

HALESWORTH GOLF CLUB – GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 10th January, 2023

Ben Townsend – Manager (BT)
Richard Davies – Club Professional (RD)
Ellie Andrews – Assistant Manager (EA)
Paul Kent – Club Captain (PK)
Paul Butcher – Club Vice-Captain (PB)
Gary Slaymaker – Club Past Captain (GS)
Cathy Chandler – Ladies’ Captain (CC)
Karen Forster—Ladies Vice-Captain (KF)
Sara Higgins – Past Ladies’ Captain (SH)
John Meggison – Seniors’ Captain (JM)
Dave Tower – Seniors’ Vice-Captain (DT)
Rob Sherrington – Competition & Handicap Secretary (RS)
Ken Parry-Brown – Treasurer Secretary (KPB)
Don Wellman – Secretary (DW)

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Present: BT, RD, EA, PK, PB, GS, CC, KF, SH, JM, DT, KPB, DW

Apologies: Rob Sherrington

At the beginning of the meeting PK welcomed new Committee members Paul Butcher and Dave Tower.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Accepted as a true record

Matters Arising: PK had noticed that the November, 2023 minutes were not yet on the website. BT promised to correct this. GS asked whether any additional thought had been given to Richard Rhodes (member) offer to install a camera, which could be linked to members’ phones, on the 5th tee in order to track whether it was safe to tee-off? A brief discussion followed in which the alternative idea of a flag system or periscope were agreed as being unrealistic. It was then agreed that the wording of the existing bell should be looked at to remind players to ring the bell more rigorously as in the past this has not always been done. KF again mentioned the need to update the ‘Hole in One’ board and to include any lady members who qualified. It was confirmed that entry on the board needed to be achieved in an official competition and not just from casual play.

Club Update: RD stated that the shortened 1st hole on the Valley Course was now a par 3 and that any change in course rating would be verified by April so that the course could again be used for scores to count towards handicap adjustments. He had also asked Mark Coby about the number of rake holders that would be needed should these be purchased for use in the bunkers. Mark thought that between 70 to 90 would be required at a total cost of £750. BT said that this was an opportunity for the members and management to work together on a course improvement and offered to contribute 50% of the costs. (Later in the meeting it was agreed to go ahead with this, club money coming equally from the Gents and Seniors’ funds, a total of £375 in all). With some of the bunkers occasionally deemed GUR after heavy rain it was also suggested that it might be possible to buy some printed GUR signs to indicate this. RD agreed to look into the cost of doing so if that proposal was agreed at a later meeting. EA commented that the Christmas parties and the New Years Eve celebrations had been very successful with 115 attending the latter. She also reminded members that there was a Restaurant Evening on 19th January and that in April there was ‘Faulty Towers’ dining for which 60 tickets had already been sold. BT apologised for his non-appearance at the AGM due to matters beyond his control and said that he was looking forward to the year ahead as the Club continued to move forward. He also explained that the wind damage to the range netting will be repaired as soon as possible. There would be a short-term notice for members about this for safety reasons but that a risk assessment had already been carried out and there was no immediate need to close the driving range.

Lady Captain's Report :

Where do I start, oh I know WET AND WINDY.....

Hope you all had a great Christmas, and Happy New Year to you all.

I would firstly like to say I'm looking forward to getting the captaincy up and running, working with Paul Kent and John Megason.

I'm also very pleased that Karen Forster has put herself forward for the position of Vice Captain, and I'm really looking forward to working alongside Karen, Karen is a great asset to Halesworth, and has shown her keenness to get going.

We are only just at the start of January, so not much has been happening, so therefore not much to report.

The ladies had our delayed Fun Christmas Comp, on Sunday the 31/12, which was a team event, and wearing our Christmas outfits. There were prizes for the best dressed team, which Sara Rita and Viv won dressed as elves, but I may add they all looked like convicts that had escaped from Holloway.

We have our first Stapleford qualifier of the year coming up on the 18/01. Providing we don't have another storm. But having said that the greenkeepers, are doing a marvelous job in keeping the course open as much as possible, I do see Mark and his team working tirelessly for our benefit.

Lastly, I would like to send all our best wishes to Lynda Baldry for a speedy recovery, hope to see you back at Halesworth soon

Happy Golfing Everyone

Ladies' Competition Secretary Report:

The start to 2024 has been typically wet, wild and windy throwing everything at me trying to arrange our first few competitions of the year. The course whilst holding up has suffered some terrible bouts of inclement weather causing the calendar to be a bit topsy turvy to say the least.

We did manage to play our postponed Christmas fun competition on New Years eve with 18 ladies playing and a lovely halfway house to look forward to with mulled wine and mince pies. After a windy round was certainly order of the day. Well done to Georgianna Coby for winning the highest stable ford score, it's lovely to see Georgie mixing in with the ladies' and furthermore seeing her golf and handicap go from strength to strength. Well done to the team winners Captain Cathy, Vice-Captain Karen and committee member Lesley. Awesome score ladies well done. A great day had by all especially the naughty elves that turned up to play. Thank you, Cathy, for all your help making this happen.

Our Spirit of Ecstasy winter knock out has been affected by the course closures, I have made sure the deadlines have been extended by adding an extra day every time the course is closed, or half closed. I hope warmer weather is looming and we can get our knockouts sorted before we meet the summer draw.

Looking ahead I have now all our ladies, friendlies and mixed competitions in the diary for 2024, tee times created and all set for yet another busy year in the golfing diary. I have also printed off monthly competitions for January and pinned these on our cloakroom notice board, a quick way of seeing a month's comps in advance and when the sign up is open. I shall continue this on a month-by-month basis.

All county Captains have been appointed and their respective competitions set in the diary. Of course, after our Stearn and gents Parks win I can only wish each and every Captain the best of luck for 2024 county matches being Haskell, Stearn, Cranworth and Silver Jubilee. I hope our winning streak carries on throughout this year and good luck to Rita and Caroline for looking after the Cranworth and Jubilee matches respectively.

We have 5 away ladies friendlies and 6 home matches, 6 mixed friendly matches with only 1 being an away match. All these are now listed on IG so please sign up or speak to Karen Forster and Cathy Chandler who will oversee these matches. Good luck to Viv Leech who is Weston Captain, although relegated this year I'm sure Viv and her squad will be back up to the top tier again! And Barbara Dennis who is again Captain of the Winter League, with frustrations as many of these matches have been postponed due to the weather.

It will be lovely to work alongside Karen Forster this year having taken on the handicap Secretary role, I wish Karen best of luck in her new tenure as handicap Secretary and vice-Captain, trust me she will be learning how to juggle very well and know I am there for any support needed. Also, it goes without saying, but good luck Cathy in your Captancy, as you know my competition head is always available and will look forward to working with you and advising on competition standings throughout the year, something I very much look forward to doing alongside you.

Wishing everyone on committee and each section some great golf in 2024.

Ladies' Handicap Secretary's Report:

New Members

There have been 3 new members in November and December.

Frances Hughman who already has a handicap of 16.7.

Jennifer Read and Kathryn Rowe who did not have a CDH number so I have set them up and let them know. To date none of the three ladies has returned any cards.

Eclectic

I have added all the scores for the Christmas winter fun competition to the eclectic as well as three scores from last week's roll up general play.

Golfer of the year

We are trialling the IG system "Order of Merits" to replace the manual spreadsheet for golfer of the year. It appears to work really well except for when someone wishes to play on both the Thursday and Sunday in a competition which Lynda Baldry regularly does. She always lets us know before she plays which one should be counted but to use the IG system we would have to adjust the points and also it can affect the birdie tree and eclectic. So, we have asked her, and we will ask others, to not put in a card for the game that shouldn't count.

Calculation for playing handicap

As of 1st April, there will be a new calculation on WHS for the playing handicap. Currently the handicap is calculated as follows:

Members Handicap x (Slope Rating divided by 113)

The Slope rating for the Ladies is 124. Divided by 113 is 1.0973

Current calculations

For my handicap of 25.7 the playing handicap is calculated as

$25.7 \times (124 \text{ divided by } 113) = \mathbf{28.2}$

As an example of a low handicap, for Sara on 8.6, her playing handicap currently is calculated as

$8.6 (124 \text{ divided by } 113) = \mathbf{9.4}$

New Calculation

However, it has been agreed that the par should be taken more into account and therefore, as of 1/4/24 the difference between the Par for the Course and the Course Rating will be used. It will also help as we move to gender neutral tees.

England Golf say it is an adjustment for the difference between the Course Rating and par of the course you are playing.

Take the Course Rating, minus the par of the course, and add that to your Course Handicap calculation, which now looks like this:

$$\text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope Rating}/113) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{Par})$$

For the red tees, the Course Rating is 71.8. The Par is 72. Therefore the difference is -0.2

So, the calculation for my handicap changes to be:

$$25.7 \times (124 \text{ divided by } 113) + (-0.2) = \mathbf{28.0}$$

The calculation for Saras handicap changes to be

$$8.6 (124 \text{ divided by } 113) + (-0.2) = \mathbf{9.2}$$

There is more information on

<https://www.nationalclubgolfer.com/whs/what-is-course-rating-minus-par>

This will be done automatically by IG. And, as the difference is so small, it is unlikely to affect many people.

However, for a course such as Stowmarket, the Course rating for red tees is 71.6 and the par is 70, which means that the adjustment to the playing handicap for the red tees will be +1.6

Other Changes

Other changes include

- Fourball BetterBall scores can count for handicap
- If a hole isn't played "expected" score is to be introduced
- Scores can now be entered from many par three courses
- Competitions can be played over a nonstandard number of holes and can count towards handicap
- Course handicaps will now be unrounded

I will look at these and report back at the next meeting.

Club Captain's Report: Since being elected on 01.12.23 I have –

1. Met with **Ben & Paul Butcher** on **09.12.23** to discuss how we work together over the next 12 months, providing a link between the owners & management and the members of Halesworth Golf. We also discussed some early thoughts of planning for the year.
2. Met with the **Ladies and Senior Captains** (Cathy & John) on **12.12.23** where we outlined how we would work together during the next 12 months. I have set up a 'WhatsApp group' for use including our vice captains as a means of easy communication. I have a meeting pencilled in with Jeremy Jenkins in January to discuss the Juniors section and how we ensure good communication & links between the sections.
3. Liaised with **Richard Davies and Rob Sherrington** with regard **Gents fixtures for 2024**. We have all 8 matches confirmed (not including the Apollo charity fixtures which Rob will continue to oversee). I have contacted all existing squad members to highlight fixtures now on IG.
4. Spoken to **KPB and Carol** to make myself familiar with the Gents finance process. I have completed the necessary online forms to open our new Lloyds Bank account. We have agreed that Carol will process Gents winnings and then transfer the remainder to Gents account.

5. Met with **Ellie Andrews** briefly to discuss the potential for the foyer area review and shared the Board Competitions criterion documentation
6. Met with **Mark Coby** to open lines of communication we can use throughout next year relating to the greenkeepers and golf course issues. We also liaised re. SGU Junior matches v Hambro and Tolly teams.
7. Attended the **Ladies AGM** on **14.12.24**
8. Captained the **Seniors Winter League team** in five matches. Bungay H (Won 2 1/2 v 1 1/2), Caldecott H (Lost 1 1/2 v 2 1/2), Southwold A (L 1 v 3), Southwold H (Won 3 v 1) and Rookery H.
9. Accepted an invitation from the **Suffolk Golf Union** to attend their **Centenary AGM** on 2nd July 2024. I can take one other member and as the Ladies section have their own affiliation, I have decided to take 'double' past Halesworth Club Captain, past President of Suffolk Past Captains & Air Ambulance fundraiser extraordinaire, **Gary Slaymaker**.
10. Have communicated with **Ken Stuart (Association of Suffolk Golf Captains Secretary)** and joined the Association of Suffolk Golf Captains.
11. Have agreed to act as host & also play in a Suffolk Golf Captains **County Match v Beds** on **17.04.24**, which will be played at Halesworth Golf. A great way to show off our magnificent club and its hospitality.
12. Agreed to take on the management of the **Tolly / Cobbold Team** for 2024 with the continued assistance of **Bob Judd**. This is due to Rob having teaching commitments which would limit his involvement this year. Contact made with Aldeburgh Artisan Captain **Alan Morley** and Aldeburgh secretary **David Wybar** re. Practice Round on **07.04.24** just prior to our match on **21.04.24**
13. Contact made with **Mark Olding** (SGU Junior Secretary) to set up dates for practice matches for both Hambro (**06.04.24**) and Tolly (**13.04.24**) teams.
14. The Club raised a superb amount of money for both the **Greenkeepers (Outside staff) of £1105** and the **Front of House Staff (Inside staff) of £1606**. Thanks to Rob Sherrington and his helpers over the days and a huge thank you for the generosity of the members yet again.
15. **John Meggison** will cover the Seniors AGM, trophy presentations and the Christmas meal in his report. It was a superb, well attended evening, co-hosted superbly by outgoing captain **John Ashton** and current seniors captain **John Meggison**.
16. **Charities** – Club, Lady & Senior Captains have agreed to pool our fundraising and then divide between our chosen charities. We have pooled the fourball vouchers which I have agreed to oversee and I have liaised with Gary to ensure we do not create difficulties by over subscribing to same clubs. Drafted a letter to approach clubs noting Air Ambulance priority if only able to release one fourball voucher.
17. Circulated a draft paper '**Criterion for Board Competitions**' as well as a draft paper '**Aims and Objectives for 2024**' for discussion under AOB.
18. Matters raised with me, by members, since my election as Captain are contained within and covered by the two papers circulated and mentioned above.

Since the AGM there have been two Winter League matches – one away at Southwold, which Halesworth lost 3-1 and at home to Southwold which we won 3-1. The league is very close so far with all to play for as we stand a point off the lead having played one less match. There is one home match and three tough away fixtures to come.

Four Seniors competitions have been cancelled due to weather and one was curtailed to just 10 holes.

The Senior's Xmas Scramble was won by John Butel, Kevin Grimley and Paul Hyden.

Social

The Seniors Christmas Dinner was a big success. We had 79 attendees who were entertained by John Ashton who did a great job as the evenings MC, assisted ably or otherwise by myself. Dave Tower held his now customary short Christmas Quiz which went down very well and there was a presentation of prizes. A raffle, held during the evening raised £295 which was handed a few days later to Ellie to go to the Front of House staff who did a great job at the end of what was a very busy day for them all.

Meetings

An initial joint Captain's meeting was held on 12th December 2023 with Paul, Cathy and myself to discuss liaison between sections, alignment of processes and working together more.

The first Seniors Committee meeting of the new year was held on Tues 19th December 2023 and two new members introduced – Mike Slater as Treasurer and Steve Bacon.

Programme and Fixtures 2024

Thanks to Richard Fearnley, Tom Fletcher and John Morley for their hard work in setting up the programme and fixtures for 2024. Good liaison with Richard Davies has ensured that all events are now in the Club Diary. It looks like we will have a new friendly fixture this year with Hintlesham which will be a welcome addition to our list.

The Seniors Away Day for 2024 has been booked for Thursday 17th October 2024, also at Hintlesham.

Committee

The Seniors' Friendlies Selection Policy has now been published to all senior members and will be implemented by the match Captains, who this year will be John Meggison, John Aston, Tom Fletcher and David Tower. It is aimed to make selection fairer and more transparent, particularly for new members.

It has been decided that the Seniors prize giving is moved to the afternoon of the Seniors AGM (away from the Xmas Dinner), staging an event similar to the main club one. This will mean changing the date to avoid a clash with the main Club AGM.

A successful handover has taken place between the old and new Treasurers, Richard Day and Mike Slater, respectively. Mike has already come up with some good proposals for going forward. He was handed a large crate with 6 years' worth of accounts in hard copy which he has painstakingly now scanned and copied onto Google drive. We are supporting a positive environmental policy and have gone paperless. I also have electronic copies. We are remaining with Barclays Bank Plc with whom we have a 'Community' based account and incur no bank charges.

It was recognised that there were no minutes from previous Seniors Committee meetings on the club web site which did not help communication with fellow members. That will change – the December 2023 minutes are now on the web site.

The frequency of Seniors Committee meetings was set at every quarter.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12th March 2024

Rule changes

The decision to return to playing handicaps of 95% was agreed at Seniors AGM. Knock out competitions playing-handicaps were to be: Summer pairs 75%, singles 90%.

Tee Times

There was a temporary problem setting up competitions because the Club had moved the start of Seniors matches to a later time on a Friday. The Seniors Committee understand the reasons for this and we appear to have worked around the initial problems it caused. The situation should ease as we move towards the longer daylight hours.

Trophies and Boards

JM reported on the suggestion from the captains' joint meeting of the proposal to have Valley competitions for members who couldn't manage the Blyth course. The committee agreed that this was a good idea but did not see these competitions as necessarily Seniors' competitions. In fact, the Committee agreed that any new competition on the Valley Course should not be considered for Seniors only because of concerns that they may be thought to be aimed at high handicappers who regularly play on the Blyth course. The Seniors group ethos is based on inclusivity and support for all Seniors, and there was a risk of such competitions being considered discriminatory. Reference was also made to the Halesworth Golf Ltd Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy.

New members

We have had 4 new members join the Seniors section since 1st December - Martin Graystone, David Knights, David Adams and Tony Mardon who have all been welcomed to the section.

Juniors' Report: RD reported that there are now 44 Junior members and a number of Junior matches organised for the year. Jeremy Jenkins was doing invaluable work with the 6's and Steve Ward was also giving Alistair valuable assistance. RD felt that the work with the Juniors was going very well.

Treasurer's Report: Changing Bank Account

What appeared to be a simple operation (according to the blurb put out by the banks) has been very time consuming.

Our first attempt had a hiccup.

Our second is ongoing – we have got further than before. The latest problem is that my Personal Record at Lloyds has my birthday 2 days younger than I am and it therefore disagreed with the date on the Committee application. With a trip to Beccles, the error has been corrected but we wait for further news.

Meanwhile I must thank Carol in the office for managing matters for us. She is collecting competition entrance fees for us as before, but she is now paying out the prizes as she has been doing for the Ladies and the Seniors. This is to be ongoing.

There have been other bills paid, for the Turkey Trot and the AGM buffet which are 'internal' and for the engraving for all sections. The cost of the Alan Whiting medals has also been paid to Lesley Pyke.

I will be asking the Seniors and the Ladies for a contribution – when we can receive it!

Balances

In the meantime, Barclays are holding a balance of £11,026.53.

At the meeting PK asked whether there was a minimum expected balance that we should aim for at the end of each year in order to inform spending plans for the year ahead. KPB explained that outgoings very

much depended on the success of the teams in the County Competitions with money to pay for practice rounds and other agreed expenses but that perhaps £5,000 was a reasonable minimum sum not to drop below.

Competition and Handicap Secretary's Report: Competition Secretary's Report

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

Sunday November 19th – Rearranged FIELD SALVER – 81 Entrants

Winner Paul Raynes 39 Pts

2nd Richard Doddington 37 Pts

3rd Graham Shillings 36 Pts

Friday November 24th – GREENKEEPERS CUP – 75 Entrants

Winner Ken Parry Brown 37 Pts

2nd Sue Millard 37 Pts

3rd Steve Scholtz 37 Pts

This event raised £1105 for our superb 'Outside' Team this has been distributed by Ellie Andrews and I will give a further update at our next meeting.

Sunday November 26th – GENTS Monthly Medal – 70 Entrants

Winner Oliver Last Net 68

2nd Jason King Net 69

3rd Justin Martin Net 70

Sunday December 3rd – Christmas TURKEY TROTT – 72 Entrants

Winners Allan Barnes, Kirk Bardsley & Paul Sherwood 77 Pts

2nd Daniel Milne, Alfie Rackman & Daniel Brown 73 Pts

3rd Lynda Baldry, Wayne Jacques, Stephen Bramhill 70 Pts

Sunday December 10th – GENTS Monthly Stableford – 47 Entrants (Expected to be only over 10 holes as advised course may not be fully open this led to a number of withdrawals as it happened the course was fully open)

Winner Paddy Cole 45 PTS!!!!

2nd Jack Payne 38 Pts

3rd Luke Hunter 36 Pts

Sunday December 17th – 'SHERINGTON' FRONT of HOUSE SHIELD – 120 Entrants

Winners Kevin Bowe, Rowan Naismith-Robertson, Jack Payne. Naomi Lane NET 58.1

2nd David Brown, Michael Fulton, John Tait, Mark Beglarian Net 59.2

3rd Cliff Brown, Bradley Thompson, Lee Adams, Connor Adams Net 60.0

This event raised £1651 for our superb 'Inside' Team this has been distributed by Ellie Andrews and I will give a further update at our next meeting.

Wednesday December 27th – OPEN to ALL Pairs Betterball – 56 Entrants

Winners Lesley King & David King 42 Pts

2nd Daniel Brown & Oliver Last 41 Pts OCB

3rd Mick Springall & Tyron Pins 41 Pts

Sunday January 7th – NEW YEAR 2 Ball Texas Scramble – 80 Entrants

Winners Mark & Paul Coby Net 65 OCB (Best Gross 68)

2nd Arron Fairweather & Tom Feveyear Net 65

3rd Stephen Brown & Liam O'Donovan Net 67

Unfortunately, one pair was disqualified after shooting a good score because the card showed one player only having 5 drives not the required 6.

Gary Slaymaker Player of the Year: - Current Leader is Paddy Cole – Only 1 Competition so far

Gents Summer Eclectic – Current Leader is Paddy Cole – Only 1 Competition so far

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 14th GENTS Monthly Medal
- Sunday January 21st GENTS Monthly Stableford
- Sunday January 28th GENTS GREENSOMES
- Sunday February 4th GENTS Monthly Medal
- Sunday February 11th Captain 'Ernie' Challenge Trophy

New COURSE Handicap Calculation

As per the report from Karen as Ladies Handicap Secretary it has been agreed that the par for the course in comparison with the course rating should be taken more into account and therefore, as of 1/4/24 the difference between the Par for the Course and the Course Rating will be used to find a **player's COURSE Handicap**.

England Golf say it is an adjustment for the difference between the Course Rating and par of the course you are playing.

For Gents off Yellow Tees this means Course Rating 70.7 – 72 (Par for the course) = **-1.3 big drop**

For Gents off White Tees this means Course Rating 71.3 – 72 (Par for the course) = **-0.7 still a big drop in comparison with ladies**

So, for all players **the Course Handicap will be calculated using the following calculation:**

Handicap Index x (Slope Rating/113) + (Course Rating – Par)

So, the calculation for my course handicap will be:

Yellow $11.9 \times (128 \text{ divided by } 113) + (-1.3) = 12.2 = 12$ (Currently 13)

White $11.9 \times (130 \text{ divided by } 113) + (-0.7) = 13.0 = 13$ (Currently 14)

I would advise that because of this from April 1st 2024 all competitions have a Playing Handicap of 100% NOT the current 95%

At the meeting it was suggested that a further discussion on 100% playing handicap would be helpful.

Matters for Discussion:

1) The draft Aims and Objectives for the year proposed by PK were discussed in some detail with a summary of the outcomes as follows.

Facilities: Improved toilet facilities are already being considered by the management. The idea of a half-way refreshment house could be trialled in the better weather for competitions with large numbers but would only be implemented regularly if it made business sense.

Club History: Club colours agreed to be navy blue with the expectation that those representing the club in matches would wear them. A selection available from the pro-shop.

Trophy winners to go on the website and IG to be used for details of matches and other proposals on the list accepted.

Competitions: The Eric Felgate Trophy competition on the Valley course to go ahead as planned with a date to be decided. The possibility of other Valley course competitions to also be encouraged with entry open to all for most such competitions. The suggestion of completing all competition results on the same day was modified to completion as soon as possible given the difficulties imposed by later tee times to accommodate numbers and errors on cards submitted. A suggestion to increase numbers in Gents Competitions by also having a printed sign-up form in the changing rooms met with mixed support but anything which would promote greater numbers in some of the competitions would be welcome. It was unanimously agreed that no changes should be made to the rules governing existing competitions without reference to the Committee and if needed to the donor of the trophy if that proved possible.

Communication: The possible creation of a separate Gent's monthly committee meeting met with mixed feelings and this proposal needed to be reviewed further. This was also the case for a monthly meeting for the Captain and the Section Captains but further consideration would be given to this idea with a view to all sections working more closely together. In the meeting KF suggested that all committee members should consider using emails other than their personal email addresses. This can be set up reasonably easily on IG and the Ladies' section have already adopted this successfully.

Equality: BT stated that England Golf govern this and that we should look to implement their proposals wherever possible. PK and KF to evaluate this.

Safeguarding: BT confirmed we are safe golf compliant and that it was primarily the duty of the management to update any changes proposed.

County Competitions: It was agreed to accept the proposals as published

In summary PK's draft proposals were agreed by the Committee with the amendments stated above and he was thanked for his work on producing these for the Committee's approval.

2) Competition Boards: The proposals from PK and PB were discussed in some detail. The photos of the current Captains are already on display on the corridor leading down to the bar and on reflection it was thought that a better idea than to have further photos on display in the entrance hall would be to publish their photos on the club website where they can be seen by all. The remaining proposals were accepted with the caveat from BT that the overall layout of the club entrance and corridor was ultimately down to the management and that Mrs Hunt had her own ideas as to how she wanted those areas to be. However, by all means ask about any changes the club would wish to make. The tennis racquet and the football shirt will definitely remain! The work in preparing the draft proposals was appreciated by the Committee and a good starting point for further action.

Health & Safety: DT suggested that we might consider AOB posts to separate the two courses along the boundary of the 18th hole on the Blyth course and the 1st hole on the Valley course. BT explained that this had already been considered but he felt that this would only encourage players to aim more towards the 12th fairway when teeing off on the main course putting those in greater danger coming down that fairway so that overall, very little would be gained. PK then mentioned the hand dryers in the Gent's changing room were directly above the electrical sockets which could be a hazard when drying wet hands. BT promised to look at that but said the safety factors in the changing room had already been considered and signed off.

Any Other Business: Just one point mentioned here from KF who mentioned what a frustrating time it must have been lately for the greenkeepers with the extremely wet weather hampering their work but wished to thank them for keeping the course in such good condition. This view was echoed by all Committee members.

100 Club Draw:

December:

1. E. Hawkins
2. M. Meggison
3. A. Frances

January:

1. A. Frances
2. R. Sherington
3. R. Fernley

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 21st February, 2024

Don Wellman