

Halesworth Golf General Committee Meeting, Wednesday 19th January 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' (LB)
Sally McCoy – Ladies' Representative (SM)
Clare Woods – Ladies' Representative (CW)
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: Minutes were agreed to be an accurate summary of the meeting.

Matters Arising: RS opened the meeting by welcoming Sally McCoy, Clare Woods, Bob Judd and John Ashton as new members to the Committee. From the previous meeting it was confirmed that the artificial tees had been put in place on the Valley Course and are now in operation. The Greens Advisory Group are in place and will meet shortly for their first meeting. It was made clear again that the group was purely advisory, giving Mark Coby valuable feedback from members and passing on ideas. The shirts to be purchased for all club matches by Mrs Hunt should be available from March and will be supplied by Under Armour. CW asked that the minutes from the Ladies' Committee meetings could also be included on the members' page and BT agreed to this.

Club Update: BT was pleased to announced the welcome news that Ellie Andrews has been appointed Deputy General Manager. It means that with BT often absent from the club on a day- by- day basis there will now be somebody on site to deal with any matters arising which would normally have been dealt with by him. The appointment was effective from 1st Jan 2022.

RD stated that there was to be a zoom meeting with IG at 4.00 pm on 20th Jan. to discuss the possibility of making competition payments via IG with the money coming in an automated way from members' clubhouse balance. Entries for the Open Competitions were coming in quickly and with a waiting list for new members this was further evidence that the club is in an extremely healthy position at present. There has been recent work on the 7th tee on the Valley Course and a number of mature trees have very recently been planted on the Blyth Course as part of the ongoing improvements. Members might have noticed the new bench opposite the 16th tee was in place and made from re-cycled plastic. It looks good and being maintenance-free has a number of advantages and is far less expensive to buy than the hardwood equivalent. The bench from the 10th tee which now appears to be beyond repair will be replaced in due course and possibly in the same style as that on the 16th. This could be a pattern for the future.

Lady Captain's Report: Still early for much to report. Sunday ladies played their first QF on the 16th, winner Tanya McGregor with 30pts. Thursday ladies will play their QF on 20th. There have been some fun competitions played with the weather being kind.

Captain's Report: It was great to see more members attend the club AGM on Friday December 3rd. This meeting gave me the opportunity to thank members of the committee for their support over the past year as well as thanking on behalf of all members Ben & Richard for their day-to-day management and significantly Mr & Mrs Hunt for all they continue to do to make our club such an honour to be both Captain and an active member of.

I would like to wish both Lynda as ladies Captain and Paul as Seniors Captain success in their roles over the forthcoming year and look forward to working closely with them. I also look forward to working with Bob as my vice-captain over the next year and am confident that the club is in good hands for the foreseeable future.

The course looks in terrific condition, the recent unseasonable good weather has meant that it seems so much further ahead than one would normally expect at this time of year. It is good to see the planting taking place of lots of more mature trees near to the 13th green which certainly has the potential to become a real signature hole. I look forward to seeing the proposed developments on the 16th tee take place in due course - well done to Mark and his team.

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

Members showed their generosity and appreciation for our two key teams recently through first the 'Greenkeepers Cup'. We turned this into a weekend of support due to the large number of raffle prizes provided by members meaning that over £1300 was raised and passed onto to Mark and his Green Team. This was followed by the 'Front of House' weekend with 120 players playing in the competition finishing with their phones as torches on the 18th!!! This raised over £1600 which was passed onto to Ellie for distribution to our superb Front of House Team.

Originally no competition was scheduled for Sunday January 30th. Following discussion with Lynda as lady captain we will **be trialling our first 'Club Competition'** which will be open to all members run in exactly the same way as a normal gents stableford.

- Max playing handicap 28 men 36 women
- 3 Divisions - handicaps to be finalised after entry to ensure a similar number in each.
- Prize to overall winner and winner of each division.
- Prizes to the next best 10-12 scores depending on entries
- Separate 2 ball payout for those who put in their 50p
- Sign up sheet for tee times from 7.44 to 11.28, players can play after this but will need to book a tee time via normal tee booking sheet.
- Sign up sheet was open from 6.45 Sunday 16th for players to add their name to a slot along with playing partners. **So far we have 87 players signed up to play.**

It is intended that this be a trial event and following feedback if felt successful another 1/2 will be set up later in the year. If this is the case a prize will be awarded to the player who performs best across all of them with points given to those who finish in the top 15 places.

It is pleased to see how members have embraced this opportunity showing that our club is inclusive to all members.

Seniors' Captain Report:

General overview –

- I'm pleased to say that with the help and support of Tom Fletcher and Richard Fernley there has been a smooth transition of the captaincy.
- Tom has continued to oversee the checking of IG 'set up' for all competitions and Richard has managed both the Winter league fixtures and formal Competitions.
- We have seen a dramatic increase in attendance at both 'roll up' and more formal competitions. For example, we are now seeing fields of between 50 and 60 plus signing up, compared to much lower attendance, even taking covid into account I believe. I welcome the agreement to allow seniors to have an additional three tee times to accommodate larger numbers in attendance.
- Feedback from new members continues to be impressive, with many citing the friendly atmosphere and welcome from members, staff and golf shop often being the reason they join us. ***The course and its condition are both highly rated and commented upon.***
- Since **01.12.21** we have welcomed **9** new senior members and **6** now have active handicaps.
- Since **01.09.21** we have welcomed **29** new seniors and **17** have handicaps with **16** now playing regularly.

- Currently, according to IG, we have **310 Seniors** (240 with an active and 70 with an inactive handicap.)
- Tom Fletchers **WhatsApp** group is widely used by new members to organise social golf and interaction with members. More established members are now joining it to communicate with other players as well. Feedback has been very positive.
- The Christmas Meal and Trophy presentation was deemed a great success with 73 attendees (despite the increase in concerns re Covid that week). All reported having a fabulous evening. Thanks to Rob for MC'ing.
- **Through donations and raffle prizes the Seniors were able to contribute £355 to the front of house staff on duty that evening.**
- The Seniors Committee will hold its first meeting on 09.02.22 (room booked) with further meetings in May, August and November. Dates will be confirmed on 09.02.22.

Competitions –

We have had two **Winter League** matches during this period.

- 08.12.21 Drawn home match 2-2 v Southwold
- 19.01.22 Won home match 3.0 - 0.5 v Caldecott Hall.

Our Club matches begin in March.

- We have **30** Spring / Summer matches in place, all confirmed in diary. Spread between March and October.
- **5** winter league responding matches in place for Autumn / Winter this year.
- John Morley (Fixtures secretary) is currently canvassing squad members for a review of 2023 fixtures.

Seniors Winter Singles and Winter foursomes - remain on track with both at least at quarter final stage.

Gents Singles – we have **four seniors** remaining in the quarter finals, with at least one guaranteed a semi-final place.

Gents Winter foursomes – we have had **five seniors** reaching the quarter finals.

Stableford Qualifiers

- Dec 7th (**51** players) Won by John Ward (29) with 39 points.
- Dec 17th (**40** players) Won by Mike Hayes (16) with 38 points.
- Jan 18th (**48** players) Won by John Ward (28) with 37 points.

Stableford Non-Qualifiers

- Dec 10th (**20** players) - with a restriction to 10 holes due to wet conditions.
- Dec 14th (**43** players) - plus 8 played their winter foursomes matches.
- Dec 21st (**42** players)
- Jan 7th (**32** players) - plus 9 in Medal of Medals and 4 playing their foursomes match. (**45**)

Texas Scramble

- Jan 4th (**63** players) - 3 ball format.
- Jan 11th (**57** players) - best 2 from 3 scores.

Metfield Mafia Mug

- Jan 14th Won by Danny O'Neill & John Bute with 35 points. 60 players involved.

Suffolk Golf Union

Parks Trophy (HI 11.4 / PH 12 max)

- Drawn away to Gorleston w/c **16.05.22**
- Contact already made with Ray Pope (Gorleston Seniors / Parks Captain)
- Practice matches will take place in April TBA
- Paul Kent will Captain the team.
- Plan to pair single handicapper with 10-12 handicapper

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

- Drawn away to Seckford w/c **09.05.22**
- Contact made with club. Awaiting response from Seckford / Beaumont Captain.
- Practice matches will take place in April TBA
- John Ashton will Captain the team

We anticipate several seniors will also challenge to represent Halesworth Golf in the Tolley, Stenson and Hambro teams

Charities supported for this year

1. Halesworth Community Centre
2. HOPPA
3. Young Carers Group - focus on Halesworth area.

Issues raised by senior members for noting and discussion -

1. Can any **changes to policy / rules or general developments** be separated into a brief bullet point sheet, put up in changing rooms? Not all members will read the committee meeting minutes in full and this will be welcomed amongst members (DK)
2. **The minutes** are quite difficult to find scrolling under the Officers Page. Could a tab be added or e.g., the news amended to News and Meeting Minutes? (DK)
3. There is a strength of feeling that we should be challenging the Suffolk Golf Union about how the **draw is made for the Suffolk competitions**. It is almost mathematically impossible to keep having the same clubs getting drawn away from home. Several members would like the club to challenge formally. (PK)
4. **Bench** from 10th Tee. Suggestion this is now in storage but is now in many pieces. Members believe this was like many benches and donated. What are the plans, if any, to return to its previous location? (JG)
5. **Monitor shelf**. It is now several months since this was broken. Seniors find entering scores into IG on this monitor much easier than their phones, however, struggle to use it when it remains so low to the floor. When will we have a shelf back, please? (PK)
6. **Boards** – the only update missing from 2020 appears to be Richard Fernley as Seniors Captain. (RF)
7. **Front of house staff** – is it possible they could start 30 minutes earlier. Seniors waiting to start would welcome a coffee (even takeaway) before their round on the cold mornings. At least ten players hanging around in the morning, should make it viable (TW/TS)
8. **Seniors section recognition**. Is it time to consider this by having Senior captains' photographs in the hallway, alongside Gents and Ladies? (PK)

I would suggest the arguments for supporting the proposal are that -

- a. Senior's members make up around 62% of our membership.
- b. I believe that arguably Seniors contribute as much (if not more) to the club's revenue, as any other sector.
- c. The Seniors section is the busiest - with more club matches than ladies or Gents (where the excellence of our course is highlighted), it has more formal and informal competitions, it has more winter league activity and also contributes about 20% of the Gents Sunday competition field.
- d. I believe it would demonstrate to the (approximately 62%) membership that Halesworth Golf values and respects its senior's section. By omitting its captains' pictures from the corridor suggests inequality.
- e. Many other clubs have a visual representation of their senior's section.
- f. Could it be seen as ageist not to have senior recognition by Halesworth Golf.

The arguments against I could think of were –

- a. We like it how it is. (But maybe it's time to change)
- b. We've never done it before, so not sure why we would do it now. (Because its overdue)
- c. There is cost involved (Seniors section will meet the cost)
- d. Seniors are part of the Gents and represented by Gents Captain on wall. (So why have a senior's section and captain?)

I'm sure there may be more.

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

Sunday 21st November **November Medal – 66 Entrants**

Winner Daniel Brown Net 69, 2nd Chris Calver Net 70, 3rd Allan Barnes Net 70,

Friday 28th November

GreenKeepers Cup Stableford – 51 Entrants

£1327 Raised for our superb Team of Greenkeepers

Winner Rob Sherington 44 Pts 2nd Paul Sherwood 42 Pts, 3rd Cathy Chandler 42 Pts

Sunday 28th November **November Stableford – 66 Entrants**

Winner Warren Tydeman 39 Pts 2nd Daniel Milne 38 Pts, 3rd Lee Adams 38 Pts

Sunday 5th December

December Medal – 51 Entrants

Winner Mark Henderson Net 68, 2nd Brett Lockwood Net 68, 3rd Matthew Friend Net 72

Sunday 12th December **Turkey Trot (Teams of 3 Drawn) – 93 Entrants**

Winners Kevin Bates, Colin Hillier & Richard Doddington 81 Pts, 2nd Joe Emes-Bayton, Neville Chubbock & Lee Adams, 79 Pts, 3rd Paul Calver, Tom Fletcher & Claire Woods 78 Pts

Sunday 19th December **'Sherington' Front of House Shield (Texas Scramble) – 120 Entrants!!!**

£1620 Raised for our superb Front of House Team

Winners Ed Bowles, Mary Pickering, Keith Pickering & Jessica Hood Net 59 ocb

2nd John Cook, Terry Jeffrey, Andy Baber & Gary Botfield Net 59

3rd Warren Tydeman, Andy Delf, Gerald Jackson & Colin Hillier Net 59

Another team finished Net 59 and 26 of the 30 teams finished Net 63 or better. This was using 1/8 of combined Team Course Handicaps rather than the % set up on IG

Monday 27th December **December Stableford – 54 Entrants**

Winner Richard Battle 42 Pts 2nd Adam Hillier 41 Pts, 3rd Warren Tydeman 40 Pts

Sunday 2nd January **January Medal – 62 Entrants**
Winner Paul Sherwood Net 70, 2nd Tom Feveyar Net 70, 3rd Neil Coby Net 71

Sunday 9th January **GENTS Foresomes – 76 Entrants**
Winners Justin Martin & Lee Warren 40 Pts, 2nd Sam Borrett & Will Pye 38 Pts, 3rd Derek Arnold & John Meggison 37 Pts

Sunday 16th January **January Stableford – 80 Entrants**
Winner Daniel Brown 42 Pts 2nd Keith Ellis 40 Pts, 3rd Colin Hillier 38 Pts

- **Winter Singles 27 Players** – Nearly at semi-finals one set up Daniel Brown v Bradley Reynolds
- **Foursomes 46 Players** - Nearly at semi-finals one set up Andrew Higgins & Sid Simpson v Ben Brown & Lee Warren

Player of the Year: - Current Leader **13 Pts clear is Warren Tydeman** - This runs until October 31st

Gents Winter Eclectic – This was VERY CLOSE at the top between Warren Tydeman, Joe Eames-Bayton and William Pye – This runs until March 31st

Next Competitions due as follows: -

- Sunday 23rd January Gents Foresomes
- Sunday 30th January OPEN CLUB Stableford Competition – Trail Event
- Sunday 6th February Gents Monthly Medal
- Sunday 13th February Gents Foresomes
- Sunday 20th February Gents Monthly Stableford
- Sunday 27th February Gents Foresomes

Finally – I am in the STILL IN the process of finalising a document detailing the **Mens' Competition Rules and Rules for Playing Golf for all Gents / Mixed competitions at Halesworth Golf Club**. This will be sent out in draft form before the next meeting so committee members can review before being adopted.

Some discussion followed after the captains' reports. The open club competition scheduled for Sunday 31st Jan. has attracted 87 entries to date and is an indication that the majority of members are happy to embrace the inclusive nature of the competition and although this is a trial event further such open competitions are planned for later in the year. There was some concern shown by LB and CW that although the Ladies welcomed open competitions in general not enough consultation with the Ladies' section had taken place before a decision was made. They also did not know whether it was to be a qualifying competition for the ladies in the same way as it was for the men. RS felt it was up to the Ladies to decide whether they wanted it to be included as a qualifier for them but it would be a qualifier for the Gents as usual.

PK following up a request from one of the Seniors' Committee members who had asked for any policy changes and course updates to be highlighted in some way in the General Committee minutes. RS felt that was it unnecessary to extract specific information from the minutes as it was there to be read in context with any supporting discussion that had taken place. BT added that he would find an easier place for members to locate the minutes to help members who had previously found it difficult to find them. PK went on to say that he had been in contact with a local Young Carers Group and would include them in his Senior Captain's charity for the year. KPB said that a sum of £750 had been spent on engraving trophies over the last two years and RS felt that although the contact in Norwich had given us good value in the recent past it might be time to find another engraver. PK mentioned a possibility in

Woodbridge which would be worth considering. In the future it was felt that both the Seniors and the Ladies should give a little more towards the cost of engraving by a sum to be decided.

KPB put forward a proposal that as the 'Hole in One Club' had not had any new members for several years the cash in the account should be given to the Captains' Charities. This was unanimously agreed.

Treasurer's Report. Current Balances:

Current Account	£2,040.82	(£9,531.52)
Deposit Account	£2,470.22	(£2,470.16)
Where has it gone?		

Outstandings noted at the Accounts to October 2021 and now:

AGM Buffet	250.00	0
Junior Funds	354.94	334.94
Hole in One Club	30.00	30.00
100 Club	211.00	413.00
Captain's Charity A/C	5,845.00	-155.00
Engraving etc .	1,500.00	- 63.25
Captain's Sweater	60.00	60.00
Past Captain's Tie	25.00	25.00

Handicap Report: With no Handicap Secretary in place there was no written report but the situation was under control thanks to the additional work from RS and PK for which much thanks is due. Handicap concerns had settled down to a great extent and the valuable work done over the last few years by Robert Steven had ensured that the change to WHS, with all of its teething problems, was now largely understood by members and access and use of IG was now commonplace for most. Tom Feveyear has expressed interest in taking over as Handicap Secretary in the future and would shadow the work done by RS and PK in the coming weeks to familiarise himself with the role. This is good news but BT felt that we might be putting too much expectation on Tom fulfilling the post. The feeling was that we should get Tom on board first as he might well have his own ideas as to how the role can be managed once he has seen what is involved. PK asked that future IG updates could be circulated to members by email and also by the app for those who use it. RD kindly agreed to do this.

Matters for Discussion: PK had tabled a number of points for discussion, originally to be dealt with under AOB.

In discussions with members he had found that there is a difficulty in accessing the Committee Minutes from the members' page. BT said that these were easier to access from a desktop than a smartphone and that he would look into this with the possibility of including another tab. Another concern was the draw for the County Competitions with Halesworth seemingly being given a mathematically disproportionate number of away draws during the last few years. The matter would be mentioned at the next SGU meeting with the question of greater transparency to the mechanics of the draw being shown.

The other concerns mentioned by PK were dealt with by BT in turn. The bench on the 10th tee would soon be replaced, and the shelf outside the pro shop giving access to the monitor for recording players' scores would also be in place soon. The honours' boards would shortly be brought up to date and there was no objection to the proposal that the Seniors' Captains should have their photos displayed in the same way as the Club and Ladies' Captains. This would take some thought and preparation but the principle was agreed. Finally, PK's request for the clubhouse to open at 7.30 am on Tuesday and Friday mornings to accommodate early starters from the Seniors was also agreed.

The question of the open competition on the 30th Jan. was again mentioned. RS was able to confirm that the score differential for the ladies would be applied and that playing in 3 ball form was deliberate in order to help keep the pace of play as it should be and that he wanted players to embrace the idea of 'ready golf'. In answer to another question RD said that the idea of 'required pace of play' notices around the course was not something he would wish to consider and that ultimately players needed to take responsibility for their own conduct on the course and pace of play was one such consideration.

RS was looking at the feasibility of joining a summer league with Caldecott, Rookery and Caister. Matches to start at 4.30 pm on Thursdays from May to July.

Health and Safety: The question of access to the defibrillator was again mentioned and the possibility of a second defibrillator to be stationed outside somewhere in the golf range area to be considered. This would give 24-hour access should it be difficult to gain entry to the existing machine in the clubhouse. BT felt that at least one member of staff was always on hand during the time that the course was open and that the cost of a second machine outside the clubhouse, at a cost of £1500, was not really needed. It was agreed that some additional notices reminding members of the existing machine in the bar area would help with health and safety compliance.

PK wondered whether the portable toilet on the course might be replaced with a permanent structure in keeping with the current status of the club and course. Ben explained that with no mains water available and with the

difficulties in connecting electrical power this was not something being considered. He said that the company employed to maintain the existing toilet should clean it on a weekly basis but LB challenged this saying that regular cleaning was not being done. BT promised to investigate this.

SM mentioned the possible need for a weather shelter on the far side of the course. Desirable though this might be BT felt that the responsibility of leaving the course when under the threat of heavy rain or lightning must ultimately be with the players. He reminded members of the huge amount of money that Mrs. Hunt is spending on the course and clubhouse and that should we feel the need for some of the extra facilities mentioned we might be required to contribute towards them from club funds.

RJ mentioned that coming off the tees during the winter months could be extremely hazardous when conditions were so slippery and that paths or steps for exiting the tees would be helpful. BT promised to monitor this.

AOB: CW asked that the Ladies should also be included in the new club shirt arrangements and was told that that would certainly be the case. Finally, JA mentioned an occurrence whereby one of his guests had arrived some time before him to play golf and that when he arrived the guest was already enjoying a bacon roll and a chat with one of the members. He mentioned this as an example of the many instances that guests and new members are welcomed to the club by existing members all adding to the friendly nature that exist within the club and which is becoming so apparent to visitors. Long may this continue.

100 Club:

December:

1. K. Parry- Brown
2. P.Petch
3. T.Phillips

January:

1. G.Slaymaker
2. W.Hoffman
3. J.Bedwell

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022 at 7.00pm

Don Wellman

