon Crother – 1st time, score deleted and message sent explaining.

Barry Tibbenham – 3rd time. Message sent, no reply. Penalty score added.

18/12/2024

Michael Hayes – 1st time, score deleted and message sent.

Soft Cap/Hard Cap

Currently 24 players with 'Soft cap' enabled. No players with 'Hard cap' enabled.

No information from the November meeting as to soft cap players so I can't report on changes this meeting.

One player is very close to the 'Hard cap' and the Handicap Committee have discussed this and written to the player in question.

Competition vs General Play

The Comp vs General Play statistics show up any irregularities between a members scores as above and the comparison between them. This will now be checked monthly, looking back at the previous 3 months. The handicap committee will discuss any members who show up in this list and may need action depending on findings from further checking of their scores and handicap.

At the meeting CH suggested that it would be a good idea to offer members (in small groups) some further insight into how IG works and how it can be used. This was agreed as a good idea for which there was a need.

It was also agreed that we should consider having a quarterly handicap review so that handicap monitoring could be done on a more regular basis.

DT raised the issue as to whether Seniors scoring 38pts or more in a non-qualifier should continue to have their handicaps adjusted accordingly. The feeling was that this should be continued and was already understood as standard practice by Senior players.

Treasurer's Report:

Below is a brief statement of the balances

Bank	£10,700.81
A/cs due	£200.00
Seniors	£0.00
Juniors	£5,865.15
100 Club	£550.80
Charity	£20.00

	£ 4,064.86

Reserve	£2,500.00
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£1,564.86

We moved from Barclays Bank last year because they wished to levy charges just for having an account. Lloyds Bank from January this year are doing the same! They do not give credit for balances held (TSB does), but I have transferred £9,000 to a deposit account (zero notice) earning a poor rate of interest but enough to cover the charges.

I have paid most of the year-end outstandings –there remains some engraving costs and the cost of new plinths for trophies, say £200.

The 100 Club appears to have a lot of funds but this is made up of £309 contributions paid in advance and the 40% share from last year payable to the Junior Section. We may wish to consider whether this should be changed to a charity contribution in the light of the state of finances of the Junior Section.

Matters for Discussion

- 1) **Aims & Objectives:** PK briefly reviewed his document and updated the Committee on the current situation regarding each of the seven categories. It was agreed that each of these was still relevant and that it was worth spending time to further develop and finalise each of these during year. Time would be found in future meetings to do this.
- 2) **Financial Surplus:** It was agreed that this topic should be left until next month when RS would be present and able to put forward his ideas on how any financial surplus should be spent. It was hoped that a decision could be made about this in the February meeting which could then be communicated to the members.
- 3) **Competition Booking (Gents):** There had been a number of complaints from members concerning the experiment of booking a month in advance and a decision had already been agreed to go back to the two-weekly system. The exception would be for general play where bookings would remain open one month in advance.
- 4) **Hole in one tags:** The practice of putting inscribed metal tags on the “hole in one” board has fallen behind in recent years and after a lengthy discussion it was agreed that an attempt would be made to bring this up to date. BT also agreed that the club would provide a bag tag for anyone achieving a hole in one in an official competition.

Health & Safety: CH had observed that the path over the bridges on the 12th hole were wearing away in places and could become a safety hazard. BT agreed to look at this with Mark and make any repairs that were necessary.

Any Other Business:

The expenses previously agreed for the Tolly, Hambro and Stenson County teams would go forward as stated but those for the Parks and Beaumont still needed to be finalised but whatever the Seniors Committee decides the money would be paid for from Seniors' funds and therefore not a concern for the General Committee.

Given the funding situation for the 100 Club KPB wondered whether it was still necessary for it to continue to support the Juniors given their current funding which due to the generosity of the management and the club members was extremely healthy.

100 Club Draw:

- 1) K. Parry-Brown
- 2) B. Dennis
(only sufficient funds for 2 prizes this month)

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 12^h February 2025

Don Wellman