

Halesworth Golf General Committee Meeting, Wednesday 20th April 2022

Minutes of the Meeting:

Ben Townsend – Club Manager (BT)
Richard Davies – Club Professional (RD)
Rob Sherington – Club Captain & Competition Secretary (RS)
Bob Judd – Club Vice-Captain (RJ)
Lynda Baldry—Ladies' Captain (LB)
Clare Woods – Ladies' Representative (CW)
Sally McCoy – Ladies' Representative (SM)
Paul Kent – Seniors' Captain (PK)
John Ashton Seniors' Vice-Captain (JA)
Ken Parry-Brown – Treasurer (KPB)
Don Wellman – Secretary (DW)

Apologies: All present

Minutes of last meeting: It was agreed that these were an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising: RS began by welcoming SM to the meeting. We are all pleased to have you back with us, Sally.

Club Update: RD began his update by following up on the previous meeting's discussion on the purchase of ball lifters to help prevent damage to the holes when players were extracting their balls from the hole. The company concerned only sell the ball lifter, which fits over the existing flag stick, in black plastic which we felt was unacceptable for our use as it was unsuitable for anyone with visual difficulties when putting out. The white plastic lifter which they had produced for us was too large in diameter and did not allow the ball to drop into the hole properly and therefore totally unsuitable. The feeling was one of surprise that the company were not able to produce a white lifter of the same diameter as the black one offered for sale and we would send them some feedback accordingly. Painting the black lifter white, as had been suggested, was not seen as a practical solution to the problem.

The entries for the upcoming open competitions were 70 for the Ladies, 62 for the Mixed and 42 for the Gents. The Juniors had won their first 3-man team event against Gorleston and is a measure of the promising young players we now have in the club. Ali Hall is offering a Wednesday night coaching session for all juniors and this supplements the Saturday morning sessions already available to them. RD and Ali will also be going back into the local primary schools again next month to offer them an introduction to the game.

The bench on the Ladies' tee on the 5th hole purchased in memory of Pat Bing is to be replaced. Gordon Bing was understandably keen for this to happen and would pay for the replacement but wondered if the Ladies might like to make a contribution towards the cost. It would be a similar style to the new bench on the Men's 16th tee.

The bio-degradable divot pegs will be arriving this week and we will experiment with their use on the course. Mark and his team have over-seeded the greens and they should soon be back to their usual first-class condition. The new tee box on the 7th tee on the Valley course is now open and a splendid addition to our second course. In addition, the grass tees on the Valley course will be open again from the 1st May with the mats reverting to winter use only. On both courses preferred lies will cease on 1st May as already advised.

KPB raised the question of the mature trees on the 5th, 6th and 7th holes suggesting that the stakes (some of which are no longer attached) should be removed and therefore no free drops given. BT agreed to speak to Mark about this and the general question of relief from the young trees in the new plantations but no decision on thinning them out would be taken until the winter when the tree specialists would advise accordingly. In the meantime, relief can be taken as usual although this is becoming more difficult as the young trees grow.

PK mentioned again his concern about having two rakes in the larger bunkers but was assured that Mark was monitoring this and felt that the rake allocation was sufficient at present. It was acknowledged that the sides of the bunker on the LHS of the 2nd hole were steep and made it difficult for the less mobile to enter and exit the bunker. The solution would seem to be to always enter the bunker from the shallow end even if it means having to rake a larger area of the bunker on exit.

Lady Captain's Report So far this year one County match has been played, this was Silver Jubilee v Purdis on their home ground, Halesworth lost by three holes after a very hard close match. We played first mixed match against Diss on 26th March which Halesworth won 4 half -1 half, next friendly is Saturday 23rd April away to Southwold. Ladies

friendly V Woodbridge postponed due to covid at Woodbridge, against St Audreys postponed due to snow good old English weather. Only one QF played so far this month on Sunday 3rd silver division winner Sara Higgins nett 74, Bronze Cathy Judd nett 75. Ladies R&A Foursomes was played on 17th Sian Tutak and Sally Baxter now go through to next round.

Thanks to Rob, his wife and KPB for a very entertaining Race night which raised a fantastic amount for our charities. The Easter Rabbits competition on Good Friday with the ladies wearing extra sporting gear raised a few smiles with the men.

Captain's Report: How great it has been to see the improvement in weather over the last week or so. This has enabled the green staff to really crack on and the impact of cutting fairways is creating such lovely definition for all to see. The greens are following being cored are beginning to recover and I am sure over the next few weeks will start rolling well again. Seniors' matches continue providing such a superb opportunity to play other courses and meet / socialise with players from other clubs. I look forward to playing in my first senior match v Woodbridge on Friday and first mixed match v Southwold on Saturday.

Tolly / Hambro teams are beginning to take shape. First up is our Tolly Team who have their first-round match at St Clements on Sunday April 24th. It has been great as Captain of the team to see how all players involved have gelled so well together in all our practice matches and events culminating in the final practice round held at St Clements last Saturday when 16 of us played. Special thanks to Ian Stannard and especially Bob Judd for giving up their own time to come and watch players throughout the selection process and feedback their thoughts to me. Additional thanks to both Ian & Bob for sponsoring the tops that all Tolly Players will wear on Saturday (PROVIDING they ARRIVE!!). The Tolly team selected to represent Halesworth Golf Club on Sunday is as follows:

- Paul Sherwood & Chris Peach
- Gary Slaymaker & Bradley Reynolds
- David King & Samuel Borrett
- Lee Adams & Colin Hillier

Reserve Luke Hunter

As you are aware from my last report, we have entered 2 teams into the Thursday Foursomes League run through the summer and are awaiting fixtures due out later this week. Over 50 players have expressed an interest in playing so let battle commence between the 2 Halesworth squads – Team 'Rob' and Team 'Bob'. Matches start next Thursday as follows

Team 'Rob' travel to Caldecott to play Caldecott Cavaliers

Team 'Bob' are at home v Caldecott Crusaders

It is nice to see the return of the Wednesday Night Special and the number of members and non-members taking advantage of this excellent value offer.

Over 80 attended the race night on Friday April 8th. It was a great evening with an electric atmosphere in which everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. £1630 was raised to support our charities £400 of which will go to the Ladies Captains Charity in recognition of her support at the event.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend events have been nearly finalised as follows: -.

Friday – Seniors Event TBC

Saturday, an individual stableford open to all members (this would include the two Saturday swindles for which I will reserve tee bookings but should mean a big field of players taking part. Sunday, a Team Event

competition will take place using a shotgun start to encourage mixing afterwards along with a Prize Giving. This event will be sponsored by Kiran Brice through her Puppy Play Barn Business, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Kiran for doing this. It is being planned that a one course meal will be available for all after the event prior to the Prize Giving.

It is great to continue to see new members still joining the club and integrate themselves into all the golf clubs' different activities. It is also nice to see how welcoming our members are to both visitors and new members alike.

Thanks to all on the committee for their continued demanding work in running their sections and supporting the work across all aspects of the club.

RS added at the Committee Meeting that he wished to say a special thank you to RJ who had attended every Tolly practice game and taken so much interest in the difficult task in helping to select the team for the upcoming matches in that competition. He was also delighted with the £1630 that had been raised for the charities at the recent highly successful Race Night.

Seniors' Captain Report:

General overview –

- I enjoyed representing Halesworth Golf, alongside Rob Sherington, in the Presidents Golf competition on the 25.03.22, followed by attendance at the Suffolk Golf Union AGM. I raised the issue of public draw for the five Suffolk competitions. The incoming President said it would be discussed at their next committee meeting. I will follow up. Disappointing response by committee member who exclaimed that we wouldn't all fit in his front room! This after the AGM focus was about celebrating success (we have a junior playing for England now) and increasing and improving the social media side of the SGU. I would like to follow up with a letter to the President with the Club / committees agreement.
- Since **01.03.22** we have welcomed **12** new senior members with **5** having active handicaps.
- Currently, according to IG, we now have **325 Seniors** (251 with an active and 74 with an inactive handicap).
- I am delighted to confirm that the Seniors Captains Charity Auction raised £1330 for this year's Charities. ** This money will be added to the existing funds and those funds raised during the Captains Challenge Day on 27th May 2022 as well as the Seniors Charity Shield on 5th August 2022.
- The senior's section has remained busy with regular matches and competitions. The feedback remains very positive and Halesworth is s

Competitions –

Club matches update.

- 06.04.22 match V Eaton postponed until 04.05.22 due to cored greens
- 07.03.22 Away v Caister & Great Yarmouth Won 5-3
- 18.03.22 Home v Sprowston Won 5-1
- 24.03.22 Away v Caldecott Hall Drew 4-4
- 29.04.22 Home v Seckford Hall Drew 4-4
- 13.04.22 Home v Southwold Won 4-2
- Next matches
- 22.04.22 Home v Woodbridge
- 27.04.22 Away V Bungay

Seniors' Winter foursomes – John Ashton & Bob Moreton play Richard Fernley & Rob Steven in the final. (Slight delay due to player injury)

Gents Winter Foursomes – Andrew Higgins & Steve Simpson (Senior) play Nick Bloom & Thomas Feveyear in the final

Competitions Played in this period

Stableford Qualifier

- 19.04.22 Stableford (TBC players) –

Stableford Non-Qualifiers (x1)

- 15.04.22 Stableford Valley course (16 players) – Rob Steven 45 points

Team Competitions –

- 24.03.22 Texas Scramble (51 players) 2 of 3 scores –P. Sherwood, P. Foulger & A. Siggers 58 points
- 05.04.22 Pairs (Drawn) Better Ball (42 players) R. Sherington (12) & P. Bennett (14) 44 points
- 08.04.22 Team of 3 (3 clubs & a putter) (44 players) P. Bennett, D. Arnold & C. Liddell 76 points

Suffolk Golf Union –

Parks Trophy (HI 0 to 11.4 / PH 12 max)

We are ready for the practice rounds at Gorleston in the 19.04.22. Ken has transferred the 50% contribution to the £250.00 cost.

PK purchased a four-ball voucher for Gorleston which can be used for an additional practice as / when required.

The actual match will take place on 17.05.22.

Beaumont Trophy (HI 11.5 to 20.4 / PH 20 max)

JA arranged a practice at Halesworth Valley course for the team as Seckford has many short holes. It was a good way to start the team building process.

JA has the team set up for a practice round for Seckford for 25th April.

PK has purchased a four-ball voucher for Seckford which can be used for an additional practice round.

The actual match will take place on 10^{05.22}

Charities supported for this year

1. Halesworth Volunteer Centre (Manager Emma Healey)
2. HOPPA (John Giles is the link)
3. Young Carers Group - focus on Halesworth area. (Suffolk County Council)

Issues raised by senior members for noting and / or discussion within AOB -

1. Request for an update on the review of number of rakes in bunkers by greenkeepers. (PK)

2. Request for update on 'ball lifter' sleeves as discussed at last committee meeting. (DH)
3. Request for update on the delivery of the biodegradable pins to hold divots back in place? (MS)
4. Can a letter be sent to SGU continuing quest to have a public draw of the 5 county competitions. (PK)
5. Plantations. Having witnessed saplings being broken recently is it time to consider 'drop zones' to further protect the trees? (MH)

At the Committee Meeting PK was keen to follow up his concern with the manner in which the draw for the County Competitions was administered. He felt that his request for a more transparent draw was dealt with rather flippantly at the SGU meeting that he had taken the trouble to attend. KPB went further in suggesting that the present SGU Committee was something of a clique run by certain clubs and the only way to counter this was to request that we had our own member on their Committee. RS felt that this was all very well but we would need someone from the club who would offer to do this. It was agreed that PK would draft a letter formally requesting a draw for the County Competitions where Committee members from other clubs could attend but that no further action would be taken until this had been discussed further. PK also wanted to thank all members who had purchased items in the recent charity auction.

Competition Secretary's Report:

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

Sunday 27th March **Gents Foursomes – 40 Entrants (Tolly practice match v Bungay)**

Winners Bradley Reynolds & Joe Eames-Bayton 39 Pts OCB

2nd Daniel Brown & Jason Cook 39 Pts

3rd Gary Etchels & Wayne Jacques 38 Pts

Sunday 3rd April **M.R King Trophy April Medal – 77 Entrants**

£100 given to Great Ormond Children's Hospital (M.R King Charity)

Winner Peter Last Net 66 OCB

2nd Gerald Jackson Net 66

3rd Andrew Perkins Net 69

Sunday 10th April **New Captains Drive In – 117 Entrants**

Winners Tanya McGregor, David McGregor and Curtis Liddell 84 + 8 = 92

2nd Clifford Brown, Lee Adams and Lee Warren 84 + 8 = 92 OCB

3rd Stephen Brown, Liam O'Donovan and Paul Butcher 82 + 9 = 91

Nearest the Pins :-

- 4th Keith Ellis and Tanya McGregor
- 5th Alex Corbett
- 11th Gary Etchels and Lynda Baldry
- 13th David King

Rob Sherington 230 yds

Paul Kent 206 yds

Lynda Baldry £145 yds

£625 was raised towards the 3 Captains Charities from this event

Friday 15th April **Ian Ransby Trophy Medal – 56 Entrants**

Winner Joe Eames-Bayton Net 67 OCB

2nd Ben Brown Net 68

3rd Lee Adams Net 69

Sunday 17th April **Re-arranged February Medal – 57 Entrants**

Winner Samuel Borrett Net 64 OCB

2nd Liam O'Donovan Net 66

3rd Stephen Brown Net 67

Matters for Discussion: The items raised were dealt with elsewhere in the meeting or included under AOB. The Ladies are due to sit down with RD to discuss their remaining concerns about Sunday competitions and any other items which they feel need to be included.

Health and Safety: The grass near the drain on the 11th has now been cut making it more visible and less of a trip hazard.

AOB: The Ladies had raised several issues that they were happy to be considered under AOB. The experiment of playing 4-balls for the Sunday Competition has not been entirely successful with a mixture of 3-balls and even the odd 2-ball amongst those teeing-off. RS had experimented with this with the best of intentions in order to accommodate the very large field of players for the competition and to give everyone a tee-time within the allocated time zone. The decision to revert back to 3-balls has now been taken with a number of players able to find a suitable time for them on a Sunday outside the morning time allocated. Slow play on Sunday has been an issue for the Ladies, particularly during the colder weather, so reverting back to 3-ball format for everyone should help to overcome this concern and be to the benefit for everyone in the competition.

Another item tabled by the Ladies' section was for an update on the remedial work to be done on the bench situated on the Ladies 15th tee. Mark is aware of this and will see that the necessary work is done as soon as possible. CW also wished to state that SLCGA has provided the Ladies' section with a list of dates of County Competitions to be held at Halesworth. Currently Halesworth is rostered to host Div.2 meeting in September 2023.

RJ mentioned that the taps in both the changing rooms turned on and off the wrong way round and that this might be the reason that they were quite often left on after hand washing. He also put in a request for cycle racks at the club to encourage more members of the public to use the facilities on offer which BT agreed was a good suggestion and would consider the possibility in due course. RJ also mentioned that a glass or perspex screen on the balcony would make it more useable in cool or windy conditions and that it was a great facility which at present is underused. BT said that a good deal of work would need to be done within a year or so to the balcony area and at that time a screen would be one of the items considered. RS mentioned that a fence giving privacy to the kitchen staff when off duty in the kitchen area would be a good addition as at present they were visible from the car park area. BT explained this was already on the list of minor works to be done.

The meeting ended with RD giving RS and RJ, the joint Tolly Captains, their special Tolly sweatshirts which together with the Tolly shirts for competitors had kindly been donated by Mrs. Hunt. An immediate modelling session followed which was more successful once they had each managed to get the correct sweatshirts, RJ having struggled manfully to get into smaller sized one allocated to RS. A happy note to end on!

100 Club:

1. P. Hyden
2. J.King
3. B.Lee

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 18th, 2022 at 7.00pm

Don Wellman