

HALESWORTH GOLF CLUB – GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th February 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, BD, VL, DT, RS, CH, KPB, DW

Apologies: AF

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Minutes of AGM accepted as a true record

Matters Arising: From the discussion at the last meeting about the 'hole in one' tags, RS offered to source these at a reasonable cost and this was agreed by the Committee with thanks.

Club Update: BT gave the Committee the following update:

Upcoming Social Events

- 1st March – Sparkle and Small Plates
- 15th March – Quiz night
- 30th March - Mothers' Day
- 11th April – Georgia Falls Music Night
- 18th April - Good Friday Brunch & Bubbles
(see club news for details on any of these events)

Juniors

- Weekly group sessions continue
- We have been asked to host the Faldo series 9-hole competition in April

General

- Both courses are being measured on 28th Feb. for WHS assessment on Monday 28th July
- New carpets in the Gent's changing rooms and in the shop were fitted last week.
- All tables in the bar have been refurbished and we are trialling a bigger soft seating area currently
- From Thursday next week the clubhouse will be formally open from 7.45am
- Loulou last day on Thursday – off travelling

The 'hole in one' tags mentioned

At this stage in the meeting a number of issues were raised derived from members' feedback to the Committee. RS said that a number of members had approached him about the increase in membership fees. They felt concerned that the debris from the tree pruning had not been cleared away and that the course should possibly have been closed on occasions when it was very wet and the same people wondered whether anything was being done about the drainage on the 15th and 18th fairways. Some of those concerned also questioned whether the money to be spent on the new halfway house might not be better used on improving

certain aspects of the course. PK felt that some better communication about things like the clearing of plantation debris would help members to better understand the timescale of routine maintenance. BT, in response, said that the dead wood would be cleared shortly and that the current drainage on the 15th only covered part of the fairway and to put in new drainage would involve enormous cost as well as involving heavy machinery which would effectively close the course for a period of time to the detriment of members. He also reminded the Committee that there had been a great increase in footfall on the course in recent years which in itself has necessitated increased maintenance and the cost that goes with that. He also made the point that there is areal difference in the financing of a members' club and an owner's club and that there had been continued investment by management over the whole of the period of their ownership (since 2011).

PK had knowledge of membership at five local clubs and felt that our membership prices were competitive with them. He also mentioned one local course that had charged its members £250 in addition to membership fees for course improvements and another where the course has been closed to members for days at a time due to the ground conditions and that only a minority of our members are unhappy with things at present.

RS assured the Committee that the points he had raised were not intended to be negative but simply mentioned to give a sense of how some of our members feel and that he felt, quite correctly, it was his duty to do this. BT concluded this part of the meeting by saying that he agreed that more information to members would be helpful (there had been good feedback from Mark's video on pitch mark repair) and emphasised that members could always come to him directly if they have concerns about anything to do with the golf club.

Ladies' Captain Report: Many thanks must go to all the greenkeepers for all the hard work that goes into making our courses in good condition bearing in mind all the wet and windy weather we have encountered over the last few weeks. Thankfully we are now in February and looking forward to more daylight and hopefully some drier weather.

Winter golf can as we know be very interesting – rock hard frozen fairways and greens making our balls bounce to who knows where and then the opposite can happen when the course is so wet there are no runs along the fairways and the ball will then plug on the green. But also, winter golf is the chance to get some practice in – its not how far the ball will go but its are you happy with how you hit the ball. It's also a good time to get those golf lessons booked in in readiness for the golfing season.

On the 23rd January we initially had two competitions – a fun competition Throw Kick & Mulligan and also at the request of quite a number of ladies we had a Non-Qualifying Medal Comp set up. Due to lack of ladies entering the fun competition – it was cancelled. There were 18 ladies who played in the NQ Medal. The entry fee was only £2 so prize payout was 1st 2nd and 3rd only – no divisional payout.

We have had to make a change to our competition on the 13th March. We are having to move from the Blythe to the Valley. But as this is the day we have one of our friendlies away we felt we couldn't say no. The Club have a very big society that wanted to play on the Blythe with food after.

Karen Forster as you all know had suspended her membership due to injuring her back last year – sadly she has had to make that hard decision of not renewing her membership. Karen has been an integral part of the ladies section over the past few years on the committee. We wish her all the very best and hope that when she feels able to, she will come along for coffee and chat.

Competition Secretary report February 2025 – Sara Higgins

First of all my thanks go to Susanne for looking after the competitions for me in my recent absence. It is much appreciated knowing the comps were in very safe hands.

The daily mail draw has taken place with Sue Millard and Julie Cooper playing Southwold away. Of course we extend our good wishes to them both for qualifying and will be keeping you all updated throughout their rounds. Good luck ladies. 😊

Competition results throughout January as follows. I've decided to mention the payouts made to the winners throughout comps this year, I feel it is important to allow lady members to see what winnings have been paid out each week.

Reverse Waltz – 15 players signed up in teams of 3 (9th)

1 st	Ged/Viv/Julia	66 £5 each player
2 nd	Rosie/Susanne/Jennifer	64
3 rd	Sally M/Mandy/Karol	63

Combined January Stableford (12th/16th) – 18 players signed up

D1

1 st Susanne	35 £9.50
2 nd Viv	32 £5.75
3 rd Clare	29 £3.75

D2

1 st Sue M	30 £9.50
2 nd Ged	29 £5.75
3 rd Jean	29 £3.75

Non qualifying medal – 15 players signed up (23rd)

1 st Susanne	78 £7.50
2 nd Judith	79 £5.00
3 rd Sue M	79 £2.50

Due to the popularity of these non Q medals, I have put another one in the diary for February 13th. I am mindful that I keep these tee times to 3 slots so as not to interfere with the fun comps on the same day.

3 ball Texas scramble – 18 players signed up (30th)

1 st Lesley/Sian/Susanne	65 £5 each player
2 nd Sally B/Julie/Viv	70
3 rd Maggie/Caroline/Angie	71

February 24th sees our first friendly match against Felixstowe at home. All friendlies have been signed up to so early in the season with great support. As I always say, it's a cheap day out on a new course playing with different ladies so if you haven't signed up then please consider it this year!

Future Competition updates

You will see I've added a 9 hole competition for February Sunday 23rd and Thursday 27th, this is to include the ladies that feel at this time of the year 9 holes is enough, for whatever reason. England Golf are encouraging players to enter 9 hole scores for any ability player if they feel 18 is too much. If you do sign up for an 18 hole comp and don't finish the round, as long as 10 holes have been played this will count towards your handicap and be an acceptable score. Remember also you can pre-register for a 9- or 18-hole general play card at any time.

March 13th our flag competition will be held on the valley course due the Norfolk Winter Alliance competition taking place on the Blyth. The winter alliance has attracted 70-90 golfers some of which are PGA and local professionals. As our comp that day was a fun non-qualifier, we felt in the best interest of showcasing the club moving ours was deemed necessary!

Player of the Year 2025 (Order of Merit)

As we discussed in depth the player of the year at the AGM in 2024, it was decided to change the methodology on working out the standings. Manual workings had to be calculated making it a very long and time-consuming exercise for someone. I have set up POTY which is referred to on IG as Order Of Merits, so if you hear me talking about the order of merit you know what I'm going on about! Running from December 1st 2024 – November 30th 2025 we allocate (or IG does) a points score from 10 points in 1st place down to 1 point in 10th place. No divisions, no entry fee and no NR's counted and only in monthly Stablefords and medals. Should anyone wish to see the workings of please ask myself or Susanne. So current placings (yes I know very early days) Viv 20 points, Susanne 13 points and Clare 11 points.

To end my report if anyone has any competitions suggestions, input or queries please always know I am here to help anyone.

Treasurers Report for January 2025 - Viv Leech

Very little to say this month apart from the fact that we played in four competitions this month bringing in a total of £179 with prizes paid totalling £83.

The sections bank balance continues to look healthy and includes £650 being held for the lady captains charity, which I will be paying out to the British Heart Foundation shortly. There are no outstanding bills due.

At the meeting BD mentioned that the Joint Captains' Charity date of 5th October clashed with the Ladies' Stearn final date and as she hoped our ladies would again do well in that County Competition this year it would be better if

the date could be changed and was given an assurance that a change of date would be arranged. Going back to the discussion earlier about the halfway house she also mentioned how pleased the ladies were to have that facility and VL added that comparing Haleswoth to her previous club she felt that the membership fee was very good value particularly in respect of what the club was able to offer to members.

Club Captain's Report:

Since the last General Committee Meeting on 15.01.25 –

1. 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 32 different players on the course.
2. **Captains' duties this month have included –**
 - 16.01.25 Winter League fixture away to Bungay - *Stepped in as Winter League Captain in the absence of LG who has been injured
 - 23.01.25 Winter league fixture away to Caldecott (see above)
 - Regular contact with DT & BD re New Captains drive in (copying in AF & GJ for their understanding for next year)
 - 29.01.25 Confirmed I would host/play/present at the Norfolk Alliance's competition held at Halesworth Golf on 13.03.25. I'll play with the NA President (Trevor Cave) alongside Paul Sherwood who remains NA member.
 - 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)
3. I have **confirmed the practice match at St. Audrys for the Tolly team** on 22.03.25. I have a core group of players, with other pairs to be added to the squad following February and Marchs Foursomes comps. Alfie Rackham will be in this year's squad.
4. Don has kindly sent Eric's sister (Mrs Blenkinsop) a letter confirming the 'posthumous' award of the Ben Townsend Award for 2024.
5. I managed to give away three donated junior trolleys which I'd been unable to sell, to youngsters attending the Saturday junior training event. This was well received by those juniors/parents.
6. We have brought this year's Gents invitational event forward in the calendar. Last year's feedback was that it was too near the Air Ambulance Day. We will now have it on 11th May.
7. I raised a 'ticket' as all our knockout competitions appear to have lost the 'previous rounds' visibility. Now resolved.
8. **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.
9. **SGU AGM** – I have confirmed our attendance at this year's event on 28.03.25. Halesworth Golf will be represented by myself and Gerry Jackson. This year it is being held at Rookery Park.
10. **Golf Rules** - I am currently arranging an evening, facilitated by Mike Rees, in March.
11. **New Captains Drive In** - Arrangements in place for this year's competition which will take place on 9th march.

12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **Daily Mail Foursomes** – congratulations to Bradley Reynolds & Ed Bowles who will represent Halesworth in the 2025 competition. They have a home draw against representatives from Beccles (Brian & Christian Lever) and will play the match on 15th Feb.
15. **Gents Finances surplus** – for discussion and resolution today.
16. **Juniors Fund collection** – there is a need to a) separate the monies raised by golf equipment sales and b) draw up a guide in how to access & spend this money. I will do this in the next few weeks.
17. **Gents AWAY DAY** – early negotiations underway on this year's trip with both Eaton and Felixstowe possibilities.

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

- A. Lots of positive feedback with regard the return to fortnightly bookings in advance.
- B. Playing one competition over Saturday & Sunday to 'spread the field' and also allow choice of golf day for those with families. I would suggest a trial competition in March?

Captains Diary Feb / March 2025

- 13.02.25. Hosting the Winter league Finale as organiser of competition
15.02.25 Will act as 'starter' for the Daily Mail Foursomes match at home v Beccles.
13.03.25 Hosting the Northern Alliance Competition (80 plus players including pros)

Senior Captain's Report:

Two months in and I can say that I am still enjoying my role as Senior's Captain. I am lucky to have the support of a strong and enthusiastic committee, for which I am very grateful.
It has been good to see numbers remaining generally high for our competitions, except for those days of extreme weather when staying indoors was obviously the more sensible option.
It seems that we are now on our way out of the dark days where tee times were at a premium and I am looking forward to warmer weather and lighter mornings. My thanks go to the pro shop for all their help in ensuring that everyone who wanted to play could 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 had a good response to my previous email encouraging uptake for senior's matches and we now have a large pool of players to choose from, with availability already over-subscribed for all matches. This will create a nice problem for our six match captains when they select the squads for their nominated fixtures.

Our Winter League squad finished a creditable mid table. Rookery Park were the winners.

We are hosting the Winter League finale tomorrow.

In trophy and qualifying competitions, the following were successful:

Metfield Mafia Mug	17 th January	David Adams & David Hopkins	43 points
Stableford Qualifier	24 th January	Postponed due to inclement weather	
Wenhaston Trophy	7 th February	Tony Good & Andrew Jennings	33 points

New members

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

Committee

A Seniors Committee meeting took place on Tuesday 4th February.

At that meeting it was agreed to trial a new system for prize allocations in division-based competitions. We will still have three divisions. The overall winner will take a slightly higher proportion of the pot, followed by the remaining two divisional winners. The divisional runners-up come next (provided they finish in the top 20 overall), then the next three highest scores overall. This system will be reviewed at our next meeting in May.

We also confirmed our policy for County competition funding. We will continue to pay for up to 10 practice rounds for away fixtures, a buggy for the team captain if necessary and coffee before the match when at home. No other refreshments will be subsidised. We also confirmed that we will no longer request 50% of the expenses from the Gents' section.

It was agreed that CH's tables on stroke indices for both men and ladies should form the basis of one of our points for discussion at the March meeting.

Competition Secretary's Report:

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

Sunday January 12th – GENTS Monthly Medal – Cancelled Due to Course Conditions

Sunday January 19th– GENTS Greensomes – 64 Entrants

Winners Gerald Jackson & Paul Kent 41 Pts

2nd Richard Drake & Chris Haslam 40 Pts OCB

3rd Luke Hunter & Simon Hunter 40 Pts

Sunday January 26th – January Stableford – 68 Entrants

Winner Mark Coby 39 Pts

2nd Oliver Last 38 Pts

3rd Paul Sherwood 37 Pts

Sunday February 2nd – GENTS Feb Medal – 75 Entrants

Winner Rob Sherington Net 68

2nd Sam Last Net 69

3rd Rowan Naismith-Robertson Net 71 OCB

Sunday February 9th– GENTS Foursomes – 60 Entrants

Winners Paul Sherwood & Peter Wright 41 Pts

2nd Justin Martin & Martin Pollitt 40 Pts OCB

3rd Clive Seward & Gary Slaymaker 40 Pts

Gary Slaymaker Player of the Year: - Current Leader is Mark Coby 43 pts, 2nd Oliver Last 26 Pts, 3rd Paul Coby 22 Pts

Gents Summer Eclectic – Current Leader is Mark Coby Net 60 OCB, 2nd Robbie Ling Net 60, 3rd Oliver Last Net 61

Winter Singles knockout now at Semi-Final Stage. Warren Tydeman v Tyron Prins and Rowan Naismith-Robertson v Paul Butcher

Winter Foursomes has reached the final. Ed Bowles & Brad Reynolds v Richard Drake & Chris Haslam

Next Competitions due as follows: -

- Saturday February 15th OPEN to ALL Stableford 29 ENTRANTS
- Sunday February 16th Rearranged JANUARY Medal
- Sunday February 23rd GENTS Monthly Stableford
- Sunday March 2nd GENTS Monthly Medal - MARCH
- Sunday March 9th NEW CAPTAINS DRIVE IN – Open for signup
- Saturday March 15th OPEN to ALL Stableford
- Sunday March 16th GENTS FOURSOMES

At the meeting RS wanted to comment about the possibility of competitions being played over Saturday and Sunday suggested as a way to spread the increasingly large fields for the traditional Sunday competition. He felt that he had not been informed fully about this possibility and that he needed to be involved with any such discussion. PK made the point that we had spoken about this in general terms last year and that he had been asked to look at this by members who find it difficult to play on Sunday and would therefore like to be able to play competition golf on a Saturday. BD also confirmed that she knew some ladies for whom a Saturday competition would be preferable or possibly a weekend competition over both Saturday and Sunday. RS felt that a level of need for such a competition first needed to be established and that the logistics needed to be thought about carefully bearing in mind there are long established groups who traditionally play on Saturday morning. In addition to a possible variation in conditions over two days RS said that a start sheet would also be needed for Saturday if the idea was adopted and this would create issues. BT implied he was not against a Saturday/Sunday competition trial but that it would need to be thought about carefully and be accepted by all parties involved.

Handicap Secretary's Report:**Penalty Scores –**

There have been no penalty scores added since the last meeting. Those that were starting rounds incorrectly are understanding how it works.

Soft Cap/Hard Cap

Currently 24 players with 'Soft cap' enabled. One player with 'Hard cap' enabled and the Handicap committee will be looking into this player's scoring history.

We have had three members drop off the Soft cap list and three members added.

Competition vs General Play

The Comp vs General Play statistics show up any irregularities between a member's 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.

No Change from last month. The one player with 'Hard Cap' enabled does not show in this list as they have no competition rounds played in the past 3 months.

CH had produced a spreadsheet for the meeting which gave a comparison of the stroke the indices for each hole against the empirical indices based on competition scores over the last five years for both the Gents and the Ladies. This will prove helpful when new stroke indices are allotted following the updated course measurement later this month and the WHS course assessment later in the year. We agreed to return to this topic at the march meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Since our last meeting the following transactions have gone through the accounts.

Interest received	£5.42
Net income from January Competitions	£94.00
100 Club contributions	£49.00

The balances are :

Current Account	£843.81
Deposit Account	£10,005.42

Matters for Discussion

Financial Surplus : Club Captain, PK, explained that we had already spent a good deal of time talking about this and that we needed to come to a final decision about how the financial surplus should be distributed to members. The Committee had already agreed on a sum of £1500 and that this should be returned to those from whom the money originally came. As the overwhelming majority of the money concerned had come from the Men's Sunday Competitions it was agreed that the money should be returned to those taking part in that competition. An idea was put forward which attempted to reward those playing regularly based on the number of competitions they had entered over the last year but this was considered to be unnecessarily complicated and could also be somewhat divisive. It was finally agreed unanimously that the simplest way to achieve this was to reduce the entry fee for Gent's Sunday Competitions to £3 and to continue this until the £1500 surplus was spent. This decision would not change the present prize money distribution which would remain as before.

Health & Safety BT requested that feedback from members about any issues should go straight to him and he asked that members be encouraged to seek him out directly if they have any issues or concerns.

Any Other Business:

DT requested that some thought should be given to offering a choice of the number of range balls between the present £1.50 and £4.00 as for some players the first gave too few and the second too many when players were warming up before playing. BT agreed to give the idea some consideration.

100 Club:

1. B. Dennis
2. D. Tower
3. P. Kent

Date of Next Meeting : Wednesday 12^h March 2025

Don Wellman