

## Halesworth Golf General Committee Meeting, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 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)  
Paul Kent – Seniors' Captain (PK)  
John Ashton Seniors' Vice-Captain (JA)  
Ken Parry-Brown – Treasurer (KPB)  
Don Wellman – Secretary (DW)

**Apologies:** Lynda Baldry, Clare Woods, Sally McCoy

RS had sent his apologies for the first part of the meeting and in his absence RJ was in the chair until his arrival. The very sad news of the death of former Committee Treasurer, Peter McCoy, was acknowledged with a minute's silence in his memory. Our thoughts are with Sally and the family and a letter of condolence from the Committee will follow shortly.

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

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with later in the agenda.

**Club Update:** BT began the club update with news that the very popular Race Night on 8<sup>th</sup> April has already sold 78 tickets and that at the start of April there will be Wednesday night evening meals available again. The bar will also be open late on Thursday evenings with the possibility of food being available if there proves to be sufficient demand. PK thought that Thursday night might be a good opportunity for the large number of new Senior members to socialise and get to know each other and other club members. BT went on to show a short video demonstrating a device for lifting balls from the hole without the need to lift the ball by hand. This device would fit over the existing flag sticks and if purchased would save damage to the sides of the hole when extracting the ball. The drawback with the model shown was that it seemed to be available only in black which could prove a problem for anyone with a slight visual impairment. The Committee thought the idea was one worth pursuing and further enquiries would be made. Entries for the Open Competitions are coming in with currently 54 for the Mixed, 48 for the Ladies' and 34 for the Seniors'. The possible re-siting of the old iron work gate was under consideration but it would need to be inspected first and a decision about this was unlikely to be made in the immediate future. BT had spoken to Mark about the number of rakes in bunkers but he felt that the numbers were at present sufficient and that he always kept the state of the bunkers, including the rakes, under review and was more concerned by the damage that some members did by not entering the bunkers from the shallowest side irrespective of the position of the ball within the bunker. BT then mentioned that Chris Rowe, the Deputy Head Greenkeeper, would be leaving shortly to take up a similar job in Ireland. It was acknowledged what an excellent job he has done for the club during the time he has been with us and both RS and PK would be collecting for a parting collection. It was hoped that members who see him on the course would also offer their thanks to him before his departure. Two new greenkeepers are due to start next month. Mark was grateful for the help offered by PK for sweating out the leather jacket grubs by using plastic sheeting. The rooks feed on these and in so doing they do considerable damage to the fairways. Mark would be in contact should the offer of help be required. Finally, BT was asked by Mark to thank David Graves and his wife for picking up old divots from the course on the holes nearest to the clubhouse on a couple of occasions. A great example of a loyal member giving some practical help.

RD had spoken to Mark about the wet area near the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee and this would be looked at again later in the year. RD went on to say that the replacement bench for the 10<sup>th</sup> tee had been ordered and that the trial of bio-degradable divot pins, spoken of at the last meeting, was going ahead.

**Lady Captain's Report:** Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sally McCoy and her family for losing her husband Peter on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> he will be greatly missed.

Ladies calendar is now filling up quickly. Preparations for county competitions now well in hand with the first one away to Ipswich at Purdis in Senior Jubilee Shield on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April which will be a very hard match.

Our first friendly was a win at Felixstowe away 2 half-1 half.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> is a home match v Woodbridge.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> mixed v Diss at home.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April v St Audreys home.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April v Fynn Valley away

Congratulations to Rita Fossy for winning the winter knockout against Judith Bedwell.

March Medal winner Div 1 Lesley King nett 74

2nd Barbara Dennis nett 76

winner Div 2 Sue Millard nett 74

2<sup>nd</sup> Angela Middleton 74

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> we had a Red ball day in lieu of Captain v V. Captains with entry fees and proceeds from Cathy Judds lovely Red velvet cup cakes sold on the day going to comic relief, final total will be in excess of £100.

**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 rolling well now providing the opportunity for many to make long putts in style. Seniors' matches have started which is always good to see taking place and provide such a superb opportunity to play other courses and meet / socialise with players from other clubs.

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.

I am currently working with Sara Higgins in coordinating a mixed internal competition to take place on the weekend of the Queens Jubilee. At present this looks like it will include the Richard Whiting Trophy for seniors on the Friday. On 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. On Sunday, a Team Event competition will take place using a shotgun start to encourage mixing afterwards along with a Prize Giving,

Tolly / Hambro teams are beginning to take shape, with practice matches against Bungay due to take place this weekend and practice for the Tolly Team around our 9-hole course on Thursday next week ready for their 1<sup>st</sup> round match at St Clements on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>.

We have now 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'

It is nice to see the return of the Wednesday Night Special and I am sure many members will take advantage of this really good value offer. Finally, it is also pleasing to see a large number sign up for the next race night on Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Seniors' Captain Report:**

#### **General overview –**

- Unfortunately, rain has impacted on a couple of competitions, but given it is winter, we have been delighted with the condition of the course and realise any closure (even of just the back 8 holes) is for the good of the course and therefore its members.
- Since **01.01.21** we have welcomed **15** new senior members with **8** having active handicaps.
- Currently, according to IG, we have **323 Seniors** (251 with an active and 72 with an inactive handicap) which is nett growth of 5 in month.

- Tom Fletchers **WhatsApp** group now has 72 seniors' members (up 5 in month). We continue to monitor to ensure it doesn't become a social media chat but rather remains solely focussed on golf at Halesworth.
- The Seniors Committee held its first meeting on 09.02.22. Further meetings now diarised with the next meeting diarised for 20<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Competitions –**

#### **Our Club matches began in March.**

- Our match due on 2<sup>nd</sup> March v Rookery Park (H) was cancelled due to weather. We have rearranged the fixture for 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Our first match was played on 7<sup>th</sup> March v Caister & Gt. Yarmouth (A) which we won 5/3
- We played on 18<sup>th</sup> March v Sprowston (H) and the result was a 5-1 win.
- 24<sup>th</sup> March v Caldecott Hall (A)
- 29<sup>th</sup> March v Seckford (H)

**Seniors Winter Singles** – was won by Paul Sherwood who beat Dave King in the final.

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

**Gents Winter Singles** – Bradley Reynolds will play Paul Kent in the final on 26.03.22

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

### **Competitions Played in this period**

#### **Qualifiers (x3)**

##### **Stableford**

- Stableford Feb 25<sup>th</sup> (50 players) – Bob Judd (18) with 38 points
- Stableford Mar 4<sup>th</sup> (51 players) – Art Blackburn (36) with 46 points

##### **Medal**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> March (51 players) - tbc

##### **Captains Challenge**

- 1<sup>st</sup> March (68 players) – postponed due to weather

#### **Stableford Non-Qualifiers (x3)**

- 8<sup>th</sup> March Stableford Traffic Lights (49 players) – David Farrington (31) with 38 points.
- 11<sup>th</sup> March Stableford (49 players) – Stephen Ward (23) with 42 points
- 18<sup>th</sup> March Stableford (39 players) – Tony Shaw (21) with 39 points

#### **Stableford Team (x1)**

- 15<sup>th</sup> march (54 players) 2 of 3 scores – Rob Sherington, Allan Barnes & Derek Arnold 80 points

## Suffolk Golf Union –

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

- Drawn away to Gorleston
- **Practice matches will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> April** for £25 per head (£250)
- **Match will take place on 17.05.22**
- Paul Kent will Captain the team.

#### Team

Pair 1 David Brown & Richard Fernley

Pair 2 Paul Butcher & Gary Slaymaker

Pair 3 Mark Swallow & Paul Sherwood

Pair 4 Graham Shillings & Keith Ellis

2 x potential reserves

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

- Drawn away to Seckford.
- **Practice matches will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> April** at £25 per head (£250)
- **Match will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022**
- John Ashton will Captain the team

#### Team

1. Dennis Higgins & Mike Hayes.
2. Martin Pollitt & Dave King.
3. Troy Wilson & Paul Kent
4. David Pryke & Simon Hunter
5. 2 x reserves (Tom Fletcher & Graham Sorah.)

- I am looking forward to representing Halesworth Golf (alongside Rob Sherington) and play in the Presidents Golf competition on the 25.03.22, followed by attendance at the Suffolk Golf Union AGM.

### 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. Would it help bunker maintenance (which I know is a bugbear of Marks when hard work is ruined) if we have two rakes in every large bunker. This would avoid the walking about in the bunker to retrieve the rake (I know we should get rake first but not all do)? (JA)
2. Is there any update on the offer by seniors to help cover greens in plastic to sweat out the leatherjackets at the appropriate time? (PK)
3. Could we cost (and each section contribute to), the purchase of contactless ball lifter for flagsticks which prevents the need for hands (some gloved) to retrieve the ball from the hole, which roughs & damages the edges. Rough cost is £29.40 per hole or £529.20 (DH)
4. Is there an update on the suggestion for moving the magnificent ironwork from the old entrance, to the new entrance (PB)
5. Is there an update on the use biodegradable pins to hold divots back in place? (MS)

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

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February                      **Gents Foursomes – 54 Entrants**  
**Winners Bradley Reynolds & Joe Eames-Bayton 37 Pts** 2<sup>nd</sup> Neville Chubbock & Chris Reeve 35 Pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Simon Hunter & Mackenzie Bacon 34 Pts

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March                              **March Medal – 74 Entrants**  
**Winner Clive Seward Net 68** 2<sup>nd</sup> Rob Sherington Net 69, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sam Pollexfen Net 70

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March                            **Re-arranged February Stableford – 77 Entrants**  
**Winner Chris Peach 40 Pts** 2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Higgins 38 Pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Kevin Hadley 38 Pts

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March                            **March Stableford – 82 Entrants**  
**Winner John Cunnell 40 Pts** 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Last 39 Pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lee Adams 39 Pts

- **Winter Singles 27 Players** – Final – Bradley Reynolds to play Paul Kent
- **Foursomes 46 Players** - Final – Nick Bloom & Tom Feveyear to play Andrew Higgins & Sid Simpson

**Player of the Year:** - Current Leader now only **7 Pts clear is Warren Tydeman** from Daniel Brown, Paul Sherwood, Rob Sherington & Brett Lockwood- This runs until October 31<sup>st</sup>

**Gents Winter Eclectic** – This was STILL VERY CLOSE at the top between **Warren Tydeman**, Joe Eames-Bayton, William Pye and Paul Coby (with 15 Birdies!!) – Just the Re-arranged February Medal to play

**Next Competitions** due as follows: -

- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March                      Gents Foursomes
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April                        M.R King Trophy - Gents Monthly Medal
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April                      NEW CAPTAINS Drive In – 78 currently signed up to play
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April                      Re-arranged February Medal
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April                      Additional Gents Greensomes

At the meeting RS explained that he had been thinking about events to honour the Queen's Jubilee weekend in June. There was due to be a Seniors' Trophy on the Friday and possibly two events on Saturday and Sunday. The Saturday could be a Stableford Competition and the Sunday could be a team event with a shotgun start and prizes presented afterwards? A bacon roll to follow would help to ensure that a number of people stayed afterwards and that it would become something of a club event. BT said to leave the idea with him so that he could speak to Ellie about any possible food arrangements. An update on the weekend will follow.

A lengthy discussion then followed about the pace of play in the previous Sunday's Competition. RS had received a complaint from the Ladies' Captain about being held up to an unreasonable extent during their round. RS explained that in order to accommodate the large number of players involved without putting the Ladies' tee time back from the agreed 10.30 start for them, he had settled on playing 4 balls as this enabled more players to play in the time available. The fact that not all players had gone out as a 4 ball had exacerbated the situation with a number of 3 balls and even a few 2 ball games. The fact that the very earliest tee-times had not been taken had not helped either. RD felt that it was essential that with the current numbers involved on Sundays that these early tee times to be used. BT wondered whether members were happy playing 4 balls rather than the more traditional 3 ball that we have become used to. RS said that he would get some feedback from members about this but also felt that the general pace of play needed to quicken and for players to get more used to playing 'ready golf'. There is little doubt that accommodating members for the traditional Sunday competition is a problem as entry numbers grow and trying to keep everyone happy needs some understanding from members as well as thoughtful planning. The idea of trying to relief the Sunday congestion by offering an official Saturday competition was not thought advisable at this stage.

**Treasurer's Report.** The balances at the bank are

Current account                      £2,956.32

Deposit Account                      £2,470.28

There are cheques written but not presented totalling £1,857.50, but income from competitions totalling £1,251.50 has been collected under the new system of taking fees off members cards and is to be added.

Under the new system, Carol in the office credits our bank account twice monthly with the competition entry fees. This should make life easier, but there has to be a reconciliation of the fees because of withdrawals, members not paying for 2-balls and paying for future competitions.

To date the net income from competitions is £888.00.

Under the Clatworthy formula, we are warned in the Seniors' Captains report of an expense for practice round green fees of £250.00.

If we add to that the cost of practice rounds for the Tolly, Stenson and Hambro, 8 players and 2 reserves for each, £500, there is a tight financial situation even if we lose all 5 matches. They are of course as normal all being played away (except unusually the Hambro).

At the meeting KPB went on to express his concern about the possible future financial problems for the club mainly related to the cost of practice rounds for the teams in the County Competitions. With green fees going up to £25 this year a practice round for every away game for 8 players and 2 reserves is £250 and with 5 Gent's and Seniors' teams involved this could amount to a considerable sum should we have the good run in the competitions that we all hope for. RJ added his support to KPB having mentioned this potential problem before on a number of occasions. RS acknowledged the possibility of such a problem but felt it better to monitor the Treasurer's report carefully each month and take action where needed by having a fund-raising competition should that prove necessary. KPB's suggestion that prize money should be reduced by 10% in order to hold more reserve funding could be considered but not thought to be needed at this stage. RS was keen for members to know how some of their competition entry fee money is being used on various minor improvements to the course and it was agreed that this was an idea worth pursuing.

**Handicap Report:** All is going well at present and information held on IG makes it unnecessary for intermediate handicap reviews to take place. It was thought that a single annual handicap review will prove to be sufficient.

**Matters for Discussion:** All dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**Health and Safety:** The safety matter with the wiring to the hand-dryer in the Ladies' Changing Room mentioned by LB at the last meeting has now been resolved.

**AOB:** PK asked whether trophies won by members could be taken home for a week or two should they wish to do so rather than going straight back into the trophy cupboards. BT had no objection to this in principle but they would need to be signed out and back in again with a note taken of their condition before and after by photograph as a number of the trophies are of considerable value and have a sentimental value as well. PK also wondered if a space could be found for winners of the Seniors' Winter Singles and Pairs Competitions to match the board already showing the equivalent summer competitions. BT promised to investigate.

**100 Club:**

1. J.Cook
2. G.Slaymaker
3. P.Petch

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7.00pm

*Don Wellman*

