

Halesworth Golf General Committee Meeting, Wednesday, 18th May 2022

Minutes of the Meeting:

Ben Townsend – Club Manager (BT)
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)
John Ashton Seniors' Vice-Captain (JA)
Tom Fletcher – Seniors' Representative (TF)
Richard Fernley – Seniors' Representative (RF)
Ken Parry-Brown – Treasurer (KPB)
Don Wellman – Secretary (DW)

Apologies: Richard Davies

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

Matters Arising: RB explained that due to the resignation of Seniors' Captain, Paul Kent, it had been agreed that the Seniors would now be run by a team of three namely John Ashton (existing Vice-Captain), Tom Fletcher and Richard Fernley. Tom and Richard would attend Committee Meetings as and when it was considered necessary. Thanks to Tom and Richard for agreeing to this and ensuring the continued smooth running of the Seniors' Section.

TF wished to add to the tribute already played to Paul Kent in RB's Captain's report and by LB's Ladies' Captain report (see below). TF thanked Paul for his hard work and commitment, professional manner and for his support of all members of the section with particular reference to new members. He had managed most of the competitions and matches on his own and established a strong squad for the Parks Trophy. Paul also developed the financial side of the section enabling fees for all competitions to be taken directly from members' cards. His dedication to the job was without question.

Club Update: BT opened his update by giving dates for two forthcoming social events. There will be a Quiz Night on 26th August hosted by Seniors' member, Dave Tower, and RB would be hosting one of his very popular Race Nights on 14th October. From Monday 23rd May the bar will close at 6.30 pm apart from Wednesday and Thursday nights when it will remain open whilst food is being served in the summer months. There has recently been a recruitment of several new bar staff and also a new appointment, Sandra, to the office staff.

BT went on to say that the entries for the mixed open had now been closed with the maximum number of 80 competitors taking part. Another indication of the growing reputation of Halesworth Golf.

Further improvements now include a bicycle rack at the front of the clubhouse near the kitchen area and 4 electric car charging points planned for the same area.

Lady Captain's Report:

The ladies committee will also miss Paul Kent, we thank him for all his help in getting to grips with parts of IG and his IT general knowledge he shared.

The ladies have been busy after a slow start. My thanks go to Sara for providing me with information as I have been away.

Yearly the ladies support Marie Curie Cancer Charity and combine this with our usual Thursday and Sunday monthly stableford and donated £57.50 – thanks to Carole Hume for sorting this out. Div 1 winner Sian Tutak 37 points Sara Higgins r/u 37 points. Div 2 winner Cathy Judd with a brilliant 43 points r/u Angela Middleton 36 points, Sundays Div 1 winner Barbara Dennis 33 points r/u Karen last 32 points. Div 2 winner Jo Calver 38 points. Sian Tutak and Sally Baxter were the winners of the R&A foursomes event with 38 points we wish them luck if they qualify at Rushmere August 12th, r/u Clare Woods and Sue Hellman with 38 points.

On 25th April we played Seckford at home in a friendly with a win. Halesworth hosted the Suffolk Ladies Past & Present Captains Day, Lesley King, Sara Higgins & Rita Fossey played, overall 30 ladies taking part.

Sunday ladies May medal 1st Mary Pickering Pickering nett 68 well played r/u Jackie Dutton nett 76. Ladies Millennium Plate & Neilson Putting Trophy with May Medal winner Cathy Chandler with nett 72 on count back from Rita Fossey & Sonia Lord. Hall Candlesticks foursomes played 12th May won by Angela Middleton & Lin Smith 37points, r/u Cathy Judd and Lesley King 36 points.

The ladies Western had their first match against Haverhill coming away with a 4-1 win well played Sara, Rachel, Barbara, Rita and Lesley. Last Thursday in the month is our first Cranworth match V Flempton at Brett Vale, also 2 friendlies away, Rookery Friday 20th and Ufford Park 23rd.

Captain's Report: Firstly, I like many others was both shocked and disappointed that Paul Kent made the decision to resign from his position as Seniors Captain. He was doing an excellent job in coordinating our seniors' section in a wide variety of separate ways through finalising competitions, selecting, and captaining in all the matches as well as ensuring the seniors section make a positive contribution to all aspects of our golf club.

How great it has been to see the superb weather over the last week or so although I am sure the course would benefit from rain in the next few days / weeks. 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 rolling well again and the cuts around the green make for far more testing chipping increasing the challenge of what continues to be a great course to play commented so favourably by visitors.

Our Tolly Team played St Clements on Sunday April 24th

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

I am sorry to have to report that our team lost. It was an exceedingly difficult course to play at and home advantage was a significant factor. Two heavy defeats one in the morning and one in the afternoon cost us dearly as the result was 10 holes down. We won 3 matches in the morning and 1 in the afternoon. All players gave 100% which is all we can ask for and as a team we are disappointed that we were not able to secure a victory. Special mention to Gary and Luke who won both their matches in the morning and afternoon defeating the pair who inflicted a heavy defeat on us in the morning.

My thanks to all members of the club who come and supported to team during the day especially Kevin Bates who caddied all day. Special thanks to Bob Judd and Ian Stannard who stayed all day and who bought all the tops for the players to wear over the T shirts kindly donated by Lois Hunt (thank you so much we looked a real team throughout the day). We now start again planning for next year, I am confident we have the players in this squad to achieve success in the Tolly Competition. Foursomes is a difficult game so please take every opportunity to play in the different events organised throughout the year.

Our Hambro Team play at home on Sunday this week May 22nd against Stowmarket.

- Mark Coby & George Swallow
- Sam Pollexfen & Andrew Higgins
- Paul Coby & Graham Shillings
- Wayne Jacques & Ben Brown

It would be great to see members take time and come and support our team on the day it will run from 9am to 5pm as played over 36 holes so there is plenty of time to pop up watch some great golf and support Mark, Higgsy, and their team.

The Thursday Foursomes League run through the summer has now started with both teams having played 3 matches each including once against each other last week. Both have started well with Team Rob 2nd and Team Bob 4th in the latest table. All those who have played so far have really enjoyed the format and meal afterwards.

It is nice to see the real success of Wednesday Night Special and the number of members and non-members taking advantage of this excellent value offer. It was also pleasing to see increasing number of people using the facilities that are now open late on a Thursday night.

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

Friday – Seniors Platinum Jubilee Team Stableford

Saturday - an individual stableford – now cancelled

Sunday - a Team Event competition will take place using a shotgun start to encourage mixing afterwards along with a Prize Giving. This event has kindly been sponsored by Kiran Brice through her Puppy Play Barn Business; I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Kiran for doing this. Afternoon Tea will be available for all players after the event prior to the Prize Giving. 62 players currently signed up to play.

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.

At the meeting RB added to his report by expressing his thanks for the state of the course. He particularly emphasised the definition around the greens now in place and the fact that the greens themselves were now coming back to the high standard that we have come to expect from Mark and his team. RB went on to mention that by not cutting the grass between the trees was tending to slow the pace of play when players were searching for their balls. BT replied that the grass in question would be cut but probably not at this time of the year with wildlife considerations to be taken into account. RB concluded by saying that the state of the course was continuing to gain justifiable praise from visiting teams and visitors.

Seniors' Captain Report: (from John Ashton, Seniors' Vice-Captain)

29.04.22 Seniors Captain Paul Kent resigned.

All seniors competitions and matches will be organised by a committee of three, Richard Fernley, Tom Fletcher and John Ashton.

New Members: 6 new Seniors Members joined in this period.

COMPETITIONS / MATCHES

Club Matches (friendly)

22.04.22	(Home)	Woodbridge won 6 - 0
27.04.22	(Away)	Bungay drawn 3 – 3
04.05.22	(Home)	Eaton won 3½ - 2½
06.05.22	(Home)	Ufford won 5½ - 2 ½
09.05.22	(Home)	Caldecot drawn 4 - 4
16.05.22	(Home)	Rookery won 4½ - 3½

SUFFOLK GOLF UNION

Beaumont Trophy - the team lost 8 down

At Seckford they fought hard against a strong team on a tricky course. Shirts arrived in the nick of time and we were the best dressed team.

Parks Trophy at Gorleston on 17th May..... Won 9 up !

KNOCKOUT COMPS

Senior winter foursomes final

John Ashton and Bob Moreton beat Richard Fernley and Robert Stevens 19th.
It was a daylight robbery.

QUALIFIERS

25/04/22 Medal - 1st John Meggison Net 69 2nd David King
Net 69
3rd Stephen Ward Net 71
03/05/22 Medal - 1st Curtis Liddell Net 66
2nd Derek Arnold Net 67
3rd Nick Amery Net 69

SPRING TROPHY 13.05.22

1st Alan Tween 40points
2nd Kevin Brice 39 points
3rd Paul Hyden 38 points

The Golf Course Is Currently in excellent condition.
Mark and his team should be acknowledged for their efforts.

Catering I managed my first Seniors Match against Eaton on 4th May
Ellie and her team were so helpful to me as always
The welcome and service given to us and visiting teams is truly exceptional
Food at all times has been of a very high standard.

Competition Secretary's Report: Since the last meeting **the following competitions have been completed.**

Sunday 24th April **Gents Additional Betterball – 46 Entrants (Tolly match v St Clements)**
Winners Richard Doddington & Mark Henderson 46 Pts
2nd Daniel Collett & John Tait 45 Pts
3rd Paddy Cole & Chris Calver 44 Pts

Sunday 1st May **QUEEN ELIZABETH CUP – 83 Entrants**
Winner Lee Adams 42 Pts OCB
2nd Stephen Lord 42 Pts
3rd Chris Busby 41 Pts

Sunday 8th May **May Medal – 60 Entrants**
Winner Paddy Cole Net 62!!!!
2nd David Brown Net 66
3rd David King Net 67

Sunday 15th May **ANNIVERSARY CUP – 78 Entrants**
Winners Martin Graystone, Rowan Naismith-Robertson & Jack Payne 92 Pts!!!!
2nd Sherwyn Godbold, Sean Harber & Trevor Ling 83 Pts
3rd Ed Bowles, Stephen Driver & Keith Pickering 82 Pts

- **Winter Singles 27 Players** – Winner Bradley Reynolds
- **Foursomes 46 Players** - Winners Andrew Higgins & Sid Simpson

Gary Slaymaker Player of the Year: - This has recently been changed to only include the monthly medals and Stablefords (See request from Gary Slaymaker). Current Leader remaining **8 Pts clear is Warren Tydeman** from Paul Sherwood and Danny Milne - This runs until October 31st

Gents Summer Eclectic – Current Leader David King Net 57

Next Competitions due as follows: -

- Sunday 22nd May No Competition due to Hambro match v Stowmarket
- Sunday 29th May Bates & Calver Founders Bowl
- Sunday June 5th Puppy Barn Sponsored Jubilee Team Stableford – SHOTGUN Start.
- Sunday June 12th June Medal – Road to Aldeburgh

I need to schedule the rest!!

At the meeting RB said that he had responded to a request from Gary Slaymaker that the Order of Merit Trophy, donated by Gary, should be for Monthly Medals and Stablefords only as the Trophy was originally set up. RB had only changed this following the covid close downs to include more competitions but agreed that it should now return to its original format.

Gary had also requested that the Anniversary Cup should be a mixed event and stated that this had been the case in the past. This was almost certainly true but BT would check this and the outcome would be decided accordingly.

Treasurer's Report:

Balances at Bank:

Current Account	£5,516.82
Deposit Account	£2,470.28.

These sums include £1,630.00 raised for the Captains' charities on the Race Night.

Competition entry fees are now collected through IG and monies paid into the Club Accounts. Within the above figures are £2,586.50 from which of course prize monies have been (or are about to be paid).

Payments have also been made for:

McDivot	£246.00
100 Club	£ 30.00
St Clement's lunches	£ 82.50
St Clement's refreshments	£ 20.52.

At the meeting KPB said that the competition fees collected via IG were now proving easier to keep track of with Carol now reporting to him on a regular basis but the payment of prizes was a little more difficult to monitor.

The money has been paid for the divot recyclable pegs with contributions of £246 from the Gents and £123 from the Ladies and the Seniors. The Ladies and the Seniors were reminded that their contributions were now due.

Of the money collected at the last Race Night, £1230 went to the Men's Charity and £400 to the Ladies.

Similarly for the New Captains' Drive In, £210 to the Men's, £205 to the Seniors and £205 to the Ladies charities.

Handicap Report: RB has now kindly agreed to take overall charge of handicaps. The main thrust of this is now to check the best cards from General play and to deal with cards from new members as well as any ongoing queries. RB felt that some flexibility needed to be given to adjusting handicaps where very high scores were being posted by someone who was clearly playing a great deal better than their handicap rather than waiting for an official handicap review. The Committee felt this was entirely in order. RB also said that he would like someone to help with this additional role and hoped that Tom Feveyear, who had previously expressed an interest in the job, might be persuaded to assist.

KPB suggested that all cards should be considered for handicap purposes and that pre-registering rounds should be a matter of course for all players if the competition was played under the rules of golf. He believed that this was the intention of WHS. This led to an interesting discussion with RJ strongly supporting KPB whilst TF and RF disagreed arguing that the Seniors play two qualifiers a month and that members can choose at any time to pre-register a round. It was felt that the majority of Seniors approve of this flexibility and that the Gent's competitions are largely qualifiers anyway. We were told that the Ladies choose to make all of their official competitions, played under the rules of golf, qualifiers and it would seem that having this overall flexibility of choice is a good thing. It was agreed that we should agree to differ about this at present but to check that we are not contravening any directive from WHS.

Matters for Discussion:

(a) The request for a separate plastic recycling bin from the Ladies' Section was agreed by BT who thought it was a good idea. It would be sited outside the pro-shop as requested.

(b) The question of an official letter to SGU from the club regarding the draw for County Competitions caused some lively debate. KPB again emphasised that the statistics he had collected suggested that the draw was perhaps not being done as fairly as possible and that a draw in which the clubs could send a representative would be more appropriate. RJ strongly supported this idea but there was an equally strong counter argument that it was not in the best interest of the club to effectively accuse SGU of cheating and that we would lose more than we would gain by such an action. It was unanimously agreed that the flippant reply given to our previous request at their meeting was below the standard expected from a governing body but that the best course of action was to canvass support from other clubs in order to make a joint request which would then carry considerably more weight. A letter could then be sent to their next AGM rather than a letter from a single club in the middle of the current year's competitions. A majority decision was made to not to send a letter at this point in time.

It was pointed out that the Ladies County Competitions had enjoyed neutral venues for some years and the feeling was that this came about by initially canvassing general support for the idea. Perhaps we can learn from that.

Health and Safety: There was a feeling that bell on the 5th hole was not enough to stop those behind teeing off too early. On occasions it was rung too softly or simply forgotten about. There have recently been one or two near misses. RJ suggested that a signaling system that he had seen at another club might be considered. BT agreed to look into this.

TF commented on the slippery floor in the Gent's showers and the need for larger plastic mats to overcome this danger. BT agreed to look at a possible solution.

AOB: CW complained of the poor condition of the 12th, 13th and 15th tees for the Ladies and the need for a possible local rule on the 7th. BT agreed to look into this. RJ mentioned a possible rabbit infestation on the ground close to the 4th hole. BT asked whether the committee thought that Paul Kent should be included in the shortly to be commissioned Senior Captains' noticeboard. It was felt that he should with a previous Club Captain having been afforded the same privilege. RF requested that the Seniors' Open should not coincide with the next round of the Parks Trophy and this met with unanimous agreement with the Seniors' Open being moved if necessary should the Parks Trophy date be on the same day but this scenario would try to be avoided if possible.

JA had tabled a question on County membership. BT explained that members were invited to join from the waiting list purely in the order of the date applied and not on the distance from the club. Hence County membership was being given an equal priority to those living nearer to the club and paying the full membership subscription.

DW mentioned the need for temporary toilet arrangements should the clubhouse be closed following a request from a visiting player on Tuesday, 17th May. BT agreed that this was needed and in the past this had been allowed for.

100 Club:

1. **R. Judd**
2. **A. Jennings**
3. **Willisson-Huffam**

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 22nd 2022 at 7.00pm

Don Wellman

