

## HALESWORTH GOLF CLUB – GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

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 – Past Club Captain (GS)  
Cathy Chandler – Ladies’ Captain (CC)  
Sara Higgins – Past Ladies’ Captain (SH)  
Karen Forster RD,EA,DT —Ladies’ Representative (KF)  
John Meggison – Seniors’ Captain (JM)  
Dave Tower – Seniors’ Vice-Captain (DT)  
Rob Sherington – Competition & Handicap Secretary (RS)  
Ken Parry-Brown – Treasurer Secretary (KPB)  
Don Wellman – Secretary (DW)

.....  
**Present:** BT,PK,PB, GS, CC, SH, KF, JM, RS, KPB, DW, TF (Tom Fletcher)

**Apologies** RD,EA, DT

**Minutes of the Last Meeting.** RS had questioned the validity of several points included in the minutes under the ‘Matters for Discussion’ section of the February agenda.

Notably the statements on mixed competitions, updates on policies of the three sections, competition entry time review, and finance. He felt that these were not agreed at the meeting and had expressed his views to all members in a message prior to the March meeting asking them to be deleted from the minutes. The discussion that followed could not agree whether or not the points in question had been discussed or agreed and the minutes were left unamended with the objections from RS noted. TF noted the concerns raised by JM about the agreement of issues. DW stated that he took responsibility for any inaccuracies in the minutes and would attempt to ascertain more accurately exactly what was said or not said at future meetings.

**Matters Arising:** Club manager BT started by making a general statement following on from the last Committee Meeting and the point referenced above. He reminded the committee that Halesworth Golf was running well with membership increasing and of the many generous comments made about the course and the club in general. He felt that this was at least in part due to the way in which the golf was managed by the staff and the captains of each section and wished to thank them for the work that they do. He felt that we needed to step back a little with the pace of any changes that were needed and reminded the committee that not all of the decisions going forward needed or should be made by them giving as an example the changes that he had already made to the Club Constitution in order to bring it more up-to-date. In conclusion he felt that we needed to draw a line under any disagreements that we might have as a committee and to continue with the good work that was already happening as the club moves forward.

**Club Update:** BT had a number of updates to report. There are five or six new litter bins to go out on the course shortly and the posts supporting the range nets have again been repaired using a metal sleeve which should ensure no further problems in the high winds that we have experienced lately. The toilet on the course will be repositioned more favourably but BT was concerned with the state in which it was sometimes left after being used. The new sign on the bell near the green of the 5th hole has been replaced by one with more appropriate wording and BT felt it was time to move on from the discussion about alternative ways of indicating that it was safe for players to play their tee shot. BT then went on to list a number of the social

activities open to members and their guests including the Quiz Night, Restaurant Evening, 'Faulty Towers Dining' and how well they are being supported. The members' section on the website will be updated to include a tab for each of the sections of the club, which the ladies, in particular, had requested enabling communication for members to continue to improve. Club Captain PK then mentioned a report he had received from SGU stating that George Swallow has been awarded the Sam Jaggard Trophy for 2023 for performances on the course and also, for being a role model for his peers. PK had written to George and his parents to congratulate them on this significant award. The Committee also offer their congratulations. PK then explained that his charity for the year was to benefit young carers in the local community which was in turn unanimously appreciated by the Committee. Finally, PK asked whether 'survey monkey' might be used as an additional means of communication with members and asked for a conversation about this with management.

**Lady Captain's Report** : We are finally into March, and spring is approaching hopefully. I think February must have been the wettest I've ever known it, and my heart goes out to the Greenkeepers for their tireless work as the weather keeps destroying the course, and most of all the bunkers, but they don't bury their head in the sand [ pardon the pun] they just get on with it, so I thank them for their continuous efforts.

We have had 2 fun comps this February, I love these comps, as I pointed out before always great fun, and gives ladies the chance to play with other ladies that they may not have played with before, such as the Gruesome's, which Sara Higgins and Lesley King won, well done to you both! The other being the 3 little pigs which Sue Hellman, Lesley King and Mary Wildish won, well done to you 3! Unfortunately, our first friendly against Felixstowe away, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb was cancelled due to weather, and has been rescheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> April, thank you Karen for organising this and then having to redo it all again.

We had our 2nd Stapleford booked for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Feb, but unfortunately it had to be postponed due to weather and was put back another week to the 29<sup>th</sup> in replace of the fun yellow ball comp. Karen Last won the overall with 34 pts so Well-done Karen!

We have our 1<sup>st</sup> Medal of the season on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, we currently have 22 ladies signed up for this, fingers crossed it looks like no rain so far, I'm beginning to sound a bit like a stuck record here with the weather.

HGC are hosting the Winter Gala Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, Barbra Dennis is the captain for the day, and we have 76 ladies signed up for this event with a 8am shotgun start, fingers crossed the weather is kinder to us this year, with it having to be abandoned last year with gale force winds and flags and trolleys flying around the golf course. Good luck Barbra and Thank You, for all your time and effort put into this event.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of March Paul, John, Mackenzie and I have the New Captains Drive In, we currently have 126 entries this year, so it will be a long day, but an enjoyable one, and I'm really looking forward to playing alongside these 3 and hope to raise as much money as we can for our chosen charities. It will be the first time Big Bobby has left the house, weather permitting of course.

We also have our annual Easter Bunny competition coming up on the 29<sup>th</sup>, This is one of my favourite events when the ladies get to wear bunny costumes, Rita has not long finished her bunny counselling course, for being a hot cross bunny on the field last year, and she was told we can't be having temper tantrums on the field, as we do have some standards. I decided to actually read the title of the BUNNY comp this year and not turn up as a COCKRELL. I will be funding this competition, so all monies raised will therefore stay in the lady's section. Following on from that with another costume display is the Captain v Vice-Captain in April, where the theme is Alice in Wonderland, Karen and I are really looking forward to this one.

This year I have chosen Heacham Manor for the ladies away weekend on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, Sue Hellman is helping organise this, so thank you Sue. we have 13/14 ladies for this occasion, it should

be another good weekend with plenty of great Golf, food, and not forgetting the soft drinks. Always good fun and I believe it's what you make of it.

Lesley has kindly put up a new trophy this year alongside mine, thank you Lesley. Lesley's trophy will be going to the lowest gross score in the last Medal game of the year, and mine is an accumulated Stapleford score for the year, these trophies will both be presented yearly at the AGM, Lesly and I are yet to name these trophies, but will update you in further reports.

Sara is running the Dementia Day coming up on 1st May, this was such a great success last year, and I know Sara put in a lot of work behind the scenes, so please can we promote this as much as we can, as this is for a good cause and I really hope it is well supported again this year, thank you Sara for stepping up and organising this with John.

The Bobby Moore fund is starting to take off, with lots of different charity events coming up throughout the year, we as Captains are all hoping to raise as much as we can, for our chosen charities. Thank you to all those that have donated so far, Rita is in the process of getting the t-shirts printed for our 666 challenge, so thank you Rita, I must say, I am very excited to see these t-shirts, and to do this challenge alongside Rita and Viv, especially as we have the ladies captains from our chosen clubs joining us for the day. Any support for this is very welcome, thank you. Viv has been updated with the bank details for my chosen charity, and I will leave it to Viv's discretion to how often she would like to send monies over to the Bobby Moore Fund. Thank you, Viv.

The committee and I would like to thank Caroline Emeny, for doing the Spooktacular over the past few years, which I may add has been a great success. Caroline has decided to step down from taking on this Open for the foreseeable future, this is Carolines decision, which I respect and wish her well going forward. We as a committee have decided to carry on with this Open going forward, Ellie has kindly had posters made up for this event to be distributed and also put onto Golf Empire. Thank you Ellie.

I would personally like to thank each one of the ladies in the committee, for your continuous hard work, I can assure you it does not go unnoticed, so thank you and keep up the hard work!

#### **Competition Secretary Report – Feb/Mar 2024**

I feel like a long playing record.....it's rained and rained and then when we dried out it rained more. It's been so frustrating as we seem to have rain only on a Thursday between 8.30 and 10am.

We managed to play the Gruesome fun competition and everyone was very pleasant to each other, no nasty golf in sight and all ladies enjoyed a very respectable round, no hedge, pond or bunker tee shots were forced to play unless that's been kept very quiet! Well done to the winners **Sara Higgins & Lesley King**.

Three little pigs is always a favourite fun competition to play, the best bit of the day was seeing Cathy hand out the prizes of squishy pigs! Two random holes were drawn (thanks Jackie) and this put Lesley, Mary W and Sue H out front runners – a terrific score so well done! Four clubs and a putter together with yellow ball were both cancelled, it happened to rain at 8.30 both days.

I have mentioned before, fun competitions are for all to enjoy and being that it's not up to just me to which ones we play. If anyone has a suggestion please pass it over so we can mix up the fun comps a bit. We do need some new ones to spice them up a bit!

We managed to play our February stableford alternate day competition, whilst Sunday had no rain, the Thursday ladies had rain, and plenty of it. It was very difficult out there but still some lovely scores were posted and a couple of reductions. Well done as follows:-

#### **DV1**

1st	Karen Last(17)	34
2nd	Jane Linford(24)	31
3rd	Judith Bedwell(14)	29

#### **DV2**

1st Sue Hellman(28) 33  
2nd Sue Millard(29) 31  
3rd Mary Pickering(27) 31

Money will be on your cards and thankyou Viv for making sure this a seamless transaction. I've heard nothing but positive views on the entry fee increment which is not only beneficial to the winners/runners up but of course our section as a whole.

I've introduced a new comp (to us) this year which is the Australian Spoons foursomes competition run by England golf. Lets hope this is well supported so that we can run this as a yearly competition. H/I 15-54 all on IG and ready for you to sign up. Easter bunny, March stableford – all open to sign up.

There are a few people to mention going forward in their matches, all these competitions I will report on in due course. Good luck to Rita and Lesley in the daily mail foursomes at Bungay in March. I'm sure they know we are all behind them and wish them well on their match.

Entries have been posted to the Race to Woodhall and I'm eagerly waiting to see if our junior Georgie has gained a place at Stowmarket in June. I'm sure she would love to see a few Halesworth faces to encourage her and her caddy dad Neil. Good luck Georgie!

Winter league is just around the corner and I know Barbara and Cathy have been busy behind the scenes working to make this a great event, like all these large open fixtures we are very grateful to the ladies that keep supporting and helping on these days. I'm sure Cathy will appreciate any of your offers for help either now or in the future so please don't be shy to come forward and offer any assistance. Not cakes as that's Cathy Judds job to sort out!!

March proves to be a busy month looking forward and we wish Cathy, Paul, John and McKensie all the best for their drive in. Lets hope for a little ray of sunshine for their day. I know they all have very different but equally as important charities so good luck with your fund raising.

We will pray to the weather gods the rain stops on a Thursday, we only need 4 hours of nice weather, so we are not asking for much!

Until next month.

Sara Higgins

Ladies Competition Secretary 2024

#### **Ladies' Handicap report March Committee meeting 2024**

There were no new lady members since the February meeting.

No handicaps came down and only few ladies went out as the season remains very quiet.

One month to go before we see some interesting changes to the handicap system and to our handicaps.

Lesley King

Handicap secretary

#### **TREASURERS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING -7th MARCH 2020**

Once again, the weather has played havoc with this month's competitions, only two were played which brought in £135.50. Obviously, this won't be received until the beginning of March.

However, we did receive January's competition payments of £151 which has boosted the current account to £345.55 (£1900 is still to be paid out for The Gala Day on 11<sup>th</sup> March) and the savings account to £830.90 (of which £360 is Cathys Charity).

In addition, I'm still waiting for the itemized invoice for the engravings from the men's section which I haven't included on the Accounts as the amount is still to be confirmed.

I have sent off the new Bank Mandate to Barclays (26<sup>th</sup> February) which will apparently take two weeks to amend at which time 2 signatories will be required for outgoing payments, as agreed by Committee.

The Financial Procedures have been finalised.

### **Club Captain's Report: Since the February Committee meeting on 21.02.24 –**

1. Yet another busy month as Club Captain
2. I have now played with 24 different members since being appointed captain and take each opportunity to seek feedback about the club generally and the course. This has led to further discussions with EA, BT, RD and MC. Players have been positive about changes made as a result of the feedback I've been able to provide. I feel the key to most issues is good communication. I have agreed with EA that using the club monthly newsletter is the easiest way to do this efficiently.
3. On 24.02.24 I welcomed the players from Bungay who were here to play CP and CH in the Daily Mail Foursomes first round match. We took photos on the first tee to act as a memento of the occasion for both sets of players. Bungay thanked me on behalf of the club, for the welcome they received, from Pro-shop, to bar staff to opponents.
4. Unfortunately, the course has suffered during the relentless rain we have experienced over the past couple of months. However, MC and his team have worked constantly in trying to keep the course in as a good condition as possible. Whilst some will argue that the course should be closed more often, others are grateful for the team's efforts in allowing them to play wherever possible.
5. **Charities** – I met with Jess Searle (Manager of Service) on 28.02.24 to discuss my charity for this year – Family Carers. She confirmed that there are 80 young people with a 10-mile radius that would potentially benefit from any support HG could offer through the captains Charity. Additionally, RD has kindly agreed 'in principle' to a separate 'taster' session for some of these young people should any show an interest
6. **GC, MB, JM, CC and myself** are all involved in the New Captains Drive In, involving the Junior section for the first time (I believe) in the longest drive competition. I'm sure it will be a fantastic occasion with 128 players involved in the competition. My thanks to RS for ensuring those without a 'team' are matched up. Further money will be raised through the auction of Terry Jeffreys donated painting, the donated raffle prizes as well as the auction of thirteen four ball vouchers we have acquired too date. All monies raised will be divided equally between Gents, Ladies & Seniors Charities. It is great that we are trialling the use of the halfway house during this event. It is also fantastic that a new hard standing outside then shed has been prepared by MC and his team.
7. Further updated the '**Aims and Objectives for 2024**' paper from February's meeting following the inclusion of a couple of points and some slight rewording. I have also moved the agreed and actioned items to the end of the document so it is easier to focus on those items still to be discussed or updated / actioned.

8. I circulated a **financial rules document**, drawn up by the Ladies section, to the Seniors Captain and Gents treasurer, for review, as we look at reviewing all our policies and procedures as previously discussed. It makes sense to follow one set of principles across each section.
  9. Met with Bob Judd on 22.02.24 to continue the oversight of the **Tolly Cobbold selection** process. We have reduced the squad down from the initial 28 players to a more manageable **xx**. We held our second 'trial' match on 09.03.24 which enabled us to identify the strongest pairs for our three practice matches away to Diss on 16.03.24 and against Hambro on 23.03.24. Each of these matches will involve 6 pairs. We will then have a practice round at **Aldeburgh** on 07.04.24. This is followed by a final warm up match v SGU under 16 Junior team on 13.04.24. The match is on **21.04.24** and we would welcome anyone offering support.
  10. I continue to liaise with Paul and Mark Coby and plans continue to firm up for both the **Hambro** and **Stenson** squads. **Hambro team play The Suffolk away on 21.04.24. The Stenson team play away at Stowmarket on 04.05.24**
  11. Stan has a very competitive squad for his efforts in retaining the **Parks Trophy**. Several new members have bolstered his low handicap options and as usual, he will be looking at form to determine the team. **The Parks team play Ipswich at home on 16.05.24.**
  12. Rob has had **Beaumont** trials on 12.03.24 & the 12.04.24. **The Beaumont team play at home against Thorpeness on 02.05.24.** It would be great if we again promote and encourage support of each of these matches.
  13. All **SGU competition** trials and matches continue to be **logged onto IG** for future reference and an historical record of how HG has done.
  14. Matters **raised with me**, by members, since my election as Captain continue to be contained within this report
- A. **Mat on the third tee box** – raised with RD that this mat is too small for some using drivers who end up standing on the edge of the trim. I requested we communicate the reason behind its use (it just stops members wondering) and this was then covered by the clubs February newsletter.
- B. **Prize money** – there are still some differing views shared e.g.
- that there should be payment for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> placements rather than divisional payments in Gents competitions.
  - there are views that we now have it right as players of all abilities / handicaps get a chance to win.
  - could we have differing payments between Stablefords (divisions) and Medals (placements)?
  - Is the method used formulaic?
  - Is this where survey monkey could be useful in seeking majority views from those that play on Sunday's?

15. I am still attempting to finalise a date for the Eaton Golf Club away day. Initial date has clashed with a Norfolk Ladies County competition at Eaton. Lots of interest from those I have mentioned it too so far.
16. I met once again with **KF** (apologies given by CC) on **04.03.24** to complete a draft paper ready for committee consideration at Marchs meeting. This focusses on an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion plan.
17. **I will be attending the Suffolk Golf Union AGM** on the **22.03.24** at Newton Green Golf Club. There is a restriction to one representative per club and no round of golf this year.
18. **Colin Hillier** (and **Chris Peach**) played their **Daily Mail Foursomes** match on **24.02.24**, losing 3-2 to a very solid pairing from Bungay.
19. Finally, I was delighted to congratulate **George Swallow** following his award by **The Suffolk Golf Union of the Sam Jaggard Trophy** for his "contribution on and off the course, and being a role model for his peers within the Suffolk Juniors section".

### **Captains Diary April 2024**

07.04.24 Tolly Practice Round at Aldeburgh  
13.04.24 Tolly v SGU Juniors u16 practice match  
18.04.24 Suffolk Captains v Cambridge at Halesworth Golf  
21.04.24 Tolly v Aldeburgh Artisans Round 1 match + Hambro away

**Seniors' Committee Report:** Apologies for the late submission of this report but the Seniors only held their last committee meeting yesterday (12<sup>th</sup> March) and much of what was discussed is appended to this report. The full minutes from the meeting are now available and will be circulated as soon as possible.

#### **Appendix One**

##### **Extracts from HGC Seniors Committee meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Seniors Committee Discussion of Senior's Autonomy

#### **Appendix Two**

##### **Extracts from HGC Seniors Committee meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Treasurer's Statement (extract)

### **Seniors' Captain's Report**

#### **Golf and Matches**

As with everyone else, several Seniors competitions have been cancelled due to weather and two have been curtailed to just 10 holes. Several fixtures have been put off to a later date and we are accommodating those as best we can.

Our entry numbers for Tues and Fri comps remain high and we have 71 entered for the SB Qualifier on Tues 19<sup>th</sup> March.

We finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Winter League, a creditable performance.

The friendlies are now up and running and we won the first match of the season last week at home to Rookery 6 – 2. The away match the following Friday against Caister was cancelled by them because of the state of their course but our Secretary is trying to re-arrange. Our next match is at home to Sprowston this coming Friday.

The trials for the Beaumont started yesterday but were curtailed again by the weather, only 10 holes being managed.

All friendly matches for the rest of the year now have 'Acting Captains' allocated to them, and all fixtures for the next quarter have allocated 'finalisers' from the committee who will be in charge of the fixture.

I have created a Spreadsheet Matrix which records the availability, selection and how many teams each squad member actually plays in the friendlies – we have 85 members signed up to our squad. I will keep it up-dated after every match. This spreadsheet will be available for viewing at any time by any member from myself upon request.

This will make our selection policy more open and transparent and assist with our aim of spreading the selections around as much as possible to include members who have not played before.

### **Captains Drive-In 2024**

The Seniors Captain has committed the Seniors section to a revised format for the Captains Drive-In for this year only. There was some concern that it has now become a big charity day and all the gift vouchers would be used up in this one event but the Club Captain has assured us otherwise. The Seniors Captains donation to the event will be approx £90, the same as the Club and Ladies Captains and the proceeds will be split equally amongst the respective charities.

The Seniors Captain's choice of charity for this year will be the British Heart Foundation.

### **New members**

We have had 4 new members join the Seniors section since 1<sup>st</sup> December and 6 more in January. We are the biggest section in the club and continuing to grow.

### **Committee**

The frequency of Seniors Committee meetings remain at every quarter.

The date of next meeting: Mon 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 10am

### **Appendix One**



## **Extracts from HGC Seniors Committee meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### **Seniors Committee Discussion of Senior's Autonomy**

#### **8.1 Seniors Section autonomy**

8.1.1 The Seniors Committee believes that the Seniors Section adopts well established procedures that comply with the club constitution (which was updated for 2024 and in the committee's opinion does not require changes at this point in time).

8.1.2 The Club Committee document "Aims and Objectives" is very welcome as an advisory document from which ideas will be put to the Seniors Committee for adoption, if considered appropriate.

8.1.3 The committee has concern that forcing through its implementation as Club Committee "rules" undermines the Seniors Section autonomy and may create discord across the membership, and undoubtedly require constitutional changes. The committee suggests time is taken for reflection before taking this path.

8.1.4 With reference to discussions recorded in the February General Committee meeting about Seniors tee times, Tom Fletcher reported that the current status is that the Seniors Committee Executive have worked with the club professional to establish block bookings for competitions and matches, with timings that work well for the club and provide an opportunity for (the increasing numbers of) Seniors to play in competitions. There are no requirements for afternoon bookings or 4-ball competitions, both of which could be disruptive for the club. The format of competitions during the winter months will be reviewed.

8.1.5 The club policy document 'Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy' is a serious piece of work that addresses in a practical way all relevant aspects of club management. Regarding the document "Putting an Equality Policy into Practice", which has been forwarded by the General Committee for review, it is the Seniors Committee's opinion is that it has little bearing on the way we play golf today, although maybe it will in the very distant future if society norms change. In any case, development and adoption of a new policy is the responsibility of Club Management, and will require constitutional changes developed by Club Management, not member committees.

The committee voted by show of hands, with a unanimous vote of approval for the above and for the Seniors Captain to relay to Club Management prior to the March 13th General Committee Meeting.

### **Appendix Two**

## **Extracts from HGC Seniors Committee meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### **Treasurer's Statement (extract)**

The Seniors Captain forwarded a copy of the Ladies Section draft set of 'Financial Rules' and asked these be reviewed for this meeting with the potential they be adopted across all sections of the club.

I can confirm they will not be suitable for the Seniors Section. For example, the document states (quote); *'The use of the debit card should be limited and an alternative signatory should be notified that the card has been used.'* The Seniors section do not operate with a debit card facility. This is just one example of why I concluded it would not be 'fit for purpose' for the Seniors section.

The Captain has also recently forwarded a copy of the ladies section 'Accounts Spreadsheet' with comments from the Club Captain stating this is to *'move toward standardisation of how finance records are kept and presented'*. The Treasurer has reviewed this spreadsheet and considers this document to be a big step backwards.

The Seniors Treasurer recommends the Seniors Captain relays the following to the main committee – before we try to 'standardise' some of these areas, the main club committee needs to look at the 'basics' on how our committees are set up in relation to their finances/accounts and then develop a project plan, rather than trying to implement processes and procedures which for the Seniors section, are not fit for purpose.

The committee voted by show of hands and it unanimously supported the above statement to be put forward to the main committee.

#### **Competition Secretary's Report:**

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

**Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> – 'Captain Ernie' Trophy – CANCELLED due to course closed**

**Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup> – GENTS Foursomes – CANCELLED due to course closed**

**Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> – Gents FEBRUARY Stableford – 80 Entrants**

**Winner Stephen Bramhill 42 Pts**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tyron Prins 38 Pts OCB

3<sup>rd</sup> Danny Smith 38 Pts

**Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gents MARCH Medal (Played OVER 10 HOLES) – 59 Entrants**

**Winner Allan Barnes Net 36 OCB**

2<sup>nd</sup> Brett Lockwood Net 36

3<sup>rd</sup> Danny Milne Net 37

**Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> – Gents MARCH Stableford – 74 Entrants**

**Winner Stephen Vale 39 Pts**

2<sup>nd</sup> Darron Ridgeon 38 Pts

3<sup>rd</sup> Andy Bennett 38 Pts

**Gary Slaymaker Player of the Year: - NEW Leader is Danny Smith 39 Pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oliver Last 38 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tyron Prins 33**

**Gents Summer Eclectic – 1<sup>st</sup> Daniel Smith Net 59, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tyron Prins Net 60, 3<sup>rd</sup> Luke Hunter Net 60**

**Winter Singles knockout** – Jack Rawlinson or Paul Butcher will play Tyron Prins in the final.

**Winter Foursomes** - Final Stage John Last & Nick Bloom will play Ian Stannard & Gary Slaymaker

**Next Competitions** due as follows: -

- Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> NEW CAPTAINS – ‘DRIVE IN’
- Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CUP (Mixed Competition)
- Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> GENTS Foursomes
- Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> GENTS SPRING TROPHY – 1<sup>st</sup> major Gents Competition of the Year
- Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> Gents April Stableford
- Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> Hambro / Tolly First Round – will put in a Stableford competition for those left who wish to play

#### **1. Front of House Distribution of money update**

Additional money now being given to the Front of House (Girls) – Thank You

#### **2. The Eric Felgate Trophy to take place in May as a starting point for the subsequent monthly Valley Course competitions in June, July, August & September.**

**Eric Felgate Trophy** – Following discussion at the last meeting I have made some changes to this (see below) to be truly inclusive and involve as many club members as possible (9 hole / full) providing the opportunity for us to remember and celebrate Eric's work over many years to an audience of players some of which would remember him others would not, so this competition provides the opportunity to illustrate to members all that he did over such a long time at our club.

So

- Individual Stableford – Players can choose their own slot and sign-up others.
- Morning Round Tee times available from 8am to 10.30am.
- Afternoon Tee Times available from 3.30pm to 5.30pm (Great opportunity to play and enjoy Wednesday Meal deal afterwards)
- Prize given along with the Eric Felgate Trophy to the individual with the best score throughout the entire day.
- Nearest Pin Prizes 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in two for both morning and afternoon players.

**Valley Course Competitions** - trail 4 – now set up on IG **Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup>, Monday August 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Players can enter then book a tee time at any time during the day (so no need to block book tee times or close the course to others)
- Stableford Scoring

- **Players can compete either 9 or 18 holes** - separate prizes for both on each day.
- Best 3 scores over the 4 competitions to form an accumulator with Prizes for the best overall scores.
- Open to all handicap indices so will use divisions for allocation of prizes ensuring similar number in each division. Prize to overall best score

### **Handicap Secretary's Report :**

I have published a spreadsheet **showing the course handicap using the new calculation for any player at Halesworth Golf Club off both White & Yellow Tees.** This has been placed as a point of reference for all players on the Gents Noticeboard.

Alongside this I have attached from England golf a short(ish) paper for the information of all golfers I feel **this is an effective communication tool to give to our members along with signposting them to 3 very good short videos –**

Courses Rating Minus Par

Expected Score – From Scaling

Four-Ball Scores

**Treasurer's Report:** Headline – the balance in the bank is £8,082.98.

However not all of this belongs to the General Committee!

£1,948 belongs to the Juniors, and £608.00 belongs to the 100 Club.

This leaves a balance for the Committee of £5,526.98.

To reach these figures since our last meeting, £17 has been received for 100 Club, £250 from the Golf Foundation for the Juniors, £200 from Suffolk Golf Union and £166.50 from the difference between Competition entry fees and prize money.

The only payment made was £100 for a blue shirt and a blue zip-top for our Captain.

When I was Captain several years ago, a Captain would have to buy his own jumper. I decided, without reference to the Committee, that in future a jumper would be given to the incoming Captain at his Drive-in. This has cost £60 each year.

I would ask for retrospective approval of this action.

How does a balance of £5,000 seem in relation to the Committee's likely income and expenditure.

County matches cost a potential £250 (seniors £125) each if our team is drawn away, plus the cost of a light luncheon, say, a further £200 (home or away). This year that might be £2,250 if we were knocked out in the second round in each one as we have lots of home draws – something we are not used to! Add 50% if we lose in the third round and again for the further two rounds each. There are of course the nominal entrance fees on top!

We contributed to the cost of team shirts last year! We will need to be purchase again as we are changing to white shirts.

Regular spending arises from the AGM Buffet, Trophies and Engraving and the Past Captain's tie.

There are other costs to which we contribute, this year Rake holders, previously McDivots and for the computer screen outside the Pro Shop.

To balance this there is of course (depending on the weather) income from the weekly competitions.

Entry fees from competitions have increased over time 2020 £9,527, 2021 £12,076, 2022 £14,101 and 2023 £14,645. The causes are more competitors and higher entry fees. The surplus after the cost of prizes has also increased, but at a slightly lesser rate as the cost of trophies/engraving has been reduced. Last year the surplus was £3,081 (2022 £1,722), note however that a greater percentage payout is being made in the current year so this surplus will be reduced. I believe our present balance is not unreasonable.

The above calculations from KPB were in response to PK's question at the February Committee Meeting as to what was a reasonable balance to carry forward from year to year. There was no disagreement to KPB's request for retrospective permission to continue to buy the Club Captain a club sweater, to be presented at the Captains' Drive-In, from club funds. RS mentioned that having a small surplus of money in the club account had been helpful on the occasions when the management had agreed to go 50/50 with a request from the Committee for electronic equipment or for small items to improve the course for members.

### **Matters for Discussion:**

#### Aims & Objectives Document

1. Finances
2. Equal opportunities Paper
3. IG Review (eg time of competition sign up, how and when members pay entrance fee, visibility of competition in progress)

PK listed the objectives which he considered had already been realised from his original 'Aims and Objectives' document and congratulated the Committee on what had been achieved in the first two months. These included a halfway house near the 10<sup>th</sup> tee to test long term viability for major events, rake holders for bunkers, confirmation of club colours, new board trophies (Judd & Jennings and Ian Ransby Trophy), more rapid payment of competition winnings, parking space changes for Committee members, updates on website for members' views, contribution to the newsletter, and competition results circulated in a similar fashion.

#### Finances

PK was of the belief that we need a system in which we manage the finances of each section in a more uniform way and to do this we needed to share the best practices of each section. He felt that amongst other advantages it would help to avoid any perceived mis-appropriation of funds. JM, backed up by TF, felt that it was too early to do this as the Seniors' had a new treasurer in place with accountancy experience, who needed more time to settle into the role and that their present system of accounting was working well for them. KF was concerned that the Seniors' Committee had agreed with the Seniors' Treasurer that the suggestions put forward by the Ladies' Section were not fit for purpose at the present time. She felt it was a series of suggestions and that it was disrespectful to have dismissed it out of hand. The difference of opinions was noted and it was left that a meeting of the treasurers of the three sections should consider a meeting at some time in the future to share expertise that worked for everyone. TF stated that the Seniors' Treasurer was referring to potential implications for the Seniors' section and was not intended to be a criticism of other committees' procedures or ideas.

Equal Opportunities: KF felt much the same about the reaction of the Seniors' Committee to the 'Putting an Equality Policy into Practice' which was part of the Captain's 'Aims and Objectives' document. The Seniors commented that the club policy, 'Equality, Diversity & inclusion Policy' was a serious document which addresses in a practical way many of the issues involved. The Seniors felt that the proposals in the new document had little bearing on how we play golf at present and that, in any case, some of the suggestions put forward were for management to decide. BT was of the opinion that we were not discriminating against anyone and that he had received no complaints about this from members. He also reminded members that discrimination on grounds of gender was not the only consideration that the club needed to be concerned about and that management was aware of this and would act accordingly.

The discussion then went on to talk about tee-times on Sunday for lady members. This is an issue that has been spoken about before and KF and SH felt it only reasonable that lady members should be allowed to choose a tee time on a Sunday rather than being restricted to certain allocated times. SH for example, as one of the better lady golfers, would like the opportunity to play in a Sunday Competition with the men as she feels this would help her game and there is also the question of wives playing with their husbands (or not !) as something that a number of the men, including GS, would like to be made available. RS reminded the Committee that we have already had two open competitions which went well but that a large number of the men were very protective of the Sunday competitions and that changes needed to be managed carefully in order to take the membership as a whole with us.

**Health & Safety:** Nothing to report

**Any Other Business:**

Ladies' Captain CC suggested that we should consider replacing the General Committee with a committee represented by the captains and vice-captains of the three sections who would meet with management as deemed necessary and report back to their respective committees. JM felt the present system works for the Seniors' and gives them sufficient autonomy and need not be changed whilst it is working well. RS expressed the view, held by some others on the Committee, that a General Committee, with an overarching remit, was still the best option. BT believed that the General Committee was a communication tool for him and the club and that it had no intention of abusing the autonomy that the three sections enjoy at present. TF stated that the 'Aims and Objectives' document was welcomed by the Seniors as a guidance document only. BT said there was nothing in the club constitution that addressed the generation of new rules and that the Committee should concentrate on good communication and mutual trust, as has always been the case. TF recommended that not publishing the 'Putting Equality into Practice' as a club document for the reasons stated in the Seniors Captain report. BT stated that this might be something that we could look at again in a couple of years. PK said that he would go to the upcoming SGU AGM as club representative with particular interest in the question of neutral venues for County Competitions.

**100 Club Draw:**

1. D. King
2. I. Stannard
3. J. King

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 at 7.00pm**